

The tools you're referring to, ACT (Application Compatibility Toolkit), Compatibility Administrator, and built-in troubleshooters, are all designed to help with application compatibility issues, particularly when upgrading or deploying new versions of Windows. ACT is a comprehensive suite, with Compatibility Administrator being one of its key components. Built-in troubleshooters offer more streamlined, automated solutions. [1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 6]

Here's a breakdown of each tool:

## 1. Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT):

- **Purpose:** ACT is a suite of tools to assess, analyze, and mitigate application compatibility issues when upgrading to a new Windows version. [2]
  - **Key Features:**
  - **Application Compatibility Manager:** Helps with inventory data, compatibility issue identification, and report generation. [2]
  - **Compatibility Administrator:** Allows you to create and manage compatibility fixes, modes, and messages to resolve specific issues. [3, 7]
  - **Other components:** Include the Internet Explorer Compatibility Test Tool and the Setup Analysis Tool. [2]
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- **Functionality:** ACT allows you to create and deploy compatibility databases and shims (small programs that modify application behavior) to address compatibility problems. [2]

## 2. Compatibility Administrator:

- **Purpose:** A tool within ACT, used to manage and create compatibility fixes, modes, and messages for specific applications.
- **Functionality:**
- Allows you to search for existing compatibility fixes for known applications.
- Lets you create custom compatibility fixes, modes, and AppHelp messages.
- Includes a query tool to search for installed fixes on your local computers.

- **Example:** You might create a custom fix to ensure an older application runs correctly in the new Windows environment. [3, 7]

### 3. Built-in Troubleshooters:

- **Purpose:** Windows includes built-in troubleshooters for various issues, including application compatibility.
- **Functionality:** These troubleshooters can automatically detect and fix compatibility problems.
- **Example:** If you encounter an application that isn't functioning properly, the compatibility troubleshooter can guide you through steps to resolve the issue. [4, 4, 8, 9]

In Summary:

ACT and Compatibility Administrator offer comprehensive, detailed tools for managing application compatibility. Built-in troubleshooters provide more automated and streamlined solutions for common compatibility problems. [1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 10, 11, 12]