

[MS-DPRDL]: Report Definition Language Data Portability Overview

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Revision Summary

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
06/04/2010	0.1	Major	First release.
09/03/2010	0.1.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
02/09/2011	0.1.1	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
07/07/2011	0.1.1	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.

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1 Introduction

The Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services Report Definition Language (RDL) system includes a repository for RDL documents, such as the Reporting Services report server catalog, Microsoft SharePoint Products and Technologies, or the file system and RDL documents [\[MS-RDL\]](#).

RDL documents represent the definition of the **report**. These documents are either set or retrieved in the report server catalog by using the SOAP endpoints—ReportService2005 [\[MS-RSWSRMNM2005\]](#), ReportService2006 [\[MS-RSWSRMSM2006\]](#), or ReportService2010 [\[MS-RSWSRM2010\]](#)—or they are opened or saved in a SharePoint library or in the file system.

1.1 Glossary

The following terms are defined in [\[MS-RDL\]](#):

dataset
report

The following terms are defined in [\[MS-SMDL\]](#):

data source

The following protocol abbreviations are used in this document:

SOAP: Simple Object Access Protocol

1.2 References

[MS-RDL] Microsoft Corporation, "[Report Definition Language File Format Structure Specification](#)".

[MS-RSWSRMNM2005] Microsoft Corporation, "[Report Server Web Service Specification for Report Management Native Mode: ReportService2005](#)".

[MS-RSWSRMSM2006] Microsoft Corporation, "[Report Server Web Service Specification for Report Management SharePoint Mode: ReportService2006](#)".

[MS-RSWSRM2010] Microsoft Corporation, "[Report Server Web Service Specification for Report Management: ReportService2010](#)".

2 Data Portability Scenarios

2.1 Third-Party Reporting Platform Consuming RDL Documents in the Report Server Catalog

2.1.1 Data Description

The RDL [\[MS-RDL\]](#) document contains the definition of a report, with information about how to connect to **data sources**, which fields are used from the **datasets** that are retrieved from the data sources, how the data is aggregated, and the structure and layout of the report.

This RDL data is used to process data and to render a report. The data is stored in the report server catalog when Reporting Services is running in native mode.

This RDL data is created by a Reporting Services RDL authoring tool (Report Builder or Report Designer in the Business Intelligence Development Studio), by a third-party RDL authoring tool, or by using a text editor.

2.1.2 Format and Protocol Summary

The following table provides a comprehensive list of the formats and protocols used in this scenario.

Protocol or format name	Description	Reference
ReportService2005 Web service protocol	This protocol is used to communicate with the report server to execute report server catalog operations. The ReportService2005 Web service protocol is available in Microsoft® SQL Server® 2005, Microsoft® SQL Server® 2008, and Microsoft® SQL Server® 2008 R2.	[MS-RWSRNM2005]
ReportService2010 Web service protocol	This protocol is used to communicate with the report server to execute report server catalog operations. The ReportService2010 Web service protocol is available in SQL Server 2008 R2.	[MS-RWSRM2010]
Report Definition Language file format	This format specifies the file format for SQL Server Report Definition Language, a file type that is used to represent the metadata for defining a report.	[MS-RDL]

2.1.3 Data Portability Methodology

For this scenario, the documents containing the RDL data are extracted from the report server catalog one by one and stored in a file on the file system. The method of extracting the RDL data from the report server catalog for use in a third-party reporting platform in this scenario is to use the **SOAP** endpoints that are provided by the report server.

In this scenario, the ReportService2005 [\[MS-RWSRNM2005\]](#) and the ReportService2010 [\[MS-RWSRM2010\]](#) SOAP endpoints enable implementers to programmatically extract the data from the report server catalog.

To extract the data:

1. Create a folder on the client machine for storing the retrieved RDL documents.

2. Using a SOAP proxy to access the ReportService2005 Web service or the ReportService2010 Web service, get the list of RDL documents in the report server catalog by using the **ListChildren()** SOAP Web method.
 1. For the first call to **ListChildren()**, use "/" as the value for the *Item* parameter. This returns each **CatalogItem** that is at the root level.
 2. For each **CatalogItem** returned, follow these steps:
 1. If the **CatalogItem** is of type **Report**, store the **CatalogItem.Path**.
 2. If the **CatalogItem** is of type **Folder**, repeat steps 2.1 and 2.2.
3. Retrieve each RDL definition from the report server catalog. For each of the item paths stored in step 2, follow these steps:
 1. Call the **GetReportDefinition()** SOAP Web method, passing in the item path as the value for the *Report* parameter.
 2. Create a file in the folder that was created in step 1. Use the returned byte array as the contents of the file.
4. Use the RDL documentation [\[MS-RDL\]](#) to interpret the RDL data that was retrieved in the previous step for use in the third-party reporting platform.

