

Early Launch Anti-Malware (ELAM): What it is?

Gridinsoft Help Center

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Early Launch Anti-Malware (ELAM) is a Windows feature that lets your security software start first during boot. By loading a tiny anti-malware driver before most other drivers, ELAM can block boot-time threats (like rootkits) before they take hold.

Why it matters

Boot-level malware hides under the OS and can dodge normal scans. ELAM flips the script: your defender wakes up first, checks what's trying to start, and stops known-bad drivers from ever loading.

How it works

- Early start: an ELAM driver is loaded at the very beginning of boot.
- Classify drivers: when other drivers try to load, ELAM tags them (good/bad/unknown).
- Block or allow: known-bad gets blocked; known-good loads; unknown can be allowed with caution or policies.

What you might notice

- A one-time boot warning if a suspicious driver was blocked.
- Cleaner restarts after removing stubborn infections that used to come back.

Quick check on Windows

- ELAM is built into modern Windows and works with compatible security products.
- Keep your security app updated and Secure Boot enabled in firmware/BIOS for the best protection.