**Shadow copy** feature in **Server 2012** is used to restore previous versions of files and folders. Shadow copy backup feature is must faster than traditional backup solution. But this doesn't mean that traditional back solution is replaced by shadow copies. Shadow copies can be very handy in certain scenarios where one needs to restore earlier version of files or folder. To configure shadow copy of shared folder in Server 2012, you have to first enable the shadow copy feature. In this post, I will show steps to configure shadow copy of shared folder in Server 2012. The shadow copy feature we will configure here is not just for shared folder only, it can be used locally as well in Server 2012.

Shadow copy is a snapshot of the data on the drive or folder. After taking a snapshot of the data, the server keeps track of changes of the data. These changes are stored on the same drive as original file, but can be changed. Shadow copy does not copy all the files and folders but instead keeps track of these changes utilizing certain amount of disk space. This is the reason you can't use shadow copy for traditional backup replacement. Shadow copy can take many snapshots as long as the specified disk space is available. When the allocated disk space is full, shadow copy deletes the older snapshot.

## Configure Shadow Copy of Shared Folder in Server 2012

Open the **Properties** of drive which contains the shared folders. Select **Shadow Copies** tab in the **Properties** dialog box. Select the volume. Click **Enable**.

Local Disk (C:) Properties						
General	Tools	Hardware		Sharing	Security	
Shadow Copies		Previous Vers		rsions	Quota	
Shadow copies allow users to view the contents of shared folders as the contents existed at previous points in time. For information on Shadow Copies, <u>click here</u> .						
Volumo	Ume: Next Pu	o Timo	Charge		land	
Volume	Disabled	n nme	_ Snares		Used	
	Disabled		2			
- Shadow c	le opies of sele	Dis cted volu	able ume		Settings ireate Now	
				C	Revert	
		OK		Cancel	Apply	

After clicking **Enable**, you will see little warning about default schedule settings. You can always change the default settings.

Enable Shadow Copies					
If you enable shadow copies, Windows will use the default schedule and settings, and create a shadow copy of the selected volume(s) now.					
Important: The default settings are not appropriate for servers that have high I/O load. For heavily used servers, you should manually configure shadow copies and place the storage area on a volume that will not be shadow copied.					
For more information about shadow copies, <u>click here</u> .					
Do you want to enable shadow copies?					
✓ Do not show this message again					
Yes No					

Click **Yes** on the warning dialog box. Click **Settings** on **Shadow Copies** tab to change the allocated space for shadow copy. This is the space used by **Shadow Copies** to store different versions of snapshots.

Settings				
Volume:				
C:\				
Storage area				
Located on this volume:				
C:\ V Details				
Maximum size: O No limit Use limit: 1024 MB Note: You need at least 300MB free space to create a shadow copy.				
Schedule				
Schedule				
Note: The default schedule creates two shadow copies per day. Avoid creating shadow copies more frequently than once per hour.				
OK Cancel				

Click the **Schedule** button to change the shadow copy schedule settings. Tweak the settings that fits your environment and click **OK**.

Sottings C:\	x
Schedule	Advanced Schedule Options ? ×
1. At 7:00 AM every Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri of	Start Date:     Thursday , August 1, 2013 ∨       End Date:     Image: Control of the start of the star
Schedule Task: Start time: Weekly V 7:00 AM V Schedule Task Weekly Every 1 V Week(s) on: Mon Tue	Repeat task Every: 4
☑ Wed ☑ Thu ☑ Fri	OK Cancel
Show multiple schedules.	
	OK Cancel

You can now access the shared folders and see the previous versions. Open the **Properties** of the shared folder from local server or client PC over the network. Select the **Previous Versions** tab. You can see the list of previous versions files. You can open it by click the **Open** button.

Test Properties							
General Security Details Previous Versions							
Previous versions come from restore points on a server. <u>How do I use previous versions?</u>							
File versions:							
Name Date modified							
<ul> <li>Yesterday (1)</li> </ul>							
Test 7/31/2013 1:20 AM							
Open Copy Restore							
OK Cancel Apply							

This is how you can configure volume shadow copies in Windows Server 2012. Volume shadow copies can be configured on Server 2008 and Windows 7. But this feature has been depreciated in Windows 8. Instead, new feature called **File History** has been introduced in Windows 8