

[MS-BCP]:

Bulk Copy Format

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Revision Summary

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
6/4/2010	0.1	Major	First release.
9/3/2010	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
2/9/2011	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
7/7/2011	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
11/3/2011	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
1/19/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
2/23/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
3/27/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
5/24/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
6/29/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
7/16/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/8/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/23/2012	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
3/26/2013	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
6/11/2013	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
8/8/2013	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
12/5/2013	1.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
2/11/2014	2.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
5/20/2014	2.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
5/10/2016	3.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
8/16/2017	4.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
10/16/2019	5.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
11/1/2022	6.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	6
1.1	Glossary	6
1.2	References	6
1.2.1	Normative References	6
1.2.2	Informative References	7
1.3	Overview	7
1.4	Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures	7
1.5	Applicability Statement	7
1.6	Versioning and Localization	7
1.7	Vendor-Extensible Fields	7
2	Structures	8
2.1	Data Types.....	8
2.1.1	BigInt.....	8
2.1.2	Binary	8
2.1.3	Bit	8
2.1.4	Char	8
2.1.5	CLRUdt.....	9
2.1.6	Date	9
2.1.7	DateTime.....	9
2.1.8	DateTime2	9
2.1.9	DateTimeOffset	10
2.1.10	Decimal.....	10
2.1.11	Float	10
2.1.12	Image	10
2.1.13	Int	11
2.1.14	Money	11
2.1.15	NChar	11
2.1.16	NText.....	11
2.1.17	Numeric	11
2.1.18	NVarChar.....	12
2.1.19	Real	12
2.1.20	SmallDateTime.....	12
2.1.21	SmallInt	12
2.1.22	SmallMoney	12
2.1.23	Text	13
2.1.24	Time	13
2.1.25	TimeStamp	13
2.1.26	TinyInt	13
2.1.27	UniqueIdentifier.....	13
2.1.28	VarBinary	14
2.1.29	VarChar.....	14
2.1.30	XML	14
2.1.31	NULL Value	14
2.1.32	Separators.....	15
2.1.32.1	Field Terminator	15
2.1.32.2	Row Terminator	15
2.2	BCP Data File.....	15
2.3	BCP Format File	15
2.3.1	Schema Elements	16
2.3.1.1	BCPFORMAT	16
2.3.1.2	RECORD	16
2.3.1.3	FIELD	16
2.3.1.4	ROW	17
2.3.1.5	COLUMN	17

2.3.1.5.1	ColumnType	18
2.3.1.6	/BCPFORMAT	20
2.3.2	Format File XSD Schema	20
3	Structure Examples	22
3.1	Data File	22
3.1.1	BigInt	22
3.1.2	Binary	22
3.1.3	Bit	22
3.1.4	Char	22
3.1.5	CLRUDT.....	23
3.1.6	Date	23
3.1.7	DateTime.....	23
3.1.8	DateTime2.....	23
3.1.9	DateTimeOffset	23
3.1.10	Decimal.....	24
3.1.11	Float	24
3.1.12	Image	24
3.1.13	Int	24
3.1.14	Money.....	25
3.1.15	NChar	25
3.1.16	NText.....	25
3.1.17	Numeric	25
3.1.18	NVarChar.....	25
3.1.19	Real	26
3.1.20	SmallDateTime.....	26
3.1.21	SmallInt	26
3.1.22	SmallMoney	26
3.1.23	Sql_Variant.....	26
3.1.24	Text	27
3.1.25	Time	27
3.1.26	TimeStamp	27
3.1.27	TinyInt	27
3.1.28	UniqueIdentifier.....	27
3.1.29	VarBinary	28
3.1.30	VarChar.....	28
3.1.31	XML	28
3.1.32	Field Terminator	28
3.1.33	Row Terminator.....	29
3.2	Format File.....	29
4	Security Considerations.....	31
5	Appendix A: Product Behavior	32
6	Change Tracking.....	34
7	Index.....	35

1 Introduction

The bulk copy (BCP) format is a data structure format that specifies how different database data type values are stored in a data file for the purpose of exporting and importing large sets of values. The BCP format also specifies what each data column represents in a format file for the purpose of interpreting the set of values stored in the corresponding data file.

Sections 1.7 and 2 of this specification are normative. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

1.1 Glossary

This document uses the following terms:

Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF): A modified version of Backus-Naur Form (BNF), commonly used by Internet specifications. ABNF notation balances compactness and simplicity with reasonable representational power. ABNF differs from standard BNF in its definitions and uses of naming rules, repetition, alternatives, order-independence, and value ranges. For more information, see [\[RFC5234\]](#).

globally unique identifier (GUID): A term used interchangeably with universally unique identifier (UUID) in Microsoft protocol technical documents (TDs). Interchanging the usage of these terms does not imply or require a specific algorithm or mechanism to generate the value. Specifically, the use of this term does not imply or require that the algorithms described in [\[RFC4122\]](#) or [\[C706\]](#) have to be used for generating the GUID. See also universally unique identifier (UUID).

octet: A group of 8 bits often referred to as a byte.

Unicode: A character encoding standard developed by the Unicode Consortium that represents almost all of the written languages of the world. The **Unicode** standard [\[UNICODE5.0.0/2007\]](#) provides three forms (UTF-8, UTF-16, and UTF-32) and seven schemes (UTF-8, UTF-16, UTF-16 BE, UTF-16 LE, UTF-32, UTF-32 LE, and UTF-32 BE).

Unicode string: A **Unicode** 8-bit string is an ordered sequence of 8-bit units, a **Unicode** 16-bit string is an ordered sequence of 16-bit code units, and a **Unicode** 32-bit string is an ordered sequence of 32-bit code units. In some cases, it could be acceptable not to terminate with a terminating null character. Unless otherwise specified, all **Unicode strings** follow the UTF-16LE encoding scheme with no Byte Order Mark (BOM).

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.

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

[RFC5234] Crocker, D., Ed., and Overell, P., "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, RFC 5234, January 2008, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5234>

[XMLSCHEMA1/2] Thompson, H., Beech, D., Maloney, M., and Mendelsohn, N., Eds., "XML Schema Part 1: Structures Second Edition", W3C Recommendation, October 2004, <https://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xmlschema-1-20041028/>

1.2.2 Informative References

[MSDN-BCPU] Microsoft Corporation, "bcp Utility", [https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/sql/sql-server-2008-r2/ms162802\(v=sql.105\)](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/sql/sql-server-2008-r2/ms162802(v=sql.105))

[MSDN-DTTS] Microsoft Corporation, "Data types (Transact-SQL)", <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/data-types/data-types-transact-sql>

[MSDN-hierarchyid] Microsoft Corporation, "hierarchyid data type method reference", <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/data-types/hierarchyid-data-type-method-reference>

[MSDN-SSCN] Microsoft Corporation, "SQL Server Collation Name (Transact-SQL)", <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/statements/sql-server-collation-name-transact-sql>

[MSDN-UFFMFC] Microsoft Corporation, "Using a Format File to Map Fields to Columns During Bulk Import", [https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/sql/sql-server-2008-r2/ms190396\(v=sql.105\)](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/sql/sql-server-2008-r2/ms190396(v=sql.105))

[MSDN-WSDDE] Microsoft Corporation, "Working with Spatial Data (Database Engine)", [https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/sql/sql-server-2008-r2/bb933876\(v=sql.105\)](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/sql/sql-server-2008-r2/bb933876(v=sql.105))

1.3 Overview

The Bulk Copy Format (BCP) is a data structure format that is used to specify how different database server data type values are stored in a file when importing or exporting bulk data to and from the server. This data structure specifies how the bcp.exe utility reads data stored in a file and the identification of that data. For more information, see [MSDN-BCPU].

