Loading Data to CDC's NCIRD Blob Storage Using Azure Storage Explorer
Quick Reference Guide

I.   Description

This Quick Reference Guide (QRG) provides step-by-step instructions for loading Data to CDC's (NCIRD) blob storage container using Azure Storage Explorer and a shared Azure blob storage account. For additional information regarding this QRG, please contact the Data Science Team via email at ncirddatascienceteam@cdc.gov.

II.   Instructions

1. To access the shared blob storage container, send an email requesting a Shared Access Signature (SAS) token to the NDLP team (NDLPSupport@cdc.gov). In the email, be sure to include the public IP addresses that require access and the container name to which you require access.
   Note:
   - The public IP addresses provided should be from where the user will be accessing the container. These addresses will require access to the container. Most often this would be IP addresses from the user's computer.
   - The SAS token will be transmitted to the customer by the NDLP team through a secure channel.
   - To enhance security, customers should provide set of public IP addresses that will be used to access the blob storage account and transmit data to CDC. These IP addresses will be whitelisted and tied to the SAS token.

2. Install Azure Storage Explorer For manual file transfer to a shared blob storage container, we recommend use of Azure Storage Explorer which can be downloaded from the below link: https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/products/storage/storage-explorer/

Steps to download Azure Storage Explorer:
   A. Click the Azure Storage Explorer link above and choose the operating system.


   B. Installation file 'StorageExplorer.exe.' will be downloaded.
   C. Install the software, accepting any default installation prompts.
   D. Access Storage Explorer from the Windows start menu, by scrolling to the Microsoft installed products as shown in below figure.
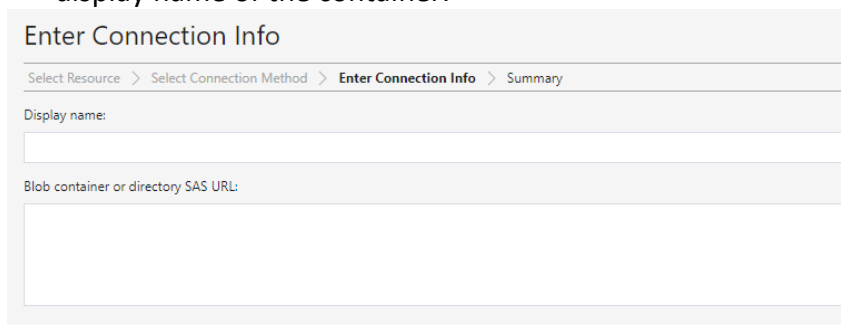3. Connect Azure Storage Explorer to the CDC NCIRD Azure Container.

1

A.   Open the Windows Start menu and launch Azure Storage Explorer. A start-up splash screen will appear for a few moments, then the program will appear on the user's screen.

B.   Select "ADLS Gen2 container or directory" on the Select a Resource pop-up.
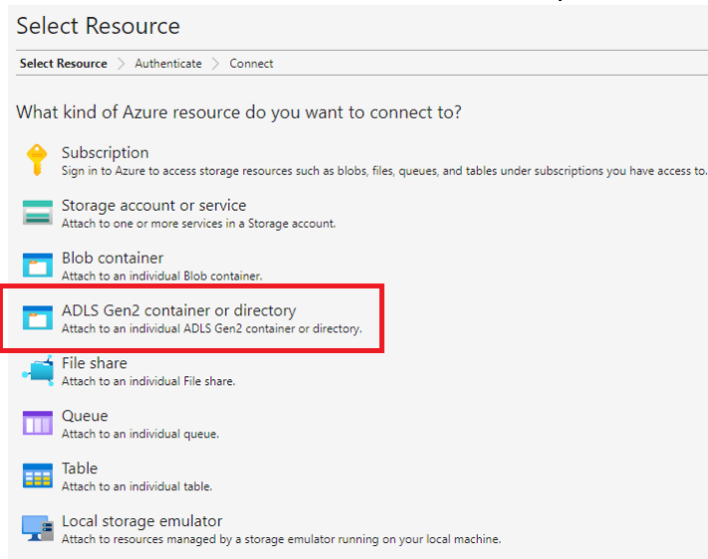
C.   On the Select Connection Method screen, select "Shared access signature URL (SAS)" then click the next button in the lower right corner of the screen.
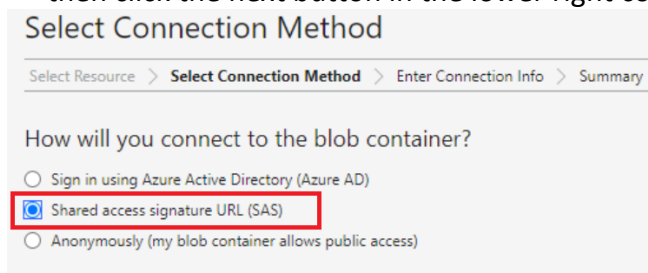
D.   The next pop-up screen will be Enter Connection Info. Copy the entire blob storage URL that you were provided by the NDLP team and paste it into the "Blob container or directory SAS URL" text box. When complete, the first text box will populate with the display name of the container.


E.   Click Next and then click the Connect button in the lower right corner of the window. Azure Storage Explorer will connect, and the container name will appear on the left-hand panel.

Note: This connection will be saved for future uses of the utility. If you close Azure Storage Explorer, and then re-open the program, you will not have to enter the connection details again.

4. Upload the data files to CDC:
   A. Click to highlight the container name under Local & Attached > (Attached Containers) > Blob Containers in the left-hand pane.
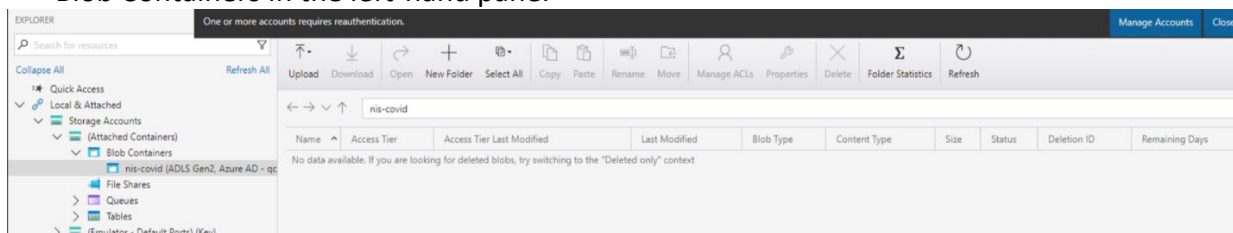
   B. Click the upload button at the top of the screen and select "Upload Files...". The Upload Files pop-up will appear.
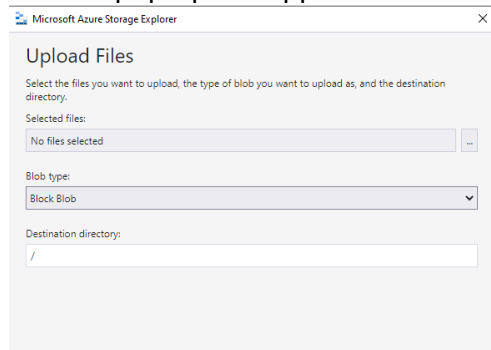
   C. Browse to select the file to upload under "Selected Files". Then, click Upload.
      Note: Do not change the Destination Directory (i.e. leave it as "/").
   D. A pop-up window that reads "Storage Access Policy Detected" may appear. If so, simply click the OK button to accept all the defaults.
   E. A file upload progress message will appear at the bottom of the screen. Once complete, a file is successfully transferred message will appear.