

# [MC-NBFSE]: .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension

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## Revision Summary

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
08/10/2007	0.1	Major	Initial Availability
09/28/2007	0.2	Minor	Updated the technical content.
10/23/2007	0.2.1	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
11/30/2007	0.2.2	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
01/25/2008	0.2.3	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
03/14/2008	0.2.4	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
05/16/2008	0.2.5	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
06/20/2008	0.2.6	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
07/25/2008	0.2.7	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
08/29/2008	0.2.8	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
10/24/2008	0.2.9	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
12/05/2008	0.3	Minor	Updated the technical content.
01/16/2009	0.3.1	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
02/27/2009	0.3.2	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
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05/22/2009	0.5	Minor	Updated the technical content.
07/02/2009	0.5.1	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
08/14/2009	0.5.2	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
09/25/2009	0.6	Minor	Updated the technical content.
11/06/2009	0.6.1	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
12/18/2009	0.6.2	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
01/29/2010	0.7	Minor	Updated the technical content.
03/12/2010	0.7.1	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
04/23/2010	1.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
06/04/2010	1.0.1	Editorial	Revised and edited the technical content.
07/16/2010	2.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Revision History</b>	<b>Revision Class</b>	<b>Comments</b>
08/27/2010	2.0	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/08/2010	2.0	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
11/19/2010	2.0	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
01/07/2011	2.0	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
02/11/2011	2.0	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
03/25/2011	2.0	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
05/06/2011	2.0	No change	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
06/17/2011	2.1	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.

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# 1 Introduction

In many types of communication, there are often repeated [strings](#), both within a document and within the context of related documents. For example, a request for a record set yields a list of records in one document or a series of documents, each bearing a record. Each record uses the same application-defined **XML** tags. This pattern of repeated custom XML tags would be repeated each time as a fully expanded **string** using [\[MC-NBFS\]](#).

This specification defines the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension, which is a new format built by extending the format specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#). [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) specifies a way to efficiently encode **strings** that are common to many **SOAP messages**, but it does not specify a way to efficiently encode repeated **strings** that are custom to applications. The purpose of this specification is to define a mechanism by which **strings** may be transmitted once and referred to by subsequent documents. Thus, applications with some recurrence of **strings** may result in documents that are smaller using [\[MC-NBFSE\]](#).

The .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension does not specify a context in which documents are related. Rather, it is designed to work within the .NET Message Framing Protocol, as specified in [\[MC-NMF\]](#), which provides a context that defines related documents.

## 1.1 Glossary

The following terms are defined in [\[MS-GLOS\]](#):

**.NET Framework**  
**XML**

The following terms are defined in [\[MC-NBFX\]](#):

**DictionaryString**  
**MultiByteInt31**  
**record**  
**String**

The following terms are specific to this document:

**MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT:** These terms (in all caps) are used as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#). All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

## 1.2 References

References to Microsoft Open Specification documents do not include a publishing year because links are to the latest version of the documents, which are updated frequently. References to other documents include a publishing year when one is available.

### 1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com). We will assist you in finding the relevant information. Please check the archive site, <http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/E4BD6494-06AD-4aed-9823-445E921C9624>, as an additional source.

[MC-NBFS] Microsoft Corporation, "[.NET Binary Format: SOAP Data Structure](#)".

[MC-NBFX] Microsoft Corporation, "[.NET Binary Format: XML Data Structure](#)".

[MC-NMF] Microsoft Corporation, "[.NET Message Framing Protocol Specification](#)".

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

[SOAP1.2-1/2007] Gudgin, M., Hadley, M., Mendelsohn, N., et al., "SOAP Version 1.2 Part 1: Messaging Framework (Second Edition) ", W3C Recommendation 27, April 2007, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2007/REC-soap12-part1-20070427/>

### 1.2.2 Informative References

[MS-GLOS] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Protocols Master Glossary](#)".

## 1.3 Overview

This .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension is used to efficiently represent SOAP documents, as specified in [\[SOAP1.2-1/2007\]](#). When multiple documents are being processed, this format may be more efficient than the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Data Structure, as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#).

## 1.4 Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures

The .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension uses the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Data Structure, as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#).

