

[MS-DCLB]: Desktop Clipboard Protocol

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1 Introduction

This is a specification of the Desktop Clipboard Protocol, which uses the **Network Dynamic Data Exchange (NetDDE)** Protocol to implement a distributed store for graphical user interface (GUI) objects for desktop cut-and-paste operations. It specifies the mechanism by which the Windows ClipBook Viewer application (the Windows **clipboard**) communicates information between remote users.

Sections 1.8, 2, and 3 of this specification are normative and can contain the terms MAY, SHOULD, MUST, MUST NOT, and SHOULD NOT as defined in RFC 2119. Sections 1.5 and 1.9 are also normative but cannot contain those terms. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

1.1 Glossary

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

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) character set
ASCII
big-endian
client
enhanced metafile format (EMF)
little-endian
metafile
NetBIOS
server
Unicode
Windows metafile format (WMF)

The following terms are specific to this document:

bitmap: A collection of structures that contain a representation of a graphical image, a **palette**, dimensions, and other information.

clipboard: A set of functions and messages that enable applications to transfer data. Transfers between applications are typically accomplished via "cut", "copy", or "paste" operations using the system **clipboard** implementation.

clipboard format: An identifier for the type of data that is stored in the **clipboard**. The **clipboard** can store multiple **clipboard formats** simultaneously.

clipbook: **Clipboard** data that is stored separately from the system **clipboard**.

color plane: One of the dimensions of a **color space**.

color space: A mapping of color components to a multidimensional coordinate system. The number of dimensions is generally two, three, or four. For example, if colors are expressed as a combination of the three components red, green, and blue, a three-dimensional space is sufficient to describe all possible colors.

device-independent bitmap (DIB): A container for **bitmapped** graphics, which specifies characteristics of the **bitmap** such that it can be created using one application and loaded and displayed in another application, while retaining an identical appearance.

dynamic data exchange (DDE): A protocol through which applications can exchange messages and use shared memory to exchange data. Applications can use **DDE** for one-time data transfers and for continuous exchanges in which applications send updates to each other as new data becomes available.

intensity: The magnitude of a component color in the **color space**.

logical palette: A **palette** that defines colors as device-independent values. Unlike the **system palette**, which has predefined, device-specific color definitions, a **logical palette** contains color values that can be defined entirely by an application. A **logical palette** entry must be mapped to the **system palette** entry in order for the custom colors to appear when the application is run.

mapping mode: The way in which logical (device-independent) coordinates are mapped to device-specific coordinates.

METAFILEPICT: A structure that defines the **metafile** picture format. **METAFILEPICT** is used for exchanging **metafile** data through the **clipboard**. See [\[MSDN-METAFILEPICT\]](#) and [\[MSDN-CLIPFORM\]](#) for further information.

Network Dynamic Data Exchange (NetDDE): A technology that allows applications using **dynamic data exchange (DDE)** to transparently share data over a network.

palette: An array of values, each element of which contains the definition of a color. The color elements in a **palette** are often indexed so that **clients** can refer to the colors, each of which can occupy 24 bits or more, by a number that requires less storage space.

system palette: The **palette** that is actually in use to reproduce colors on a device such as a computer screen. A **system palette** has predefined, device-specific colors that are used by default, so that every application does not have to set them up.

Tag Image File Format (TIFF): A format for **bitmapped** image data that comes from scanners, frame grabbers, and photo-retouching applications. It supports the exchange of image data between applications, taking advantage of the varying capabilities of imaging devices. **TIFF** supports a number of compression schemes that allow the choice of the best space or time tradeoff for applications.

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 Specifications documentation 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. We will assist you in finding the relevant information.

[ISO/IEC-8859-1] International Organization for Standardization, "Information Technology -- 8-Bit Single-Byte Coded Graphic Character Sets -- Part 1: Latin Alphabet No. 1", ISO/IEC 8859-1, 1998, http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=28245

Note There is a charge to download the specification.

[MS-DTYP] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Data Types](#)".

[MS-EMF] Microsoft Corporation, "[Enhanced Metafile Format](#)".

[MS-WMF] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Metafile Format](#)".

