



Microsoft ACT 5.6 Release Notes

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Abstract

This document provides information about the updates made to the Microsoft® Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT) 5.6, including the upgrade path to use when updating your product and the known issues, including any potential workarounds or solutions.

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Microsoft ACT 5.6: Release Notes

This document provides information about the Microsoft® Application Compatibility Toolkit (ACT) 5.6 release, including the updates made to the product for this release, how to update your product, and various known issues and any potential workarounds or solutions. If you find issues in the product that are not listed within this document, contact Microsoft by using the Send Feedback link in the Help menu.

Updates to the Microsoft Application Compatibility Toolkit

The ACT 5.6 helps customers understand their application-compatibility situations by identifying applications that are compatible with the Windows® 7 operating system and applications that require further testing. ACT helps customers lower their costs for application-compatibility testing, prioritize their applications, and deploy Windows 7 more quickly.

Updated Deprecation Issue Detection

The Windows Compatibility Evaluator (WCE) now detects files that were deprecated in Windows Vista® and Windows 7. This includes detection for the use of winmail.exe, milcore.dll, outlook.exe, and msagent.exe.

Support for 64-bit Operating Systems and Applications

ACT 5.6 now supports both running on and providing issue detection for 64-bit operating systems and applications.

Compatibility Evaluator Support

The ACT compatibility evaluators can now operate on computers that are running a 32-bit version or a 64-bit version of Windows. In addition, the compatibility evaluators can now detect issues for both 32-bit and 64-bit applications.

Application Compatibility Manager Support

ACT 5.6 enables you to test and separately evaluate both 32-bit and 64-bit applications that are running on Windows 7.

Standard User Analyzer Support

The Standard User Analyzer (SUA) tool enables you to use a computer that has a 32-bit or a 64-bit version of Windows to fix compatibility issues that occur with 32-bit applications.

Compatibility Administrator Support

ACT 5.6 automatically installs a 64-bit version of the Compatibility Administrator on a computer that is running a 64-bit version of the Windows operating system. You can use this version of the Compatibility Administrator to create and apply compatibility fixes (previously known as “shims”) to 64-bit and Microsoft Intermediate Language applications.

Microsoft Compatibility Exchange Support

The Microsoft Compatibility Exchange Web service can now provide vendor assessments for both 32-bit and 64-bit applications and update impact reports for 64-bit operating systems.

Improved Community Assessments

ACT 5.6 has updated the ACT Community to use a voting mechanism that displays application compatibility ratings in the **Community Assessment** column of the **Analyze** screen. This new mechanism combines your application assessment information with all of the information provided by the other ACT Community members.

Improved ACT Compatibility Web Service Performance

ACT 5.6 uses an improved Microsoft Compatibility Exchange Web service that decreases the amount of time required to synchronize your compatibility data with Microsoft and increases the reliability of the synchronization process.

Inclusion of the StockViewer Demonstration Application

You can use the StockViewer demonstration application with the Mitigating Issues by Using Compatibility Fixes topic in the ACT online Help to learn how to locate and fix compatibility issues by using both the SUA and the Compatibility Administrator tools.

Help to Improve ACT

ACT now sends your usage data back to Microsoft. This data enables Microsoft to identify the shifting trends in operating system and hardware usage and to tailor future versions of ACT to best suit your application-compatibility needs. The information that is collected by ACT is not personally identifiable. For more information about this program, including how to opt out, see [Using the Preferences Tab](#) in the ACT online Help system.

Upgrading the Application Compatibility Toolkit

You can upgrade to ACT 5.6 by using either of the methods listed in this section.

Upgrade by Using the Application Compatibility Manager

If you have configured the Application Compatibility Manager to check for new versions of ACT, you can upgrade ACT by using the prompt provided by the Application Compatibility Manager.



Important

You may be required to restart your computer if you are running Windows Vista or Windows Vista® with Service Pack 1 (SP1).



To verify if the Application Compatibility Manager is configured to check for the updates

1. Open the Application Compatibility Manager.
2. On the **Tools** menu, click **Settings**.
The **Settings** dialog box appears.
3. Click the **Preferences** tab.
4. Verify that you have selected the **Notify me when a newer version of ACT is available (recommended)** check box.



