

# Shrink not working on column store tables with LOBs

Last updated by | Vitor Tomaz | Feb 24, 2023 at 3:32 AM PST

## Contents

- [Issue](#)
- [Investigation/Analysis](#)
- [Mitigation](#)
- [Internal reference](#)

## Issue

When triggering file shrink in small batches, the process finishes but no space is released

## Investigation/Analysis

Looking at the error log, the shrink is trying to move lob pages on a column store table:

```
MonSQLSystemHealth
| where LogicalServerName =~ "sm-sqlprod"
| where TIMESTAMP > datetime('2022-11-01 00:00:00') and TIMESTAMP <  datetime('2022-11-09 00:00:00')
| where message !contains "Federated Auth"
| where message !contains "Login failed for user"
| where message contains "IsColumnStore 1"
| where message contains "shrink" or message contains "shrunk" or message contains "DBCC SHRINKFILE" or message contains "LOB_DATA"
| where message contains "DbId: 26"
| project PreciseTimeStamp, NodeName, event, message
```

*2022-11-01 17:20:52.16 spid647 [DbId: 26][PagelD: 1:57759984] Page information during shrink. AllocUnitId: 72058379239686144, PartitionId: 72058117083234304, IndexId: 1, ObjectId: 1598234577, AllocUnitType LOB\_DATA, IsColumnstore 1*

The reason why these lob pages cannot be moved is because the functionality of adjusting the pointers to these lob pages was never implemented.

## Mitigation

The workarounds are either for the customer to change the 4 varchar(max) columns into varchar(8000) or to drop the clustered columnstore index before running shrink.

A fix for this scenario will be deployed on the next couple of months.

## Internal reference

[346650542](#) 

**How good have you found this content?**