The .NET Message Framing Protocol, as specified in [\[MC-NMF\]](#), uses the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension.

## 1.5 Applicability Statement

The .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension is a general-purpose way to process a series of SOAP documents, and is applied in the same way as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) section 1.5. Additionally, the format is particularly well-suited for environments where a series of SOAP documents that share a common or repetitive vocabulary are processed.

## 1.6 Versioning and Localization

For information on versioning and localization, see [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) section 1.6.

## 1.7 Vendor-Extensible Fields

The .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension has no vendor-extensible fields.

## 2 Structures

The structures in the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension are identical to those specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#), except for the addition of one new structure and a further extension of the [DictionaryString](#) structure, as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) section 2.1.

The format is identical to the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Data Structure, as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#), except that the document MUST be preceded by a [StringTable](#) structure, as specified in section [2.1](#).

### 2.1 StringTable

The StringTable structure describes a set of new **strings** to which subsequent **records** can refer. As specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) (section [2.2](#)), the static DictionaryStrings defined by [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) map even integers to a static set of characters, leaving odd integers for extension. The StringTable structure takes advantage of the extensibility point by defining a mapping of odd integers to strings.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	20	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	30	1
Size (variable)																															
...																															
Strings (variable)																															
...																															

**Size (variable):** An integer value that is encoded by using the **MultiByteInt31** structure that indicates the overall size in bytes of the [String](#) structures that follow.

**Strings (variable):** A series of strings. The **Strings** MUST fit exactly within the **Size** specified. Each **String** MUST be unique and MUST NOT have been present in a prior StringTable.

The first **String** of the first StringTable is assigned an ID of 1, and each subsequent **String** is assigned the next-higher odd number. A consumer of this format MUST maintain this mapping until there are no further documents to process. Subsequent records and documents will refer to this **String** by this ID, as specified in section [2.2](#).

### 2.2 DictionaryString

The DictionaryString structure describes a reference to a set of characters.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	20	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	30	1
Value (variable)																															
...																															

**Value (variable):** An integer value that is encoded by using the [MultiByteInt31](#) structure. If this value is even, then it MUST be interpreted as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) section 2. If this value is

odd, then it MUST refer to a **String** from a [StringTable](#) structure that has been processed and MUST be interpreted as the set of characters identified by that **String**.



### 3 Structure Examples

The following example is of a SOAP document that uses the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension format.

Note that the document is the same document that is encoded in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) section 3.

```
<s:Envelope xmlns:a="http://www.w3.org/2005/08/addressing"
  xmlns:s="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope">
  <s:Header>
    <a:Action s:mustUnderstand="1">action</a:Action>
  </s:Header>
  <s:Body>
    <Inventory>0</Inventory>
  </s:Body>
</s:Envelope>
```

Because the content "action" in the <Action> element is not present in the [string](#) structure as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) section 2, the string was written out fully.

Bytes (hex)	Records	Characters represented
99 06 61 63 74 69 6F 6E	Chars8TextWithEndElement	action</a:Action>

Similarly, because the Inventory string was also not present, the <Inventory> element was written out verbosely.

Bytes (hex)	Records	Characters represented
40 09 49 6E 76 65 6E 74 6F 72 79	ShortElement	<Inventory>

If this document, or a similar document, is processed repeatedly, then it is advantageous not to have to repeat these bytes.

Using the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension, a [StringTable \(section 2.1\)](#) is used first to describe the two strings.

- [action](#)
- [Inventory](#)

According to the StringTable structure, these strings MUST be encoded as shown in the following table. The Bytes column contains the bytes of the structure shown in hex, while the Chars column contains the same bytes shown as characters.

Bytes (hex)	Chars
<b>11 06</b> 61 63 74 69 6F 6E <b>09</b> 49 6E 76 65 6E 74 6F 72 79	..action.Inventory

The bolded items in the preceding table are the size (0x11) of the overall structure encoded using MultiByteInt31 and the start of the two strings (0x06, 0x09) encoded using MultiByteInt31 as well. The string "action" is assigned a value of 1 and Inventory is assigned a value of 3, as specified in [section 2](#).

