

## 64 bit (32 bit compatible) processors.

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Recently I purchased a new laptop computer. I am fairly computer literate but do not have a good understanding for the complexities of 32/64 bit architecture. No mention/warning was made by the vendor that the processor (Intel Pentium M processor 760) was 64 bit (compatible 32 bit) or the implications.

The first programme I installed caused the computer to become unstable and Blue Screened on Shutdown and Bootup. On each bootup the HD was scanned which revealed additional corrupt/truncated files (fortunately I am able to recover to Factory Settings).

The programme vendors recommended that I change a statement in the boot.ini file from "Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition /noexecute=optin" to read "noexecute=AlwaysOff", this amends the Data Execution Prevention (DEP). This stopped the instability but of course slightly reduces the security put in place by SP2.

However I am still having problems installing my ISS's "BlackICE PC Protector" and now I have noticed a minor problem with Sunbelt's "CounterSpy" (sister programme to MS AntiSpyware). The computer Manufacturer's Help Desk (Acer) explained that I will be a guinea pig and that things will improve with the arrival of Microsoft's new operating system and programmes written for 64 bit operation, no mention of a free upgrade when the time comes.

So anyone thinking of replacing their old computers, beware the architecture of the processor in the new machine.