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# Security Descriptor Definition Language

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The security descriptor definition language (SDDL) defines the string format that the [ConvertSecurityDescriptorToStringSecurityDescriptor](#) and [ConvertStringSecurityDescriptorToSecurityDescriptor](#) functions use to describe a *security descriptor* as a text string. The language also defines string elements for describing information in the components of a security descriptor.

### Note

Conditional ***access control entries*** (ACEs) have a different SDDL format than other ACE types. For ACEs, see [ACE Strings](#). For conditional ACEs, see [Security Descriptor Definition Language for Conditional ACEs](#).

## Related topics

- [Security Descriptor String Format](#)
- [Security Descriptor Definition Language for Conditional ACEs](#)
- [ACE Strings](#)
- [SID Strings](#)
- [\[MS-DTYP\]: Security Descriptor Description Language](#)

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