

Understanding Windows ADK Compatibility

In this lecture, I will introduce you to Windows ADK and Windows PE. I will explain the importance of getting it right when it comes to downloading and installing the correct compatible software for your Infrastructure or your Lab.

- Windows ADK or the (Assessment & Deployment Kit) is a group of tools that you can use to customize Windows Images for your Windows 10 deployments.
- It is extremely important to consult the latest compatibility chart to verify that the version of ADK matches the version of Configuration Manager.
- Microsoft recommends that the version of Windows ADK also matches the version of Windows 10 you are deploying.
- When downloading software from the Microsoft's Evaluation Center, software compatibility will always be based upon the latest available version of Configuration manager.

For Example:

If I was using Configuration Manager 1902, I could use ADK version 1809 or 1903. Also, the **second chart** shows that **Windows 10 1903** is compatible with CM version 1902, 1906, and 1910.

The following table lists the versions of the Windows 10 ADK that you can use with different versions of Configuration Manager.

Windows 10 ADK version	ConfigMgr 1810	ConfigMgr 1902	ConfigMgr 1906	ConfigMgr 1910	ConfigMgr 2002
1709 (10.1.16299)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
1803 (10.1.17134)	ⓑ	ⓑ	✗	✗	✗
1809 (10.1.17763)	✓	✓	ⓑ	ⓑ	✗
1903 (10.1.18362)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key



= Supported

This table only shows Windows ADK supportability in relation to the version of Configuration Manager. Microsoft recommends using the Windows ADK that matches the version of Windows you're deploying. Use the latest Windows ADK version when deploying the latest Windows 10 version. The latest Windows ADK version may support deployment of older OS versions, such as Windows 8.1. For more information on Windows ADK component supportability, see [DISM supported platforms](#) and [USMT requirements](#).



= Backward compatible

This combination isn't tested but should work. We'll document any known issues or caveats.



= Not supported

The following table lists the versions of Windows 10 that you can use as a client with different versions of Configuration Manager.

Windows 10 version	ConfigMgr 1810	ConfigMgr 1902	ConfigMgr 1906	ConfigMgr 1910	ConfigMgr 2002
Enterprise 2015 LTSB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enterprise 2016 LTSB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enterprise LTSC 2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1709 (10.0.16299)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1803 (10.0.17134)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1809 (10.0.17763)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1903 (10.0.18362)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
1909 (10.0.18363)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

For more information on Windows lifecycle, see the [Windows lifecycle fact sheet](#)

Key

✓ = Supported

✗ = Not supported

Unfortunately, the evaluation version of Windows 10 1903 is no longer available from the Evaluation Center, so you have to download **Windows 10 1909**, which is **not compatible** with **Configuration Manager 1902**. I'll give you a solution for that issue in a moment.

First, let's talk about Windows PE – Preinstallation environment

- What is it? What does it do?
- Windows PE (WinPE) for Windows 10 is a small operating system used to install, deploy, and repair Windows 10 for desktop editions (Home, Pro, Enterprise, and Education edition. Windows Server and other Windows operating systems.
- Starting with Windows 10, version 1809, Windows Preinstallation Environment (PE) is released separately from the Assessment and Deployment Kit (ADK).
- To add Windows PE to your ADK installation, download the Windows PE Add-on and run the included installer after installing the ADK.

Downloading Software from Microsoft's Evaluation Center

- Currently, the only version of SCCM with Endpoint Protection available for download from Microsoft's Evaluation Center is Configuration Manager version 1902.
- Also, Windows 10 1909 is the only version available from the Eval site.
- So, if you want to deploy Windows 10 1909,
- You must first update SCCM from version 1902 to **1906 or 1910. Time 3:20**
- This is an in-console update. Updating SCCM is covered in the course.
- Windows 10 ADK version 1903 is compatible with Windows 10 1909 and **SCCM 1906 and 1910.**

Note

A Windows ADK for Windows 10, version 1909 will not be released. You can use the Windows ADK for Windows 10, version 1903 to deploy Windows 10, version 1909.

So, what does all this mean

- **You can use the software provided in the lab**
- **Or download your software** from the Windows Evaluation Center:

If you decide to download software from the evaluation center, here is my recommendation

- Download the latest Configuration Manager with Endpoint Protection.
- Download a compatible ADK version as well as Windows PE.
- Setup your LAB.
- You may need to update Configuration Manager for compatibility.
- The Thing to understand is that the versions of all this software will change several times a year. But what doesn't change is that you must consult the compatibility charts before you download and install ANY of these software products.