

Technical Support
Knowledge Center Open

VEE Cannot Find ActiveX Controls

Notices

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The Component Category Manager is used when you select the menu item:

Devices -> ActiveX Control References...

VEE uses the Component Category Manager to locate all the installed ActiveX controls on a computer. There are two likely scenarios that would prevent VEE from loading the Component Category Manager.

The first scenario is that the Component Category Manager's DLL file is missing. This is easy to check. Just look for the existence of the file "comcat.dll" in the \winnt\system32 directory on Windows NT or in the \windows\system directory on Windows 95/98. If it is not there, try reinstalling VEE, as it should install comcat.dll into the appropriate system directory.

The second, and more likely, scenario is that there is a version conflict between comcat.dll and ole32.dll. You can check this by locating these files in the appropriate windows system directory and viewing the file's properties (right click on mouse over the filename and select "Properties"). Then select the "Version" tab. VEE redistributes version 4.71 of comcat.dll. The version conflict arises when comcat.dll is version 5.0 and ole32.dll is less than version 4.71, i.e. ole32.dll is version 4.0. The compatible versions of ole32.dll and comcat.dll are:

comcat.dll	ole32.dll
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4.71	4.0
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5.0	4.71
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Since version 5.0 of comcat.dll is newer than version 4.71, VEE doesn't overwrite it. VEE will only install comcat.dll if the version of comcat.dll on your computer is an older version.

How does this conflict arise? Microsoft Knowledge Base Article Q174217 describes the scenario in detail. The short version is that some program's installation copied version 5.0 of comcat.dll onto the computer but it didn't copy the corresponding compatible version of ole32.dll.

[Q174217](#)

Recommend fix:

Move comcat.dll to comcat.orig.dll. Then reinstall VEE. This time VEE will install an older version of comcat.dll, which should be compatible with the version of ole32.dll on the computer.

