

[MS-SQLRS]:

SQL Server Remote Storage Profile

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Revision Summary

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8/16/2017	1.0	New	Released new document.
9/15/2017	2.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
3/16/2018	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.

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1 Introduction

The SQL Server Remote Storage Profile specifies information regarding the implementation for hosting Microsoft SQL Server databases on Server Message Block (SMB) shares. The files associated with the storage of databases can include data files, transaction log files, and other associated on-disk artifacts. This profile clarifies the level of support that SQL Server requires from SMB servers that host these types of files.

Section 2 in this specification is normative. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

1.1 Glossary

This document uses the following terms:

file system: A system that enables applications to store and retrieve files on storage devices. Files are placed in a hierarchical structure. The file system specifies naming conventions for files and the format for specifying the path to a file in the tree structure. Each file system consists of one or more drivers and DLLs that define the data formats and features of the file system. File systems can exist on the following storage devices: diskettes, hard disks, jukeboxes, removable optical disks, and tape backup units.

file system control (FSCTL): A command issued to a **file system** to alter or query the behavior of the **file system** and/or set or query metadata that is associated with a particular file or with the **file system** itself.

I/O control (IOCTL): A command that is issued to a target file system or target device in order to query or alter the behavior of the target; or to query or alter the data and attributes that are associated with the target or the objects that are exposed by the target.

Resilient File System (ReFS): The Resilient File System is a file system that provides maximum data availability, scalability, and data integrity despite hardware or software failures. ReFS is frequently used together with Storage Spaces.

shadow copy: A duplicate of data held on a **volume** at a well-defined instant in time.

snapshot: The point in time at which a **shadow copy** of a **volume** is made.

sparse file: A file containing large sections of data composed only of zeros. This file is marked as a sparse file in the **file system**, which saves disk space by only allocating as many ranges on disk as are required to completely reconstruct the non-zero data. When an attempt is made to read in the nonallocated portions of the file (also known as holes), the **file system** automatically returns zeros to the caller.

stream: A sequence of bytes written to a file on the target **file system**. Every file stored on a **volume** that uses the file system contains at least one stream, which is normally used to store the primary contents of the file. Additional streams within the file can be used to store file attributes, application parameters, or other information specific to that file. Every file has a default data stream, which is unnamed by default. That data stream, and any other data stream associated with a file, can optionally be named.

volume: A group of one or more partitions that forms a logical region of storage and the basis for a file system. A **volume** is an area on a storage device that is managed by the file system as a discrete logical storage unit. A partition contains at least one **volume**, and a volume can exist on one or more partitions.

MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT: These terms (in all caps) are used as defined in [RFC2119](#). All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

1.2 References

Links to a document in the Microsoft Open Specifications library point to the correct section in the most recently published version of the referenced document. However, because individual documents in the library are not updated at the same time, the section numbers in the documents may not match. You can confirm the correct section numbering by checking the [Errata](#).

1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact dochelp@microsoft.com. We will assist you in finding the relevant information.

[MS-FSA] Microsoft Corporation, "[File System Algorithms](#)".

[MS-FSCC] Microsoft Corporation, "[File System Control Codes](#)".

[MS-SMB2] Microsoft Corporation, "[Server Message Block \(SMB\) Protocol Versions 2 and 3](#)".

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

1.2.2 Informative References

[MSDN-IOCTLSQPCC] Microsoft Corporation, "IOCTL_STORAGE_QUERY_PROPERTY IOCTL", https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/desktop/api/winiioctl/ni-winiioctl-ioctl_storage_query_property

[MSDN-IOCTLVGGACC] Microsoft Corporation, "IOCTL_VOLUME_GET_GPT_ATTRIBUTES IOCTL", https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/desktop/api/winiioctl/ni-winiioctl-ioctl_volume_get_gpt_attributes

1.3 Microsoft Implementations

- Microsoft SQL Server 2016
- Microsoft SQL Server 2017

1.4 Standards Support Requirements

The conformance requirements for [\[MS-SMB2\]](#), [\[MS-FSCC\]](#), and [\[MS-FSA\]](#) are that all required portions of the specifications are implemented according to the specification, and that any optional portions that are included are also implemented according to the specification.

