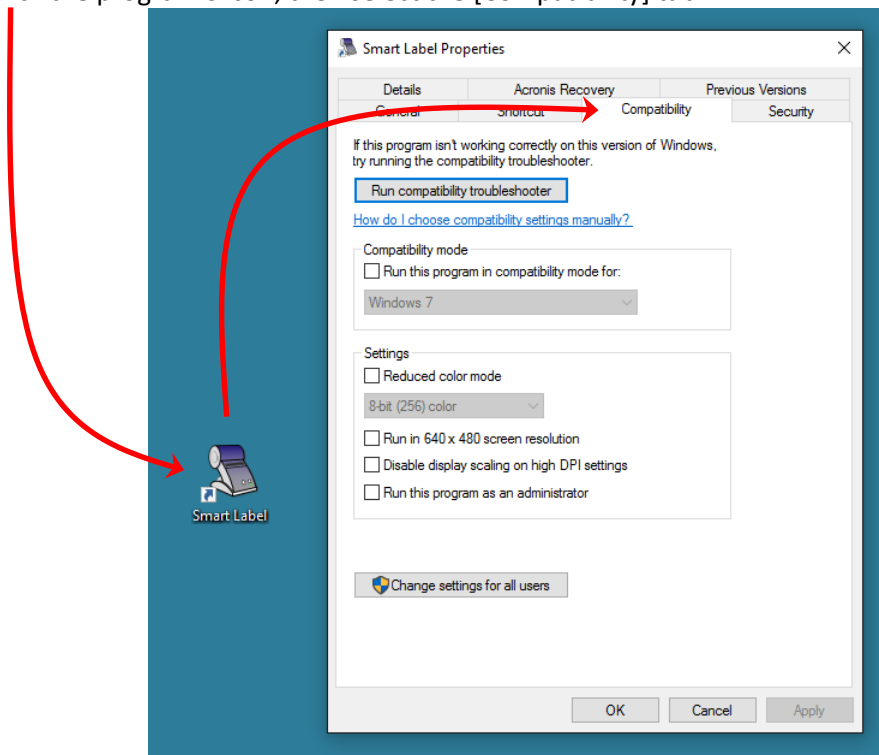


February 2016 Issue #1 More Windows 10 Tips – Compatibility Mode for Old Software

If you have converted to Windows 10, you may experience some issues with older software. Take heart: Microsoft is the “King” of backward compatibility. Microsoft has taken great pains to make old software work on their newer operating systems. There are limits however... about half of the old software from the Windows 95 or Windows 98 days (1995, 1998) was left behind when Windows XP came out, and even more was left behind when Windows Vista came out. This is not a bad thing: old software from 10, 20 or more years ago is riddled with security flaws and should have been upgraded or an alternative found long ago. But if you have a need to run older software, this “Compatibility Mode” guide may help.

