



Better answers

For Customers who want more than 4GB of memory access: INFORMATION ABOUT INTEL PSE36 AND MICROSOFT PAE

Currently, most IA-32 microprocessor operating systems are capable of supporting only 32-bit memory addressable memory. Intel has provided the Physical Address Extensions (PAE) virtual memory management feature to support access to more than 4GB of physical memory. IA-32 microprocessor operating systems have been slow to adopt a PAE virtual memory management architecture. For the Pentium III processors, Intel added Page Size Extension (PSE36) to simplify the virtual memory management architecture and increase memory capacity over 4GB.

Compaq recommends customers research their present and future requirements for a management system that will work with both virtual memory management architectures; however, Intel technically supports the system architectures and the two management systems that include benefits and requirements:

What is PSE36?

Intel offers Page Size Extension, 32-bit (PSE36), a memory management system for accessing memory over 4GB.

How it Works

This implementation, like the PAE, allows a processor to extend the amount of memory that a system can manage, up to 64GB. Access to and from the upper memory is done by read and write routines that mimic ramdisk functionality. This results in the data being copied, which affects system performance.

Benefits of PSE36

The new scheme allows up to 64GB of 4MB pages and allows access to all memory at the same time, providing a large-memory system.

System Requirements

PSE36 is supported by Windows NT 4.0, Enterprise Edition, Service Pack 3 or later.

The PSE36 driver runs on Intel Architecture with suitably configured systems based on Pentium III Xeon processors. The system memory controller must include support for 36-bit physical addressing.

Note: This system is intended for only a very limited number of hardware and software developers and should only be downloaded by relevant ISVs and OEMs, not end-users.

What is PAE?

The Physical Address Extensions (PAE) virtual memory management feature allows access to more than 4GB of physical memory through the virtual memory management architecture.

How it Works

This implementation allows a processor to extend the amount of memory that a system can manage, up to 64GB. Access to and from the upper memory is done by read and write routines that mimic ramdisk functionality. This results in the data being copied, which affects system performance.

Benefits of PAE

With Microsoft Windows 2000, Intel 32-bit (IA-32) processors can access up to 64GB of physical memory through 4KB pages, providing access to all memory available through the virtual memory management architecture. Customers will be able to access more than 4GB of memory in Windows 2000, as the system memory controller must include support for 36-bit physical addressing.

Support

Another feature of PAE is the ability to have more than 4GB of addressable memory at the same time, providing access to all memory available through the virtual memory management architecture. PAE is supported by Windows 2000 Advanced Server, Windows 2000, UnixWare 7.x, and Solaris 8.

Purchasing and Technical Support from Intel: For more information on how to purchase PSE36 and detailed information go to: <http://www.developer.intel.com/vtune/vtcd> or <http://www.intel.com/ebusiness/server/resources/pentiumiii/xeon/whitepaper>

Microsoft support of PAE : For more information, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/Windows/server>