

Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT) Testing and Troubleshooting

It's a Microsoft tool designed to help businesses **test, identify, and fix application compatibility issues** when upgrading Windows OS.

Testing with ACT

- To ensure **apps continue working** after a Windows upgrade (e.g., Windows 10 to Windows 11) and Avoid system crashes or app failures after OS migration.

Steps:

1. **Install ACT** (part of Windows ADK).
2. Use the **Compatibility Administrator Tool** to:
 - Scan all installed applications.
 - Detect potential compatibility issues.
3. **Create a software inventory** using the **Inventory Collector** tool.
4. Analyze collected data in the **Application Compatibility Manager**.
5. Match with Microsoft's known issues database.

Troubleshooting with ACT

Common Issues:

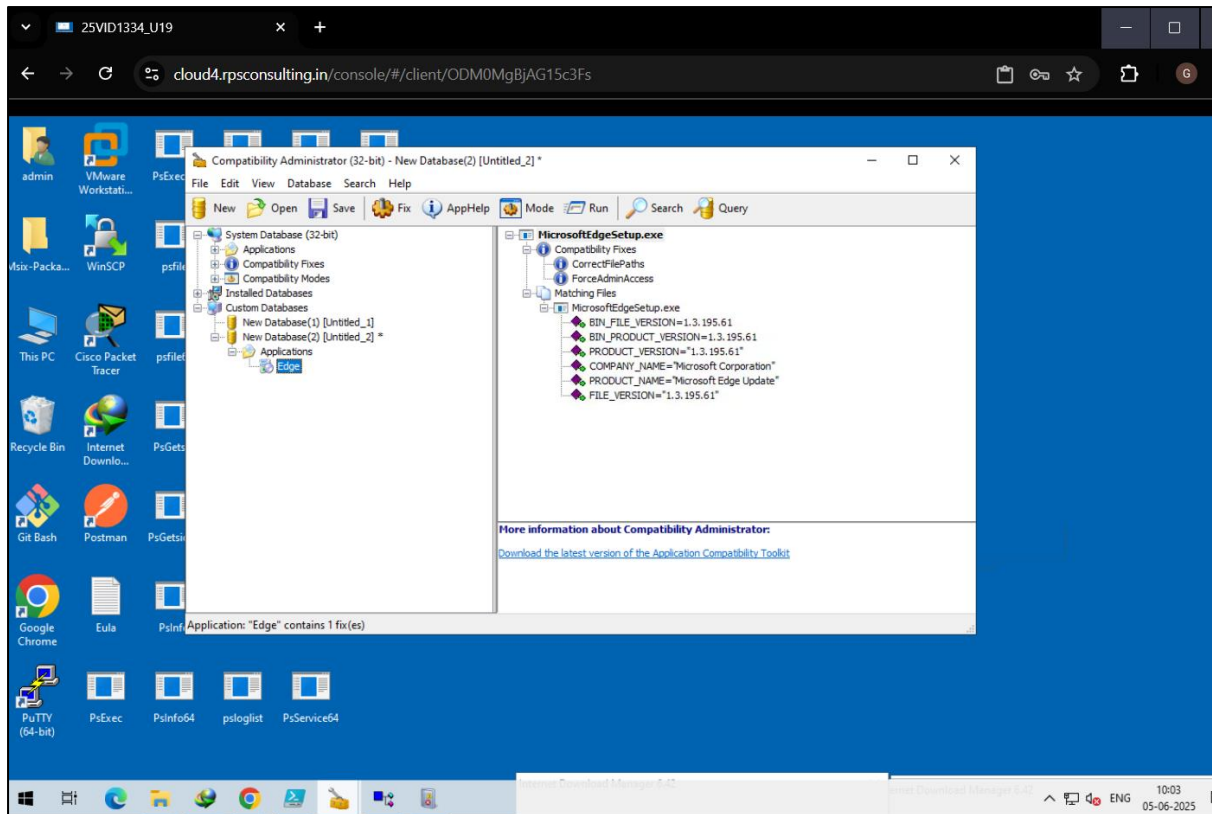
- Older apps not working on new Windows versions.
- Permission or file access errors.
- Apps depending on outdated Windows features.

If there are problems, **ACT can fix them** using small changes called shims

- **Shim Fixes:** ACT allows you to apply "**shims**"—small code adjustments that trick the app into thinking it's running on an older OS.
- You can simulate earlier environments (like Windows 7 or XP).
- Apply compatibility fixes **without changing the original app code**.

Benefits of Using ACT

- Saves time during OS migrations.
- Avoids manual testing of hundreds of apps.
- Centralized tracking and reporting of compatibility issues.
- Reduces IT support calls post-deployment.



Tools to Use Alongside ACT

Tool	Purpose
Process Monitor	Tracks files, registry, and process activities
Event Viewer	Logs app and system errors
App Verifier	Performs runtime checks on application
Windows Compatibility Troubleshooter	Built-in tool for minor compatibility fixes
Dependency walker	Scans Windows module and builds a hierarchical tree diagram of all dependent modules