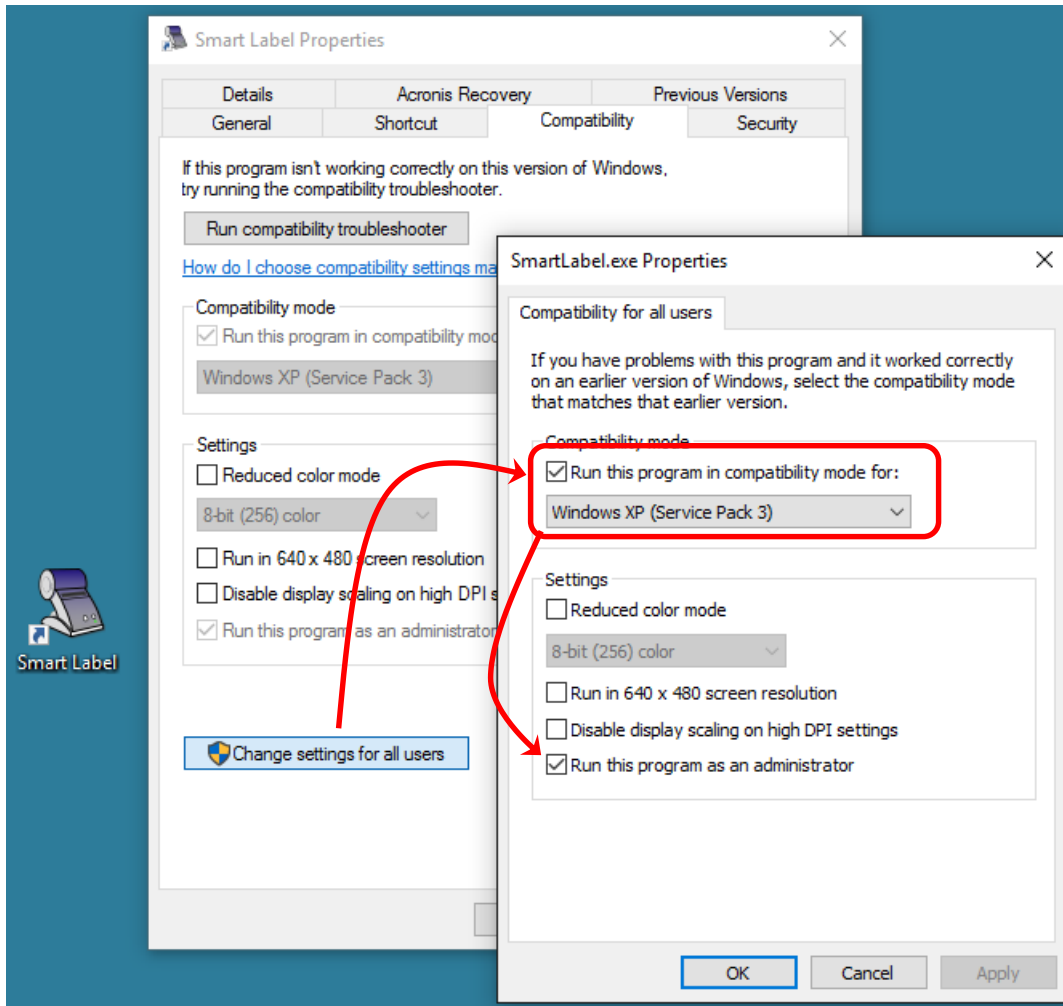
To access Compatibility Mode is simple, and there are many options to select. In this example, I have an ancient Seiko Label Printer from 2001 (yes, a 15-year old label printer). I downloaded the most recent version of the software (circa 2009) from the Seiko website, and installed it. Next, I set the options as follows:

Step 1-A: Right-Click the program’s icon, then select the [Compatibility] tab.



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Step 1-B: Click the [Change Settings for all users] button, then set the options as shown. Click [OK], then [OK] again to close the options page.