1.4 Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures

The **BCP** structure is independent of any application or network protocol or structures.

1.5 Applicability Statement

The **BCP** structure is appropriate for importing or exporting data between two relational database management system (RDMS) instances.

1.6 Versioning and Localization

Structure Versions: There are no versioning issues for the **BCP** format.

Localization: This data structure specifies all values as **Unicode** characters.

1.7 Vendor-Extensible Fields

None.

2 Structures

2.1 Data Types

Detailed data structure representation of each of the database data types is specified in the following subsections. [<1>](#) The data structures are defined in **Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF)** notation [\[RFC5234\]](#). For more information about these database data types, see [\[MSDN-DTTS\]](#).

2.1.1 BigInt

The **BigInt** data type supports a range of values from -2^{63} (-9,223,372,036,854,775,808) through $2^{63}-1$ (9,223,372,036,854,775,807). The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
BigInt = ["-"]1*19DIGIT
```

2.1.2 Binary

The **Binary** data type is a user-defined fixed number of bytes that has a supported number of bytes that range from 1 through 8000 bytes. The values of this data type are represented in hexadecimal-encoded **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Binary = 32000OCTET
```

For example, 0x56 => "56". Because "56" is in Unicode, the end result is 4 **OCTET** for every binary byte value. The representation does not require the 0x prefix.

2.1.3 Bit

The **Bit** data type is a Boolean that supports 0 or 1 as the data value. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Bit = "0" / "1"
```

2.1.4 Char

The **Char** data type is a user-defined fixed-length single-byte character string that has a supported number of single byte characters that range from 1 through 8000. If a particular string value does not use the entire user-defined fixed length, the remaining characters are padded with the space character. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Char = 16000OCTET
```

The single-byte characters are converted to their corresponding Unicode characters.

2.1.5 CLRUDT

The **CLRUDT** data type defines a set of custom user-defined types, such as the **hierarchyID** and **Spatial** data types. [<2>](#) For more information about the **hierarchyID** data type, see [\[MSDN-hierarchyid\]](#). For more information about the **Spatial** data type, see [\[MSDN-WSDDE\]](#).

The values of the **CLRUDT** data types are treated as **VarBinary** values. The values of the **CLRUDT** data type are represented in hexadecimal-encoded **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
CLRUDT = 0*nOCTET
```

In this format, $n = 4 \times (2,147,483,647)$. The representation does not require the 0x prefix.

2.1.6 Date

The **Date** data type [<3>](#) supports a value range from 0001-01-01 through 9999-12-31. The values of this data type are represented in the **Unicode** YYYY-MM-DD string format, as follows.

```
Year = ("000"(%x31-39)) / ("00"(%x31-39)DIGIT) / ("0"(%x31-39)2DIGIT)
Year = / ((%x31-39)3DIGIT)
Month = ("0"(%x31-39)) / ("1"("0"/"1"/"2"))
Day = ("0"(%x31-39)) / (("1"/"2")DIGIT) / ("3"("0"/"1"))
Date = Year "-" Month "-" Day
```

2.1.7 DateTime

The **DateTime** data type supports a value range from 1753-01-01 00:00:00.000 through 9999-12-31 23:59:59.997. The values of this data type are represented in the **Unicode** YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss[.nnn] string format, as follows.

```
Year = ("175"(%x33-39)) / ("17"(%x36-39)DIGIT) / ("1"("8"/"9")2DIGIT)
Year = / ((%x32-39)3DIGIT)
Month = ("0"(%x31-39)) / ("1"("0"/"1"/"2"))
Day = ("0"(%x31-39)) / (("1"/"2")DIGIT) / ("3"("0"/"1"))
Hour = (("0"/"1")DIGIT) / ("2"(%x30-33))
MinSec = ":"(%x30-35)DIGIT
DateTime = Year "-" Month "-" Day SP Hour 2MinSec [ "." 2DIGIT ("0"/"3"/"7")]
```

2.1.8 DateTime2

The **DateTime2** data type [<4>](#) supports a value range from 0001-01-01 00:00:00.0000000 through 9999-12-31 23:59:59.9999999. The values of this data type are represented in the **Unicode** YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss[.nnnnnnn] string format, as follows.

```
Year = ("000"(%x31-39)) / ("00"(%x31-39)DIGIT) / ("0"(%x31-39)2DIGIT)
Year = / ((%x31-39)3DIGIT)
Month = ("0"(%x31-39)) / ("1"("0"/"1"/"2"))
Day = ("0"(%x31-39)) / (("1"/"2")DIGIT) / ("3"("0"/"1"))
Hour = (("0"/"1")DIGIT) / ("2"(%x30-33))
MinSec = ":"(%x30-35)DIGIT
DateTime2 = Year "-" Month "-" Day SP Hour 2MinSec [ "." 7DIGIT]
```

2.1.9 DateTimeOffset

The **DateTimeOffset** data type [<5>](#) supports a value range from 0001-01-01 00:00:00.0000000 through 9999-12-31 23:59:59.9999999 in the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) time zone. The values of this data type are represented in the **Unicode** YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss[.nnnnnnn] [{+|-}hh:mm] string format, as follows.

```
Year = ("000"(%x31-39)) / ("00"(%x31-39)DIGIT) / ("0"(%x31-39)2DIGIT)
Year =/ ((%x31-39)3DIGIT)
Month = ("0"(%x31-39)) / ("1"("0"/"1"/"2"))
Day = ("0"(%x31-39)) / (("1"/"2")DIGIT) / ("3"("0"/"1"))
Hour = (("0"/"1")DIGIT) / ("2"(%x30-33))
MinSec = ":"(%x30-35)DIGIT
OffsetHour = ("0"DIGIT) / ("1"(%x30-33))
OffsetMin = ((%x30-35)DIGIT) / ("14:00")
DateTimeOffset = Year "-" Month "-" Day SP Hour 2MinSec [ "." 7DIGIT] [SP ("+" / "-") OffsetHour ":" OffsetMin]
```

2.1.10 Decimal

The **Decimal** data type is functionally equivalent to the [Numeric](#) data type. Both data types support a range of values from $-10^{38} + 1$ through $10^{38} - 1$. The user can specify the data type to have the following values for its **Precision** and **Scale** attributes, as described in the following table.

Data type attribute	Range	Default
Precision	From 1 to 38	18
Scale	From 0 to the Precision that the user sets	0

Note Scale is specified as the digits to the right of the decimal point.

The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Decimal = ["-"] 0*38DIGIT [ "." 0*38DIGIT]
```

2.1.11 Float

The **Float** data type supports a value range from -1.79E+308 through -2.23E-308; 0; from 2.23E-308 through 1.79E+308. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Float = ["-"] 1*16DIGIT [ "." 16DIGIT] [ "e" ("-" / "+") ((( "0" - "2" ) 2DIGIT) / ( "30" ) (%x30-38)) ]
```

2.1.12 Image

The **Image** data type supports a sequence of bytes that range from 0 through $2^{31} - 1$ (2,147,483,647). The values of this data type are represented in hexadecimal-encoded **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Image = 0*nOCTET
```

In this format, $n = 4 \times (2,147,483,647)$. The representation does not require the 0x prefix.