[MSDN-DdeClientTransaction] Microsoft Corporation, "DdeClientTransaction function", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms648743\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms648743(v=vs.85).aspx)

[MSDN-DdeConnect] Microsoft Corporation, "DdeConnect function", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms648745\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms648745(v=vs.85).aspx)

[MSDN-DdeCreateDataHandle] Microsoft Corporation, "DdeCreateDataHandle function", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms648747\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms648747(v=vs.85).aspx)

[MSDN-NDdeShareAdd] Microsoft Corporation, "NDdeShareAdd function", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa365766\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa365766(v=vs.85).aspx)

[RFC5234] Crocker, D., Ed., and Overell, P., "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, RFC 5234, January 2008, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc5234.txt>

[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>

1.2.2 Informative References

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

[MSDN-CLIPBOARD] Microsoft Corporation, "Clipboard", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms648709\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms648709(VS.85).aspx)

[MSDN-CLIPFORM] Microsoft Corporation, "Clipboard Formats", <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms649013.aspx>

[MSDN-GlobalLock] Microsoft Corporation, "GlobalLock function", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa366584\(v=vs.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/aa366584(v=vs.85).aspx)

[MSDN-META] Microsoft Corporation, "Metafiles", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd145051\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd145051(VS.85).aspx)

[MSDN-METAFILEPICT] Microsoft Corporation, "METAFILEPICT structure", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms649017\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms649017(VS.85).aspx)

[MSDN-NETDDE] Microsoft Corporation, "Network Dynamic Data Exchange", [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa365778\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa365778(VS.85).aspx)

1.3 Overview

The Desktop Clipboard Protocol is used by the Windows ClipBook Viewer application [[MSDN-CLIPBOARD](#)]. This protocol allows for transfer of clipboard data such as text and **bitmap** images between two participating machines.

In this protocol, the **server** role is defined as the actor that shares its clipboard data and provides this data when requested by the **client**. The client role is the actor that requests clipboard data from the server and is able to display this data to the user.

A sequence diagram showing this relationship is presented in section [3](#).

1.4 Relationship to Other Protocols

The Desktop Clipboard Protocol is implemented on top of the NetDDE protocol, as shown in the following diagram.

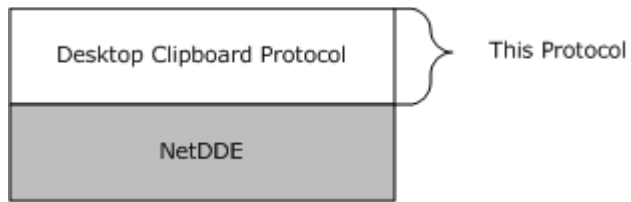


Figure 1: Relationship to other protocols

1.5 Prerequisites/Preconditions

The Desktop Clipboard Protocol requires the NetDDE API [\[MSDN-NETDDE\]](#).

1.6 Applicability Statement

The Desktop Clipboard Protocol is used for transferring clipboard information between remote machines.

1.7 Versioning and Capability Negotiation

The Desktop Clipboard Protocol does not have multiple versions.

1.8 Vendor-Extensible Fields

None.

1.9 Standards Assignments

None.

2 Messages

This protocol references commonly used data types as defined in [\[MS-DTYP\]](#).

2.1 Transport

The NetDDE API is used to initiate and maintain the network connections used by this protocol.

Desktop Clipboard messages are encapsulated in data blocks delivered using NetDDE as specified in section [3.1](#). The NetDDE transport ensures that the total message size is known.

2.2 Message Syntax

Note All unsigned 16-bit and unsigned 32-bit values are specified in **little-endian** format. Depending on the hardware architectures of the client and the server, multiple-byte little-endian versus **big-endian** reordering can determine how values are marshaled by the sender and interpreted by the receiver.

2.2.1 Common Field Values

2.2.1.1 ClipboardFormatName

The **ClipboardFormatName** constants are null-terminated **ANSI** strings ([\[ISO/IEC-8859-1\]](#)) that specify the **clipboard format**.

Constant/value	Description
CF_BITMAP "&Bitmap"	A handle to a bitmap.
CF_DIB "&DIB Bitmap"	A memory object containing a device-independent bitmap (DIB) structure ([MS-WMF] section 2.2.2.9), which consists of an information header followed by the bitmap bits.
CF_DIF "&DIF"	Software Arts' Data Interchange Format.
CF_DSPTEXT "Disp&lay Text"	Text display format associated with a private format.
CF_DSPBITMAP "Displa&y Bitmap"	Bitmap display format associated with a private format.
CF_DSPENHMETAFILE "Display En&hanced Metafile"	EMF display format associated with a private format.
CF_DSPMETAFILEPICT "Display Pict&ure"	Metafile picture display format associated with a private format.
CF_ENHMETAFILE "&Enhanced Metafile"	A handle to an EMF metafile [MS-EMF] .
CF_METAFILEPICT	A handle to a metafile picture format.

