How to get Alienware lighting to work on MSI Raider motherboard with R4 type case

The procedures and tools described here do not make the Area51 case fully functional. The FX tool does not actually change the LED lights when running the FX app. You must save the theme and then reboot from power off AFTER making a front panel cable change. When your Area51 reboots the LEDs will show the theme that you selected. I was unable to get any morphing to work but all of the LEDs: side, front & Alienhead can be set to any color and will stay that way on any reboot. I have a genuine Dell R4 with the OHJ5Y7 motherboard and I bought a used R4 (?) case and a used MSI Raider motherboard.

Wiring: Connect extension cable from PCB panel cable to near the front panel header.  
Connect Power ON jumper from header pins 6,8 to 6,8 of extension cable  
Connect PWR LED jumper from header pins 2,4 to pins 2,4 of extension cable. Watch + and -

Power system up. The LED lights will disappear.

Export the following key for backup. I named it “msi-raider-bios”

[HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\HARDWARE\DESCRIPTION\System\BIOS]

Run the following 2 register mods to force Area51 R4 bios description and fix “unknown” FX

AlienwareAlienFRX  
r4\_bios

Bring up the device manager. Look for an unknown USB device and disable it. Note that this can be done using the script Enable-R4-PCB

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Then enable the unknown device. If all works correctly, the device will be enabled and will disappear from the device manager. Note that this only works if the PWR LED jumper is connected to PWR LED. Run the app usbview.exe and look for a USB with following properties:

idVendor:  0x187C  
idProduct: 0x0526

Download and install Alienware-Command-Center-for-Desktops\_J7XK6\_WIN64\_4.8.23.0\_A00  
Reboot and be sure to fix the unknown device. Do not attempt to run AWCC unless the unknown device is fixed! Select a theme. I restored my “MSI Raider bios” after that AWCC app was installed

Remove the PWR LED jumper from the extension pins 2,4 and put them on 1,3 (the HDD LED pins on the extension cable). You will have pins 2,4 of MSI header connected to pins 1,3 of extension. Shut the system down. A reboot will not work. Power the system up and the lights should start working. It will not be possible to fix the unknown USB device and consequently the AWCC app cannot be used. You should disable the thermal service in local services to prevent Alienware thermals from running.

If a problem occurs then run that vs2022 application “USBapp.exe” to reset the PCB.

The image below shows the connection needed to boot and see the lights turned on. As described earlier the pwr led jumper needs be moved underneath the power on/off so that the unknown device can be enabled allowing the AWCC app to run correctly,.

Text

Description automatically generated with low confidence

The PCB that my Area51 cases had

Qr code

Description automatically generated with medium confidence



A picture containing text, floor, indoor

Description automatically generated