

# Myth: In order to use AWE, you must enable PAE

---

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20040819-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20040819-00)

August 19, 2004



Raymond Chen

Address Windowing Extensions (AWE) does not require PAE. I don't know why some people claim that it does, since it is so easy to demonstrate otherwise. Take a program that uses AWE. If you don't have one handy, you can [use the one that comes in MSDN as a sample program that demonstrates how to use AWE](#). Grant yourself "Lock Pages in Memory" privileges and run the program. Observe that it works. Now remove the /PAE switch from your boot.ini, reboot, and run the program again. Observe that it still works.

Myth disproved by direct experimentation and observation.

[Raymond Chen](#)

**Follow**