Constant/value	Description
"&Picture"	
CF_OEMTEXT "&OEM Text"	Text format containing characters in the OEM character set. Each line ends with a CR/LF combination. A null character signals the end of the data.
CF_PALETTE "Pal&ette"	A handle to a color palette .
CF_PENDATA "Pe&n Data"	Data for the pen extensions to the Microsoft Windows for Pen Computing.
CF_RIFF "&RIFF"	Represents audio data that is more complex than can be represented in a CF_WAVE standard wave format.
CF_SYLK "&SyIk"	Microsoft Symbolic Link (SYLK) format.
CF_TEXT "&Text"	Text format. Each line ends with a carriage return/linefeed (CR/LF) combination. A null character signals the end of the data. Use this format for ANSI text.
CF_TIFF "T&IFF"	Tag Image File Format (TIFF) .
CF_UNICODETEXT "&Unicode Text"	Unicode text format. Each line ends with a CR/LF combination. A null character signals the end of the data.
CF_WAVE "&Wave Audio"	Represents audio data in one of the standard wave formats, such as 11 kHz or 22 kHz Pulse Code Modulation (PCM).

2.2.1.2 DDETopicType

The **DDETopicType** constants are character strings that specify the string constants used in **dynamic data exchange (DDE)** function calls.

Constant/value	Description
SZDDSYS_ITEM_TOPICS "Topics"	A list of the topics that are supported by the server at the current time.
SZDDSYS_TOPIC "System"	The system topic.

2.2.1.3 ExecuteCommandType

The **ExecuteCommandType** enumeration specifies the type of command message sent between actors in a **clipbook**-sharing session.

Constant/value	Description
CMD_DELETE "[delete]"	The sender is directing the recipient to remove a clipbook entry from its set of clipboard shares.

Constant/value	Description
CMD_INITSHARE "[initshare]"	The recipient has been requested to initialize its list of clipbook entries intended for sharing.
CMD_PASTE "[paste]"	The sender is directing the recipient to create a new clipbook entry.
CMD_SHARE "[markshared]"	The sender is directing the recipient to share a clipbook entry.
CMD_UNSHARE "[markunshared]"	The sender is directing the recipient to stop sharing a clipbook entry.

2.2.1.4 Notifications

The **Notification** constants are used by clients to request server action using the server's **DdeCallback** function.

Constant/value	Description
XTYP_ADVREQ 0x2022	Informs the server that a data request is outstanding on the specified topic name and item name pair, and that data corresponding to the pair has changed.
XTYP_REQUEST 0x20B0	Requests data from the server.
XTYP_EXECUTE 0x4050	Sends a command string to the server.

2.2.1.5 PaletteEntryFlags

The **PaletteEntryFlags** constants are used to describe palette data sent between users in a clipbook-sharing session.

Constant/value	Description
PC_DEFAULT 0x0000	Specifies default behavior for the logical palette entry.
PC_RESERVED 0x0001	Specifies that the logical palette entry be used for palette animation. This flag prevents other windows from matching colors to the palette entry since the color frequently changes. If an unused system palette entry is available, the color is placed in that entry. Otherwise, the color is not available for animation.
PC_EXPLICIT 0x0002	Specifies that the low-order word of the logical palette entry designates a hardware palette index. This flag allows the application to show the contents of the display device palette.
PC_NOCOLLAPSE 0x0004	Specifies that the color be placed in an unused entry in the system palette instead of being matched to an existing color in the system palette. If there are no unused entries in the system palette, the color is matched normally. Once this color is in the system palette, colors in other logical palettes can be matched to this color.

2.2.1.6 SharingStatusType

The **SharingStatusType** constants are ANSI characters that specify the sharing status of a clipboard.

Constant/value	Description
STATUS_SHARED "\$"	The clipboard is shared.
STATUS_UNSHARED "*"	The clipboard is not shared.
STATUS_UPDATED "?"	The clipboard sharing status has been updated.

2.2.2 Control Information

2.2.2.1 EXECCOMMAND

The EXECCOMMAND structure specifies state changes for the clipboard-sharing session.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	0	1
ExecuteCommand (variable)																																		
...																																		
ShareName (variable)																																		
...																																		

ExecuteCommand (variable): An array of ANSI characters that specifies the **ExecuteCommandType**. Note that this array is not zero-terminated. The ExecuteCommand value MUST be one of the **ExecuteCommandType** constants (section [2.2.1.3](#)).

ShareName (variable): An optional, null-terminated ANSI string that specifies the share on which the command operates. This field MUST NOT be present if **ExecuteCommand** is CMD_INITSHARE, and it MUST be present if **ExecuteCommand** is not CMD_INITSHARE.

