

## [MS-TVTT-Diff]:

# Telnet: VTNT Terminal Type Format Data Structure

---

### Intellectual Property Rights Notice for Open Specifications Documentation

- **Technical Documentation.** Microsoft publishes Open Specifications documentation (“this documentation”) for protocols, file formats, data portability, computer languages, and standards support. Additionally, overview documents cover inter-protocol relationships and interactions.
- **Copyrights.** This documentation is covered by Microsoft copyrights. Regardless of any other terms that are contained in the terms of use for the Microsoft website that hosts this documentation, you can make copies of it in order to develop implementations of the technologies that are described in this documentation and can distribute portions of it in your implementations that use these technologies or in your documentation as necessary to properly document the implementation. You can also distribute in your implementation, with or without modification, any schemas, IDLs, or code samples that are included in the documentation. This permission also applies to any documents that are referenced in the Open Specifications documentation.
- **No Trade Secrets.** Microsoft does not claim any trade secret rights in this documentation.
- **Patents.** Microsoft has patents that might cover your implementations of the technologies described in the Open Specifications documentation. Neither this notice nor Microsoft's delivery of this documentation grants any licenses under those patents or any other Microsoft patents. However, a given Open Specifications document might be covered by the Microsoft [Open Specifications Promise](#) or the [Microsoft Community Promise](#). If you would prefer a written license, or if the technologies described in this documentation are not covered by the Open Specifications Promise or Community Promise, as applicable, patent licenses are available by contacting [iplg@microsoft.com](mailto:iplg@microsoft.com).
- **License Programs.** To see all of the protocols in scope under a specific license program and the associated patents, visit the [Patent Map](#).
- **Trademarks.** The names of companies and products contained in this documentation might be covered by trademarks or similar intellectual property rights. This notice does not grant any licenses under those rights. For a list of Microsoft trademarks, visit [www.microsoft.com/trademarks](http://www.microsoft.com/trademarks).
- **Fictitious Names.** The example companies, organizations, products, domain names, email addresses, logos, people, places, and events that are depicted in this documentation are fictitious. No association with any real company, organization, product, domain name, email address, logo, person, place, or event is intended or should be inferred.

**Reservation of Rights.** All other rights are reserved, and this notice does not grant any rights other than as specifically described above, whether by implication, estoppel, or otherwise.

**Tools.** The Open Specifications documentation does not require the use of Microsoft programming tools or programming environments in order for you to develop an implementation. If you have access to Microsoft programming tools and environments, you are free to take advantage of them. Certain Open Specifications documents are intended for use in conjunction with publicly available standards specifications and network programming art and, as such, assume that the reader either is familiar with the aforementioned material or has immediate access to it.

**Support.** For questions and support, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com).

## Revision Summary

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
5/11/2007	0.1	New	Version 0.1 release
8/10/2007	0.2	Minor	Updated XML tagging.
9/28/2007	0.2.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
10/23/2007	0.3	Minor	Made minor updates to references.
11/30/2007	0.3.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
1/25/2008	0.3.2	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
3/14/2008	1.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
5/16/2008	1.0.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
6/20/2008	2.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
7/25/2008	2.1	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
8/29/2008	2.1.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
10/24/2008	2.1.2	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
12/5/2008	3.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
1/16/2009	3.0.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
2/27/2009	3.0.2	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
4/10/2009	3.0.3	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
5/22/2009	3.1	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
7/2/2009	3.1.1	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
8/14/2009	3.1.2	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
9/25/2009	3.1.3	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
11/6/2009	3.1.4	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
12/18/2009	3.1.5	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
1/29/2010	3.1.6	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
3/12/2010	3.1.7	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
4/23/2010	3.1.8	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
6/4/2010	3.1.9	Editorial	Changed language and formatting in the technical content.
7/16/2010	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
8/27/2010	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/8/2010	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the

<b>Date</b>	<b>Revision History</b>	<b>Revision Class</b>	<b>Comments</b>
			technical content.
11/19/2010	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
1/7/2011	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
2/11/2011	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
3/25/2011	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
5/6/2011	3.1.9	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
6/17/2011	3.2	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
9/23/2011	3.2	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
12/16/2011	4.0	Major	Updated and revised the technical content.
3/30/2012	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
7/12/2012	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
10/25/2012	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
1/31/2013	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
8/8/2013	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
11/14/2013	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
2/13/2014	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
5/15/2014	4.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
6/30/2015	5.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
10/16/2015	5.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
7/14/2016	5.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
6/1/2017	5.0	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
9/15/2017	6.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
9/12/2018	7.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
4/7/2021	8.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.
6/25/2021	9.0	Major	Significantly changed the technical content.

# Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1	Glossary	6
1.2	References	7
1.2.1	Normative References	7
1.2.2	Informative References	7
1.3	Overview	7
1.4	Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures	7
1.5	Applicability Statement	8
1.6	Versioning and Localization	8
1.7	Vendor-Extensible Fields	8
<b>2</b>	<b>Structures</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	VTNT_CHAR_INFO	9
2.1.1	VTNT_SINGLE_CHAR	12
2.2	INPUT_RECORD	13
2.2.1	Virtual Key Code Values	15
<b>3</b>	<b>Structure Examples</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1	INPUT_RECORD Structure Example	22
3.2	VTNT_CHAR_INFO Structure Example	22
<b>4</b>	<b>Security Considerations</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>(Updated Section) Appendix A: Product Behavior</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Change Tracking</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Index</b>	<b>27</b>

# 1 Introduction

This specification defines the structures for Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format, and how the client and server negotiate the use of this format.

Remote terminal applications such as Telnet extend the terminal on one computer to another computer on the network. This enables users to work with terminal-based applications running on a remote computer as if the user's local computer display and input device were connected to the remote computer.

Remote terminal applications achieve this by exchanging screen display and input device data over the network. Since there are different types of display and input devices, many varieties of terminal application software use "terminal types" to ensure that both client and server are sending and interpreting the data in the same way.

Sections 1.7 and 2 of this specification are normative. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

## 1.1 Glossary

This document uses the following terms:

**character set:** A mapping between the characters of a written language and the values that are used to represent those characters to a computer.

**console:** An interface that provides I/O to character-mode applications.

**console screen buffer:** A two-dimensional array of character and color data for output in a console window. Each cell in the array holds a character and additional information about how the character should be displayed. Not all of the contents of the console screen buffer are displayed in the terminal. The region of the console screen buffer displayed in the terminal is represented by the console window.

**console window:** Displays a portion of the active console screen buffer. Each screen buffer maintains its own current window rectangle that specifies the coordinates of the upper-left and lower-right character cells to be displayed in the console window.

**double-byte character set:** A character set in which characters that cannot be represented in 1 byte are represented in 2 bytes. For more information, see [MSDN-CS].

**Input Method Editor (IME):** An application that is used to enter characters in written Asian languages by using a standard 101-key keyboard. An IME consists of both an engine that converts keystrokes into phonetic and ideographic characters and a dictionary of commonly used ideographic words.

**IS command:** A Telnet terminal-type option command that is used to send the list of supported terminal types. For more information, see [RFC1091].

**scan code:** A code generated by the key-board software to identify the key pressed in a unique manner.

**TELNET connection:** A Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection used to transmit data with interspersed TELNET control information. For further information, refer to [RFC854].

**virtual key code:** A device-independent code assigned to each keyboard key. [MS-TVTT] specifies virtual key codes only of the keyboard keys relevant to remote terminal applications. Valid virtual key code values are specified in section 2.2.1:

**MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT:** These terms (in all caps) are used as defined in [RFC2119]. All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

## 1.2 References

Links to a document in the Microsoft Open Specifications library point to the correct section in the most recently published version of the referenced document. However, because individual documents in the library are not updated at the same time, the section numbers in the documents may not match. You can confirm the correct section numbering by checking the Errata.

### 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.

[RFC1091] Network Working Group, VanBokkelen, J., "Telnet Terminal-Type Option", RFC 1091, February 1989, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1091.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

[MSDN-CONSOLES] Microsoft Corporation, "Consoles", <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms682055.aspx>

[MSDN-CSB] Microsoft Corporation, "Console Screen Buffers", <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms682088.aspx>

## 1.3 Overview

This specification defines the structures for Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format, and how the client and server negotiate the use of this format.

An implementation using Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format is able to extend the terminal over the network by doing the following:

- Sending the actual keyboard input from the local client to the remote server, using a structure specified by the Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format.
- Sending the server's terminal display information (output) to the client, using a structure specified by the Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format, so that it can be displayed on the client's terminal.

Unlike other terminal types, Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not specify escape codes. Instead, Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format specifies structures passed between client and server in each of the preceding scenarios.

To use the Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format, both the Telnet client and the server have to support this format. [RFC1091] specifies how a Telnet server and client can negotiate for supported terminal types. A Telnet server and client have to use the string "VTNT" in the [RFC1091] IS command to negotiate for Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format.

## 1.4 Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures

The Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format specifies structures that are independent of any other structure and protocol. VTNT structure formats are transported as data in a TELNET connection. If the

negotiated term type is Telnet: VTNT Terminal Type Format in a Telnet session, both the server and client will have to interpret the data in a TELNET connection as Telnet: VTNT Terminal Type Format structures.

## **1.5 Applicability Statement**

Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format is used only to transport display and input information of terminal applications.

## **1.6 Versioning and Localization**

Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not carry any versioning information. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not carry any localization information. Rather, all the character fields are 2 bytes in size and can carry Unicode characters, thereby enabling localization.

