

Can SQL Server bcp in a file with Unix line endings?

Asked 14 years, 2 months ago Modified 2 years, 9 months ago Viewed 10k times

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I'm trying to use the SQL Server bcp utility to import a text file from a samba share. bcp is choking on the Unix line endings. I'm sure I could add an intermediate step, either on Unix or Windows, to change the line endings to Windows-style. But I would prefer to import the files from Unix without modification.

Anybody know if there's a way to tell SQL Server bcp to look for Unix line endings?


sql-server database cross-platform bcp line-endings

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edited Sep 30, 2009 at 12:25

asked Sep 29, 2009 at 18:52

 **John M Gant**

19k 18 65 82

7 Answers

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
The simple answer is to use hex, as was mentioned in one of the comments, as the row terminator:

```
-r 0x0a
```

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edited Aug 18, 2016 at 18:31

answered Aug 18, 2016 at 18:04

 **Mike Flynn**

101 1 2



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terminator as \n. The interactive will use exactly what you specify. [t/32239836/bcp-out-with-char10-n](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1494285/can-sql-server-bcp-in-a-file-with-unix-line-endings/32239836/bcp-out-with-char10-n)

comment/update your original

answered Jul 29, 2010 at 13:49


 **ktharsis**

3,160 1 20 30

+1 *the* answer. The BOL link to the msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191485.aspx too where it mentions interactive. – [gbn](#) Jul 31, 2010 at 5:09 

Bumping your answer I hope... :-)) – [gbn](#) Aug 4, 2010 at 19:45

- 1 I won't be able to verify this anytime soon, but it makes sense. I'm accepting this answer based on gbn's endorsement. – [John M Gant](#) Aug 11, 2010 at 19:30

@John M Gant: thank you. I've always understood that you need a format file to override the command prompt settings, bcp being a command line utility. So of course you can't use UNIX row line endings in a Windows command prompt... – [gbn](#) Aug 11, 2010 at 19:40 



have you tried to set the ROWTERMINATOR = '\n'?

3

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answered Sep 29, 2009 at 19:01



[CSharpAtl](#)

7,434 8 40 54



I can use the -r parameter and set it to \n, but that's the default, so I don't think it will do any good. Besides, it's possible that it would interpret \n as the platform-specific line terminator, which would give us the same problem as before. Is the -r parameter what you're talking about? – [John M Gant](#) Sep 30, 2009 at 12:24

msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188365.aspx, this says that the default is '\r\n' which is not the same. – [CSharpAtl](#) Sep 30, 2009 at 13:10

OK, I see. I'm using the bcp command-line utility, not bulk insert. It has different options and defaults. – [John M Gant](#) Sep 30, 2009 at 13:14



ɶ. But, I think the following SQL

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answered Jul 28, 2010 at 22:26



[bobs](#)

21.9k 12 67 78

The BCP command-equivalent I've used for this is to specify the row terminator as newline, e.g.:

`-r 0xa` – [jim_carson](#) Sep 18, 2015 at 20:31 



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Alternative solution by presenting process output as file

There is an other convenient way to solve this. My solution is good if you want to upload a simple CSV, for more complex cases [write a format file](#).



Using hex code for linefeed (`-r 0x0a`) would be also convenient, but it did not work for me for BCP version 17.6.0001.1 on Ubuntu 18.04.

So I used a little trick instead:

Replace unix line-endings with `sed`, and present its output stream as a file. The relevant part of the code:

```
<(< iris.csv sed 's/\r*$/\r/')
```

As you can below see the output of `sed` is presented as a file:

```
ls <(< iris.csv sed 's/\r*$/\r/')
```

output:

```
/proc/self/fd/11
```

A whole example



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: 'iris' and xtype='U')

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```

GO
EOF
)

sqlcmd \
  -S localhost,31433 \
  -E \
  -d "testdb" \
  -Q "$query"

bcp \
  iris in <(< iris.csv sed 's/\r*$/\r/') \
  -S localhost,31433 \
  -T \
  -d "testdb" \
  -n \
  -t ", "

```

Notice

1. presenting process output stream as a file with this syntax is a bashism so will not work with some other shells such as dash. It will work with zsh
2. I used windows integrated authentication for AD, yes on Linux which can do this with kerberos. Thats why the `-E` flag for `sqlcmd` and the `-T` flag for `bcp`.

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edited Mar 12, 2021 at 16:57

answered Mar 12, 2021 at 16:29

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atevm

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If you don't have a lot of time to study bcp in great detail, check out this one:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190759.aspx>

n



ompts mean, option to save
peatedly) etc. etc.

e, you can make a table first then
it arg) and still pick formats
fmt file latter if you have some

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answered Aug 3, 2010 at 10:08



ZXX

4,684

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Yes, this is maddening. My understanding is that SQL Server bcp ALWAYS inserts a \r before whatever line terminator you would expect to be used. So, if you don't use -r, you would expect it to use \n only. But it doesn't...it stupidly inserts \r so that it can use \r\n. If you specify -r \r\n then it still won't work; I suspect because it now wants \r\r\n line ends. This is all the work of some idiot coding for the Windows world trying to make life easier for beginners and ending up making things nigh on impossible for everyone else. I experienced this problem when transferring files from Sybase to SQL server and the solution was to specify -r \r\n in the bcp out from Sybase (which works exactly as you ask it to!) and -r \n (or just don't use -r) for the SQL Server bcp in.

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answered Jun 2, 2010 at 16:13



dik

1

1 If you read up on bcp you'd know this is documented and how to get around it. I maan, what kind idiot doesn't use format files for anything except a simple CSV. Or use SSIS. – [gbn](#) Jul 31, 2010 at 15:15

@gbn, that idiot was me! I'll look into format files the next time. – [John M Gant](#) Aug 11, 2010 at 19:32



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