2.1.13 Int

The **Int** data type supports a value range from -2^{31} (-2,147,483,648) through $2^{31} - 1$ (2,147,483,647). The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode string** format, as follows.

```
Int = ["-"]1*10DIGIT
```

2.1.14 Money

The **Money** data type supports a value range from -922,337,203,685,447.5808 through 922,337,203,685,477.5807. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode string** format, as follows.

```
Money = ["-"]1*15DIGIT["."4DIGIT]
```

2.1.15 NChar

The **NChar** data type is a user-defined, fixed-length, double-byte character string that has a supported number of double-byte characters that range from 1 through 4000. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode string** format, as follows.

```
NChar = 2*8000OCTET
```

Because the characters are already in **Unicode**, there is no conversion.

2.1.16 NText

The **NText** data type supports a range of **Unicode** characters that has a maximum number of storage bytes of $2^{31} - 2$ (2,147,483,646). The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode string** format, as follows.

```
NText = 0*nOCTET
```

In this format, $n = 2,147,483,646$. Because the characters are already in Unicode, there is no conversion.

2.1.17 Numeric

The **Numeric** data type is functionally equivalent to the [Decimal](#) data type. Both data types support a range of values from $-10^{38} + 1$ through $10^{38} - 1$. The user can specify the data type to have the following values for its **Precision** and **Scale** attributes.

Data type attribute	Range	Default
Precision	From 1 through 38.	18
Scale	From 0 to the Precision that the user sets.	0

The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode string** format, as follows.

```
Numeric = ["-"] 0*38DIGIT [".0*38DIGIT]
```

2.1.18 NVarChar

The **NVarChar** data type is a user-defined variable-length double-byte character string that has a supported maximum number of double-byte characters that range from 1 through 4000 or "max". "Max" specifies that the data type can store up to $2^{31} - 2$ (2,147,483,646) bytes' worth of double-byte characters. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
NVarChar = 0*nOCTET
```

In this format, $n = 2,147,483,646$. Because the characters are already in Unicode, there is no conversion. If the value is an empty string, the instance data is %x0000.

2.1.19 Real

The **Real** data type supports a value range from -3.40E+38 through -1.18E-38; 0; from 1.18E-38 through 3.40E+38. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Real = ["-"] 1*7DIGIT["."7DIGIT] ["e" ("-" / "+") ((("0"- "2") DIGIT) / ("3") (%x30-38))]
```

2.1.20 SmallDateTime

The **SmallDateTime** data type supports a value range from 1900-01-01 00:00:00 through 2079-06-06 23:59:59. The values of this data type are represented in the **Unicode** YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss string format, as follows.

```
Year = ("19"2DIGIT) / ("20"(%x30-36)DIGIT) / ("207"(%x30-39))
Month = ("0"(%x31-39)) / ("1"("0"/"1"/"2"))
Day = ("0"(%x31-39)) / (("1"/"2")DIGIT) / ("3"("0"/"1"))
Hour = (("0"/"1")DIGIT) / ("2"(%x30-33))
Min = (%x30-35)DIGIT
SmallDateTime = Year "-" Month "-" Day SP Hour ":" Min (":00")
```

2.1.21 SmallInt

The **SmallInt** data type supports a value range from -2^{15} (-32,768) through $2^{15} - 1$ (32,767). Values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
SmallInt = ["-"]1*5DIGIT
```

2.1.22 SmallMoney

The **SmallMoney** data type supports a value range from -214,748.3648 through 214,748.3647. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
SmallMoney = ["-"]1*6DIGIT["."1*4DIGIT]
```

2.1.23 Text

The **Text** data type supports a range of single-type characters that has a maximum number of storage bytes of $2^{31} - 1$ (2,147,483,647). The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
Text = 0*nOCTET
```

In this format, $n = 2 \times (2^{31} - 1)$ (4,294,967,294). The single-byte characters are converted to their corresponding Unicode characters, therefore doubling the number of **OCTET**.

2.1.24 Time

The **Time** data type [<6>](#) is a user-defined variable fractional-second precision data type that has a decimal precision from 0 through 7. This data type supports a value range from 00:00:00.0000000 through 23:59:59.9999999. The values of this data type are represented in the **Unicode** hh:mm:ss[.nnnnnnn] string format, as follows.

```
Hour = (("0"/"1")DIGIT) / ("2"(%x30-33))
MinSec = ":"(%x30-35)DIGIT
Time = Hour 2MinSec [". "7DIGIT]
```

2.1.25 TimeStamp

The **TimeStamp** data type is equivalently represented as the [Binary](#) data type. The values of this data type are represented in hexadecimal-encoded **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
TimeStamp = 32OCTET
```

For more details, see section [3.1.2](#).

2.1.26 TinyInt

The **TinyInt** data type supports a value range from 0 through 255. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
TinyInt = 1*3DIGIT
```

2.1.27 UniqueIdentifier

The **UniqueIdentifier** data type is functionally equivalent to a **globally unique identifier (GUID)**. Values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

UniqueIdentifier = 8HEXDIG "-" 4HEXDIG "-" 4HEXDIG "-" 4HEXDIG "-" 12HEXDIG

2.1.28 VarBinary

The **VarBinary** data type is a user-defined variable number of bytes that has a supported maximum number of bytes that range from 1 through 8000 bytes and "max". "Max" specifies that the data type is able to support up to $2^{31} - 1$ bytes. The values of this data type are represented in hexadecimal-encoded **Unicode** string format, as follows.

VarBinary = 0*nOCTET

In this format, $n = 4 \times (2,147,483,647)$.

2.1.29 VarChar

The **VarChar** data type is a user-defined variable-length single-byte character string that has a supported maximum number of single-byte characters that range from 1 through 8000 and "max". "Max" specifies that the data type is able to support up to $2^{31} - 1$ (2,147,483,647) single-byte characters. The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

VarChar = 0*nOCTET

In this format, $n = 2 \times (2,147,483,647)$. The single-byte characters are converted to their corresponding Unicode characters, therefore doubling the number of **OCTET** that is needed to represent the value.

2.1.30 XML

The **XML** data type supports an instance of an XML fragment or a full XML document. This data type supports a maximum number of storage bytes of $2^{31} - 1$ (2,147,483,647). The values of this data type are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

XML = 0*nOCTET

In this format, $n = 2,147,483,647$.

2.1.31 NULL Value

For all supported data types, if the data instance has a value of NULL, the field is empty and is followed by the field terminator or the row terminator. The NULL value can be specified as follows.

NULL = 0OCTET

2.1.32 Separators

2.1.32.1 Field Terminator

The field terminator is used to identify the end of one field value and the start of another field value. Special consideration is advised to ensure that the field terminator does not exist within a field value. The field terminator is an arbitrary set of bytes that are specified by the user. The default value is the tab character (0x09). The values of the field terminator are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
FieldTerminator = 1*OCTET
```

2.1.32.2 Row Terminator

The row terminator is used to identify the end of one set of field values and the start of another set of field values. Special consideration is advised to ensure that the row terminator does not exist within a field value and/or the field terminator. The row terminator is an arbitrary set of bytes that are specified by the user. The default value is a newline (carriage return and line feed) character (0x0D0A). The values of the row terminator are represented in simple **Unicode** string format, as follows.

```
RowTerminator = 1*OCTET
```

2.2 BCP Data File

The BCP data file contains the set of data type values that are exported from the database server or imported into the server. The structure of the data file is represented in the following format.

```
Data = BigInt / Binary / Bit / Char / CLRUDT / Date / DateTime / DateTime2  
Data =/ DateTimeOffset / Decimal / Float / Image / Int / Money / NChar / NText  
Data =/ Numeric / NVarChar / Real / SmallDateTime / SmallInt / SmallMoney  
Data =/ Text / Time / TimeStamp / TinyInt / UniqueIdentifier / VarBinary  
Data =/ VarChar / XML / NULL  
Row = *(Data FieldTerminator) Data ;The last Data does not have a FieldTerminator  
DataFile = %xFF %xFE *Row RowTerminator
```

In this format, each repeated Row contains the same set of Data columns.

