

Incompatible version of the RPC stub error

The Problem

You get one of the following errors when you try to install software on your **Windows 95/98** or **Windows Millennium Edition (Windows ME)** PC :

Incompatible version of the RPC stub

The InstallShield Engine (“kernel.exe”) could not be launched. Error loading type library/DLL

What has happened ?

The above errors are in 95% of cases caused by an incompatible version of the Microsoft **OLEAUT32.DLL** system file which lives in the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM folder.

It could be that your version of OLEAUT32.DLL is too old, or that it is too new. If it is too old, it is probably because you recently installed an old or “oldish” piece of software which did not properly check that it was not overwriting your existing OLEAUT32.DLL with an older version. The most current version of OLEAUT32.DLL for Windows 98/ME is **2.40.4515**.

In addition to the above possibility, the introduction of Windows XP in late 2001 has also started an epidemic of the problem. The reason in this case is that Windows XP comes with a newer version of OLEAUT32.DLL, version 3.5x, which is, incredibly, incompatible with Windows 95/98/ME. From November 2001 that newer version of OLEAUT32.DLL has increasingly, and mistakenly, been incorporated by software developers into the installation of many new or updated software programs, with the result that, literally, “waves” of users have suddenly found themselves unable to install software or to operate their PC normally following the installation of a new or updated program. And it gets worse : we have empirical but unconfirmed evidence that the installation of one of Microsoft’s own products, Internet Explorer 6, may be one of the worst culprits !

The solution

The crux of the resolution of this problem is that you need to restore on your PC a version of OLEAUT32.DLL that is compatible with Windows 95/98/ME.

Windows 98

- Download and install **DCOM98 v1.3** from the following link :

<http://www.microsoft.com/com/dcom/dcom98/download.asp>

If the above link does not exist by the time you read this document, then go to the Microsoft Downloads page and obtain DCOM98 v1.3 from there.

On reboot from the installation, test – hopefully your problem should be fixed.

Windows 95/98/ME

If you do not have Windows 98, or you have Windows 98 but the above did not work, then you could try the fix which Microsoft have produced. As follows :

- Paste the link below into your browser and press Enter :
<http://download.microsoft.com/download/msninvestor/Patch/1.0/WIN98/EN-US/mcrepair.EXE>
- This will immediately start the download of a file called **MCREPAIR.EXE**. Alternatively, if the above link does not work, then go to www.ATWLIBRARIES.com , then to the **Windows Miscellaneous** section, and download **MCREPAIR.EXE** from the link directly below this document (Copyright of Microsoft and to be used only on a licensed Microsoft Windows 95/98/ME PC). Download and save MCREPAIR.EXE onto your desktop.
- Run the downloaded file, MCREPAIR.EXE.
- If it prompts you to **“Overwrite newer files”**, make sure you click **YES** for each file that it prompts you for.
- On completion reboot your PC.
- You’re done.** You should no longer experience the problem.

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