2.2.2.2 SHARE_LIST_ENTRYA

The SHARE_LIST_ENTRYA structure contains information about a shared clipboard.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	0	1		
SharingStatus										ShareIdentifier (variable)																										
...																																				

SharingStatus (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned integer that specifies the [SharingStatusType \(section 2.2.1.6\)](#).

ShareIdentifier (variable): An array of ANSI characters that specifies the name of the clipbook share. Note: this array is NOT zero-terminated.

2.2.2.3 SHARE_LISTA

The SHARE_LISTA structure contains information about a set of clipbooks. A SHARE_LISTA structure conforms to the following ABNF [\[RFC5234\]](#):

```
SHARE_LISTA = SHARE_LIST_ENTRYA * (%x09 SHARE_LIST_ENTRYA) %x00
```

2.2.2.4 SHARE_LIST_ENTRYW

The SHARE_LIST_ENTRYW structure contains information about a shared clipbook.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
SharingStatus										ShareIdentifier (variable)																										
...																																				

SharingStatus (1 byte): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the [SharingStatusType \(section 2.2.1.6\)](#).

ShareIdentifier (variable): An array of Unicode characters that specifies the name of the clipbook share. Note: this array is NOT zero-terminated.

2.2.2.5 SHARE_LISTW

The SHARE_LISTW structure contains information about a set of clipbooks. A SHARE_LISTW structure conforms to the following ABNF [\[RFC5234\]](#):

```
SHARE_LISTW = SHARE_LIST_ENTRYW * (%x00.09 SHARE_LIST_ENTRYW) %x00.00
```

2.2.2.6 CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYA

The CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYA structure describes a clipboard format.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
ClipFormatName (variable)																															
...																															

ClipFormatName (variable): An array of ANSI characters that specifies the name of the clipboard format. For predefined clipboard formats, this value is a ClipboardFormatName constant (section [2.2.1.1](#)). Note: this array is NOT zero-terminated.[<1>](#)

2.2.2.7 CLIPFORMAT_LISTA

The CLIPFORMAT_LISTA structure describes a set of clipboard formats. A CLIPFORMAT_LISTA structure conforms to the following ABNF [\[RFC5234\]](#):

```
CLIPFORMAT_LISTA = CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYA * (%x09 CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYA) %x00
```

2.2.2.8 CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYW

The CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYW structure describes a clipboard format.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
ClipFormatName (variable)																															
...																															

ClipFormatName (variable): An array of Unicode characters that specifies the name of the clipboard format. For predefined clipboard formats, this value is a [ClipboardFormatName \(section 2.2.1.1\)](#) constant. Note this array is NOT zero-terminated.[<2>](#)

2.2.2.9 CLIPFORMAT_LISTW

The CLIPFORMAT_LISTW structure describes a set of clipboard formats. A CLIPFORMAT_LISTW structure conforms to the following ABNF [\[RFC5234\]](#):

```
CLIPFORMAT_LISTW = CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYW * (%x00.09 CLIPFORMAT_LIST_ENTRYW) %x00.00
```

2.2.3 Clipboard Data

2.2.3.1 CLIPDATA_METAFILEPICT

The CLIPDATA_METAFILEPICT structure contains metafile data.[<3>](#)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
MappingMode																xExtent															
yExtent																unused															
MetafileData (variable)																															
...																															

MappingMode (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the **mapping mode** in which this picture is to be drawn.

xExtent (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the width of the rectangle within which the picture is to be drawn. The coordinates are in units that correspond to the mapping mode.

yExtent (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the height of the rectangle within which the picture is to be drawn. The coordinates are in units that correspond to the mapping mode.

unused (2 bytes): Unused. SHOULD be zero.

MetafileData (variable): Data corresponding to a memory-based **Windows metafile format (WMF)** metafile [\[MS-WMF\].<4>](#)

2.2.3.2 CLIPDATA_ENHMETAFILE

The CLIPDATA_ENHMETAFILE structure contains EMF data.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	0	1
EnhMetafileData (variable)																																		
...																																		

EnhMetafileData (variable): Data corresponding to a memory-based EMF metafile [\[MS-EMF\].<5>](#)

2.2.3.3 CLIPDATA_BITMAP

The CLIPDATA_BITMAP structure contains bitmap data.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	0	1
Type																Width																		
Height																WidthBytes																		
Planes								BitsPixel								unused								BitmapData (variable)										
...																																		

Type (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the bitmap type. MUST be set to 0x0000.

Width (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the width, in pixels, of the bitmap.

Height (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the height, in pixels, of the bitmap.

WidthBytes (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the number of bytes in each scan line. This value MUST be divisible by 2, because the system assumes that the bit values in a bitmap form an array that is word aligned.

