# CAST Architecture Checker - Working online



## Introduction

The CAST Architecture Checker offers you the possibility to work "online" to check the content of the model you have created and violations of the authorized / forbidden dependencies by connecting to a CAST Management Service (which will in turn fetch data from the CAST Analysis Service).

**Modules**

Please ensure that any objects you want to work with in the CAST Architecture Checker are part of a Module, i.e.:

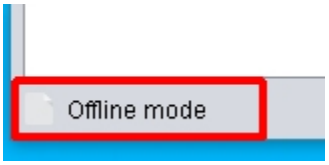
- A module created manually (a User Defined Module)
- A module created automatically (by the CAST Management Studio if no User Defined Modules exist when the snapshot is generated).

**External objects**

Architecture Checker can report violations between two Layers even when objects inside the targeted Layer not only are external, but also belong to a module external to the Application being checked. The only constraint is that the objects inside the Layer from which the Dependency towards the targeted Layer is issued, must belong to a module internal to the Application. For example, it is possible to check for links which reach objects belonging to a .NET assembly outside of the Application boundary, provided these links start from objects in a module which is internal to the Application (even though these latter objects can be external).

## Working online

When you first open the CAST Architecture Checker, it will automatically be in offline mode (icon located in bottom left corner):




The CAST Architecture Checker can still be used offline to create a model out of the box on a desktop. However to really benefit from this application, you need to work **online**. To do so, you can use any of the options provided in the Action menu. The actual connection process is described in Connect and select application.

## Snapshot generation

Before you can take advantage of the online operating mode (i.e. one of the following options):

- Change application
- Check all layers
- Check content
- Check overlapping layers
- Check model

...you do need to have already successfully generated a snapshot of your application. On connection to the CAST Management Service, the CAST Architecture Checker will check for the presence of up-to-date and completed analysis results data for the Application you choose during the connection process. There are several scenarios that need explanation here:

If you have **successfully generated a snapshot** in the CAST Management Studio, then you can take advantage of the online features of the application v
will notify you that you are working online

If you have **never generated a snapshot** or have **never used the Run Analysis only option** in the CAST Management Studio, then you will be prompted will remain in offline mode:

- Clicking **Yes** will proceed with running this pre-snapshot preparation action - this is equivalent to using the **PrepareSnapshot** action via the CAST Ma d is included in a standard snapshot generation process. Running this action is NOT equivalent to generating a snapshot, it simply prepares the Modu When the process is complete, you can work online as normal.
- Clicking **No** will display the following at the bottom of the GUI and you will not be able to take advantage of the online features:


If you have used the **Run Analysis only** option in the CAST Management Studio (since a previous snapshot was generated or on its own without a snapsh then you will be offered the possibility to run a **pre-snapshot preparation action** from within the CAST Architecture Checker GUI:

If you have already generated one snapshot then **deleted** it via the CAST Management Studio, the CAST Architecture Checker will still be able to check in because the check is made on the presence of analysis results and whether the **PrepareSnapshot** action has been run (rather than whether a snapshot is