

Out of Environment Space Error Message in MS-DOS Programs

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SYMPTOMS

When you attempt to run an MS-DOS program in Windows, you may receive the following error message:

Out of environment space.

CAUSE

This issue can occur if you do not have enough memory in the MS-DOS environment to set an environment variable.

RESOLUTION

To resolve this issue, increase the default environment space available for MS-DOS programs. To do this, use one of the following methods.

Modify the Environment for All MS-DOS Programs

To increase the default environment space for all MS-DOS programs running in Windows, edit the Shell command in the Config.sys file. To do this, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type **sysedit**, and then click **OK**.
3. Click the **Config.sys** window.
4. At the beginning of the **Shell=** line, type **REM**, and then press the SPACEBAR.

If the **Shell=** line does not exist, proceed to the next step.

5. Press the HOME key.
6. Type the following line to create a new **Shell=** line, and then press ENTER:

```
SHELL=C:\COMMAND.COM /E:4096 /P
```

7. On the **File** menu, click **Save**.
8. On the **File** menu, click **Exit**.
9. Restart the computer.

Modify the Environment for a Specific MS-DOS Program

To increase the default environment space for a specific MS-DOS program, follow these steps:

1. Right-click the MS-DOS program icon, and then click **Properties**.
2. Click the **Memory** tab.
3. In the **Initial Environment** box, type the number of kilobytes (KB) that the program requires, and then click **OK**.

NOTE: The maximum amount of memory that you can allocate for an MS-DOS program is 4096 KB.

APPLIES TO

- Microsoft Windows 95
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Microsoft Windows 95

- Microsoft Windows 95
- Microsoft Windows 98 Standard Edition

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