Planes (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned integer that specifies the count of **color planes**.

BitsPixel (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned integer that specifies the number of bits required to indicate the color of a pixel.

unused (1 byte): Unused. SHOULD be zero.

BitmapData (variable): An array of byte values forming the bitmap data as specified by the previous fields.

2.2.3.4 CLIPDATA_PALETTE_ENTRY

The CLIPDATA_PALETTE_ENTRY structure contains palette color information.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Red								Green								Blue								Flags							

Red (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned integer that specifies the red **intensity** value for the palette entry.

Green (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned integer that specifies the green intensity value for the palette entry.

Blue (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned integer that specifies the blue intensity value for the palette entry.

Flags (1 byte): An 8-bit unsigned integer that specifies the [PaletteEntryFlags \(section 2.2.1.5\)](#) usage of the palette entry.

2.2.3.5 CLIPDATA_PALETTE

The CLIPDATA_PALETTE structure contains palette data.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Version																NumEntries															
PalEntries (variable)																															
...																															

Version (2 bytes): A 16-bit signed integer that specifies the version number of the system. MUST be set to 0x0300.

NumEntries (2 bytes): A 16-bit unsigned integer that specifies the number of entries in **PalEntries**.

PalEntries (variable): A series of **NumEntries** [CLIPDATA_PALETTE_ENTRY \(section 2.2.3.4\)](#) structures that specifies the palette information.

2.2.3.6 CLIPDATA_OTHERFORMATS

The CLIPDATA_OTHERFORMATS structure contains data corresponding to arbitrary clipboard formats.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
OtherFormatData (variable)																															
...																															

OtherFormatData (variable): Data corresponding to arbitrary clipboard formats. [<6>](#)

3 Protocol Details

In the Desktop Clipboard Protocol, a server allows a client to access a set of shared clipbooks. Implementations can simultaneously participate in both client and server roles to allow for two-way sharing of clipbooks. Implementations can represent the local clipboard as a clipbook shared by a server, so that client software can interact agnostically with the local clipboard and remote clipbooks.

In the following diagram, a client and server first negotiate a DDE conversation as described in sections [3.1.3](#) and [3.2.3](#).

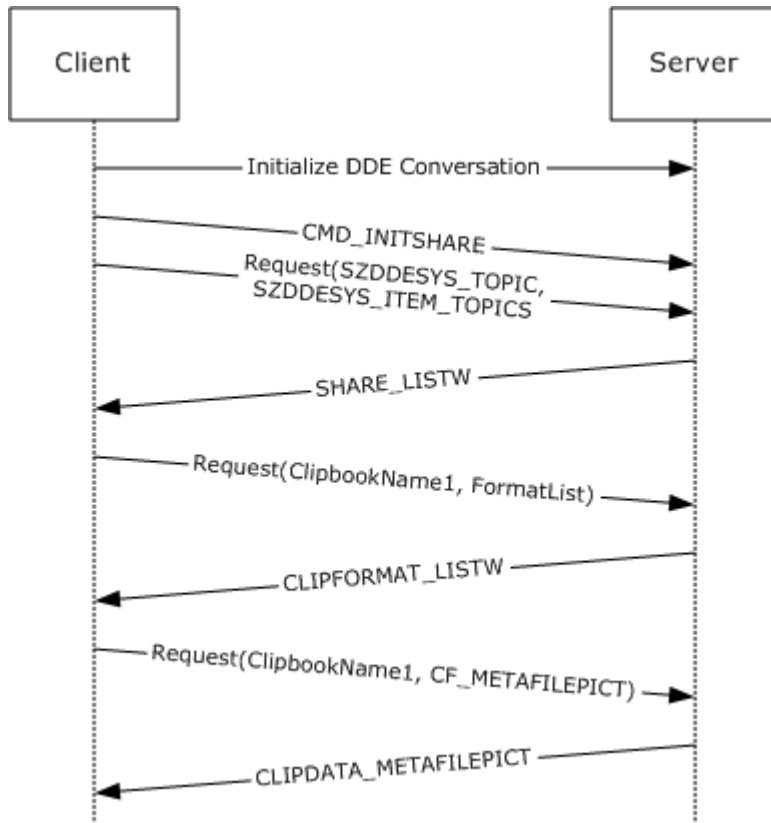


Figure 2: Clipboard sharing session

The following messages are then transmitted:

1. The client sends a [CMD_INITSHARE \(section 3.1.5.1.1\)](#) message, directing the server to initialize its **SharedClipboardData** information.
2. The client sends a DDE request with `SZDDESYS_TOPIC` as the topic and `SZDDESYS_ITEM_TOPICS` as the item (section [2.2.1.2](#)).
3. The server sends a [SHARE_LISTW \(section 2.2.2.5\)](#) message containing the set of shared clipbooks.
4. Knowing the available clipbooks, the client sends a DDE request with "ClipbookName1" as the topic and "FormatList" as the item.