## **1.7 Vendor-Extensible Fields**

Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not have any vendor-extensible fields.



## 2 Structures

Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format specifies two structures:

- VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO is used by the server to send console display information back to the client.
- INPUT\_RECORD is used by the client to send keyboard input to the server.

To specify how the data sent by server to client is to be organized and interpreted, Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format assumes the availability of the following:

- A console screen buffer abstract data type that is capable of holding multiple rows of character data in the server.
- A mechanism that populates the server's console screen buffer based on the actual output in the server's terminal.
- A console screen buffer abstract data type that is capable of holding multiple rows of character data in the client.
- A mechanism to synchronize the contents of the console screen buffer and the actual display in the client's terminal.

The sequence of operations involved in sending the console display information from server to client is as follows:

- The server reads its console screen buffer, packs the following in a VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO structure, and sends it to the client:
  - The coordinates of the region in the console screen buffer that have to be rewritten.
  - The characters to be displayed and their attributes.
- The client rewrites its console screen buffer based on the data in the VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO structure it received from the server.
- The client synchronizes the contents of the console screen buffer and the actual display in the terminal.

The preceding details are implementation-specific and are provided only as guidance. This protocol does not prescribe or advocate any specific implementation technique. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not specify how the abstract data types are to be implemented. The console screen buffers are local to the implementation and are not transported over the network. Implementations can implement their own buffers or use any system-provided buffers that are available. The mechanism to synchronize the contents of the console screen buffer and the actual display in the console in the client is, again, an implementation choice. <1>

Unless otherwise specified, multibyte fields (that is, 16-bit, 32-bit, and 64-bit fields) in a Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format structure MUST be transmitted in little-endian byte order (least-significant byte first).

### 2.1 VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO

VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO is a variable-length structure that the server uses to send characters that are to be repainted in the client console window.

VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO encapsulates console window coordinate information and the specific characters and their attributes to be displayed. The coordinates are expressed in terms of coordinates in a grid based on character cells. The upper-left corner of the grid has coordinates (0, 0).

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1
Dwsize																															
DwcursorPosition																															
WAttributes																SrWindow															
...																															
...																dwMaximum															
...																coCursorPos_x															
coCursorPos_y																coDest															
...																coSizeOfData_x															
coSizeOfData_y																srDestRegion_Left															
srDestRegion_Top																srDestRegion_Right															
srDestRegion_Bottom																Vtnt_char_array (variable)															
...																															

**Dwsize (4 bytes):** **Dwsize** is a 4-byte unsigned integer field that is not used. The server SHOULD fill this field with zeros. The client MUST ignore this field.

**DwcursorPosition (4 bytes):** **DwcursorPosition** is a 4-byte unsigned integer field that is not used. The server SHOULD fill this field with zeros. The client MUST ignore this field.

**WAttributes (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies whether the console window coordinates specified by the **srDestRegion\_left**, **srDestRegion\_top**, **srDestRegion\_right**, and **srDestRegion\_bottom** fields are relative or absolute. This field MUST contain one of the following values:

Value	Meaning
ABSOLUTE_COORDS 0x0000	Specifies that <b>srDestRegion_left</b> , <b>srDestRegion_top</b> , <b>srDestRegion_right</b> , and <b>srDestRegion_bottom</b> fields identify the region in the server's console window. The server sends the characters and character attributes that are displayed in this region in the <b>Char</b> and <b>Char_Attributes</b> fields of this structure. A client implementation, while calculating the region to be repainted in the client's console screen buffer, is to take in to account the offset of the client's console window within the client's console screen buffer.
RELATIVE_COORDS 0x0001	An implementation MUST use RELATIVE_COORDS to specify that the data SHOULD be appended to the current contents of the client's console window. In case the <b>wAttributes</b> is set to RELATIVE_COORDS, the client MUST not use the <b>srDestRegion_left</b> , <b>srDestRegion_top</b> , <b>srDestRegion_right</b> and <b>srDestRegion_bottom</b> values, even if the server has filled them with any value. Instead, a client implementation is to calculate the console screen buffer coordinates based on the <b>coSizeOfData_x</b> and <b>coSizeOfData_y</b> fields. A client implementation, when writing the received data to the console screen buffer, is to

Value	Meaning
	take care of buffer scrolling if the buffer overflows.

**SrWindow (8 bytes):** An 8-byte field that is not used. The server SHOULD fill this field with zeros. The client MUST ignore this field.

**dwMaximum (4 bytes):** A 4-byte unsigned integer field that is not used. The server SHOULD fill this field with zeros. The client MUST ignore this field.

**coCursorPos\_x (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the x-coordinate of the cursor's current position in the server's console window. The x-coordinate MUST be a value between 0 and the right-most character position, inclusive, expressed as an offset from the left-most column position that a character can occupy.