Note

If the check box is not selected, you can do it now, and the Application Compatibility Manager will search for any updates the next time you start the program.

Download and Reinstall the Latest Version of ACT

You can uninstall your existing version of ACT and then download and install the latest version from the [Microsoft Application Compatibility Toolkit 5.6](#) Web page. Uninstalling the toolkit does not remove or delete your database or your log files, and the installation acts much like an upgrade. However, you must complete the **ACT Configuration Wizard** again when you open the Application Compatibility Manager.

Known Issues

The following section provides detailed information about the known issues, including any known workarounds or solutions.

Potential Restart During the Upgrade Process

You may be required to restart your computer if you are running Windows Vista or Windows Vista® with Service Pack 1 (SP1) and you upgrade your version of ACT by using the prompt provided by the Application Compatibility Manager

Issue with SQL Server Database Role Assignment

If your organization does not allow the assignment of the **db_owner** database role to a user, then you must instead grant the following reduced permissions to that specific user for every stored procedure. Without these permissions, the Application Compatibility Toolkit fails to start or to function for that user.

- SELECT
- INSERT
- UPDATE
- DELETE
- EXECUTE

ACT Log Processing Service and Network Failures

If your network experiences a failure or a disconnection for a significant period of time (typically, more than 30 seconds), the ACT Log Processing Service can enter a state where it no longer processes your log files. To fix this issue, you must restart the ACT Log Processing Service.

To restart the ACT Log Processing Service

1. In **Control Panel**, click **Administrative Tools**, and then click **Services**.
The **Services** dialog box appears.
2. Click the **ACT Log Processing Service**, and then click **Restart**.

Microsoft Compatibility Exchange and Proxy Server Synchronization Issues

You can experience synchronization failures between the Microsoft Compatibility Exchange and proxy servers in your organization if you select certain proxy server options. The Windows operating system supports three proxy server configuration options, which you can use in any combination. However, if **all** of the following are true, the Application Compatibility Manager fails to synchronize:

- You have selected the **Manually Specify Proxy Server** option.
- You have enabled one or both of the other available **Proxy Location** options.
- The user specifies a proxy server that requires authentication.

To fix this issue, disable all other options except for **Manually Specify Proxy Server** and then try to synchronize again.

.NET Framework 2.0 Issues with Windows Vista

When you try to synchronize your compatibility data, you can experience an issue where you are prompted to provide your domain account information to access the proxy computer. However, domain credentials are not recognized by the proxy computer and your security check fails.

To fix this issue, refer to the following article: [FIX: The System.Net.HttpWebRequest class may not maintain a persistent connection to a proxy in the .NET Framework 2.0.](#)



Important

This issue appears only if you are using NTLM authentication on a computer that is running Windows Vista.

Application Compatibility Manager Crashes When Modifying a Moved Data Collection Package

The Application Compatibility Manager can crash if you attempt to modify and save an existing data collection package (DCP) that no longer exists in its original location. To avoid this issue, save the modified DCP to the database by clicking **Save to Database** on the **File** menu.

Internet Explorer Compatibility Test Tool (IECTT) Fails to Open

Opening the Internet Explorer Compatibility Test Tool (IECTT) on a computer that is running Windows Vista with SP1 can generate the following error message: `Test Tool Error. The file size exceeds the limit allowed and cannot be saved.` For more information about this issue and how to fix it, see [KB954368: Error message when you open the Internet Explorer Compatibility Test Tool on a Windows Vista Service Pack 1-based computer: "The file size exceeds the limit allowed and cannot be saved"](#).

Missing Object Names in the IECTT

You can find that two event types, **Codepage Sniffing** and **Certificate Filtering**, do not return object names to the IECTT. Because there are no object names associated with these events, they appear blank in the **Object Name** field of the IECTT, and they also appear with the title **blank** in the **Web Site** field of the **Application Compatibility Manager Web Site Report** screen. In addition, if you double-click to view the associated issue details, the **blank** dialog box appears with the included details.

At this time, there is no workaround to return the object names; however, all of the important details are still returned to the IECTT and the Application Compatibility Manager.

Potential Restart During the Uninstallation of the Data Collection Package (DCP)

If a user is using the Event Viewer to view events being generated by the ACT data collection package (DCP) at the same time that the package is being automatically uninstalled, it may cause the system to require a restart to restore certain system services after uninstallation is complete. This is a known issue only for computers running Windows 7 or Windows Server® 2008 R2.

