

EMC Centera Provider for Microsoft SQL Server Remote Blob Storage

The Big Picture

- Selectively move unstructured data in SQL databases to a Centera archive
- Improve performance and efficiency of SQL-based applications
- Reduce the cost of storing unstructured data by moving it from primary storage
- Maintain referential integrity of the database between structured and unstructured data
- Integrate data with Centera, through a Microsoft-developed architecture, directly at the database, not the application layer

Move unstructured data from Microsoft SQL Server to a Centera archive to improve system efficiency.

Challenges with Unstructured Data

Most organizations rely on business-critical data that is stored in databases. They have invested heavily in data management systems and applications to store and manipulate that data. However, increasingly businesses are amassing large volumes of non-relational, unstructured data in the form of digital images, documents, videos, and other multimedia formats. Most databases were not designed for these new content types.

There are several challenges associated with storage of large amounts of unstructured data:

- Storage costs can quickly escalate. Costs include not only the hardware acquisition costs, but also management overhead costs. The cost associated with managing unstructured data can greatly exceed the cost of the hardware itself.
- Referential integrity of all data in the database is a challenge when dealing with structured and unstructured data sources.
- Performance of the database for transactional processes can be impacted by large amounts of unstructured data.

Microsoft Remote Blob Storage (RBS)

Remote Blob Storage (RBS) is a technology released by Microsoft as part of SQL Server 2008. RBS is designed to provide a framework to move unstructured (BLOB) data from SQL Server to external storage systems via a “provider.” The EMC® Centera® Provider for RBS is a tool that allows Centera to plug-in to the RBS framework as a target for storing BLOB content.

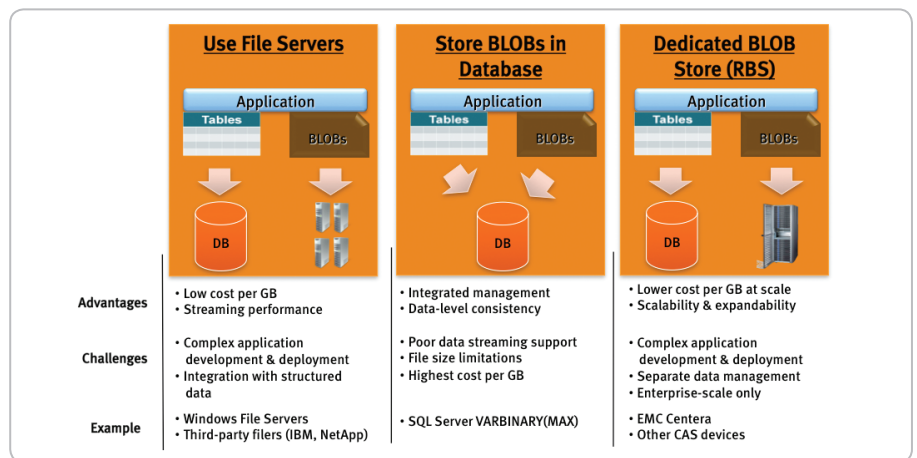
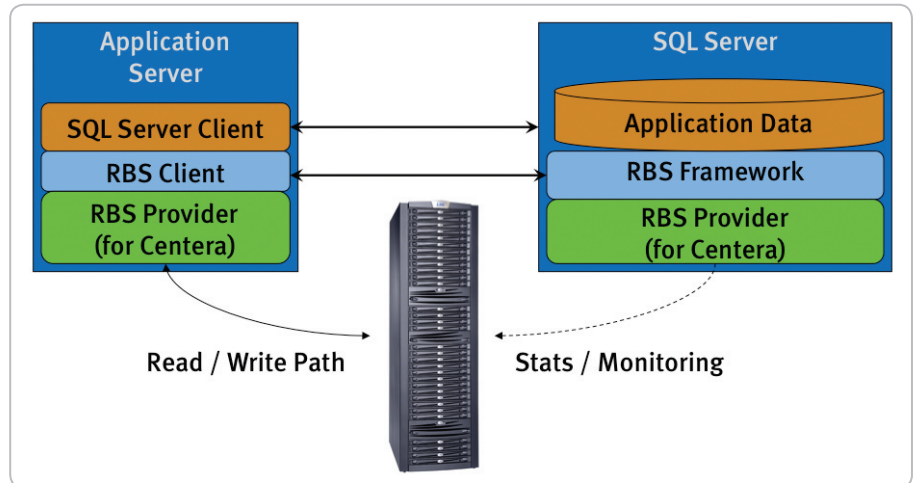
The Centera Provider for RBS was developed by Microsoft. RBS is the Microsoft preferred method for moving BLOB content from SQL Server.

The Centera Provider allows unstructured data to be selectively moved from SQL databases to a Centera archive while ensuring the authenticity of the data and preserving the referential integrity of the database. Unstructured data is moved out of the SQL Server database through a policy engine and stored in Centera.

Most applications integrate with a Centera archive through the APIs associated with the Centera SDK and the Centera SDK for XAM. RBS offers an alternative for those applications (ISV or custom) that use SQL Server.

RBS is designed for organizations that utilize SQL Server databases containing large amounts of unstructured data. As the amount of unstructured data in these databases grows, it may create performance issues for the transactional content. By leveraging RBS and Centera, a customer can selectively archive content from within the SQL Server database and thus more effectively manage data and improve performance and system efficiency.

Microsoft SQL Server RBS Architecture and the EMC Centera Provider



Centera Added Value

RBS and the Centera Provider enable customers to better utilize their SQL databases by moving BLOB content to the Centera archive. Centera's content address assures that the data will always be available to the application and the referential integrity of the database is maintained.

How to Order

RBS is downloadable from the Microsoft website at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=C6C3E9EF-BA29-4A43-8D69-A2BED18FE73C&displaylang=en>.

The Centera Provider for RBS is available without charge and is downloadable from EDN Labs at: <https://community.emc.com/community/labs/centerarbs>.

EMC Services

Support for the Centera Provider for RBS is provided by the EMC Customer Support Engineering. Just send a message to CenteraRBS@EMC.com.

System Requirements

- Microsoft SQL Server 2008



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To learn more about EMC Centera Provider for Microsoft SQL Server Remote Blob Storage, contact your local EMC sales representative or authorized value-added reseller, call us at 1-866-464-7381, or visit our website at www.EMC.com/solutions.