2.3 BCP Format File

The BCP format file is used to specify the actual source column order, name, and data type for the values that are stored in the data file. The format file is an XML document. In addition to specifying the column order, name, and data type, the format file enables a user to bulk import data values from a data file where the number and/or order of the fields in the data file differ from the number and/or order of destination table columns. For more information, see [\[MSDN-UFFMFC\]](#).

The structure of the format file is represented in the following format.

```
<BCPFORMAT ...>  
  <RECORD>  
    <FIELD ID = "fieldID" xsi:type = "fieldType" [...] />  
  </RECORD>
```

```

<ROW>
  <COLUMN SOURCE = "fieldID" NAME = "columnName" xsi:type = "columnType" [...] />
</ROW>
</BCPFORMAT>

```

The XML elements **FIELD** and **COLUMN** are specified in the following subsections.

2.3.1 Schema Elements

This section summarizes the purpose of each element that the XML schema specifies for format files.

2.3.1.1 BCPFORMAT

The **BCPFORMAT** element is the format-file element that specifies the **RECORD** structure of a given data file and its correspondence to the columns of a table row in the table.

2.3.1.2 RECORD

The **RECORD** structure specifies a complex element that contains one or more **FIELD** elements. The order in which the fields are declared in the format file is the order in which those fields appear in the data file.

2.3.1.3 FIELD

The **FIELD** element specifies a field in a data file that contains data.

The attributes of the **FIELD** element are summarized in the following schema syntax.

```

<FIELD
  ID = "fieldID"
  xsi:type = "fieldType"
  TERMINATOR = "terminator"
  [ MAX_LENGTH = "m" ]
  [ COLLATION = "collationName" ]
/>

```

Each **FIELD** element is independent of the others. A field is specified in terms of the following attributes.

FIELD attribute	Description	Optional/required
ID = "fieldID"	This attribute specifies the logical name of the field in the data file. The ID of a field is the key that is used to refer to the field. <FIELD ID="fieldID"/> maps to <COLUMN SOURCE="fieldID"/>.	Required
xsi:type = "fieldType"	This attribute is an XML construct that identifies the type of the instance of the element. The only possible value for <i>fieldType</i> is "NCharTerm".	Required
TERMINATOR = "terminator"	This attribute specifies the terminator of a data field. The terminator can be any character. The terminator is recommended to be a unique character that is not part of the data. By default, the field terminator is the tab character, which is represented as \t\0. A paragraph mark is represented as \r\0\n\0.	Required
MAX_LENGTH =	This attribute is the maximum number of bytes that can be stored in a given field. Without a target table, the column maximum length is	Optional

FIELD attribute	Description	Optional/required
"m"	not known. The MAX_LENGTH attribute restricts the maximum length of an output character column, limiting the storage that is allocated for the column value.	
COLLATION = "collationName"	This attribute is allowed only for character fields. For a list of the collation names, see [MSDN-SSCN] .	Optional

2.3.1.4 ROW

The **ROW** element specifies a complex element that contains one or more **COLUMN** elements. The order of the **COLUMN** elements is independent of the order of **FIELD** elements in a RECORD definition. Rather, the order of the **COLUMN** elements in a format file determines the column order of the resultant rowset. Data fields are loaded in the order in which the corresponding **COLUMN** elements are declared in the **COLUMN** element.

2.3.1.5 COLUMN

The **COLUMN** element specifies a column as an element (**COLUMN**). Each **COLUMN** element corresponds to a **FIELD** element. The ID of the **FIELD** element is specified in the **SOURCE** attribute of the **COLUMN** element.

The attributes of the **COLUMN** element are summarized in the following schema syntax.

```
<COLUMN
  SOURCE = "fieldID"
  NAME = "columnName"
  xsi:type = "columnType"
  [ LENGTH = "n" ]
  [ PRECISION = "n" ]
  [ SCALE = "value" ]
  [ NULLABLE = { "YES"
    "NO" } ]
/>
```

A field is mapped to a column in the target table using the attributes that are specified in the following table.

COLUMN attribute	Description	Optional/required
SOURCE = "fieldID"	This attribute specifies the ID of the field being mapped to the column. <COLUMN SOURCE="fieldID"/> maps to <FIELD ID="fieldID"/>	Required
NAME = "columnName"	This attribute specifies the name of the column in the rowset that is represented by the format file. This column name is used to identify the column in the result set, and it need not correspond to the column name that is used in the target table.	Required
xsi:type = "ColumnType"	This attribute is an XML construct that identifies the data type of the instance of the element. The value of <i>ColumnType</i> determines which of the optional attributes	Optional

COLUMN attribute	Description	Optional/required
	are required in a given instance. Note The possible values of <i>ColumnType</i> and their associated attributes are listed in section 2.3.1.5.1 .	
LENGTH = " <i>n</i> "	This attribute specifies the length for an instance of a fixed-length data type. LENGTH is used only when the xsi:type is a string data type. The value of <i>n</i> is required to be a positive integer.	Optional (available only if the xsi:type is a string data type)
PRECISION = " <i>n</i> "	This attribute indicates the number of digits in a number. For example, the number 123.45 has a precision of 5. The value of <i>n</i> is required to be a positive integer.	Optional (available only if the xsi:type is a variable-number data type)
SCALE = " <i>int</i> "	This attribute indicates the number of digits to the right of the decimal point in a number. For example, the number 123.45 has a scale of 2. The value of <i>int</i> is required to be an integer.	Optional (available only if the xsi:type is a variable-number or variable-scale data type)
NULLABLE = { "YES" "NO" }	This attribute indicates whether a column can assume NULL values. This attribute is completely independent of FIELDS. However, if a column is not NULLABLE, and if the field specifies NULL (by not specifying any value), a run-time error results.	Optional (available for any data type)

2.3.1.5.1 ColumnType

The set of *ColumnType* values that are supported by the **xsi:type** attribute value of the **COLUMN** element identifies the database data type of an instance of an element.

The following table describes the mapping between the data type names that are specified in the **xsi:type** attribute of the **COLUMN** element and the database data types. [<7>](#)

COLUMN data type	Database data type
SQLBIGINT	BigInt
SQLBINARY	Binary/TimeStamp
SQLBIT	Bit
SQLCHAR	Char
SQLDATE	Date
SQLDATETIME	DateTime
SQLDATETIME2	DateTime2
SQLDATETIMEOFFSET	DateTimeOffset
SQLDATETIME4,	SmallDateTime
SQLDECIMAL	Decimal
SQLFLT4	Real
SQLFLT8	Float

COLUMN data type	Database data type
SQLIMAGE	Image
SQLINT	Int
SQLMONEY	Money
SQLMONEY4	SmallMoney
SQLNCHAR	NChar
SQLNTEXT	NText
SQLNUMERIC	Numeric
SQLNVARCHAR	NVarChar/XML
SQLSMALLINT	SmallInt
SQLTEXT	Text
SQLTIME	Time
SQLTINYINT	TinyInt
SQLUNIQUEID	UniqueIdentifier
SQLVARYBIN	VarBinary
SQLVARYCHAR	VarChar
SQLUDT	CLRUDT

The **COLUMN** element supports native SQL data types as follows.

