ApexSQL® Mask 2020.x

Release Notes

These release notes provide information about the ApexSQL® Mask 2020.x which is a patch release.

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About ApexSQL Mask

ApexSQL Mask is a tool that can automatically classify and mask sensitive SQL Server data. It has 55+ built in data classification filters and more than 220 predefined data masks. The tool can mask data at the column and/or row-level with automatic sensitive data classification and it can be run directly from the command line interface.

New Features

This version of ApexSQL Mask introduces the following new features, enhancements or deprecations:

Fixes:

- 180560: SQL query generator masks are not displayed correctly when the Refresh button is clicked from the Home tab

- 183287: Redaction rule is not applied when opting for Refresh button in the Home tab
- 191985: Editing "Use original mask" in "Create substitution window" display incorrect mask type
- 197208: The Zip Code sensitive data in columns are automatically masked with data created with the Use original generator instead of data that is created by the predefined generator
- 197757: User authentication for remote SQL Server connection is unsuccessful after the project file in use is saved more than once
- 197768: "String or binary data would be truncated" error is encountered when the Specific value type is longer than column data type
- 199092: Automatic scan for sensitive data is performed on Refresh button when it is disabled in the Options
- 199132: "Selected columns must have masking rules to export masked data" info message is shown when exporting in XML, JSON, CSV, and Excel output file format column which is masked with Hide original data
- 199255: "Provided generator absent in availability list" error is encountered when updating existing mask using the Full name substitution mask
- 199272: "Could not load file or assembly 'Microsoft.SqlServer.Types" error is encountered when using 2020 R4 and newer versions of the application from the command-line interface (CLI)
- 201343: The newly created filter is not applied to the selected column in the Manage data classification filters
- 201344: The edited filter is not applied to the selected column in the Manage data classification filters
- 202880: Filters are applied even if they are unchecked in the Manage data classification filters window after the Refresh button is clicked from the Home tab
- 204395: The application is forcibly closed when using a .xml file to make a substitution mask with external source generator
- 204397: The application is forcibly closed when creating a regular expression mask using special characters
- 204545: The application is forcibly closed when editing and applying masks to columns after creating a masking script using the Create script per table option from the Manage masks window

Getting Started

- For further information about installation and getting started, please check the Quest Knowledge Base or ApexSQL Getting Started.

System requirements

Before installing or upgrading Short Product Name Version, ensure that your system meets the following minimum hardware and software requirements.

Hardware	Dual Core 2.0 GHz CPU 3 GB memory 164 MB disk space
SQL Server	SQL Server 2005 and higher [1] Azure SQL Database [1] Amazon RDS for SQL Server [1]
OS	Windows 7 SP1/Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 and higher [1]
Software	.NET Framework 4.7.2 or higher
Permissions and additional requirements	Windows user account with administrative privileges See Minimum permissions required to install and use ApexSQL products See Minimum SQL Server permissions for ApexSQL Developer tools See Remote access for SQL Server instance

[1] See Supported systems for exact version support

[2] You can use the latest full-featured backwards compatible SQL Server Management Studio for free. Click here

Supported platforms

Windows version

Windows 7 SP1 & Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1	Windows Server 2012	Windows 8.1 & Windows Server 2012 R2	Windows 10 & Windows Server 2016	Windows Server 2019
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

SQL Server version [3]									
	2005	2008	2012	2014	2016	2017		2019 CTP 3	
						Windows	Linux [3]	Windows	Linux [3]
ApexSQL Mask	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

SQL Server edition [3]						
				Azure SQL Database		Amazon RDS for SQL Server
	Express	Standard	Enterprise	Single Database, Elastic Pool	Managed Instance	
ApexSQL Mask	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

[3] Tested on Ubuntu 16.04

[4] Including Amazon EC2, Google Compute Engine, and Azure Virtual Machine cloud computing SQL Server instances.

Product licensing

ApexSQL offers 2 types of licenses:

1. Individual license

For applications licensed per user, an individual license is for the use of a single user only. This means that only 1 user can use 1 license. If there are multiple users, multiple licenses are needed.

For applications licensed per instance, an individual license is to be used on a single SQL Server instance only. If there are multiple instances, multiple licenses are needed.

2. Enterprise license

An enterprise license can be activated on an unlimited number of instances and can be used by an unlimited number of users, without geographical limitations.

Release History (release notes)

Release:	2020.06.0286
Date:	April 13, 2021

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Release:	2020.05.0279
Date:	January 20, 2021

Fixes:

- 200277: Unable to establish a connection to SQL Server instances from the Connect to SQL Server window when the application is upgraded from 2020 R3 to 2020 R4 version
- 200391: Unable to open a previously saved project if it has been saved using the 2020 R3 or older version of the application
- 200833: "One or more errors occurred." error is encountered in the Command prompt when trying to mask data in the database using an automation script of a project that runs without errors in the main application

Release:	2020.04.0268
Date:	December 30, 2020

Enhancements:

- Create script per table option is added as the third mask process option in the Process masks window

Fixes:

- 197150: "Object reference not set to an instance of an object" error is encountered when opening previously saved project and clicking on the column which is masked with the regular expression generator
- 197147: "Path cannot be null. Parameter name: path" error is encountered when opening previously saved project and clicking on the column which is masked with a CSV file type
- 196640: The newly added masks are not saved when saving masks in already opened project
- 198852: Unable to connect to Azure SQL Database when the Automatically scan for sensitive data option is checked under the General tab in the Option window

Release:	2020.03.0252
Date:	November 02, 2020

Enhancements:

- Dynamic data masking is added under the Hide original data tab of the Manage masks window

Fixes:

- 187013: "Select column is not supported by a generator" message is shown when trying to add the char date type column to a newly created substitution mask with the first name predefined generator
- 183303: "Object reference not set to an instance of an object" error is encountered when creating the mask script for a selected column with the null value for a data generator
- 190349: "Length cannot be less than zero" error is encountered when trying to connect to a selected database that contains a column with the max length data type in the Connect to SQL Server window

Release:	2020.02.0222
Date:	May 26, 2020

Enhancements:

- External data source can be used to mask sensitive data
- Export masked data to an external data source
- Mask data in the SQL Server graph tables

Fixes:

- "Cannot update a timestamp column" error is encountered when the masking process is finished even if the column that has the timestamp data type is not included in the masking process
- "One or more errors occurred" error is encountered after the mask script is created for a column that is masked using the Substitution mask and Random generator
- Ignored columns and SQL objects are present in the created SQL script
- Tables with identity columns cannot be masked
- Project column settings are not saved when only one column is checked

Release:	2020.01.0192
Date:	April 30, 2020

Enhancements:

- Use SQL value to mask data
- Parallel mask execution
- Application telemetry now collects anonymous data on the use and performance of applications and application components

- ApexSQL Updater is added for configuring advanced updating settings of all installed ApexSQL products

Fixes:

- "Invalid column name" message is shown when the masked process from the Home ribbon is started

Release: 2019.04.0169

Date: February 24, 2020

Fixes:

- The backup of the original database before data masking option does not save the backup of original SQL database before masking process is started
- Custom filter added from the Manage data classification filters window is removed from an assigned SQL objects when the Refresh button is used twice in the main grid
- "Object reference not set to an instance of an object" error is encountered when the customer filter is added under the Manage data classification filters window and the SQL database in the main grid is refreshed

Release: 2019.03.0159

Date: October 17, 2019

Enhancements:

- Edit predefined filters

Fixes:

- "Object reference not set to an instance of an object" error is encountered when importing file to the Redaction rule
- SQL data is not masked when masking process is finished using the automation script
- SQL data is not masked when SQL Server authentication is used in the automation script
- "Invalid object name 'dbo.CO_stg_ConstructionPossessionDate'" error is encountered when creating substitution mask
- Multi selection is not working in the Apply to the columns dialog
- The Save the project dialog does not show when close a project by pressing the Close (X) button on the top right corner of the application
- "Application ApexSQL Mask already running. Only one instance is allowed" message is shown when the automation script is running
- The dialog is shown in wrong order when the filter with the same name is created

- Browse button under the Find what field in the Create redaction mask dialog open slow when it is used for the first time
- The predefined generators are shown two times under the Manage masks dialog "Could not load file or assembly 'Microsoft.IdentityModel.Clients.ActiveDirectory,Version=4.5.1.0'" error is encountered when using Active Directory Universal with MFA support
- "C:¥Users¥PC-name¥Desktop¥AutomationScript_2019064_12-00-32.45.ps1 cannot be loaded" error is encountered when starting the PowerShell script from the desktop location
- Classified columns are all unchecked when only selected columns are unchecked in the Manage masks dialog
- "Selected file cannot be imported as redaction mask" message is shown even if importing file is canceled under the Manage masks dialog
- "Invalid column name 'TSTAMP'" error is encountered when saved SQL script is opened in the default editor
- "Invalid column name 'TS'" error is encountered when saved SQL script is opened in the default editor

Release:	2019.02.0097
Date:	June 21, 2019

Changes:

- Software Transaction Agreement is added as a new step in the installation wizard and updated in accordance with https://www.quest.com/legal/sta.aspx

Release:	2019.02.0086
Date:	April 18, 2019

Fixes:

- "Unable to cast object of type varchar to XML" error is encountered when trying to connect to a database that contains table with the XML data type
- The original data in the rows is not completely masked due to invalid WHERE clause syntax when masking process is finished
- "Could not load file or assembly" error is encountered when connecting to a server with the Active Directory - Universal with MFA support
- "Object reference not set to an instance of an object" error is encountered when the OK button is clicked in the Connection options dialog after changing value for timeout options

Release:	2019.01.0070
Date:	March 19, 2019

Features:

- High DPI and 4K resolution support
- Supports SQL Server 2005 or higher, Azure SQL Database and Amazon RDS for SQL Server

- Leverage 220+ pre-defined data masks
- Automatic sensitive data classification
- Mask data at column and/or row level
- Overwrite the original database or create the masking script
- View full database masking job summary
- Utilize 55+ built in data classification filters
- View before-and-after masked data
- Create and edit sensitive data masks
- Import and export masks and filters
- Create and edit data classification filters
- Choose from substitution or redaction masks
- Visualize database-level data masking profile
- Sensitive data masking
- CLI support for executing project files [/pr]
- Save project as automation script
- GUI themes

About us

Quest creates software solutions that make the benefits of new technology real in an increasingly complex IT landscape. From database and systems management, to Active Directory and Office 365 management, and cyber security resilience, Quest helps customers solve their next IT challenge now. Around the globe, more than 130,000 companies and 95% of the Fortune 500 count on Quest to deliver proactive management and monitoring for the next enterprise initiative, find the next solution for complex Microsoft challenges and stay ahead of the next threat. Quest Software. Where next meets now. For more information, visit www.quest.com.

Contacting Quest

For sales or other inquiries, visit www.quest.com/contact

Technical Support Resources

Technical support is available to Quest customers with a valid maintenance contract and customers who have trial versions. You can access the Quest Support Portal at https://support.quest.com.

The Support Portal provides self-help tools you can use to solve problems quickly and independently, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Support Portal enables you to:

- Submit and manage a Service Request
- View Knowledge Base articles
- Sign up for product notifications
- Download software and technical documentation
- View how-to-videos
- Engage in community discussions
- Chat with support engineers online
- View services to assist you with your product.