

Microsoft SQL Server

Documentation Roadmap and Forum Information

The SQL Server Open Specifications documentation sets contain technical documents that are implemented and/or used by SQL Server in the following categories:

- [Protocols](#) – Technical specifications for protocols that are implemented and used by SQL Server to interoperate or communicate with other Microsoft products.
- [Data Portability](#) – Documentation on the various mechanisms by which user-created data in SQL Server can be extracted for use in other software products.
- [Standards Support](#) – Technical documents for certain standards that are implemented in SQL Server.

Overview

To help you find the SQL Server protocols you need for your implementation, Microsoft provides the following system overview document.

Item	Description
[MS-SSO]: SQL Server System Overview	Provides an overview of the client and server protocols used by SQL Server. It covers protocols that are commonly shared by SQL Server components and protocols that are used only by specific SQL Server components. Where appropriate, the document describes relationships between protocols and provides example scenarios to show how they are used.

Technical Documents

Versions of the technical documents that you may need are found in the following locations.

Item	Description
SQL Server Protocols .zip file (60+ MB)	Contains PDFs of all protocol specifications in a single .zip file.
SQL Server Data Portability .zip file (30 Mb)	Contains PDFs of all data portability and file format technical documents in a single .zip file.
SQL Server Standards Support .zip file (4+ MB)	Contains PDFs of all standards support technical documents in a single PDF .zip file.
SQL Server Protocols Technical Documents Microsoft Docs	Contains individual Protocols documents in PDF, DOCX, and Diff-PDF format or a PDF errata document that is accessed by selecting the file name of the document that interests you.
SQL Server Data Portability Technical Documents Microsoft Docs SQL Server File Formats Technical Documents Microsoft Docs	Contains an individual Data Portability technical document in PDF, DOCX, and Diff-PDF format that is accessed by selecting the file name of the document that interests you.
SQL Server Standards Support Microsoft Docs	Contains an individual Standards Support technical document in PDF, DOCX, and Diff-PDF format that is accessed by selecting the file name of the document that interests you.

Forums and Blogs Support

For more support, the following forums may be helpful.

Item	Description
Open Specifications Forums openspecs-questions - Microsoft Q&A openspecs-sqlserver – Microsoft Q&A	Contains all the SQL Server interoperability documentation areas: Protocols, Data Portability, and Standards Support.
SQL Server Interoperability Developer Blog	Contains notification of the latest updates to the SQL Server Open Specifications documents: new protocols and previews of new features in existing documents, document and errata releases, and upcoming interoperability developer events.
Open Specifications Questions - Archived Forums	Contains archived forum responses to questions about the Open Specifications documents and their organization, language conventions, and references.
SQL Server Protocols - Archived Forums	Contains archived forum discussions about technical content and implementation of the SQL Server protocols that are described in the Open Specifications documentation.

History of Microsoft Open Specifications Documentation

Microsoft is implementing four interoperability principles and corresponding actions across its high-volume business products:

- (1) Ensuring open connections.
- (2) Promoting data portability.
- (3) Enhancing support for industry standards.

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Microsoft SQL Server Open Specifications Documentation

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- (4) Fostering more open engagement with customers and the industry, including open-source communities.

You can read the full Microsoft News Center article that introduces the interoperability program at [New Microsoft Interoperability Principles Ensure Open Connections and Promote Data Portability](#).

One access point to this information-sharing initiative is the Microsoft [Open Specifications](#) library. Through this documentation, Microsoft provides freely available technical information about protocols, binary file formats, standards support, and other technical documents for a number of its most popular products. Rights under Microsoft patents covering such specifications are available separately. For more information, visit the [Open Specifications Dev Center](#).

The covered products include various versions of the following high-volume business products:

- Windows Client and Windows Server
- Internet Explorer
- Microsoft Exchange Server
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Office SharePoint Server
- Microsoft SQL Server

The Open Specifications documents enable and encourage a vibrant development community, resulting in smarter, interoperable products. Start exploring the Microsoft [Open Specifications](#) documentation library and support now.