**What is Bulk Copy Program (BCP)**

The bcp utility (Bcp.exe) is a command-line tool that uses the Bulk Copy Program (BCP) to perform the following tasks:

* The bcp utility can export data from a SQL Server table to a data file
* The bcp utility can import data from a data file to a SQL Server table
* Generates format files

The bcp utility is accessed by the **bcp** command or by using a batch file

You can use a batch file to set up a schedule using BCP

BCP is case sensitive

User must be aware of the data types and lengths of the table columns

The **bcp** command provides switches that you use to specify the data type of the data file and other information

**Syntax and switches**

bcp [database\_name.] schema.{table\_name | view\_name | "query" {in data\_file | out data\_file | queryout data\_file | format nul}

[-a packet\_size]

[-b batch\_size]

[-c]

[-C { ACP | OEM | RAW | code\_page } ]

[-d database\_name]

[-e err\_file]

[-E]

[-f format\_file]

[-F first\_row]

[-h"hint [,...n]"]

[-i input\_file]

[-k]

[-K application\_intent]

[-L last\_row]

[-m max\_errors]

[-n]

[-N]

[-o output\_file]

[-P password]

[-q]

[-r row\_term]

[-R]

[-S [server\_name[\instance\_name]]

[-t field\_term]

[-T]

[-U login\_id]

[-v]

[-V (80 | 90 | 100 | 110)]

[-w]

[-x]

/?

**Examples**

1. Using bcp to EXPORT data **from** SQL table **to** flat file using **OUT**

**--Syntax:**

bcp databasename.schema.tablename out "to the path" -T (trusted credentials) -c (char datatype)

--the following command will **export** data FROM sql to flat file

bcp sql2.dbo.people3 out "c:\bcps\people3.txt" -T -c

--the following command will **import** data FROM flat file sql to

bcp sql2.dbo.people4 in "c:\bcps\people3.txt" -T -c

--create table peopel4 in SQL2 database to receive data from file

USE [SQL2]

GO

CREATE TABLE [dbo].[PEOPLE4](

[PeopleID] [int] NOT NULL,

[Fname] [varchar](20) NULL,

[Lname] [varchar](20) NULL,

[Address1] [varchar](100) NULL,

[City] [varchar](50) NULL,

[State] [varchar](50) NULL,

[Zip] [varchar](10) NULL,

[Country] [varchar](50) NULL,

[Phone] [varchar](20) NULL

) ON [PRIMARY]

GO

--2. Send data from sql to file **using a query**  
  
bcp "select top 100 \* from sql2.dbo.people3" queryout "c:\bcps\query.txt" -T -c