1.5 Notation

The following notations are used to identify clarifications in section 2.2.

Notation	Explanation
C####	This notation identifies a clarification of ambiguity in the target specification. This includes imprecise statements, omitted information, discrepancies, and errata. This does not include data formatting clarifications.

2 Standards Support Statements

2.1 Normative Variations

None.

2.2 Clarifications

The following subsections identify clarifications relative to [\[MS-SMB2\]](#), [\[MS-FSCC\]](#), and [\[MS-FSA\]](#).

2.2.1 [MS-SMB2] Server Message Block (SMB) Protocols Version 2 and 3

C0001:

The server MUST support the Server Message Block (SMB) version 2.0 or higher dialect, as described in [\[MS-SMB2\]](#) section [1.7](#).

C0002:

The server MUST support persistent handles.

2.2.2 [MS-FSCC] File System Control Codes and [MS-FSA] File System Algorithms

C0003:

If the server supports the FSCTL_FILESYSTEM_GET_STATISTICS control code, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.3.12](#) and [\[MS-FSA\]](#) section [2.1.5.9.7](#), and if the server responds with a FILESYSTEM_STATISTICS structure, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.3.12.1](#), with a FileSystemType field value of "FILESYSTEM_STATISTICS_TYPE_REFS", SQL Server issues a query on the **stream** to retrieve file system integrity information, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.3.53](#) and [\[MS-FSA\]](#) section [2.1.5.9.10](#).

C0004:

If the server supports the FSCTL_SET_INTEGRITY_INFORMATION control code, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.3.59](#) and [\[MS-FSA\]](#) section [2.1.5.9.29](#), and if the underlying remote **file system** is a **Resilient File System (ReFS)**, support for this **file system control (FSCTL)** code can improve the performance of remote input/output (I/O) operations. This control code is used by SQL Server to identify and disable ReFS integrity streams.

C0005:

If the server supports the FSCTL_GET_INTEGRITY_INFORMATION control code, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.3.53](#) and [\[MS-FSA\]](#) section [2.1.5.9.10](#), and if the underlying file system is a ReFS file system, support for this control code can improve the performance of remote I/O operations. This control code is used by SQL Server to identify and disable ReFS integrity streams.

C0006:

If the server supports the FSCTL_SET_SPARSE control code, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.3.67](#) and [\[MS-FSA\]](#) section [2.1.5.9.34](#), and if the SMB remote share is used to host SQL Server data files, core SQL Server engine features, such as database **snapshots** and online database consistency checks, use **sparse files** to reduce the amount of disk space that is required to store copy-on-write snapshots of SQL Server data.

If the remote file system does not support this control code, database snapshots and online database consistency checks fail.

2.2.3 [MS-FSCC] File System Control Codes

C0007:

If the server supports the `IOCTL_VOLUME_GET_GPT_ATTRIBUTES` control code, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.8.3](#), SQL Server can query properties of the **volume** that are underlying the remote file share. This query can occur even if the volume is a **shadow copy**, such as a volume snapshot, or is read-only. For further information, see [\[MSDN-IOCTLVGGACC\]](#).

If the server does not support this **I/O control (IOCTL)** code, SQL Server is unable to detect these properties and some operations could fail or behave unexpectedly.

C0008:

If the server supports the `IOCTL_STORAGE_QUERY_PROPERTY` control code, as defined in [\[MS-FSCC\]](#) section [2.8.1](#), with the **StorageAccessAlignmentProperty** property ID, SQL Server can identify the physical sector size of any device that is underlying the SQL Server database and transaction log files and, by extension, the required alignment of SQL Server I/O requests. For further information, see [\[MSDN-IOCTLSQPCC\]](#).

If the server does not support this control code, SQL Server cannot correctly identify the physical sector size and could suffer performance degradations due to read-modify-write operations.

2.3 Error Handling

None.

2.4 Security

None.

3 Change Tracking

No table of changes is available. The document is either new or has had no changes since its last release.

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