5. The server sends a [CLIPFORMAT_LISTW \(section 2.2.2.9\)](#) message containing the set of supported formats for the "ClipbookName1" clipbook.
6. Knowing the supported clipboard formats, the client sends a DDE request with "ClipbookName1" as the topic and **CF_METAFILEPICT** as the item.
7. The server sends a [CLIPDATA_METAFILEPICT \(section 2.2.3.1\)](#) message containing the metafile information for the "ClipbookName1" clipbook. The client renders this information to the user.

In this exchange, the set of supported formats returned in step 5 includes CF_METAFILEPICT; but in step 6, the client can request any other clipboard format, using one of the [ClipboardFormatName \(section 2.2.1.1\)](#) values that is supported in the set returned in step 5. The client can continue by requesting other formats.

3.1 Server Details

3.1.1 Abstract Data Model

This section describes a conceptual model of possible data organization that a server implementation maintains to participate in this protocol. The described organization is provided to facilitate the explanation of how the protocol behaves. This document does not mandate that implementations adhere to this model as long as their external behavior is consistent with that described in this document.

Abstractly, clipbook information is kept as follows:

ClipbookData.ClipbookName: A string uniquely identifying the clipbook.

ClipbookData.SharingStatus: The [SharingStatusType \(section 2.2.1.6\)](#) value of the clipbook.

ClipbookData.Formats: An array of clipboard formats present in the clipbook.

ClipbookData.Formats[N].FormatName: The [ClipboardFormatName \(section 2.2.1.1\)](#) value identifying the clipboard format within the clipbook.

ClipbookData.Formats[N].Data: The data contained for the clipboard format within the clipbook.

Servers of the Desktop Clipboard Protocol SHOULD maintain the following state.

SharedClipbookData: An array of **ClipbookData** entries representing the clipbooks shared by the server.

3.1.2 Timers

None.

3.1.3 Initialization

A NetDDE server is initialized as follows. See [\[MSDN-NETDDE\]](#) for additional information.

The NetDDE server machine creates a static network DDE share using NDdeShareAdd ([\[MSDN-NDdeShareAdd\]](#)). The DDE share MUST be named "CLPBK\$" and MUST have the static topic list of "ClipSrv\System".

The client initiates the NetDDE conversation as specified in section [3.2.3](#).

3.1.4 Higher-Layer Triggered Events

None.

3.1.5 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules

Malformed, unrecognized, and out-of-sequence packets MUST be ignored by the server.

3.1.5.1 Command Message Processing

The server MUST handle command messages received as XTYP_EXECUTE notifications (section [2.2.1.4](#)) to its **DdeCallback** function. An [EXECCOMMAND \(section 2.2.2.1\)](#) data block is extracted using the **DdeGetData** function and is processed as follows.

3.1.5.1.1 CMD_INITSHARE

The server MUST perform any initialization required to populate **SharedClipbookData**. An implementation can load shared clipbook data from a user-configured persisted storage location.

3.1.5.1.2 CMD_DELETE

The server MUST remove the **ClipbookData** with the **ClipbookName** specified by **EXECCOMMAND.ShareName** from **SharedClipbookData**.

3.1.5.1.3 CMD_SHARE

The server MUST find the **ClipbookData** with the **ClipbookName** specified by **EXECCOMMAND.ShareName** and set **SharingStatus** to STATUS_SHARED.

3.1.5.1.4 CMD_UNSHARE

The server MUST find the **ClipbookData** with the **ClipbookName** specified by **EXECCOMMAND.ShareName** and set **SharingStatus** to STATUS_UNSHARED.

3.1.5.1.5 CMD_PASTE

The server MUST add the **ClipbookData** with the **ClipbookName** specified by **EXECCOMMAND.ShareName** to **SharedClipbookData**.

3.1.5.2 Responses to Data Requests

The server MUST handle data request messages received as XTYP_ADVREQ or **XTYP_REQUEST** notifications (section [2.2.1.4](#)) to its **DdeCallback** function.

