

Re: Upcoming Windows XP SP2 NX feature

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PAE was introduced in the Pentium II series of CPUs. As has been previously stated the PAE NX bit currently only exists on 64-bit CPUs. I think you are mistaking execution limitation via segmentation with limitation via page-attributes. The 286 does not support paging, only a limited protected mode. The 386 was the first Intel CPU to provide a paging mode and it lacked a NX bit and split-TLB making page-level execution restriction impossible. On Pentium/Athlon and later CPUs it is possible to have non-executable pages via the split-TLB method. This is how OverflowGuard provides its protection.

-Paul Webster
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OverflowGuard --- <http://www.datasecuritysoftware.com> --- XP SP2 style memory protection without need for a 64-bit CPU and XP SP2.

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