**coCursorPos\_y (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the y-coordinate of the cursor's current position in the console window. The y-coordinate MUST be a value between 0 and the bottom-most character position, inclusive, expressed as an offset from the top-most row position that a character can occupy.

**coDest (4 bytes):** A 4-byte-long field that is not used. The server SHOULD fill this field with zeros. The client MUST ignore this field.

**coSizeOfData\_x (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the number of character cell columns that the client MUST paint. This MUST be a value between 0 and the right-most character position, inclusive.

**coSizeOfData\_y (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the number of character cell rows that the client MUST paint. This MUST be a value between 0 and the bottom-most character position, inclusive.

**srDestRegion\_Left (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the x-coordinate of the upper-left corner of a rectangle in the server's console window. This MUST be a value between 0 and the right-most character position, inclusive, expressed as an offset from the left-most column that a character can occupy in the client's console window.

**srDestRegion\_Top (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the y-coordinate of the upper-left corner of a rectangle in the server's console window. This MUST be a value between 0 and the bottom-most character position, inclusive, expressed as an offset from the top-most row that a character can occupy in the client's console window.

**srDestRegion\_Right (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the x-coordinate of the lower-right corner of a rectangle in the server's console window. This MUST be a value between 0 and the right-most character position, inclusive, expressed as an offset from the left-most column that a character can occupy.

**srDestRegion\_Bottom (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies the y-coordinate of the lower-right corner of a rectangle in the server's console window. This MUST be a value between 0 and the bottom-most character position, inclusive, expressed as an offset from the top-most row that a character can occupy.

**Vtnt\_char\_array (variable):** **Vtnt\_char\_array** is a set of one or more VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR structures, that contains the input characters sent to the client.

The number of VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR structures in this array MUST be equal to the product of the **coSizeOfData\_x** and **coSizeOfData\_y** fields.

Characters MUST be arranged in the **Vtnt\_char\_array** array in row-major order. That is, the first VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR structure fills the first character position of the first row of the region identified for repainting, the second structures fill the second character position in the first row,

and so on. Once all the character positions in the first row are filled, the next VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR structure contains the character at the first character position of the second row. This follows until all the character positions identified by the coordinates are filled. There MUST be no padding bytes before or after a VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR structure in the VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO structure.

### 2.1.1 VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR

The VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR structure contains a pair of fields that represents a character sent to the console window, and that character's attributes.

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
Char																Char_Attributes															

**Char (2 bytes):** A 2-byte character field that specifies the character to be held in one character cell location of the console screen buffer. **Char** is the first of the <Char,Char\_attributes> pair that can be repeated any number of times within the VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO structure. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not specify the character set to be used. Rather, client and server implementations are to be configured to use a compatible character set, such as Unicode UTF-16.<2> If the character set used is a single-byte character set such as ASCII, then the first byte of **Char** MUST contain the character value, and the second byte MUST be zero.

**Char\_Attributes (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that specifies an additional attribute of the character specified in the **Char** field immediately preceding this field. **Char\_attributes** is the second of the <Char,Char\_attributes> pair that can be repeated any number of times.

This field MUST be zero, or the result of a bitwise OR of one or more of the following values.

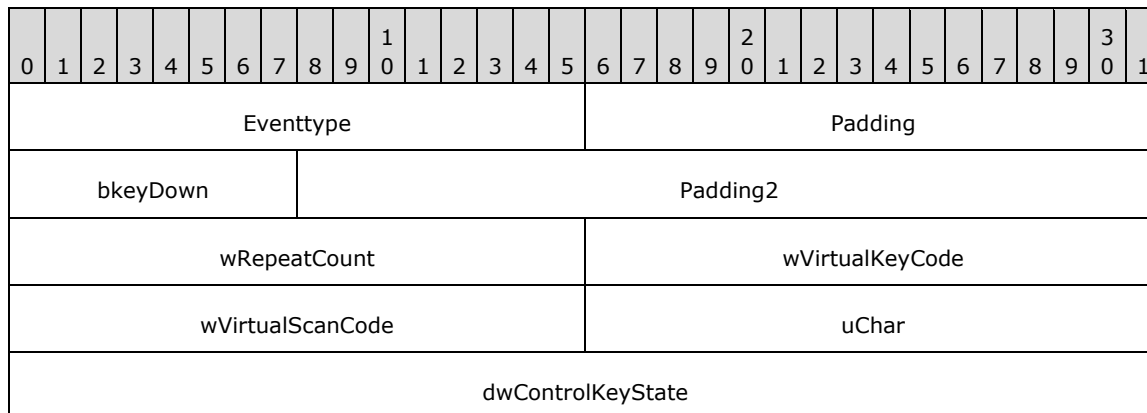
The values that start with COMMON MAY be used only if the character set used is a double-byte character set; those values MUST NOT be used for non-double-byte character sets.