Now, the two preceding [records](#) can be encoded more compactly, as shown in the following tables.

Bytes (hex)	Records	Characters represented
AB <b>01</b>	DictionaryTextWithEndElement	action</a:Action>

Bytes (hex)	Records	Characters represented
42 <b>03</b>	ShortDictionaryElement	<Inventory>

The references to the string from the StringTable are in bold.

## 4 Security Considerations

The .NET Binary Format: SOAP Extension has the same security considerations as the .NET Binary Format: SOAP Data Structure, as specified in [\[MC-NBFS\]](#) section 4, and the .NET Binary Format: XML Data Structure, as specified in [\[MC-NBFX\]](#) section 4.

Consumers of this format should consider limiting the size of the [StringTable \(section 2.1\)](#) structures that are processed. In addition to requiring the consumer to allocate memory to store the information, StringTable structures represent a way to refer to a potentially large piece of information by using a small piece of information. Without any limits, it might be possible for a malicious producer to leverage this behavior and devise a document that causes an unsuspecting consumer to use significantly more memory than expected.

## 5 Appendix A: Product Behavior

This document specifies version-specific details in the Microsoft® .NET Framework. The following versions of .NET Framework are available in the following released Microsoft Windows® product or as supplemental software, see **.NET Framework**.

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products or supplemental software. References to product versions include released service packs:

- Microsoft® .NET Framework 3.0
- Microsoft® .NET Framework 3.5
- Microsoft® .NET Framework 4.0

Exceptions, if any, are noted below. If a service pack or Quick Fix Engineering (QFE) number appears with the product version, behavior changed in that service pack or QFE. The new behavior also applies to subsequent service packs of the product unless otherwise specified. If a product edition appears with the product version, behavior is different in that product edition.

Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification that is prescribed using the terms SHOULD or SHOULD NOT implies product behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term MAY implies that the product does not follow the prescription.

## 6 Change Tracking

This section identifies changes that were made to the [MC-NBFSE] protocol document between the May 2011 and June 2011 releases. Changes are classified as New, Major, Minor, Editorial, or No change.

The revision class **New** means that a new document is being released.

The revision class **Major** means that the technical content in the document was significantly revised. Major changes affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of major changes are:

- A document revision that incorporates changes to interoperability requirements or functionality.
- An extensive rewrite, addition, or deletion of major portions of content.
- The removal of a document from the documentation set.
- Changes made for template compliance.

The revision class **Minor** means that the meaning of the technical content was clarified. Minor changes do not affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of minor changes are updates to clarify ambiguity at the sentence, paragraph, or table level.

The revision class **Editorial** means that the language and formatting in the technical content was changed. Editorial changes apply to grammatical, formatting, and style issues.

The revision class **No change** means that no new technical or language changes were introduced. The technical content of the document is identical to the last released version, but minor editorial and formatting changes, as well as updates to the header and footer information, and to the revision summary, may have been made.

Major and minor changes can be described further using the following change types:

- New content added.
- Content updated.
- Content removed.
- New product behavior note added.
- Product behavior note updated.
- Product behavior note removed.
- New protocol syntax added.
- Protocol syntax updated.
- Protocol syntax removed.
- New content added due to protocol revision.
- Content updated due to protocol revision.
- Content removed due to protocol revision.
- New protocol syntax added due to protocol revision.

- Protocol syntax updated due to protocol revision.
- Protocol syntax removed due to protocol revision.
- New content added for template compliance.
- Content updated for template compliance.
- Content removed for template compliance.
- Obsolete document removed.

Editorial changes are always classified with the change type **Editorially updated**.

Some important terms used in the change type descriptions are defined as follows:

- **Protocol syntax** refers to data elements (such as packets, structures, enumerations, and methods) as well as interfaces.
- **Protocol revision** refers to changes made to a protocol that affect the bits that are sent over the wire.

The changes made to this document are listed in the following table. For more information, please contact [protocol@microsoft.com](mailto:protocol@microsoft.com).

Section	Tracking number (if applicable) and description	Major change (Y or N)	Change type
<a href="#">1.2 References</a>	Added explanatory statement regarding the removal of the publishing year from Microsoft Open Specification document references.	N	Content updated.

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