Application Compatibility ToolKit

The Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT) is a Microsoft toolset designed to help IT professionals and developers identify and resolve application compatibility issues when upgrading to newer versions of Windows (such as from Windows 7 to 10, or 8.1 to 10).

ACT helps you:

1. Analyze application compatibility issues for Windows upgrades.
2. Create and apply shims (fixes) to applications that don't behave properly on new Windows versions.
3. Collect inventory data about installed applications across your organization.
4. Assess app usage to prioritize testing or remediation.
5. Deploy compatibility fixes (.sdb files) without modifying the original application.

Step By Step Execution of Application Compatibility ToolKit

Step 1: Install ACT

1.Download Windows ADK with Application Compatibility Toolkit.

2.During installation, select: *Application Compatibility Tools*

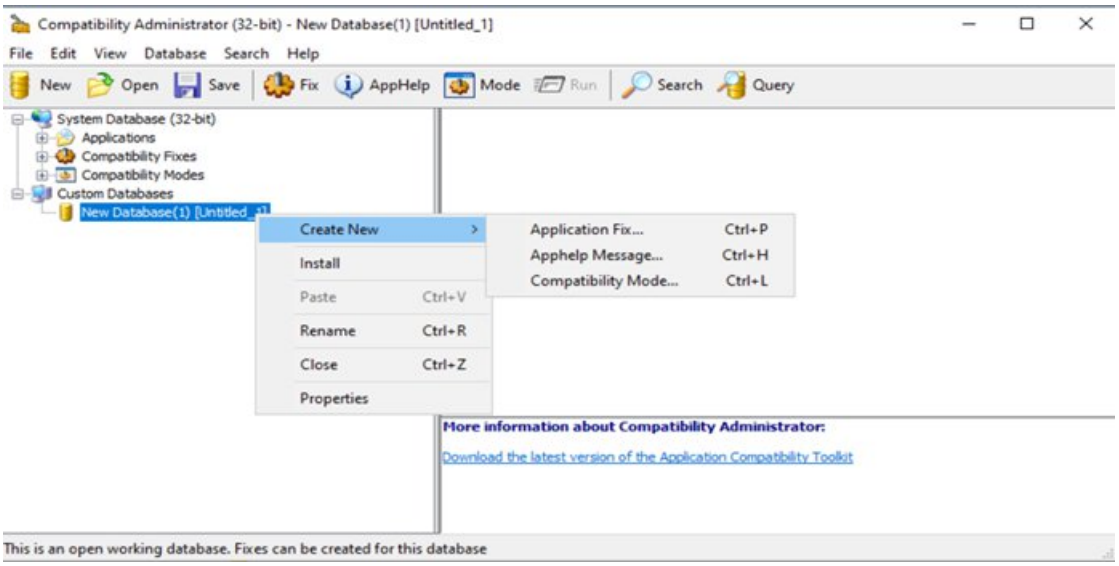
Step 2: Launch Compatibility Administrator

Go to Start → Compatibility Administrator (choose 32-bit or 64-bit based on your app).

Step 3: Create a New Compatibility Fix

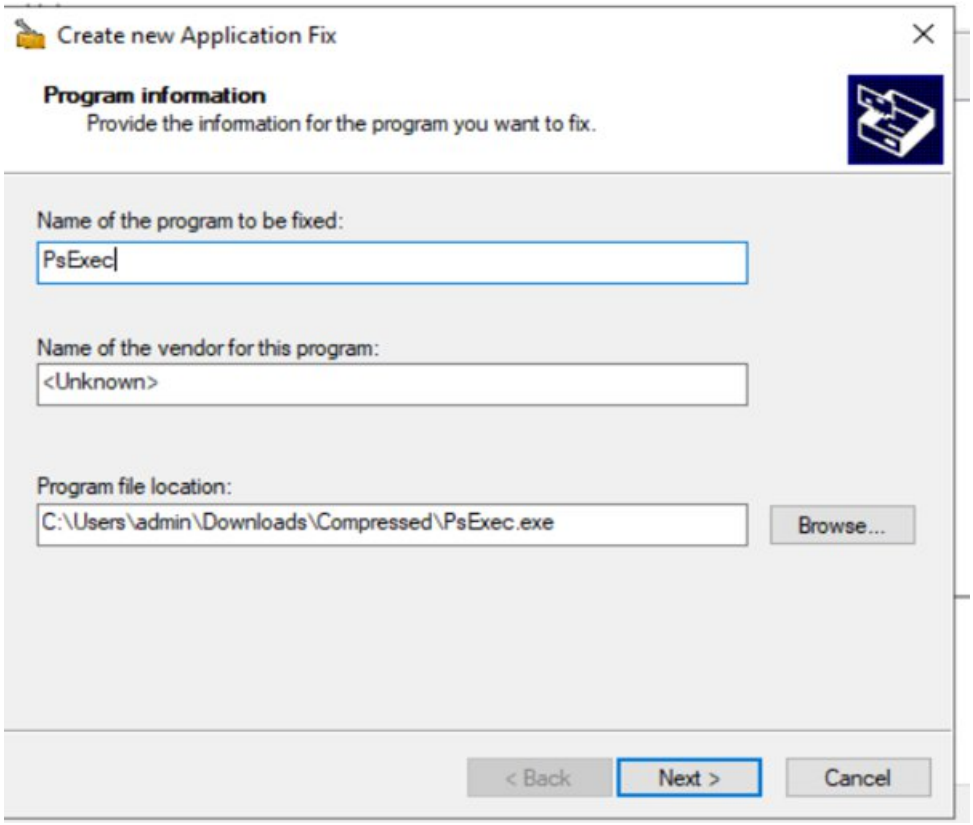
1.New Database:

- Right-click on *Custom Databases* → **New → Database**.



2.Create Application Fix:

- Right-click the new DB → **Create New → Application Fix**.
- Fill in:
  - **Name** (e.g., MyAppFix)
  - **Program path** (browse for .exe)
  - **Vendor** (optional)
- Click **Next**.

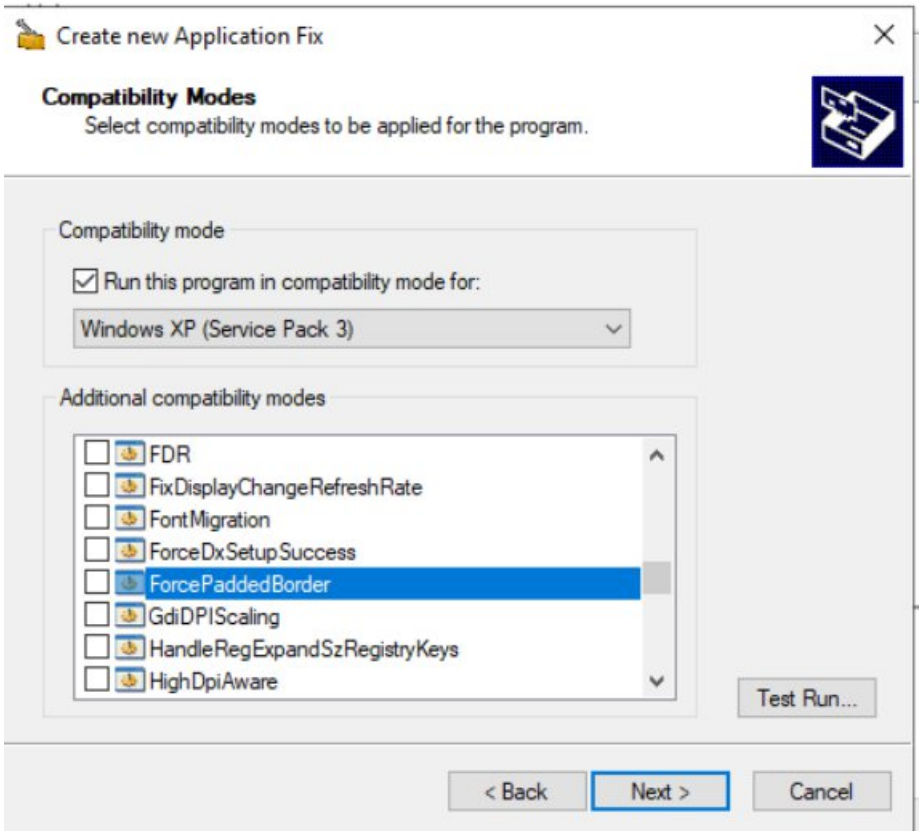


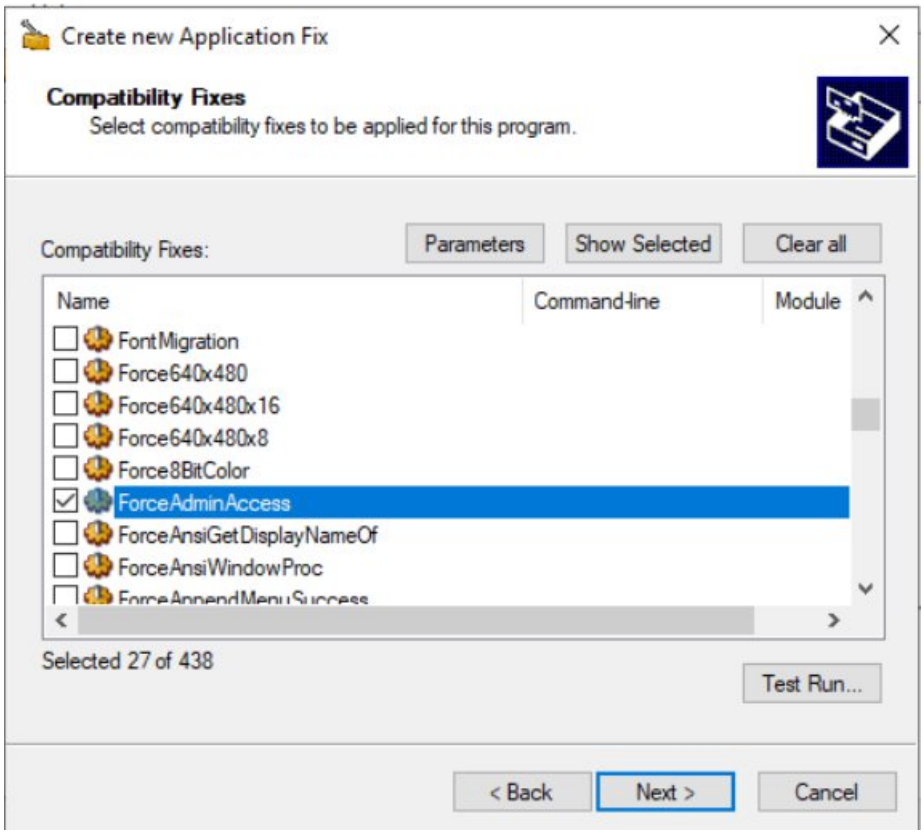
Step 4: Select Compatibility Modes/Fixes

1.Choose a predefined **Compatibility Mode** (e.g., Windows XP SP3, RunAsInvoker).

2.Or choose individual **Fixes** (e.g., ForceAdminAccess, CorrectFilePaths).

3.Click **Next**.


Create new Application Fix
Compatibility Modes
Select compatibility modes to be applied for the program.
Compatibility mode
Run this program in compatibility mode for:
Windows XP (Service Pack 3)
Additional compatibility modes
FDR
FixDisplayChangeRefreshRate
FontMigration
ForceDxSetupSuccess
ForcePaddedBorder
GdiDPIScaling
HandleRegExpandSzRegistryKeys
HighDpiAware
Test Run...
< Back
Next >
Cancel