If the **DdeCallback** DDE topic is SZDDSYS_TOPIC and the **DdeCallback** item is SZDDSYS_ITEM_TOPICS (section [2.2.1.2](#)):

- If the requested clipboard format is CF_TEXT, the server MUST respond by creating a [SHARE_LISTA \(section 2.2.2.3\)](#) structure corresponding with **SharedClipbookData** and returning it via DdeCreateDataHandle ([\[MSDN-DdeCreateDataHandle\]](#)).
- If the requested clipboard format is CF_UNICODETEXT, the server MUST respond by creating a [SHARE_LISTW \(section 2.2.2.5\)](#) structure corresponding with **SharedClipbookData** and returning it via DdeCreateDataHandle.

If the **DdeCallback** item is "FormatList":

- If the requested clipboard format is CF_TEXT, the server MUST respond by creating a [CLIPFORMAT_LISTA \(section 2.2.2.7\)](#) structure corresponding to the **ClipbookData** with the **ClipbookName** specified by the **DdeCallback** topic and returning it via DdeCreateDataHandle.
- If the requested clipboard format is CF_UNICODETEXT, the server MUST respond by creating a [CLIPFORMAT_LISTW \(section 2.2.2.9\)](#) structure corresponding to the **ClipbookData** with the **ClipbookName** specified by the **DdeCallback** topic and returning it via DdeCreateDataHandle.

In all other cases, the server MUST find the clipboard data with the **ClipbookName** specified by the **DdeCallback** topic and the **FormatName** specified by the **DdeCallback** item. This data is then serialized and returned to the client via DdeCreateDataHandle as follows:

- If the requested clipboard format is CF_ENHMETAFILE, the server MUST return a [CLIPDATA_ENHMETAFILE \(section 2.2.3.2\)](#) structure.
- If the requested clipboard format is CF_METAFILEPICT, the server MUST return a [CLIPDATA_METAFILEPICT \(section 2.2.3.1\)](#) structure.
- If the requested clipboard format is CF_PALETTE, the server MUST return a [CLIPDATA_PALETTE \(section 2.2.3.5\)](#) structure.
- If the requested clipboard format is CF_BITMAP or CF_DIB, the server MUST return a [CLIPDATA_BITMAP \(section 2.2.3.3\)](#) structure.
- Otherwise, the server MUST return a [CLIPDATA_OTHERFORMATS \(section 2.2.3.6\)](#) structure.

3.1.6 Timer Events

None.

3.1.7 Other Local Events

None.

3.2 Client Details

3.2.1 Abstract Data Model

This section describes a conceptual model of possible data organization that a client implementation maintains to participate in this protocol. The described organization is provided to facilitate the explanation of how the protocol behaves. This document does not mandate that implementations adhere to this model as long as their external behavior is consistent with that described in this document.

The Desktop Clipboard Protocol provides the means for clients to request the **SharedClipbookData** information from the server, including enumerating the shared clipbooks and retrieving the clipbook data.

A client application can render this information in a form visible to the user, allow the user to copy the clipbook contents into their local system clipboard, or allow the user to save the clipbook contents.

3.2.2 Timers

None.

3.2.3 Initialization

A NetDDE conversation is initialized by a client as follows. See [\[MSDN-NETDDE\]](#) for additional information.

1. The NetDDE client machine initiates the DDE conversation using DdeConnect ([\[MSDN-DdeConnect\]](#)). The DdeConnect service name MUST be of the form "\\computername\NDDE\$", where computername is the **NetBIOS** name of the server machine. The DdeConnect topic name MUST be "CLPBK\$".
2. The client then sends an XTYP_EXECUTE notification (section [2.2.1.4](#)) to the server with a [CMD_INITSHARE \(section 3.1.5.1.1\)](#) message as the contents of DdeClientTransaction ([\[MSDN-DdeClientTransaction\]](#)).

3.2.4 Higher-Layer Triggered Events

None.

3.2.5 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules

Malformed, unrecognized, and out-of-sequence packets MUST be ignored by the client.

3.2.5.1 Command Messages

A client can send command messages as XTYP_EXECUTE notifications (section [2.2.1.4](#)) to the server's **DdeCallback** function. An [EXECCOMMAND \(section 2.2.2.1\)](#) data block is set up according to the specific command.

3.2.5.2 Data Requests

A client can send data request messages as XTYP_ADVREQ or XTYP_REQUEST notifications (section [2.2.1.4](#)) to the server's **DdeCallback** function.

3.2.6 Timer Events

None.

3.2.7 Other Local Events

None.

4 Protocol Examples

In this example, the server machine is sharing a clipboard entry called "ShareName" which contains "Sample Text" as its textual data.

