

How to Increase Available File Handles for MS-DOS-Based Applications in Windows Millennium Edition

Issue Definition

In previous versions of Windows, the line "Files=250" was put in the Config.sys file, however, Windows Millennium Edition does not parse the Config.sys file in any way. Therefore in ME, settings used by MS-DOS-based applications are not set inside the Config.sys file. Among these settings is the FILES value, which determines the number of file handles in an applications Job File Table (JFT). Even if additional file handles are needed by an MS-DOS-based application, the FILES setting does not function.

Issue Resolution

Instead of the FILES setting, the PerVMFiles setting is used. This setting increases the number of available file handles in each MS-DOS virtual machine (VM) and is implemented by adding the following line to the [386Enh] section of the System.ini file: PerVMFiles= (PerVMFiles=225 ==> in our case)

In Windows Millennium Edition (Me), each MS-DOS VM is given the default FILES value of 30 file handles. The maximum number of file handles a VM can have is 255. Because the total number of file handles cannot exceed 255, the maximum PerVMFiles setting is 225. This value, plus the 30 made available by default, equals the maximum total of 255. It is necessary to restart Windows Me for this change to take effect.

Procedure

Start Notepad (*Start / Programs / Accessories / Notepad.*)

Click File / Open. At the bottom, use the drop-down arrow to change File Type to "All Files."

Use the Look In drop-down box at the top to find and select **C:\windows\system.ini.**

In the section under [386Enh], add the line **PerVmFiles=225.**

Click *File / Save*, then exit from Notepad

Restart the computer.