12.7.5 Application Compatibility Facts

Some older applications may not run properly when you try to use them on new versions of Windows. There are several options for fixing the issue:

- Buy a newer version of the application.
- Use Compatibility Mode settings.
- Use Client Hyper-V to create a virtual machine running an older version of Windows.

Application vendors may provide upgrades to their current applications to resolve application compatibility issues. This is the best long-term application compatibility solution.

Compatibility Mode can be used to run an older program using settings from a previous version of Windows. The Program Compatibility Assistant (PCA) runs in the background and monitors applications for known compatibility issues when they are run. When a potential issue with an application is detected, the PCA will prompt the user and provide links to recommended solutions.

You start Compatibility Mode using the following steps:

1. Right-click the program's **.exe file**, **shortcut**, or **installation file**.
2. Select **Properties**.
3. Select the **Compatibility** tab.
4. Mark **Run this program in compatibility mode for**.

The following options are available:

- Use the Compatibility Troubleshooter to automatically determine the settings for the application to run on the current version of Windows. If a solution is found when using the Program Compatibility Troubleshooter, the settings are stored and the application will be launched using the modified environment.
- Manually specify predefined compatibility mode.
    - The predefined mode replicates the environment of a previous version of a Windows operating system.
    - You manually specify settings by selecting the version of Windows the application was written for. You may have to try more than one to get the application to run correctly.

        The service pack level is an important consideration when selecting a previous version.

- Manually set compatibility settings without selecting a specific version of Windows. The options that can be configured include:
    - **Reduced color mode** allows applications with a limited color pallet to display correctly. Select one of the following:
        - 8-bit (256) color
        - 16-bit (65536) color
    - **Run in 640 x 480 screen resolution** allows low resolution applications to display properly.
    - **Disable display scaling on high DPI settings** turns off automatic resizing of applications when large-scale fonts are being used.
    - **Run this program as administrator** configures the application to run with administrator-level privileges. Old applications that ran on legacy versions of Windows may require elevated access to run correctly.

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