1. The client makes a SZDDSYS_ITEM_TOPICS request (section [2.2.1.2](#)) of the server.

The following is the hexadecimal representation of the [SHARE LISTA \(section 2.2.2.3\)](#) data the

	x0	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	x7	x8	x9	xA	xB	xC	xD	xE	xF
0000	3F	09	24	53	68	61	72	65	4E	61	6D	65	00	00	00	00

server returns:

- SharingStatus: (1 byte, offset 0x0000), 0x3F is STATUS_UPDATED.
 - ShareIdentifier: (0 bytes, offset 0x0001), empty value.
 - Tab delimiter: (1 byte, offset 0x0001), 0x09 as required.
 - SharingStatus: (1 byte, offset 0x0002), 0x24 is STATUS_SHARED.
 - ShareIdentifier: (9 bytes, offset 0x0003), "ShareName" in **ASCII**.
 - Null terminator: (1 byte, offset 0x000C), 0x00 as required.
2. The client recognizes the "ShareName" share is shared and requests its supported clipboard formats with the "FormatList" DDE message.

The following is the hexadecimal representation of the [CLIPFORMAT LISTA \(section 2.2.2.7\)](#) data

	x0	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	x7	x8	x9	xA	xB	xC	xD	xE	xF
0000	26	55	6E	69	63	6F	64	65	20	54	65	78	74	09	09	26
0010	54	65	78	74	09	26	4F	45	4D	20	54	65	78	74	09	43
0000	6C	69	70	62	6F	6F	6B	20	50	72	65	76	69	65	77	00

the server returns:

- ClipFormatName: (13 bytes, offset 0x0000), "&Unicode Text" in ASCII.
- Tab delimiter: (1 byte, offset 0x000D), 0x09 as required.
- ClipFormatName: (0 bytes, offset 0x000E), empty value.
- Tab delimiter: (1 byte, offset 0x000E), 0x09 as required.
- ClipFormatName: (5 bytes, offset 0x000F), "&Text" in ASCII.
- Tab delimiter: (1 byte, offset 0x0014), 0x09 as required.
- ClipFormatName: (9 bytes, offset 0x0015), "&OEM Text" in ASCII.
- Tab delimiter: (1 byte, offset 0x001E), 0x09 as required.
- ClipFormatName: (16 bytes, offset 0x001F), "Clipboard Preview" in ASCII.
- Null terminator: (1 byte, offset 0x002F), 0x00 as required.

3. The client determines that Unicode text is its preferred format for consumption of the data, so it makes a request for CF_UNICODETEXT.

The following is the hexadecimal representation of the [CLIPDATA_OTHERFORMATS \(section 2.2.3.6\)](#) data the server returns:

	x0	x1	x2	x3	x4	x5	x6	x7	x8	x9	xA	xB	xC	xD	xE	xF
0000	53	00	61	00	6D	00	70	00	6C	00	65	00	20	00	54	00
0010	65	00	78	00	74	00	00	00								

- OtherFormatData: (20 bytes, offset 0x0000), "Sample Text" in Unicode characters.
- Null terminator: (2 bytes, offset 0x0016), 0x0000 as required.

5 Security

5.1 Security Considerations for Implementers

None.

5.2 Index of Security Parameters

None.

6 Appendix A: Product Behavior

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

- Windows 2000 operating system Service Pack 4 (SP4)
- Windows XP operating system
- Windows Server 2003 operating system

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.

<1> [Section 2.2.2.6](#): In Windows environments, for non-predefined clipboard formats the clipboard name corresponds with return values of the **GetClipboardFormatName** function [[MSDN-CLIPBOARD](#)].

<2> [Section 2.2.2.8](#): In Windows environments, for non-predefined clipboard formats, the clipboard name corresponds with return values of the **GetClipboardFormatName** function [[MSDN-CLIPBOARD](#)].

<3> [Section 2.2.3.1](#): In Windows environments, these structure fields map to the **METAFILEPICT** structure [[MSDN-METAFILEPICT](#)].

<4> [Section 2.2.3.1](#): In Windows environments, this is the data used by the **SetMetaFileBitsEx** function and returned by the **GetMetaFileBitsEx** function [[MSDN-META](#)].

<5> [Section 2.2.3.2](#): In Windows environments, this is the data used by the **SetEnhMetaFileBits** function and returned by the **GetEnhMetaFileBits** function [[MSDN-META](#)].

<6> [Section 2.2.3.6](#): In Windows environments, the arbitrary clipboard format data is obtained by performing a GlobalLock ([\[MSDN-GlobalLock\]](#)) operation on the handle returned by the **GetClipboardData** function [[MSDN-CLIPBOARD](#)].

7 Change Tracking

No table of changes is available. The document is either new or has had no changes since its last release.

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