2.1.3.1 Preconditions

Ensure that the Reporting Services service is started on the server. Grant the appropriate permissions to the user who is using the ReportService2005 or ReportService2010 SOAP endpoint to access the report server catalog.

2.1.3.2 Versioning

None.

2.1.3.3 Error Handling

None.

2.1.3.4 Coherency Requirements

There are no special coherency requirements.

2.1.3.5 Additional Considerations

There are no additional considerations.

2.2 Third-Party Reporting Platform Consuming RDL Documents in SharePoint

2.2.1 Data Description

The [\[MS-RDL\]](#) document contains the definition of a report, with information about how to connect to data sources, which fields are used from the datasets retrieved from the data sources, how the data is aggregated, and the structure and layout of the report.

This RDL data is used to process data and to render a report. The data is stored in both the report server catalog and the SharePoint repository when running Reporting Services in SharePoint integrated mode.

This data is created by a Reporting Services RDL authoring tool (Report Builder or Report Designer in the Business Intelligence Development Studio), by a third-party RDL authoring tool, or by using a text editor.

In addition to an RDL document, there is an RDLX document. An RDLX document is a package that is compatible with a compressed file (.zip file) and that contains an RDL [MS-RDL] document. That is, one can see the contents of an RDLX document, by renaming it to a .zip file and opening it with any file compression program that creates .zip files. The Reports subdirectory inside the package contains the actual RDL document, which can then be viewed in a text editor, like other RDL documents.

This RDLX document is created by a Reporting Services report authoring tool code-named "Project Crescent," by a third-party RDL authoring tool, or by using a text editor.

2.2.2 Format and Protocol Summary

The following table provides a comprehensive list of the formats and protocols used in this scenario.

Protocol or format name	Description	Reference
ReportService2006 Web service protocol	This protocol is used to communicate with the report server in SharePoint integrated mode to execute report server catalog operations.	[MS-RSWSRMSM2006]
Report Definition Language file format	This format is used to specify the file format for SQL Server Report Definition Language (RDL), a file type that is used to represent the metadata for defining a report.	[MS-RDL]

2.2.3 Data Portability Methodology

Because the data is stored in both the SharePoint repository and the report server catalog, the approach for this scenario is to extract the data by accessing the report server catalog by using the steps outlined in section 2.1.3. However, instead of using the ReportService2005 [\[MS-RSWSRMNM2005\]](#) SOAP endpoint, the ReportService2006 [\[MS-RSWSRMSM2006\]](#) SOAP endpoint is used in this scenario.

The ReportService2006 SOAP endpoint enables implementers to programmatically manage objects on a report server that is configured for SharePoint integrated mode.

To extract the data:

1. Create a folder on the client machine for storing the retrieved RDL documents.
2. Using a SOAP proxy to access the ReportService2006 Web service or the ReportService2010 Web service, get the list of RDL documents in the report server catalog by using the **ListChildren()** SOAP Web method.
 1. For the first call to **ListChildren()**, use "/" as the value for the *Item* parameter. This returns each **CatalogItem** that is at the root level.

2. For each **CatalogItem** returned, follow these steps:
 1. If the **CatalogItem** is of type **Report** or **RDLXReport**, store the **CatalogItem.Path**.
 2. If the **CatalogItem** is of type **Folder**, repeat steps 2.1 and 2.2.
3. Retrieve each RDL definition from the report server catalog. For each of the item paths stored in step 2, follow these steps:
 1. For an item of type **Report**, call the **GetReportDefinition()** SOAP Web method, passing in the item path as the value for the *Report* parameter. For an item of type **RDLXReport**, call the **GetItemDefinition()** SOAP Web method, passing in the item path as the value for the *Item* parameter.
 2. Create a file in the folder that was created in step 1. Use the returned byte array as the contents of the file.
4. For an item of type **RDLXReport**, rename the file to a .zip file and open it with any zip tool. Extract the Report.RDL file from the Reports subdirectory of the .zip file.
5. Use the RDL documentation [\[MS-RDL\]](#) to interpret the RDL data that was retrieved in the previous step for use in the third-party reporting platform.

