

Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy (VSS) components

Component	Description
Requestor	An application (e.g., backup application) that requests a volume shadow copy (snapshot) to be taken
Writer	A component of an application (e.g., Microsoft SQL Server) that stores persistent information on one or more volumes that participate in shadow copy synchronization
Provider	A component that creates and maintains the shadow copies; a provider is included with the latest Microsoft operating systems, and is also available from software and storage hardware vendors
Source Volume	The volume that contains the data to be shadow copied
Storage Volume	The volume that holds the shadow copy snapshots