

# Re: Shadow Copy Transport Between Servers

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.file\\_system/2006-11/msg00021.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.file_system/2006-11/msg00021.html)

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- *From:* "Will" <[westes-usc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:westes-usc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 8 Nov 2006 19:18:55 -0800
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Can the VSHADOW command be used to create complete working disk images of the boot device? We have been looking for a while for a command line interface to the Disk Mirror (RAID 1) capability in Windows 2003 that would allow us to break the existing mirror, create an additional mirror out on some commodity storage, then break that mirror and recreate the primary mirror.

—  
Will

"John Fullbright [MVP]" <[fjohn@donotspamnetappdotcom](mailto:fjohn@donotspamnetappdotcom)> wrote in message [news:uYfHHtF\\$GHA.4704@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uYfHHtF$GHA.4704@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

It's not too difficult. First, you need the VSS SDK and, if you don't have

a vss provider, the vshadow sample provider.

Step 1. {hosta} Create a persistent transportable shadow copy of the

F:

and G: volumes:

```
VSHADOW -p -t=bc.xml -script=sc.cmd F: G:
```

We also generated a script file, sc.cmd, that contains the definitions of the shadow copy set .

Step 2. {source:hosta - dest:hostb} Copy the generated backup extensions document (bc.xml). This contains information about the "shadow copy" .

Step 3. Also, we need to copy the sc.cmd file that contains the definitions of the shadow copy

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Step 4. {hostb} Import the transportable shadow copy

```
VSHADOW -i=bc.xml
```

Step 5. {hostb} Assign drive letters to the new shadow copy disks. To

do

this, will just execute the "sc.cmd" from step 1 above:

```
Sc.cmd
```

Then, we need to expose these shadow copies as new drive letters. We'll reuse the same drive letters as on the production server {hosta}. Optionally, you could expose these shadow copies as different drive

letters

or mount points:

```
VSHADOW -el=%VSHADOW_ID_1%,F:  
VSHADOW -el=%VSHADOW_ID_2%,G:
```

Step 6. {hostb} Break the shadow copy set into writable disks. At

this

point, these new disks appear in the system as completely independent

disks.

```
VSHADOW -bw=%VSHADOW_SET_ID%
```

That's it. You're ready to use the restored snapshots on the destination host {host b}.

"Will" <westes-usc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:E6Cdnd3P3rx2pNnYnZ2dnUVZ\\_q2dnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:E6Cdnd3P3rx2pNnYnZ2dnUVZ_q2dnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Many of Microsoft's documents on Volume Shadow Copy refer to its use in transporting data between servers. Yet none of those white papers show you the actual commands or sequence required to do this. Assuming we put our shadow copies onto some SAN storage that could be easily switched over

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to

a  
different server, how can we get that destination server to see the

shadow

copied volumes on the storage and to use it to create new volumes  
identical  
to the source volumes?

—  
Will