

# 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*

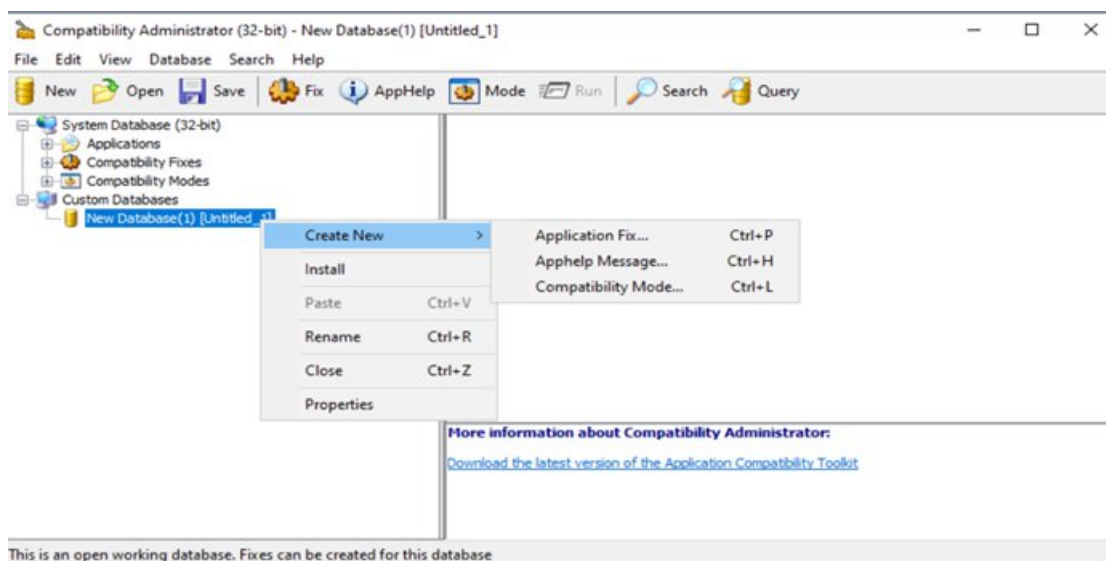
### Step 2: Launch Compatibility Administrator

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

### Step 3: Create a New Compatibility Fix

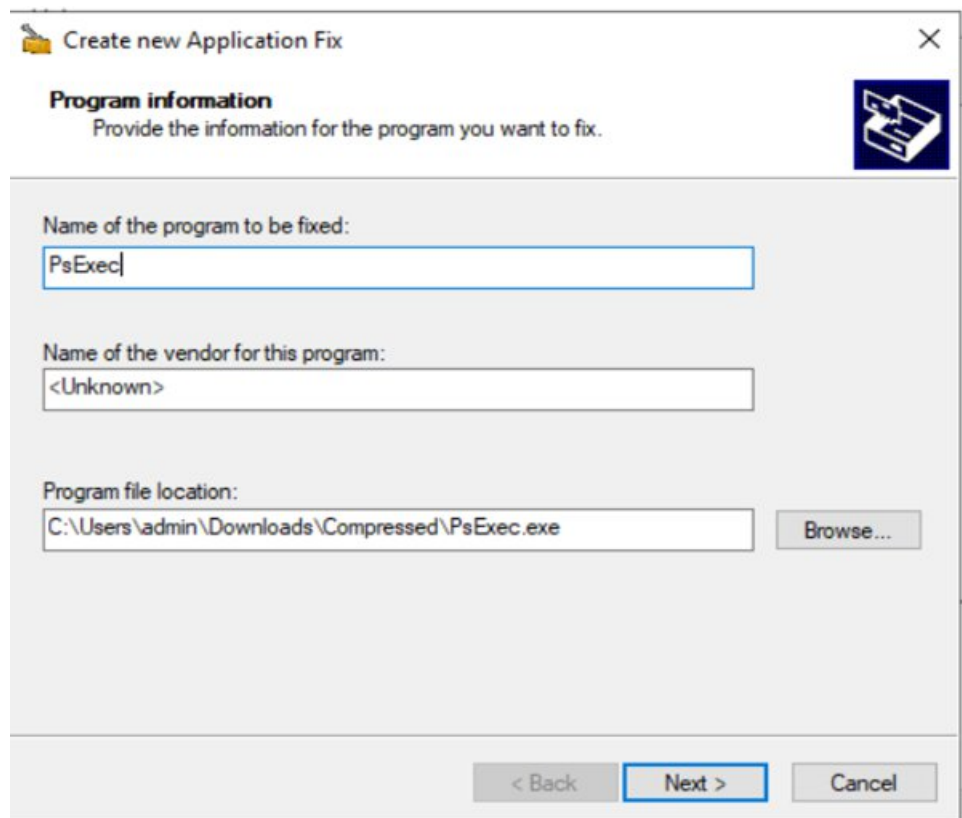
1. New Database:

- 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**.



The screenshot shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "Create new Application Fix". It has a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title bar, there is a section titled "Program information" with a subtext "Provide the information for the program you want to fix." and a blue icon of a computer monitor. The main area of the dialog contains three text input fields: "Name of the program to be fixed:" with the text "PsExec" entered; "Name of the vendor for this program:" with the text "<Unknown>" entered; and "Program file location:" with the text "C:\Users\admin\Downloads\Compressed\Psexec.exe" entered. To the right of the "Program file location" field is a "Browse..." button. At the bottom of the dialog, there are three buttons: "< Back", "Next >" (which is highlighted with a blue border), and "Cancel".