Value	Meaning
BACKGROUND_BLUE 0x0001	Text color contains blue
BACKGROUND_GREEN 0x0002	Text color contains green
BACKGROUND_RED 0x0004	Text color contains red
BACKGROUND_INTENSITY 0x0008	Text color is intensified
BACKGROUND_BLUE 0x0010	Background color contains blue
BACKGROUND_GREEN 0x0020	Background color contains green
BACKGROUND_RED 0x0040	Background color contains red
BACKGROUND_INTENSITY 0x0080	Background color is intensified

Value	Meaning
COMMON_LVB_LEADING_BYTE 0x0100	Leading byte
COMMON_LVB_TRAILING_BYTE 0x0200	Trailing byte
COMMON_LVB_GRID_HORIZONTAL 0x0400	Top horizontal
COMMON_LVB_GRID_LVERTICAL 0x0800	Left vertical
COMMON_LVB_GRID_RVERTICAL 0x1000	Right vertical
COMMON_LVB_REVERSE_VIDEO 0x4000	Reverse foreground and background attribute
COMMON_LVB_UNDERSCORE 0x8000	Underscore

## 2.2 INPUT\_RECORD

The INPUT\_RECORD structure is used by a client to send keyboard input information to the server.



**Eventtype (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field, used to indicate the type of the device input data that is carried in the INPUT\_RECORD structure. The value of this field MUST be 0x0001, which indicates that the INPUT\_RECORD structure carries data generated by a keyboard input device.

**Padding (2 bytes):** This field can contain any value and MUST be ignored by the receiver.

**bkeyDown (1 byte):** An 8-bit unsigned integer field that indicates whether the particular keyboard key is pressed or released. This field MUST contain one of the following values:

Value	Meaning
0x01	Key is pressed.

Value	Meaning
0x00	Key is not pressed.

**Padding2 (3 bytes):** This field can contain any value and MUST be ignored by the receiver.

**wRepeatCount (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that indicates the number of times the key is held down.

**wVirtualKeyCode (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that carries the virtual key code of the key pressed. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not specify how to generate or process virtual key codes. The virtual key code is generated by the software that interfaces with the keyboard.

The implementer of a TELNET server that uses the Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format decides how to use the value carried by this field. This field MAY be ignored if the server does not require the virtual key code to correctly identify the keyboard key sent by the client.

A client MUST set this field to the virtual key code value that is compatible with the server. If the server does not process this field, the client MUST set it to zero. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not offer a way for the client to determine if a server expects the client to set this field to zero or to a virtual key code. Rather, the server and client implementations SHOULD be preconfigured to ensure interoperability. Valid virtual key code values are specified in section 2.2.1.<3>

**wVirtualScanCode (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that carries the Scan code of the key pressed. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not specify how to generate or process Scan codes. Scan code is generated by the software that interfaces with the keyboard.

It is a server implementation's choice to decide how to use the value carried by this field. A server implementation can also ignore this field if the console input interface does not require Scan code to correctly identify the Keyboard key sent by the client.

A client MUST set this field to the Scan code value that is compatible with the server. If the Server does not process this field, the client MUST set it to zero. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not offer a way for the client to determine if a server expects the Client to set this field to zero or Scan Code. Rather, the server and client implementations SHOULD be preconfigured to ensure interoperability.<4>

**uChar (2 bytes):** A 2-byte unsigned integer field that carries the character to which the key pressed corresponds. If there is no character associated with the key typed, then this field MUST be filled with zeros. Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format does not specify what character set is to be used. Rather, the client and server implementations SHOULD be configured to use a compatible character set.<5>

**dwControlKeyState (4 bytes):** A 4-byte unsigned integer field that indicates the state of the control keys in the keyboard. It can be one or more of the following values. This field MUST contain zero, or the result of a bitwise OR of one or more of the following values:

Value	Meaning
0x00000080	The CAPS LOCK light is on.
0x00000100	The key is enhanced.
0x00000002	The left ALT key is pressed.
0x00000008	The left CTRL key is pressed.
0x00000020	The NUM LOCK light is on.

Value	Meaning
0x00000001	The right ALT key is pressed.
0x00000004	The right CTRL key is pressed.
0x00000040	The SCROLL LOCK light is on.
0x00000010	The SHIFT key is pressed.
0x00010000	Input method editor (IME) full shape mode. Valid only when IME is used to input.
0x00020000	IME KATAKANA mode. Valid only when IME is used to input.
0x00040000	IME HIRAGANA mode. Valid only when IME is used to input.
0x00400000	IME ROMAN mode. Valid only when IME is used to input.
0x00800000	IME input on. Valid only when IME is used to input.

