

Add RAM to Ubuntu 12.04+ for free: zRAM

More RAM for free? By installing a software?! Enter zRAM.

In the mainline generic kernel of Ubuntu, there's a module called zram. This is a pretty good trick to add additional "free" RAM to your machine without any change: it creates in-memory compressed block for swap, meaning it eats a bit of your CPU but gives you literally more RAM.

If you're on a VPS for example, having 512 MB RAM, this would actually give you access to 750 MB RAM and would eat just a little CPU from you - I don't even notice it on the Munin graphs.

To install:

```
apt-get install zram-config
```

```
bash
```

Make sure it's started and running:

```
cat /proc/swaps
```

```
bash
```

If you see something like this

```
# cat /proc/swaps
```

```
bash
```

Filename	Type	Size	Used	Priority
/dev/zram0	partition	62712	6804	5
/dev/zram1	partition	62712	6768	5
/dev/zram2	partition	62712	6744	5
/dev/zram3	partition	62712	6768	5

then it's already running.

Reboot your machine, and voilà.

More to read:

- [Increased performance in linux with zRAM^{\[^1\]}](#)
- [Ubuntu Linux Considers Greater Usage Of zRAM^{\[^2\]}](#)

Links

1. <http://www.webupd8.org/2011/10/increased-performance-in-linux-with.html>
2. http://www.phoronix.com/scan.php?page=news_item&px=MTI0NjQ

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