Type category	COLUMN data types	Optional XML attribute for data type
Fixed <8>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SQLBIT ▪ SQLTINYINT ▪ SQLSMALLINT ▪ SQLINT ▪ SQLBIGINT ▪ SQLFLT4 ▪ SQLFLT8 ▪ SQLDATE ▪ SQLDATETIME ▪ SQLDATETIME4 ▪ SQLMONEY ▪ SQLMONEY4 ▪ SQLUNIQUEID 	NULLABLE

Type category	COLUMN data types	Optional XML attribute for data type
Variable Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SQLDATETIME2 SQLDATETIMEOFFSET SQLTIME 	NULLABLE, SCALE
Variable Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SQLDECIMAL SQLNUMERIC 	NULLABLE, PRECISION, SCALE
LOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SQLIMAGE SQLTEXT SQLNTEXT SQLUDT 	NULLABLE
Binary string	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SQLBINARY SQLVARYBIN 	NULLABLE, LENGTH
Character string	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SQLCHAR SQLVARYCHAR SQLNCHAR SQLNVARCHAR 	NULLABLE, LENGTH

2.3.1.6 /BCPFORMAT

The **/BCPFORMAT** element is required to end the format file.

2.3.2 Format File XSD Schema

The following XSD schema specifies the XML structure of the format file [\[XMLSCHEMA1/2\]](#).

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<xs:schema targetNamespace="http://schemas.microsoft.com/sqlserver/2004/bulkload/format"
xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/sqlserver/2004/bulkload/format"
xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" attributeFormDefault="qualified"
elementFormDefault="qualified">
  <xs:element name="BCPFORMAT">
    <xs:complexType>
      <xs:sequence>
        <xs:element name="RECORD">
          <xs:complexType>
            <xs:sequence>
              <xs:element name="FIELD" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
                <xs:complexType>
```

```

        <xs:attribute name="ID" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
        <xs:attribute name="TERMINATOR" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
        <xs:attribute name="MAX_LENGTH" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
        <xs:attribute name="COLLATION" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
    </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
<xs:element name="ROW">
    <xs:complexType>
        <xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="COLUMN" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
                <xs:complexType>
                    <xs:attribute name="SOURCE" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
                    <xs:attribute name="NAME" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
                    <xs:attribute name="LENGTH" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
                    <xs:attribute name="SCALE" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
                    <xs:attribute name="PRECISION" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
                    <xs:attribute name="NULLABLE" form="unqualified" type="xs:string" />
                </xs:complexType>
            </xs:element>
        </xs:sequence>
    </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:schema>

```

3 Structure Examples

3.1 Data File

The following subsections show an example of a value for each data type as if the value were written in the data file.

3.1.1 BigInt

The sample value is 9,223,372,036,854,775,807.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
39 00 32 00 32 00 33 00-33 00 37 00 32 00 30 00 *9.2.2.3.3.7.2.0.*
33 00 36 00 38 00 35 00-34 00 37 00 37 00 35 00 *3.6.8.5.4.7.7.5.*
38 00 30 00 37 00 *8.0.7.*
```

3.1.2 Binary

The sample value is

0x56006C00610064002000500075006D007000650072006E00690063006B0065006C002C002000620
06C006400670020003300.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
35 00 36 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 43 00 30 00 30 00 *5.6.0.0.6.C.0.0.*
36 00 31 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 34 00 30 00 30 00 *6.1.0.0.6.4.0.0.*
32 00 30 00 30 00 30 00-35 00 30 00 30 00 30 00 *2.0.0.0.5.0.0.0.*
37 00 35 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 44 00 30 00 30 00 *7.5.0.0.6.D.0.0.*
37 00 30 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 35 00 30 00 30 00 *7.0.0.0.6.5.0.0.*
37 00 32 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 45 00 30 00 30 00 *7.2.0.0.6.E.0.0.*
36 00 39 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 33 00 30 00 30 00 *6.9.0.0.6.3.0.0.*
36 00 42 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 35 00 30 00 30 00 *6.B.0.0.6.5.0.0.*
36 00 43 00 30 00 30 00-32 00 43 00 30 00 30 00 *6.C.0.0.2.C.0.0.*
32 00 30 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 32 00 30 00 30 00 *2.0.0.0.6.2.0.0.*
36 00 43 00 30 00 30 00-36 00 34 00 30 00 30 00 *6.C.0.0.6.4.0.0.*
36 00 37 00 30 00 30 00-32 00 30 00 30 00 30 00 *6.7.0.0.2.0.0.0.*
33 00 33 00 30 00 30 00 *3.3.0.0.*
```

3.1.3 Bit

The sample value is 1.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
31 00 *1.*
```

3.1.4 Char

The sample value is Udo.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

55 00 64 00 6F 00 20 00-20 00 20 00 20 00 20 00 *U.d.o. . . . . *
20 00 20 00 * . . *

```

3.1.5 CLRUDT

The sample value is 0x58.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

35 00 38 00 *5.8.*

```

3.1.6 Date

The sample value is 2009-12-30.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

32 00 30 00 30 00 39 00-2D 00 31 00 32 00 2D 00 *2.0.0.9.-.1.2.-.*
33 00 30 00 *3.0.*

```

3.1.7 DateTime

The sample value is 2009-12-30 13:51:35.437.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

32 00 30 00 30 00 39 00-2D 00 31 00 32 00 2D 00 *2.0.0.9.-.1.2.-.*
33 00 30 00 20 00 31 00-33 00 3A 00 35 00 31 00 *3.0. .1.3.:.5.1.*
3A 00 33 00 35 00 2E 00-34 00 33 00 37 00 *:.3.5...4.3.7.*

```

3.1.8 DateTime2

The sample value is 2009-12-30 13:51:35.4299569.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

