## Feature specification for SqlCeCmd utility. Version 1.0

Last updated March 10, 2009

The **sqlcecmd** utility lets you enter SQL Compact Transact-SQL statements, and use script files at the command prompt or in a Windows script file. This utility uses the SQL Compact ADO.NET provider to execute Transact-SQL batches. Requires .NET Framework 2.0 and the SQL Compact runtime.

Syntax (bold syntax options has been implemented)



**sqlcecmd**

**-d SQL Compact connection string**

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

**[ -z database options ]**

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

**[ -i input\_file ]**

**[ -o output\_file ]**

**[ -R use client regional settings ]**

**[ -h headers ] [ -s col\_separator ]**

**[ -W remove trailing spaces ]**

**[ -x write SELECTs as XML ]**

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

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

[ -b on error batch abort ]

**[ -? show syntax summary ]**

 Command-line Options



**-d** *connection\_string*

The SQL Compact connection string to be used. For connection string syntax, 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, Upgrade, Shrink, Compact, Repair.

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

**-z** *database options*

Changes the database options. Specify connection string for new database options. Cannot be used with the **–q, -i** or **-e** options. The following tokens are valid:  
- Password  
- LCID  
- Encryption mode  
- Case Sensitive

All other SqlCeConnection.ConnectionString tokens are ignored

Sample usage:   
  
sqlcecmd –d "Data Source=C:\mydb.sdf" -z "Data Source=;Password=secret123;Case sensitive=true;"

**Query Execution Options**

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

Executes a single query. Cannot be used with the **–z**, **-i** 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"

**Input/Output Options**

**-i** *input\_file*

Identifies the file that contains a batch of SQL statements. Each statement in the file must be separated by the word "GO" on a line by itself. **sqlcecmd** will first check to see whether the specified file exists. If the file does not exist, **sqlcecmd** will exit. Cannot be used with the **–z**, **-e** or **-q** options.

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**

**-h** *headers*

Specifies the number of rows to print between the column headings. The default is to print headings one time for each set of query results. Use **0** to specify that headers must not be printed. Any value that is not valid causes **sqlcecmd** to generate an error message and then exit.

**-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** *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.

**-x** *write SELECTs as XML*

This option writes output from SELECTs as XML.

**-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(n)** where **1<n<4000**
* **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**

**-?** *show syntax summary*

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

 Remarks



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

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.