## 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
<input type="checkbox"/> FontMigration		
<input type="checkbox"/> Force640x480		
<input type="checkbox"/> Force640x480x16		
<input type="checkbox"/> Force640x480x8		
<input type="checkbox"/> Force8BitColor		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ForceAdminAccess		
<input type="checkbox"/> ForceAnsiGetDisplayNameOf		
<input type="checkbox"/> ForceAnsiWindowProc		
<input type="checkbox"/> ForceAppendMenuSuccess		

Selected 27 of 438

Test Run...

< Back

Next >

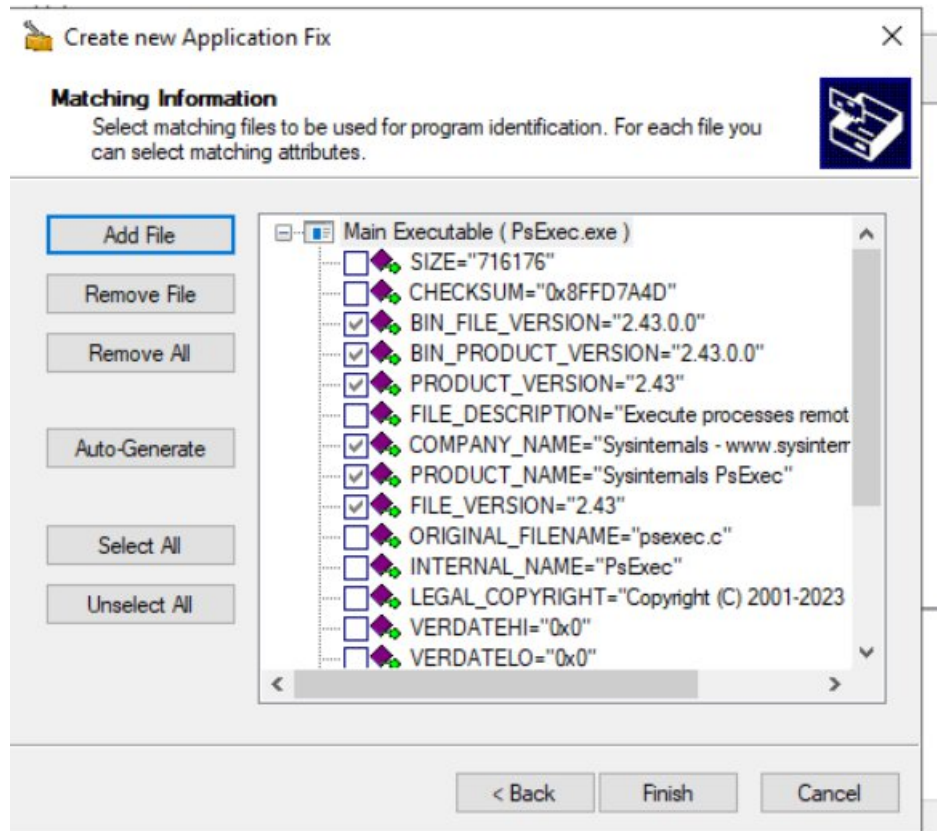
Cancel

## Step 5: Match Information

### 1. Configure file matching:

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

### 2. Click Finish.



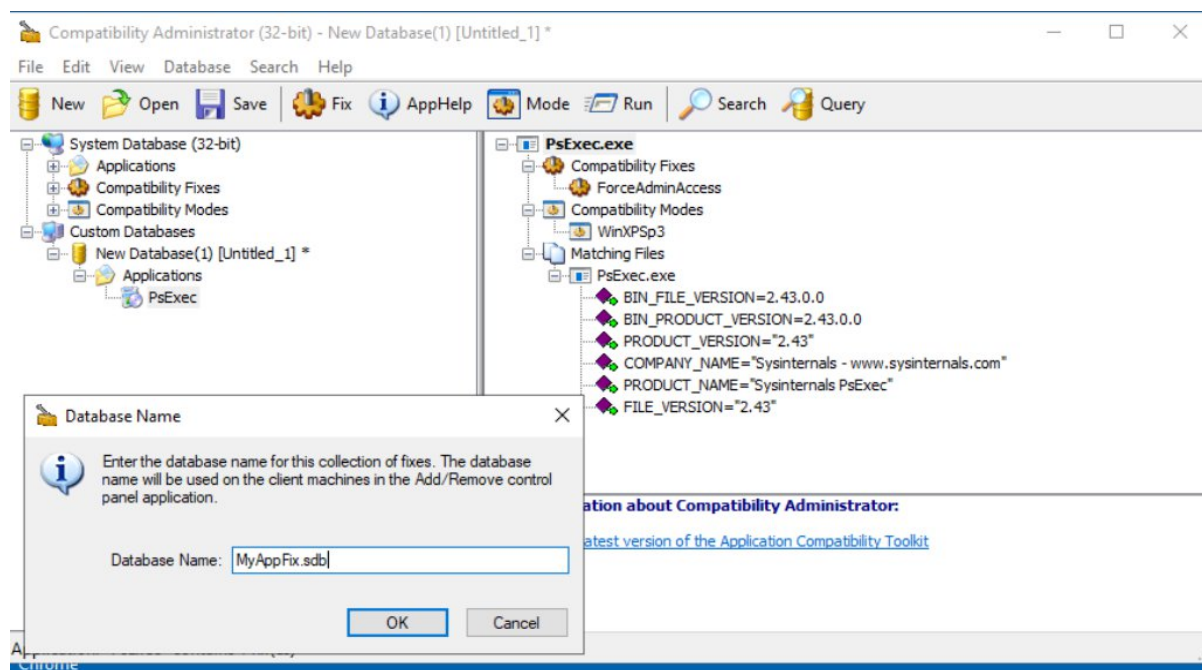
## Step 6: Save and Install the Fix

### 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.