32 00 30 00 30 00 39 00-2D 00 31 00 32 00 2D 00 *2.0.0.9.-.1.2.-.*
33 00 30 00 20 00 31 00-33 00 3A 00 35 00 31 00 *3.0. .1.3.:.5.1.*
3A 00 33 00 35 00 2E 00-34 00 32 00 39 00 39 00 *:.3.5...4.2.9.9.*
35 00 36 00 39 00 *5.6.9.*

```

3.1.9 DateTimeOffset

The sample value is 2009-12-30 13:51:35.4299569 -08:00.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

32 00 30 00 30 00 39 00-2D 00 31 00 32 00 2D 00	*2.0.0.9.-.1.2.-.*
33 00 30 00 20 00 31 00-33 00 3A 00 35 00 31 00	*3.0. .1.3.:.5.1.*
3A 00 33 00 35 00 2E 00-34 00 32 00 39 00 39 00	*:.3.5...4.2.9.9.*
35 00 36 00 39 00 20 00-2D 00 30 00 38 00 3A 00	*5.6.9. .-.0.8.:.*
30 00 30 00	*0.0.*

3.1.10 Decimal

The sample value is 123456.123456780.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

31 00 32 00 33 00 34 00-35 00 36 00 2E 00 31 00	*1.2.3.4.5.6...1.*
32 00 33 00 34 00 35 00-36 00 37 00 38 00 30 00	*2.3.4.5.6.7.8.0.*

3.1.11 Float

The sample value is 1.23456789E+17.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

31 00 2E 00 32 00 33 00-34 00 35 00 36 00 37 00	*1...2.3.4.5.6.7.*
38 00 39 00 45 00 2B 00-31 00 37 00	*8.9.E+.1.7.*

3.1.12 Image

The sample value is

0x152593A20466F75722073636F726520616E6420736576656E2079656172732061676F206F757220666174686572732062726F756.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

31 00 35 00 32 00 35 00-39 00 33 00 41 00 32 00	*1.5.2.5.9.3.A.2.*
30 00 34 00 36 00 36 00-46 00 37 00 35 00 37 00	*0.4.6.6.F.7.5.7.*
32 00 32 00 30 00 37 00-33 00 36 00 33 00 36 00	*2.2.0.7.3.6.3.6.*
46 00 37 00 32 00 36 00-35 00 32 00 30 00 36 00	*F.7.2.6.5.2.0.6.*
31 00 36 00 45 00 36 00-34 00 32 00 30 00 37 00	*1.6.E.6.4.2.0.7.*
33 00 36 00 35 00 37 00-36 00 36 00 35 00 36 00	*3.6.5.7.6.6.5.6.*
45 00 32 00 30 00 37 00-39 00 36 00 35 00 36 00	*E.2.0.7.9.6.5.6.*
31 00 37 00 32 00 37 00-33 00 32 00 30 00 36 00	*1.7.2.7.3.2.0.6.*
31 00 36 00 37 00 36 00-46 00 32 00 30 00 36 00	*1.6.7.6.F.2.0.6.*
46 00 37 00 35 00 37 00-32 00 32 00 30 00 36 00	*F.7.5.7.2.2.0.6.*
36 00 36 00 31 00 37 00-34 00 36 00 38 00 36 00	*6.6.1.7.4.6.8.6.*
35 00 37 00 32 00 37 00-33 00 32 00 30 00 36 00	*5.7.2.7.3.2.0.6.*
32 00 37 00 32 00 36 00-46 00 37 00 35 00 36 00	*2.7.2.6.F.7.5.6.*

3.1.13 Int

The sample value is 2147483647.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.


```
32 00 31 00 34 00 37 00-34 00 38 00 33 00 36 00 *2.1.4.7.4.8.3.6.*
34 00 37 00 *4.7.*
```

3.1.14 Money

The sample value is 922337203685477.0100.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
39 00 32 00 32 00 33 00-33 00 37 00 32 00 30 00 *9.2.2.3.3.7.2.0.*
33 00 36 00 38 00 35 00-34 00 37 00 37 00 2E 00 *3.6.8.5.4.7.7...*
30 00 31 00 30 00 30 00 *0.1.0.0.*
```

3.1.15 NChar

The sample value is あピポぶ左州見.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
42 30 D4 30 DD 30 76 30-E6 5D DE 5D 0A FA 20 00 *B0.0.0v0.].]. .*
20 00 20 00 * . .*
```

3.1.16 NText

The sample value is "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one".

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
57 00 68 00 65 00 6E 00-20 00 69 00 6E 00 20 00 *W.h.e.n. .i.n. .*
74 00 68 00 65 00 20 00-43 00 6F 00 75 00 72 00 *t.h.e. .C.o.u.r.*
73 00 65 00 20 00 6F 00-66 00 20 00 68 00 75 00 *s.e. .o.f. .h.u.*
6D 00 61 00 6E 00 20 00-65 00 76 00 65 00 6E 00 *m.a.n. .e.v.e.n.*
74 00 73 00 2C 00 20 00-69 00 74 00 20 00 62 00 *t.s.,. .i.t. .b.*
65 00 63 00 6F 00 6D 00-65 00 73 00 20 00 6E 00 *e.c.o.m.e.s. .n.*
65 00 63 00 65 00 73 00-73 00 61 00 72 00 79 00 *e.c.e.s.s.a.r.y.*
20 00 66 00 6F 00 72 00-20 00 6F 00 6E 00 65 00 * .f.o.r. .o.n.e.*
```

3.1.17 Numeric

The sample value is 1234567890.12345678.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
31 00 32 00 33 00 34 00-35 00 36 00 37 00 38 00 *1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.*
39 00 30 00 2E 00 31 00-32 00 33 00 34 00 35 00 *9.0...1.2.3.4.5.*
36 00 37 00 38 00 *6.7.8.*
```

3.1.18 NVarChar

The sample value is あピポぶ左州見.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
42 30 D4 30 DD 30 76 30-E6 5D DE 5D 0A FA 20 00 *B0.0.0v0.].].*
```

3.1.19 Real

The sample value is -1.1234568.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
2D 00 31 00 2E 00 31 00-32 00 33 00 34 00 35 00 *-1...1.2.3.4.5.*  
36 00 38 00 *6.8.*
```

3.1.20 SmallDateTime

The sample value is 2009-12-30 13:52:00.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
32 00 30 00 30 00 39 00-2D 00 31 00 32 00 2D 00 *2.0.0.9.-.1.2.-.*  
33 00 30 00 20 00 31 00-33 00 3A 00 35 00 32 00 *3.0. .1.3.:.5.2.*  
3A 00 30 00 30 00 *:0.0.*
```

3.1.21 SmallInt

The sample value is -32768.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
2D 00 33 00 32 00 37 00-36 00 38 00 *-3.2.7.6.8.*
```

3.1.22 SmallMoney

The sample value is 214748.3647.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
32 00 31 00 34 00 37 00-34 00 38 00 2E 00 33 00 *2.1.4.7.4.8...3.*  
36 00 34 00 37 00 *6.4.7.*
```

3.1.23 Sql_Variant

The sample value is 123.456789.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
31 00 32 00 33 00 2E 00-34 00 35 00 36 00 37 00 *1.2.3...4.5.6.7.*
```

38 00 39 00

8.9.

3.1.24 Text

The sample value is "people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them".

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
70 00 65 00 6F 00 70 00-6C 00 65 00 20 00 74 00 *p.e.o.p.l.e. .t.*
6F 00 20 00 64 00 69 00-73 00 73 00 6F 00 6C 00 *o. .d.i.s.s.o.l.*
76 00 65 00 20 00 74 00-68 00 65 00 20 00 70 00 *v.e. .t.h.e. .p.*
6F 00 6C 00 69 00 74 00-69 00 63 00 61 00 6C 00 *o.l.i.t.i.c.a.l.*
20 00 62 00 61 00 6E 00-64 00 73 00 20 00 77 00 * .b.a.n.d.s. .w.*
68 00 69 00 63 00 68 00-20 00 68 00 61 00 76 00 *h.i.c.h. .h.a.v.*
65 00 20 00 63 00 6F 00-6E 00 6E 00 65 00 63 00 *e. .c.o.n.n.e.c.*
74 00 65 00 64 00 20 00-74 00 68 00 65 00 6D 00 *t.e.d. .t.h.e.m.*
```

3.1.25 Time

The sample value is 11:30:32.1234000.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
31 00 31 00 3A 00 33 00-30 00 3A 00 33 00 32 00 *1.1.:.3.0.:.3.2.*
2E 00 31 00 32 00 33 00-34 00 30 00 30 00 30 00 *..1.2.3.4.0.0.0.*
```

3.1.26 TimeStamp

The sample value is 0x000000000000007D1.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
30 00 30 00 30 00 30 00-30 00 30 00 30 00 30 00 *0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.*
30 00 30 00 30 00 30 00-30 00 37 00 44 00 31 00 *0.0.0.0.0.7.D.1.*
```

