## Feature specification for sqlcmd utility. Version 1.0

Last updated February 24, 2009

The **sqlcecmd** utility lets you enter SQL Compact Transact-SQL statements, and script files at the command prompt, in a Windows script file. This utility uses System.Data.SqlServerCe to execute Transact-SQL batches.

http://i.msdn.microsoft.com/Global/Images/clear.gifSyntax (bold syntax has been implemented)

sqlcecmd

**-d SQL Compact connection string**

**[ -e shrink | compact | create | repairdelete | repairrecover ]**

**[ -z new password ]**

**[ -q "cmdline query" ]**

[ -i input\_file ]

[ -e echo input ]

[ -o output\_file ]

[ -R use client regional settings ]

[ -s col\_separator ] [ -w column\_width ]

[ -W remove trailing spaces ]

[ -k [ 1 | 2 ] remove[replace] control characters ]

[ -y display\_width ] [-Y display\_width ]

[ -b on error batch abort ]

[ -c cmd\_end ]

**[ -? show syntax summary ]**

http://i.msdn.microsoft.com/Global/Images/clear.gif Command-line Options

**-d** *connection\_string*

The SQL Compact connection string to be used, for possible parameters, see http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.data.sqlserverce.sqlceconnection.connectionstring.aspx. This parameter is required.

**-e** *engine\_command*

Runs the specified SqlCeEngine command against the database: Create, Shrink, Compact, Repair.

Cannot be used with the **-z** or **-q** options.

**-z** *new password*

Changes the database password. Cannot be used with the **-q** or **-e** options. Sample usage:

sqlcecmd –d "Data Source=c:\mydb.sdf;Password=123456" -z a\_new\_p@a$$w0rd

**Query Execution Options**

**-q** **"** *cmdline query* **"**

Executes a single query. Cannot be used with the **-z** or **-e** options.

Use quotation marks around the query, as shown in the following example.

At the command prompt, type:

sqlcecmd -d "Data Source=c:\mydb.sdf" -q "SELECT FirstName, LastName FROM Contact WHERE LastName LIKE 'Whi%'"

sqlcecmd -d "Data Source=c:\mydb.sdf" -q "SELECT TOP 5 FirstName FROM Contact"

**-e** *echo input*

Writes input scripts to the standard output device (**stdout**).

**Input/Output Options**

**-i** *input\_file*[***,****input\_file2*...]

Identifies the file that contains a batch of SQL statements. Multiple files may be specified that will be read and processed in order. Do not use any spaces between file names. **sqlcecmd** will first check to see whether all the specified files exist. If one or more files do not exist, **sqlcecmd** will exit. The -i and the -Q/-q options are mutually exclusive.

Path examples:

**-i** C:\<filename>

**-i** \\<Server>\<Share$>\<filename>

**-i** "C:\Some Folder\<file name>"

File paths that contain spaces must be enclosed in quotation marks.

**-o** *output\_file*

Identifies the file that receives output from **sqlcecmd**.

The *output\_file* is always stored in Unicode format. If the file name is not valid, an error message is generated, and **sqlcecmd** exits. This file will be created if it does not exist. A file of the same name from a prior **sqlcecmd** session will be overwritten.

Path examples:

**-o** C:\< filename>

**-o** \\<Server>\<Share$>\<filename>

**-o "**C:\Some Folder\<file name>"

File paths that contain spaces must be enclosed in quotation marks.

**-R** *use client regional settings*

Set the utility to use client regional settings when it converts currency, and date and time data to character data. The default is InvariantCulture settings.

**Formatting Options**

**-s** *col\_separator*

Specifies the column-separator character. The default is a blank space. To use characters that have special meaning to the operating system such as the ampersand (&), or semicolon (;), enclose the character in quotation marks ("). The column separator can be any 8-bit character.

**-w** *column\_width*

Specifies the screen width for output. The column width must be a number greater than 8 and less than 65536. If the specified column width does not fall into that range, **sqlcecmd** generates and error message. The default width is 80 characters. When an output line exceeds the specified column width, it wraps on to the next line.

**-W** *remove trailing spaces*

This option removes trailing spaces from a column. Use this option together with the **-s** option when preparing data that is to be exported to another application. Cannot be used with the **-y** or **-Y** options.

**-k** [ **1** | **2** ] *remove[replace] control characters*

Removes all control characters, such as tabs and new line characters from the output. This preserves column formatting when data is returned. If 1 is specified, the control characters are replaced by a single space. If 2 is specified, consecutive control characters are replaced by a single space.

**-y** *display\_width*

The default is 256. It limits the number of characters that are returned for the large variable length data types:

* **ntext**
* **image**

If display\_width is 0, the output is truncated at 1 MB.

**-Y** *display\_width*

The default is 256. Limits the number of characters that are returned for the following data types:

* **nchar**
* **nvarchar(n)** where **1<n<4000**

**Error Reporting Options**

**-b** o*n error batch abort*

Specifies that **sqlcecmd** exits and returns a DOS ERRORLEVEL value when an error occurs. If the **sqlcecmd** script contains an incorrect comment, syntax error, or is missing a scripting variable, ERRORLEVEL returned is 1.

**Miscellaneous Options**

**-c** *cmd\_end*

Specifies the batch terminator. By default, commands are terminated and sent to SQL Server by typing the word "GO" on a line by itself. When you reset the batch terminator, do not use Transact-SQL reserved keywords or characters that have special meaning to the operating system, even if they are preceded by a backslash.

**-?** *show syntax summary*

Displays the syntax summary of **sqlcecmd** options.

http://i.msdn.microsoft.com/Global/Images/clear.gif Remarks

Options do not have to be used in the order shown in the syntax section.

When multiple results are returned, **sqlcecmd** prints a blank line between each result set in a batch. In addition, the "<x> rows affected" message does not appear when it does not apply to the statement executed.

The total length of the **sqlcecmd** command line in the command environment (Cmd.exe), including all arguments and expanded variables, is that which is determined by the operating system for Cmd.exe.