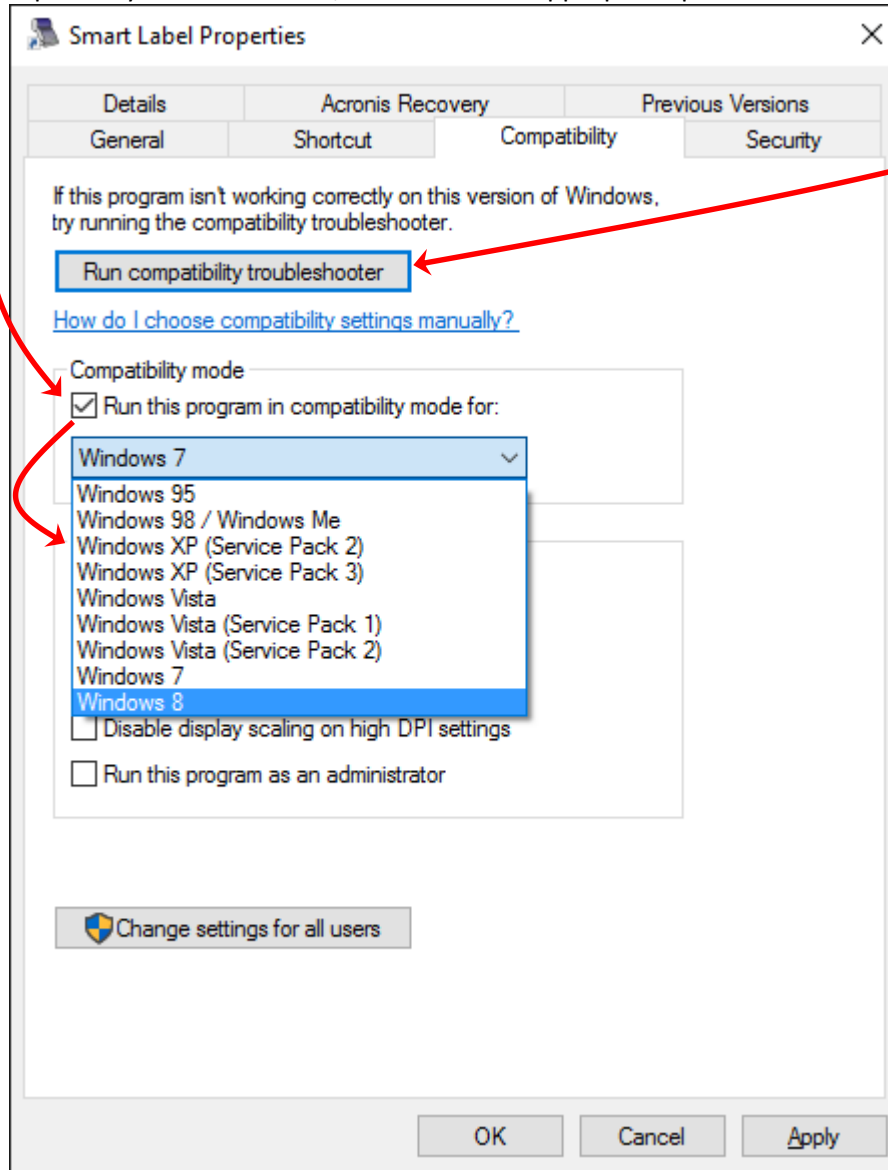
Now try the program again. If it runs OK, great! Pop the champagne cork and have a party – we are all done.

If the program still is not working, you'll need to fiddle with the settings a bit and try a different version of Windows. Or perhaps even lower video resolutions... this will require some more tinkering. Put on your Uber-Geek hat and continue reading with Step 2.

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Step 2: Repeat Step 1-A, then come back to this page. If you want to try another easy way out, you could click the **[Run compatibility troubleshooter]** option. But I suggest doing it yourself first, you have more control over the results. If the “do-it-yourself” option fails, the automated troubleshooter may happen upon a combination that works.

Step 2-A: Select the Compatibility Mode checkbox, then select the appropriate prior version of Windows from the list.

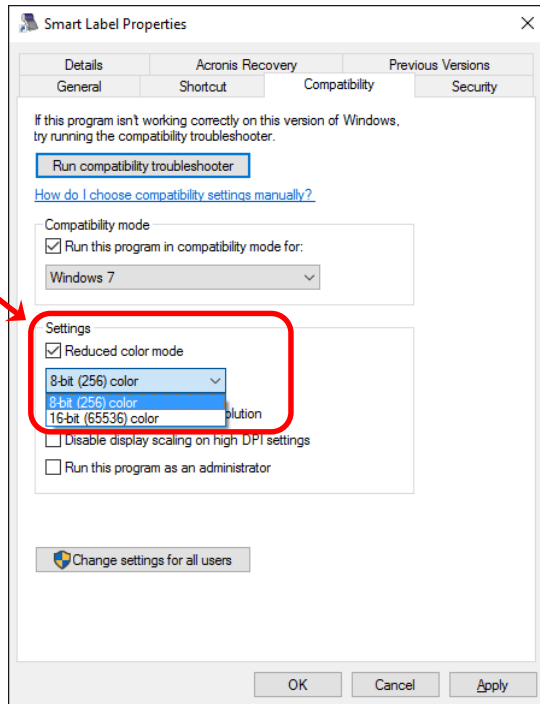


Note 1: Look at that list! It goes all the way back to Windows 95, a 21-year span of time! Like I told you: NOBODY beats Microsoft for the best efforts to maintain backward compatibility. Does it always work? No, but try to find any other operating system that even tries to go back more than 5 years.