### 2.2.1 Virtual Key Code Values

Name/Value	Description
VK_LBUTTON 0x0001	Left mouse button
VK_RBUTTON 0x0002	Right mouse button
VK_CANCEL 0x0003	CTRL+BREAK processing
VK_BACK 0x0008	BACKSPACE key
VK_TAB 0x0009	TAB key
VK_CLEAR 0x000C	CLEAR key
VK_RETURN 0x0D	ENTER key
VK_SHIFT 0x10	SHIFT key
VK_CONTROL 0x11	CTRL key
VK_MENU 0x12	ALT key
VK_PAUSE 0x0013	PAUSE key
VK_CAPITAL	CAPS LOCK key

<b>Name/Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
0x0014	
VK_ESCAPE 0x001B	ESC key
VK_SPACE 0x0020	SPACEBAR
VK_PRIOR 0x0021	PAGE UP key
VK_NEXT 0x0022	PAGE DOWN key
VK_END 0x0023	END key
VK_HOME 0x0024	HOME key
VK_LEFT 0x0025	LEFT ARROW key
VK_UP 0x0026	UP ARROW key
VK_RIGHT 0x0027	RIGHT ARROW key
VK_DOWN 0x0028	DOWN ARROW key
VK_SELECT 0x0029	SELECT key
VK_PRINT 0x002A	PRINT key
VK_EXECUTE 0x002B	EXECUTE key
VK_SNAPSHOT 0x002C	PRINT SCREEN key
VK_INSERT 0x002D	INS key
VK_DELETE 0x002E	DEL key
VK_HELP 0x002F	HELP key
VK_0 0x0030	0 key
VK_1	1 key



<b>Name/Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
0x0031	
VK_2 0x0032	2 key
VK_3 0x0033	3 key
VK_4 0x0034	4 key
VK_5 0x0035	5 key
VK_6 0x0036	6 key
VK_7 0x0037	7 key
VK_8 0x0038	8 key
VK_9 0x0039	9 key
VK_A 0x0041	A key
VK_B 0x0042	B key
VK_C 0x0043	C key
VK_D 0x0044	D key
VK_E 0x0045	E key
VK_F 0x0046	F key
VK_G 0x0047	G key
VK_H 0x0048	H key
VK_I 0x0049	I key
VK_J 0x004A	J key
VK_K	K key

<b>Name/Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
0x004B	
VK_L 0x004C	L key
VK_M 0x004D	M key
VK_N 0x004E	N key
VK_O 0x004F	O key
VK_P 0x0050	P key
VK_Q 0x0051	Q key
VK_R 0x0052	R key
VK_S 0x0053	S key
VK_T 0x0054	T key
VK_U 0x0055	U key
VK_V 0x0056	V key
VK_W 0x0057	W key
VK_X 0x0058	X key
VK_Y 0x0059	Y key
VK_Z 0x005A	Z key
VK_LWIN 0x005B	Left Windows key (Microsoft Natural Keyboard)
VK_RWIN 0x005C	Right Windows key (Microsoft Natural Keyboard)
VK_APPS 0x005D	Applications key (Microsoft Natural Keyboard)
VK_SLEEP	Computer Sleep key

<b>Name/Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
0x005F	
VK_NUMPAD0 0x0060	Numeric keypad 0 key
VK_NUMPAD1 0x0061	Numeric keypad 1 key
VK_NUMPAD2 0x0062	Numeric keypad 2 key
VK_NUMPAD3 0x0063	Numeric keypad 3 key
VK_NUMPAD4 0x0064	Numeric keypad 4 key
VK_NUMPAD5 0x0065	Numeric keypad 5 key
VK_NUMPAD6 0x0066	Numeric keypad 6 key
VK_NUMPAD7 0x0067	Numeric keypad 7 key
VK_NUMPAD8 0x0068	Numeric keypad 8 key
VK_NUMPAD9 0x0069	Numeric keypad 9 key
VK_MULTIPLY 0x006A	Multiply key
VK_ADD 0x006B	Add key
VK_SEPARATOR 0x006C	Separator key
VK_SUBTRACT 0x006D	Subtract key
VK_DECIMAL 0x006E	Decimal key
VK_DIVIDE 0x006F	Divide key
VK_F1 0x0070	F1 key
VK_F2 0x0071	F2 key
VK_F3	F3 key

<b>Name/Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
0x0072	
VK_F4 0x0073	F4 key
VK_F5 0x0074	F5 key
VK_F6 0x0075	F6 key
VK_F7 0x0076	F7 key
VK_F8 0x0077	F8 key
VK_F9 0x0078	F9 key
VK_F10 0x0079	F10 key
VK_F11 0x007A	F11 key
VK_F12 0x007B	F12 key
VK_F13 0x007C	F13 key
VK_F14 0x007D	F14 key
VK_F15 0x007E	F15 key
VK_F16 0x007F	F16 key
VK_F17 0x0080	F17 key
VK_F18 0x0081	F18 key
VK_F19 0x0082	F19 key
VK_F20 0x0083	F20 key
VK_F21 0x0084	F21 key
VK_F22	F22 key

<b>Name/Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
0x0085	
VK_F23 0x0086	F23 key
VK_F24 0x0087H	F24 key
VK_NUMLOCK 0x0090	NUM LOCK key
VK_SCROLL 0x0091	SCROLL LOCK key
VK_LSHIFT 0x00A0	Left SHIFT key
VK_RSHIFT 0x00A1	Right SHIFT key
VK_LCONTROL 0x00A2	Left CTRL key
VK_RCONTROL 0x00A3	Right CTRL key
VK_LMENU 0x00A4	Left MENU key
VK_RMENU 0x00A5	Right MENU key

## 3 Structure Examples

This section contains examples of the structures defined by the Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format.