2.2.3.1 Preconditions

Ensure that the Reporting Services service is started on the server, and that the SharePoint service is running. Grant the appropriate permissions to the user who is using the ReportService2006 SOAP endpoint to access the report server catalog.

2.2.3.2 Versioning

None.

2.2.3.3 Error Handling

None.

2.2.3.4 Coherency Requirements

There are no special coherency requirements.

2.2.3.5 Additional Considerations

There are no additional considerations.

2.3 Third-Party Reporting Platform Consuming RDL Documents in the File System

2.3.1 Data Description

The RDL document contains the definition of a report, with information about how to connect to data sources, which fields are used from the datasets retrieved from the data sources, how the data is aggregated, and the structure and layout of the report. This RDL data is used to process data and to render a report. The data is stored in the file system on the local computer.

This data is created by a Reporting Services RDL authoring tool (Report Builder or Report Designer in the Business Intelligence Development Studio), by a third-party RDL authoring tool, or by using a text editor.

2.3.2 Format and Protocol Summary

No formats or protocols are used in this scenario.

2.3.3 Data Portability Methodology

In this scenario, the RDL data is stored in the file system as reports (*.rdl files). By default, reports are saved in the Documents folder for a user on the local machine (in Windows Vista, this folder is C:\Users\\Documents\). Use the RDL documentation [\[MS-RDL\]](#) to interpret the RDL data in these files.

2.3.3.1 Preconditions

None.

2.3.3.2 Versioning

None.

2.3.3.3 Error Handling

None.

2.3.3.4 Coherency Requirements

There are no special coherency requirements.

2.3.3.5 Additional Considerations

There are no additional considerations.

3 Change Tracking

This section identifies changes that were made to the [MS-DPRDL] protocol document between the February 2011 and July 2011 releases. Changes are classified as New, Major, Minor, Editorial, or No change.

The revision class **New** means that a new document is being released.

The revision class **Major** means that the technical content in the document was significantly revised. Major changes affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of major changes are:

- A document revision that incorporates changes to interoperability requirements or functionality.
- An extensive rewrite, addition, or deletion of major portions of content.
- The removal of a document from the documentation set.
- Changes made for template compliance.

The revision class **Minor** means that the meaning of the technical content was clarified. Minor changes do not affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of minor changes are updates to clarify ambiguity at the sentence, paragraph, or table level.

The revision class **Editorial** means that the language and formatting in the technical content was changed. Editorial changes apply to grammatical, formatting, and style issues.

The revision class **No change** means that no new technical or language changes were introduced. The technical content of the document is identical to the last released version, but minor editorial and formatting changes, as well as updates to the header and footer information, and to the revision summary, may have been made.

Major and minor changes can be described further using the following change types:

- New content added.
- Content updated.
- Content removed.
- New product behavior note added.
- Product behavior note updated.
- Product behavior note removed.
- New protocol syntax added.
- Protocol syntax updated.
- Protocol syntax removed.
- New content added due to protocol revision.
- Content updated due to protocol revision.
- Content removed due to protocol revision.
- New protocol syntax added due to protocol revision.

- Protocol syntax updated due to protocol revision.
- Protocol syntax removed due to protocol revision.
- New content added for template compliance.
- Content updated for template compliance.
- Content removed for template compliance.
- Obsolete document removed.

Editorial changes are always classified with the change type **Editorially updated**.

Some important terms used in the change type descriptions are defined as follows:

- **Protocol syntax** refers to data elements (such as packets, structures, enumerations, and methods) as well as interfaces.
- **Protocol revision** refers to changes made to a protocol that affect the bits that are sent over the wire.

The changes made to this document are listed in the following table. For more information, please contact protocol@microsoft.com.

Section	Tracking number (if applicable) and description	Major change (Y or N)	Change type
2.2.1 Data Description	Added information on the RDLX document.	Y	Content updated.
2.2.3 Data Portability Methodology	Added to include procedure for extracting items of type RDLXReport.	Y	Content updated.

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