

# Vssadmin

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Applies To: Windows 8, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2003 R2, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012

Displays current volume shadow copy backups and all installed shadow copy writers and providers. To view the command syntax for any of the commands in the following table, click the command name.

<b>Command</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#">Vssadmin add shadowstorage</a>	Adds a volume shadow copy storage association.
<a href="#">Vssadmin create shadow</a>	Creates a new volume shadow copy.
<a href="#">Vssadmin delete shadows</a>	Deletes volume shadow copies.
<a href="#">Vssadmin delete shadowstorage</a>	Deletes volume shadow copy storage associations.
<a href="#">Vssadmin list providers</a>	Lists registered volume shadow copy providers.
<a href="#">Vssadmin list shadows</a>	Lists existing volume shadow copies.
<a href="#">Vssadmin list shadowstorage</a>	Lists all shadow copy storage associations on the system.
<a href="#">Vssadmin list volumes</a>	Lists volumes that are eligible for shadow copies.
<a href="#">Vssadmin list writers</a>	Lists all subscribed volume shadow copy writers on the system.
<a href="#">Vssadmin resize shadowstorage</a>	Resizes the maximum size for a shadow copy storage association.

## Manage Volume Shadow Copy Service from the Vssadmin Command-Line

You can manage the Volume Shadow Copy service using the Vssadmin command-line tool from an elevated command prompt. You can use this tool to run the following commands:

**Vssadmin List Providers** Lists registered Volume Shadow Copy providers. Windows Vista includes Software Shadow Copy Provider 1.0.

**Vssadmin List Shadows** Lists existing volume shadow copies, the time the shadow copy was created, and its location.

**Vssadmin List ShadowStorage** Lists the volume shadow storage space currently in use, the space that is reserved for future use (labeled as allocated), and the maximum space that might be dedicated. This space is used to store changes while a shadow copy is active. The following sample output was generated using a computer that currently had about 3GB of files stored in a shadow copy, but that might allocate as much as 6.4GB.

**Vssadmin List Volumes** Lists volumes that are eligible for shadow copies.

**Vssadmin List Writers** Lists shadow copy writers, which support communicating with the Volume Shadow Copy service to ensure that files are captured in a consistent state. By default, subscribed writers include an operating system writer, a registry writer, a WMI writer, and a search service writer, among others. SQL Server also provides a Volume Shadow Copy writer.

**Vssadmin Resize ShadowStorage** Resizes Volume Shadow Copy storage. You can use this command to increase the maximum space that might be used by Volume Shadow Copy.

Typically, this is unnecessary. However, if you discover that backups are failing on a computer because of an extremely high volume of changes during a backup, and Vssadmin List ShadowStorage reveals that the used Shadow Copy Storage space is at the maximum, you might be able to resolve the problem by manually increasing the maximum size.