### 3.1 INPUT\_RECORD Structure Example

The following is an example of a populated INPUT\_RECORD structure.

```
EventType = 0x0001
bKeyDown = 0x01
wRepeatCount = 0x0001
wVirtualKeyCode = 0x0044
wVirtualScanCode = 0x0020
uChar = 0x0064
dwControlKeyState = 0x0020
```

The INPUT\_RECORD structure tells the server that 0x0064 is the input character, and NUM LOCK was on when the character was entered. The value 0x01 in **bKeyDown** indicates that the key was pressed; 0x0001 in **wRepeatCount** indicates that the key was pressed once.

### 3.2 VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO Structure Example

The following is an example of a populated VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO structure. The following structure instructs the client to redraw a row of 80-character cells, which is located on the second row of the display. The upper-left corner is (1,0) and lower-right corner is (1,79).

```
dwSize = 0x00000000
dwCursorPosition = 0x00000000
wAttributes = 0x0000
srWindow = 0x0000000000000000
dwMaximum = 0x00000000
coCursorPos_x = 0x0012
coCursorPos_y = 0x0001
coDest = 0x00000000
coSizeOfData_x = 0x0050
coSizeOfData_y = 0x0001
srDestRegion_Left = 0x0000
srDestRegion_Top = 0x0001
srDestRegion_Right = 0x004F
srDestRegion_Bottom = 0x0001
Vtnt_char_array
    char = 0x0046
    char_attributes = 0x0007
```

This example shows only one **Vtnt\_char\_array** for the sake of conciseness. It can be inferred based on **coSizeOfData\_x** and **coSizeOfData\_y** fields that a total of 80 **Vtnt\_char\_array** structures are sent by the server.

## 4 Security Considerations

There are no security considerations associated with Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format.

## 5 (Updated Section) Appendix A: Product Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products or supplemental software. References to product versions include updates to those products.

- Windows 2000 operating system
- Windows XP operating system
- Windows Server 2003 operating system
- Windows Vista operating system
- Windows Server 2008 operating system
- Windows 7 operating system
- Windows Server 2008 R2 operating system
- Windows 8 operating system
- Windows Server 2012 operating system
- Windows 8.1 operating system
- Windows Server 2012 R2 operating system
- Windows 10 operating system
- Windows Server 2016 operating system
- Windows Server operating system
- Windows Server 2019 operating system
- Windows Server 2022 operating system

### ▪ Windows 11 operating system

Exceptions, if any, are noted in this section. If an update version, service pack or Knowledge Base (KB) number appears with a product name, the behavior changed in that update. The new behavior also applies to subsequent updates 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: When implementing Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format on Windows, implementers can take advantage of Windows Console APIs such as `ReadConsoleOutput()` API and `WriteConsoleOutput()` to read and write to the console screen buffer. For more information, see [MSDN-CONSOLES]. Windows also has an implementation of the console screen buffer (see [MSDN-CSB]).

<2> Section 2.1.1: Windows Telnet Server fills the **Char** field with Unicode UTF-16 characters.

<3> Section 2.2: Windows Telnet server expects a client to fill this field with virtual key codes that are compatible with the keyboard installed on the server. Virtual key codes for each of the keyboard keys are specified in section 2.2.1. Implementations of Telnet VTNT Terminal Type Format on Windows can



use the Windows ReadConsoleInput() API, which returns a structure compatible with the INPUT\_RECORD structure, with all fields including **wVirtualKeyCode** filled in.

<4> Section 2.2: Windows Telnet server expects a client to fill this field with the scan code. An implementation on Windows can use the ReadConsoleInput() API, which returns a structure compatible with the INPUT\_RECORD structure, with all fields including **wVirtualScanCode** filled with the scan code of the key pressed.

<5> Section 2.2: Windows Telnet client uses Unicode characters to fill this field.

## 6 Change Tracking

This section identifies changes that were made to this document since the last release. Changes are classified as Major, Minor, or None.

The revision class **Major** means that the technical content in the document was significantly revised. Major changes affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of major changes are:

- A document revision that incorporates changes to interoperability requirements.
- A document revision that captures changes to protocol functionality.

