

ACT Testing and Troubleshooting

Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT) Testing and Troubleshooting

It's a Microsoft tool designed to help businesses test, identify and fix application compatibility issues when upgrading Windows OS.

Testing with ACT

To ensure apps continue working after a Windows upgrade (e.g., Windows 10 to Windows 11) and Avoid system crashes or app failures after OS migration.

Steps:

- 1) Install ACT (part of Windows ADK).
- 2) Use the Compatibility Administrator Tool to:
 - Scan all installed applications.
 - Detects potential compatibility issues.
- 3) Create a software inventory using the Inventory Collector tool.
- 4) Analyze collected data in the Application Compatibility Manager.
- 5) Match with Microsoft's known issues database.

Troubleshooting with ACT

Common Issues:

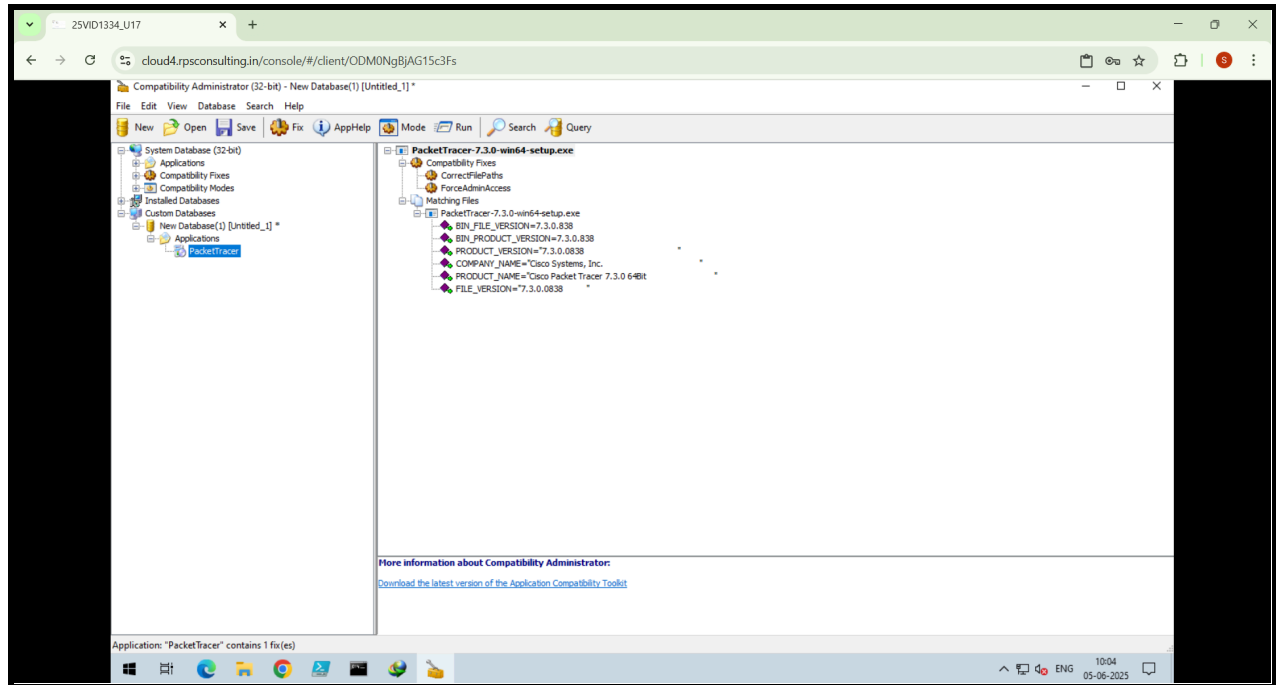
- Older apps not working on new Windows versions.
- Permission or file access errors.
- Apps depending on outdated Windows features.

If there are problems, ACT can fix them using small changes called shims.

- Shim Fixes: ACT allows you to apply "shims"—small code adjustments that trick the app into thinking it's running on an older OS.
- You can simulate earlier environments (like Windows 7 or XP).
- Apply compatibility fixes without changing the original app code.

Benefits of Using ACT

- Saves time during OS migrations.
- Avoids manual testing of hundreds of apps.
- Centralized tracking and reporting of compatibility issues.
- Reduces IT support calls post-deployment.



Tools to use alongside ACT

- 1) **Process Monitor (ProcMon):** Tracks file, registry and process activities.
- 2) **Event Viewer:** Logs app and system errors.
- 3) **App Verifier:** Performs runtime checks on applications.
- 4) **Windows Compatibility Troubleshooter:** Built-in tool for minor compatibility fixes.
- 5) **Dependency Walker:** Scans Windows module and builds a hierarchical tree diagram of all dependent modules.

