

wsl2 config is ignored

Asked 3 years, 9 months ago Modified 21 days ago Viewed 7k times



I am using wsl and the problem is it loves ram. I tried to limit it by adding %USERPROFILE%/.wslconfig

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this is what the file looks like:



```
[wsl2]
memory=2GB
swap=0
processors=2
```



and yet the Vmmem process happily passes that memory limit by a lot. I tried `wsl --shutdown` and even restarting the computer. none helped

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asked May 27, 2021 at 9:15



Dor Gross

67 1 5

having similar problems the only option that seems to take effect is swap=0 (seeing that vmmem process stop writing to c:\pagesys). but I can still see that the wsl2 is using multiple processors and the memory exceeds 2GB by a lot) – Aviv Jun 11, 2021 at 19:40

4 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



I've had some issues troubleshooting why, suddenly, my .wslconfig stopped working. A few things to consider:

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- confirm that the filename is, in fact, ".wslconfig" and not something like ".wslconfig.txt" - make sure you're not hiding filename extensions, and rename as necessary
- confirm that the .wslconfig file is saved as UTF-8 and not UTF-8-BOM (I use notepad++ and use the "Encoding" menu to see and change as necessary)
- confirm that the top of the file begins with `[wsl2]`
- if you're specifying the `swapfile=` parameter, make sure that:
 - the path already exists

- the path needs to be added with double back-slashes, ie:
`C:\\Users\\Username\\AppData\\Local\\Temp\\swap.vhdx`
- make sure you specify the filename of the swapfile (ie, swap.vhdx)
- make sure that none of the directories in your path are set to compress (this was an issue specifically on my machine). You can right-click on the folder/directory that is compressed (the icon on the folder in Windows Explorer will indicate it's a compressed folder) and uncheck the compress files and folders in the Advanced section.
- if you're specifying the memory and/or swap size, make sure that the value ends with "GB" and not "gb" or "Gb", ie - `memory=2GB` or `swap=16GB`
 - apparently, swap size cannot exceed 255GB, the top limit that appears to be respected is `swap=250GB` anything more than that just results in this parameter being entirely ignored.

In cases where you may need more than 256GB of swap, there is an inelegant solution that I've occasionally used (since I don't often need more than 16GB of swap), you will need to specify a swapfile inside the WSL2 shell as an additional swapfile space. The problem is that the mounted swapfile is not persistent, and also doesn't work in `/etc/fstab` or in `/etc/wsl.conf` (I've tried automounting, and it just doesn't work with swap files). Here are the commands:

1. In your WSL2 shell: `sudo fallocate -l 256G /swapfile` (in this example, it's 256GB - notice that it ends in just a "G" and not "GB" like above) - this will create a file in the root called "swapfile" that is 256GB large.
2. Adjust the perms on the swapfile: `sudo chmod 600 /swapfile`
3. Then type: `sudo swapon /swapfile` - this will mount the swapfile as a swap space on the system
4. Then type `free -m` or `swapon --show` to see if the swapfile was mounted and available to the system.

Good luck to anyone who comes across this as it took me pouring over dozens of related posts to suss out some of these details.

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answered Aug 17, 2022 at 18:56



shayaknyc

111 1 2 5

Also check that the file uses unix end-of-line (i.e. just LF) – [Jaromanda X](#) Oct 4, 2023 at 8:39

For some reason my file was set to UTF-16. Thank you :) – [Wessel van Leeuwen](#) Feb 20 at 7:51



Check your filename , make sure it is strictly ".wslconfig" , not like ".wslconfig.txt" , I faced this problem and when I checked using cmd I found out my file is saved as ".txt" . Few important

1 points to note:

- 1. File Name should be exactly ".wslconfig"
- 2. File should be placed in %USERPROFILE% directory
- 3. After putting file, try restarting wsl

You can read more about it here: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/wsl/wsl-config>

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answered Jul 15, 2022 at 18:22



Deepak Pandey

1,352 14 21

These PowerShell cmds worked for me.

1 Create the configuration file with max memory setting:

```
Write-Output "[wsl2]
memory=26GB" >> "${env:USERPROFILE}\.wslconfig"
```

Shutdown the wsl:

```
wsl --shutdown
```

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answered Dec 12, 2024 at 18:29



Jacek

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If you are trying to config docker resource with wsl config file. You need to restart wsl sub-system first; and the best way to restart your wsl sub-system is restart your computer.

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edited Feb 21 at 1:03

answered Feb 21 at 0:49



Ajeet Verma

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Hoàng - Nguyễn Việt

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