The revision class **Minor** means that the meaning of the technical content was clarified. Minor changes do not affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of minor changes are updates to clarify ambiguity at the sentence, paragraph, or table level.

The revision class **None** means that no new technical changes were introduced. Minor editorial and formatting changes may have been made, but the relevant technical content is identical to the last released version.

The changes made to this document are listed in the following table. For more information, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com).

Section	Description	Revision class
5 Appendix A: Product Behavior	Updated for this version of Windows Client.	Major

## **7 Index**

### **A**

Applicability 8

### **C**

Change tracking 26

Common data types and fields 9

### **D**

Data types and fields - common 9

Details

    common data types and fields 9

### **E**

Examples 22

    INPUT\_RECORD Structure Example 22

    overview 22

    VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO Structure Example 22

### **F**

Fields - vendor-extensible 8

### **G**

Glossary 6

### **I**

Implementer - security considerations 23

Informative references 7

INPUT\_RECORD packet 13

INPUT\_RECORD structure example 22

INPUT\_RECORD Structure Example example 22

Introduction 6

### **L**

Localization 8

### **N**

Normative references 7

### **O**

Overview (synopsis) 7

### **P**

Product behavior 24

### **R**

References 7

    informative 7

    normative 7

Relationship to other protocols 7  
Relationship to protocols and other structures 7

## **S**

Security 23  
Security - implementer considerations 23  
Structures 9  
    overview 9

## **T**

Tracking changes 26

## **V**

Vendor-extensible fields 8

Versioning 8

VK\_0 15

VK\_1 15

VK\_2 15

VK\_3 15

VK\_4 15

VK\_5 15

VK\_6 15

VK\_7 15

VK\_8 15

VK\_9 15

VK\_A 15

VK\_ADD 15

VK\_APPS 15

VK\_B 15

VK\_BACK 15

VK\_C 15

VK\_CANCEL 15

VK\_CAPITAL 15

VK\_CLEAR 15

VK\_CONTROL 15

VK\_D 15

VK\_DECIMAL 15

VK\_DELETE 15

VK\_DIVIDE 15

VK\_DOWN 15

VK\_E 15

VK\_END 15

VK\_ESCAPE 15

VK\_EXECUTE 15

VK\_F 15

VK\_F1 15

VK\_F10 15

VK\_F11 15

VK\_F12 15

VK\_F13 15

VK\_F14 15

VK\_F15 15

VK\_F16 15

VK\_F17 15

VK\_F18 15

VK\_F19 15

VK\_F2 15

VK\_F20 15

VK\_F21 15

VK\_F22 15

VK\_F23 15

VK\_F24 15

VK\_F3 15  
VK\_F4 15  
VK\_F5 15  
VK\_F6 15  
VK\_F7 15  
VK\_F8 15  
VK\_F9 15  
VK\_G 15  
VK\_H 15  
VK\_HELP 15  
VK\_HOME 15  
VK\_I 15  
VK\_INSERT 15  
VK\_J 15  
VK\_K 15  
VK\_L 15  
VK\_LBUTTON 15  
VK\_LCONTROL 15  
VK\_LEFT 15  
VK\_LMENU 15  
VK\_LSHIFT 15  
VK\_LWIN 15  
VK\_M 15  
VK\_MENU 15  
VK\_MULTIPLY 15  
VK\_N 15  
VK\_NEXT 15  
VK\_NUMLOCK 15  
VK\_NUMPAD0 15  
VK\_NUMPAD1 15  
VK\_NUMPAD2 15  
VK\_NUMPAD3 15  
VK\_NUMPAD4 15  
VK\_NUMPAD5 15  
VK\_NUMPAD6 15  
VK\_NUMPAD7 15  
VK\_NUMPAD8 15  
VK\_NUMPAD9 15  
VK\_O 15  
VK\_P 15  
VK\_PAUSE 15  
VK\_PRINT 15  
VK\_PRIOR 15  
VK\_Q 15  
VK\_R 15  
VK\_RBUTTON 15  
VK\_RCONTROL 15  
VK\_RETURN 15  
VK\_RIGHT 15  
VK\_RMENU 15  
VK\_RSHIFT 15  
VK\_RWIN 15  
VK\_S 15  
VK\_SCROLL 15  
VK\_SELECT 15  
VK\_SEPARATOR 15  
VK\_SHIFT 15  
VK\_SLEEP 15  
VK\_SNAPSHOT 15  
VK\_SPACE 15  
VK\_SUBTRACT 15  
VK\_T 15  
VK\_TAB 15  
VK\_U 15  
VK\_UP 15

VK\_V 15  
VK\_W 15  
VK\_X 15  
VK\_Y 15  
VK\_Z 15  
VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO packet 9  
VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO structure example 22  
VTNT\_CHAR\_INFO Structure Example example 22  
VTNT\_SINGLE\_CHAR packet 12