3.1.27 TinyInt

The sample value is 127.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
31 00 32 00 37 00 *1.2.7.*
```

3.1.28 UniqueIdentifier

The sample value is 65DD4051-C7FE-4CB8-954D-0B1967468D3E.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

36 00 35 00 44 00 44 00-34 00 30 00 35 00 31 00 *6.5.D.D.4.0.5.1.*
2D 00 43 00 37 00 46 00-45 00 2D 00 34 00 43 00 *-.C.7.F.E.-.4.C.*
42 00 38 00 2D 00 39 00-35 00 34 00 44 00 2D 00 *B.8.-.9.5.4.D.-.*
30 00 42 00 31 00 39 00-36 00 38 00 34 00 36 00 *0.B.1.9.6.8.4.6.*
38 00 44 00 33 00 45 00 *8.D.3.E.*

```

3.1.29 VarBinary

The sample value is

0x86520717569636B2062726F776E20666F78206A756D706564206F76657220746865206C617A79206.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

38 00 36 00 35 00 32 00-30 00 37 00 31 00 37 00 *8.6.5.2.0.7.1.7.*
35 00 36 00 39 00 36 00-33 00 36 00 42 00 32 00 *5.6.9.6.3.6.B.2.*
30 00 36 00 32 00 37 00-32 00 36 00 46 00 37 00 *0.6.2.7.2.6.F.7.*
37 00 36 00 45 00 32 00-30 00 36 00 36 00 36 00 *7.6.E.2.0.6.6.6.*
46 00 37 00 38 00 32 00-30 00 36 00 41 00 37 00 *F.7.8.2.0.6.A.7.*
35 00 36 00 44 00 37 00-30 00 36 00 35 00 36 00 *5.6.D.7.0.6.5.6.*
34 00 32 00 30 00 36 00-46 00 37 00 36 00 36 00 *4.2.0.6.F.7.6.6.*
35 00 37 00 32 00 32 00-30 00 37 00 34 00 36 00 *5.7.2.2.0.7.4.6.*
38 00 36 00 35 00 32 00-30 00 36 00 43 00 36 00 *8.6.5.2.0.6.C.6.*
31 00 37 00 41 00 37 00-39 00 32 00 30 00 36 00 *1.7.A.7.9.2.0.6.*

```

3.1.30 VarChar

The sample value is "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog."

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

54 00 68 00 65 00 20 00-71 00 75 00 69 00 63 00 *T.h.e. .q.u.i.c.*
6B 00 20 00 62 00 72 00-6F 00 77 00 6E 00 20 00 *k. .b.r.o.w.n. .*
66 00 6F 00 78 00 20 00-6A 00 75 00 6D 00 70 00 *f.o.x. .j.u.m.p.*
65 00 64 00 20 00 6F 00-76 00 65 00 72 00 20 00 *e.d. .o.v.e.r. .*
74 00 68 00 65 00 20 00-6C 00 61 00 7A 00 79 00 *t.h.e. .l.a.z.y.*
20 00 64 00 6F 00 67 00-2E 00 * .d.o.g...*

```

3.1.31 XML

The sample value is "<Element>nothing to report...</Element>".

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```

3C 00 45 00 6C 00 65 00-6D 00 65 00 6E 00 74 00 *<.E.l.e.m.e.n.t.*
3E 00 6E 00 6F 00 74 00-68 00 69 00 6E 00 67 00 *>.n.o.t.h.i.n.g.*
20 00 74 00 6F 00 20 00-72 00 65 00 70 00 6F 00 * .t.o. .r.e.p.o.*
72 00 74 00 2E 00 2E 00-2E 00 3C 00 2F 00 45 00 *r.t.....<./ .E.*
6C 00 65 00 6D 00 65 00-6E 00 74 00 3E 00 *l.e.m.e.n.t.>.*

```

3.1.32 Field Terminator

The sample value is ;;

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
3B 00 3B 00          *;. ;.*
```

3.1.33 Row Terminator

The sample value is ==.

The file content in hexadecimal mode is as follows.

```
3D 00 3D 00          *=. =.*
```

3.2 Format File

The sample value is as follows.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<BCPFORMAT xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/sqlserver/2004/bulkload/format"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <RECORD>
    <FIELD ID="1" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="42"/>
    <FIELD ID="2" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="202"/>
    <FIELD ID="3" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="6"/>
    <FIELD ID="4" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="20"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
    <FIELD ID="5" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="22"/>
    <FIELD ID="6" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="48"/>
    <FIELD ID="7" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="60"/>
    <FIELD ID="8" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="74"/>
    <FIELD ID="9" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="82"/>
    <FIELD ID="10" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="60"/>
    <FIELD ID="11" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0"/>
    <FIELD ID="12" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="24"/>
    <FIELD ID="13" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="60"/>
    <FIELD ID="14" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="20"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
    <FIELD ID="15" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
    <FIELD ID="16" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="82"/>
    <FIELD ID="17" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="100"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
    <FIELD ID="18" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
    <FIELD ID="19" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="60"/>
    <FIELD ID="20" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="48"/>
    <FIELD ID="21" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="14"/>
    <FIELD ID="22" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="60"/>
    <FIELD ID="23" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="8000"/>
    <FIELD ID="24" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
    <FIELD ID="25" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="38"/>
    <FIELD ID="26" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="34"/>
    <FIELD ID="27" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="10"/>
    <FIELD ID="28" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="74"/>
    <FIELD ID="29" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="202"/>
    <FIELD ID="30" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0"/>
    <FIELD ID="31" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0" MAX_LENGTH="100"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
    <FIELD ID="32" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0"
COLLATION="SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS"/>
```