Note 2: In my example, I have selected Windows 7 as the Operating System version. Your choice may be different: check the year of your software's publication. If it is older than 2007, use one of the “Windows XP” or “Windows 98” options. If that does not work, you may have to experiment with which version OS you need... or use the Troubleshooter button.

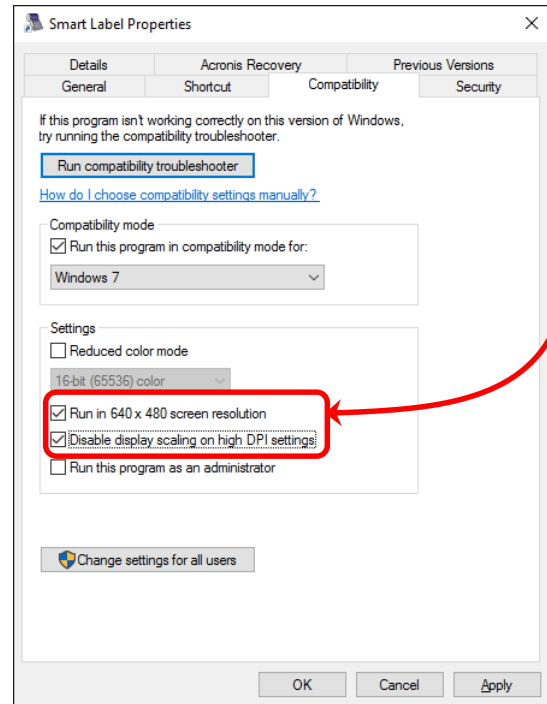
Step 2-B: Set Video options: Reduced Color Mode.

If the program runs OK, but screen resolution is the problem, you could set video resolution to a much lower standard. It is safe to bypass this step unless your screen is completely scrambled static. Skip to Step 2-C.



Step 2-C: More Video options: Resolution and DPI

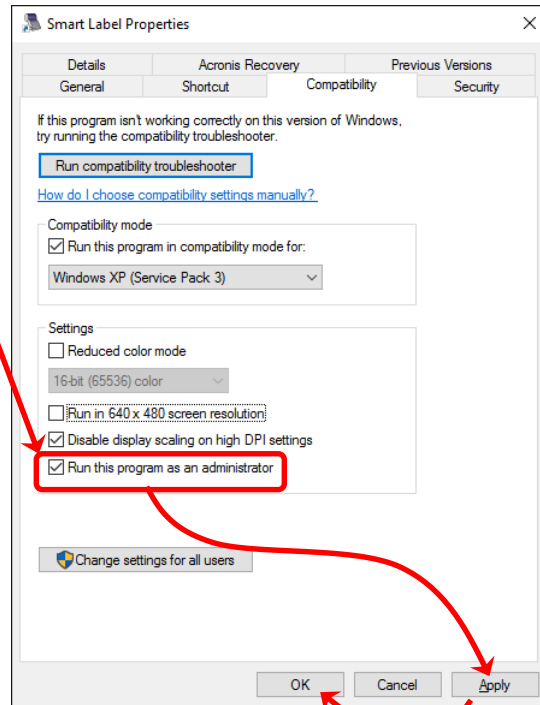
If your program screen looks “stretched” or “skewed, you probably have a wide screen monitor, but the program is made for the old “square” monitors. Try the “640x480” and “Disable display scaling” options.



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Step 3: Administrator Mode: Sometimes the issue is security. Older programs need to be set to Administrator level access. This is very bad practice, but if you have to make a program work, compromises are needed.

Click the **“Run this program as an Administrator”** check box, then click [Apply] and the [OK] buttons.



If all else fails, the Compatibility Troubleshooter from Step 1 might find a combination for you, but you won't have any control over which settings are changed, and you may get unexpected results. If none of this works, you are faced with replacing your software with something newer – which from a pocketbook standpoint may be expensive, but from a security standpoint is a very good thing.

Good Luck!
-John Becker