ACT Data Collection Packages May Not Uninstall on Windows 2000 Computers

Computers that are running Windows 2000 without Service Pack 4 (SP4) and Update Rollup 1 might have difficulties automatically uninstalling a DCP at the end of its scheduled duration. To work around this issue, manually uninstall the DCP (see “Uninstalling DCPs” in this section) or use only computers that are running Windows 2000 with Service Pack 4 (SP4) and Update Rollup 1.

Uninstalling DCPs

ACT 5.6 creates Windows Installer (.msi) packages for your DCPs. To uninstall a DCP, use one of the following methods:

- **Command-line.** You can use the following syntax to uninstall a DCP:

```
afsetup.exe /uninstall
```
- **Add or Remove Programs.** To uninstall **Microsoft Application Compatibility Data Collector 5.6** you can use the **Add or Remove Programs** item in **Control Panel**.

Compatibility Reports Contain Data Merged from Multiple Computers

You might find that some of your compatibility reports contain data merged from multiple computers. This occurs due to the way the ACT uniquely identifies the individual client computers by using the media access control (MAC) address from the client computer network adapter. If a client computer is inventoried while connected through a virtual protocol network (VPN), the same MAC address can appear for multiple computers, causing the data to be merged in the compatibility reports.

Modifying the Output Log File Location

If you need to dynamically change where your DCP log files are being stored, you can use the INSTALLDIR command-line option and the following syntax:

```
Msiexec /i <dcp_package_name.msi> INSTALLDIR=<new_directory_location>
```



Important

Because the DCP runs as a service by using the local system credentials, you must verify that the new log-file location has the appropriate permissions. For more information about the correct permissions, see the “Share Level Permissions” section of [Troubleshooting ACT Setup](#), located in the ACT online Help system.

Update Compatibility Evaluator (UCE) and Filtered Applications

To reduce the impact on client computers and the ACT Log Processing Service, the Update Compatibility Evaluator (UCE) does not record the dependencies for certain .exe files that depend

on excessive amounts of files or registry entries. However, you can instruct the UCE to record these application dependencies by choosing the **Include filtered applications** option in the **Compatibility Evaluator Settings** dialog box. For information, see [Configuring Advanced Settings](#), located in the ACT online Help system.



Note

Including the filtered applications increases the total amount of data written to your client computer hard drive, which can increase the impact of UIAConvert.exe on your client computer and can result in more data being uploaded to your ACT Log Processing share.

By default, the UCE does not record dependencies for the files and the applications listed in the following tables:

Operating System Files	
explorer.exe	lsass.exe
svchost.exe	services.exe
wmiprvse.exe	

Application Compatibility Toolkit Components	
actdcsvcs.exe	collect.exe
UIAConvert.exe	UIAService.exe

Antivirus, Anti-spyware, and Desktop Search Applications	
Ad-Aware.exe	awsepersonal.exe
csscan.exe	eTrust.exe
filts800a_s.exe	GoogleDesktop.exe
GoogleDesktopCrawl.exe	GoogleDesktopDisplay.exe
GoogleDesktopIndex.exe	GoogleDesktopManager.exe
InocIT.exe	InoRpc.exe
InoRT.exe	Mcshield.exe
navw32.exe	navwnt.exe
PcCVScan.exe	PcScnSrv.exe
SafeSweeper.exe	scan32.exe
SpySweeper.exe	swdoctor.exe

Antivirus, Anti-spyware, and Desktop Search Applications	
textExtractor.exe	unregaaw.exe
wds_sl.exe	windowssearch.exe
windowssearchfilter.exe	windowssearchindexer.exe
windowssearchsafefilter.exe	YDSsystray.exe

Running Data Collection Packages Created by Using Windows Vista or Windows 7 on a Windows 2000 Computer

If you created a data collection package (DCP) by using the Application Compatibility Manager on a computer running Windows Vista, and you are running that DCP on a computer running Windows 2000, you might receive an error that states `This is not a valid Win32 application.` To work around this issue, you must create the DCP on a computer running either Windows XP Service Pack 2 or Windows Server 2003.