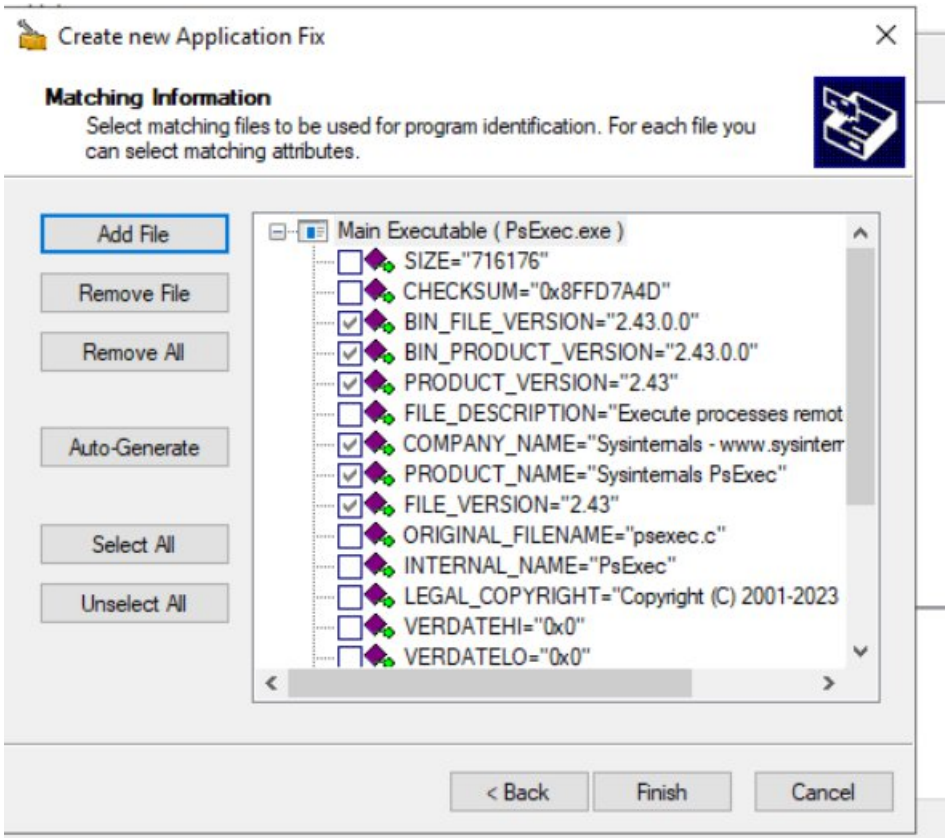

Create new Application Fix
Compatibility Fixes
Select compatibility fixes to be applied for this program.
Compatibility Fixes:
Parameters
Show Selected
Clear all
Name
Command-line
Module
FontMigration
Force640x480
Force640x480x16
Force640x480x8
Force8BitColor
ForceAdminAccess
ForceAnsiGetDisplayNameOf
ForceAnsiWindowProc
Selected 27 of 438
Test Run...
< Back
Next >
Cancel

Step 5: Match Information

1.Configure file matching:

- Leave default unless you need strict control (e.g., version or checksum).

2. Click Finish.



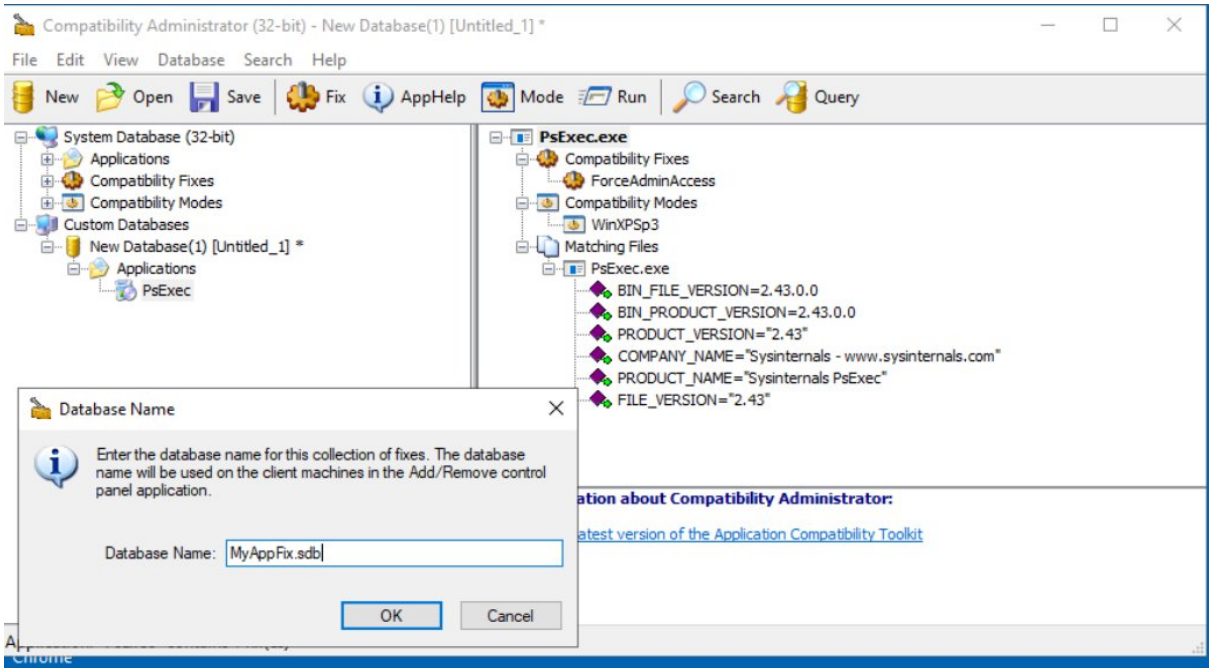
Step 6: Save and Install the Fix

1. Save the Database:

- File → Save As → save as .sdb file (e.g., MyAppFix.sdb).

2. Install the Fix:

- Right-click the database → Install



Step 7: Test the Application

- Launch the app and verify the issue is resolved.
- Use tools like **ProcMon** or **Standard User Analyzer** for deeper testing.