```

<FIELD ID="33" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\t\0"/>
<FIELD ID="34" xsi:type="NCharTerm" TERMINATOR="\r\0\n\0"/> </RECORD>
<ROW>
<COLUMN SOURCE="1" NAME="col_bigint" xsi:type="SQLBIGINT"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="2" NAME="col_binary50" xsi:type="SQLBINARY"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="3" NAME="col_bit" xsi:type="SQLBIT"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="4" NAME="col_char10" xsi:type="SQLCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="5" NAME="col_date" xsi:type="SQLDATE"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="6" NAME="col_datetime" xsi:type="SQLDATETIME"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="7" NAME="col_datetime2" xsi:type="SQLDATETIME2" SCALE="7"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="8" NAME="col_datetimeoffset" xsi:type="SQLDATETIMEOFFSET" SCALE="7"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="9" NAME="col_decimal" xsi:type="SQLDECIMAL" PRECISION="18" SCALE="9"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="10" NAME="col_float" xsi:type="SQLFLT8"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="11" NAME="col_image" xsi:type="SQLIMAGE"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="12" NAME="col_int" xsi:type="SQLINT"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="13" NAME="col_money" xsi:type="SQLMONEY"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="14" NAME="col_nchar10" xsi:type="SQLNCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="15" NAME="col_ntext" xsi:type="SQLNCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="16" NAME="col_numeric" xsi:type="SQLNUMERIC" PRECISION="18" SCALE="8"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="17" NAME="col_nvarchar50" xsi:type="SQLNVARCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="18" NAME="col_nvarcharmax" xsi:type="SQLNVARCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="19" NAME="col_real" xsi:type="SQLFLT4"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="20" NAME="col_smalldatetime" xsi:type="SQLDATETIME4"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="21" NAME="col_smallint" xsi:type="SQLSMALLINT"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="22" NAME="col_smallmoney" xsi:type="SQLMONEY4"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="23" NAME="col_variant" xsi:type="SQLVARIANT"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="24" NAME="col_text" xsi:type="SQLCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="25" NAME="col_time" xsi:type="SQLTIME" SCALE="7"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="26" NAME="col_timestamp" xsi:type="SQLBINARY"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="27" NAME="col_tinyint" xsi:type="SQLTINYINT"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="28" NAME="col_uuid" xsi:type="SQLUNIQUEID"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="29" NAME="col_varbinary50" xsi:type="SQLVARYBIN"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="30" NAME="col_varbinarymax" xsi:type="SQLVARYBIN"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="31" NAME="col_varchar50" xsi:type="SQLVARYCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="32" NAME="col_varcharmax" xsi:type="SQLVARYCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="33" NAME="col_xml" xsi:type="SQLNVARCHAR"/>
<COLUMN SOURCE="34" NAME="col_hierarchy" xsi:type="SQLUDT"/>
</ROW>
</BCPFORMAT>

```

4 Security Considerations

None.

5 Appendix A: Product Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products or supplemental software. References to product versions include updates to those products.

- Microsoft SQL Server 2000
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012
- Microsoft SQL Server 2014
- Microsoft SQL Server 2016
- Microsoft SQL Server 2017
- Microsoft SQL Server 2019
- Microsoft SQL Server 2022

Exceptions, if any, are noted in this section. If an update version, service pack or Knowledge Base (KB) number appears with a product name, the behavior changed in that update. The new behavior also applies to subsequent updates unless otherwise specified. If a product edition appears with the product version, behavior is different in that product edition.

Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification that is prescribed using the terms "SHOULD" or "SHOULD NOT" implies product behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term "MAY" implies that the product does not follow the prescription.

[<1> Section 2.1](#): Microsoft implementations include the **Sql_Variant** data type, which is a special data type definition that supports different data types for each instance of the value. The following data types are supported:

- [BigInt](#)
- [Binary](#)
- [Bit](#)
- [Char](#)
- [Date](#)
- [DateTime](#)
- [DateTime2](#)
- [DateTimeOffset](#)
- [Decimal](#)
- [Float](#)
- [Int](#)

- [Money](#)
- [NChar](#)
- [Numeric](#)
- [NVarChar](#)
- [Real](#)
- [SmallDateTime](#)
- [SmallInt](#)
- [SmallMoney](#)
- [Time](#)
- [TinyInt](#)
- [UniqueIdentifier](#)
- [VarBinary](#)
- [VarChar](#)

<2> [Section 2.1.5](#): Customer user-defined types are written in the Microsoft .NET Framework. The **hierarchyID** and **Spatial** data types are not supported by SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005.

<3> [Section 2.1.6](#): The **Date** data type is not supported by SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005.

<4> [Section 2.1.8](#): The **DateTime2** data type is not supported by SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005.

<5> [Section 2.1.9](#): The **DateTimeOffset** data type is not supported by SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005.

<6> [Section 2.1.24](#): The **Time** data type is not supported by SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005.

<7> [Section 2.3.1.5.1](#): In addition to the **COLUMN** data types listed in the table, Microsoft SQL Server supports a data type named SQLVARIANT. The database data type of SQLVARIANT is Sql_Variant.

<8> [Section 2.3.1.5.1](#): In addition to the **COLUMN** data types listed here, SQL Server supports the SQLVARIANT data type.

6 Change Tracking

This section identifies changes that were made to this document since the last release. Changes are classified as Major, Minor, or None.

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.
- A document revision that captures changes to protocol functionality.

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 **None** means that no new technical changes were introduced. Minor editorial and formatting changes may have been made, but the relevant technical content is identical to the last released version.

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

Section	Description	Revision class
5 Appendix A: Product Behavior	Added SQL Server 2022 to the list of applicable products.	Major

7 Index

/

[/BCPFORMAT element](#) 20

A

[Applicability](#) 7

B

[BCPFORMAT element](#) 16

[BigInt data file](#) 22

[BigInt data type](#) 8

[Binary data file](#) 22

[Binary data type](#) 8

[Bit data file](#) 22

[Bit data type](#) 8

C

[Change tracking](#) 34

[Char data file](#) 22

[Char data type](#) 8

[CLRUDT data file](#) 23

[CLRUDT data type](#) 9

[COLUMN element](#) 17

[ColumnType values](#) 18

D

[Data File example](#) 22

[data file overview](#) 15

[data types overview](#) 8

[Date data file](#) 23

[Date data type](#) 9

[DateTime data file](#) 23

[DateTime data type](#) 9

[DateTime2 data file](#) 23

[DateTime2 data type](#) 9

[DateTimeOffset data file](#) 23

[DateTimeOffset data type](#) 10

[Decimal data file](#) 24

[Decimal data type](#) 10

E

Examples

[Data File](#) 22

[Format File](#) 29

F

[FIELD element](#) 16

[field terminator](#) 15

[Field Terminator data file](#) 28

[Fields - vendor-extensible](#) 7

[Float data file](#) 24

[Float data type](#) 10

[Format File example](#) 29

[format file overview](#) 15

[format file XSD schema](#) 20

G

[Glossary](#) 6

I

[Image data file](#) 24

[Image data type](#) 10

[Implementer - security considerations](#) 31

[Informative references](#) 7

[Int data file](#) 24

[Int data type](#) 11

[Introduction](#) 6

L

[Localization](#) 7

M

[Money data file](#) 25

[Money data type](#) 11

N

[NChar data file](#) 25

[NChar data type](#) 11

[Normative references](#) 6

[NText data file](#) 25

[NText data type](#) 11

[NULL data value](#) 14

[Numeric data file](#) 25

[Numeric data type](#) 11

[NVarChar data file](#) 25

[NVarChar data type](#) 12

O

[Overview \(synopsis\)](#) 7

P

[Product behavior](#) 32

R

[Real data file](#) 26

[Real data type](#) 12

[RECORD structure](#) 16

[References](#) 6

[informative](#) 7

[normative](#) 6

[Relationship to protocols and other structures](#) 7

[ROW element](#) 17

[Row Terminator data file](#) 29

[row terminator overview](#) 15

S

[Security - implementer considerations](#) 31
[Small Money data file](#) 26
[SmallDateTime data file](#) 26
[SmallDateTime data type](#) 12
[SmallInt data file](#) 26
[SmallInt data type](#) 12
[SmallMoney data type](#) 12
[Sql_Variant data file](#) 26

T

[Text data file](#) 27
[Text data type](#) 13
[Time data file](#) 27
[Time data type](#) 13
[TimeStamp data file](#) 27
[TimeStamp data type](#) 13
[TinyInt data file](#) 27
[TinyInt data type](#) 13
[Tracking changes](#) 34

U

[UniqueIdentifier data file](#) 27
[UniqueIdentifier data type](#) 13

V

[VarBinary data file](#) 28
[VarBinary data type](#) 14
[VarChar data file](#) 28
[VarChar data type](#) 14
[Vendor-extensible fields](#) 7
[Versioning](#) 7

X

[XML data file](#) 28
[XML data type](#) 14
XSD schema
 [format file](#) 20