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Fix VolSnap Error
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If, in your Event Log, you encounter a VolSnap error

The shadow copies of volume \\?\Volume{XXXXXXX} were aborted during detection because a critical control file could not be opened.

You might want to check if the system ran into Disk warnings and/or other service errors earlier. Those may be causing this as a consequential error or the error may result from having too many shadows or the host is simply taking too much time to create a VSS shadow.

There are several ways to fix this issue:

Check the logs for additional clues
Use vssadmin.exe to lift all VSS storage area limits to 'unbounded'.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.10240]
(c) 2015 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\WINDOWS\system32>vssadmin list shadowstorage
vssadmin 1.1 - Volume Shadow Copy Service administrative command-line tool
(C) Copyright 2001-2013 Microsoft Corp.
Shadow Copy Storage association
  For volume: (C:)\\?\Volume{1d14ab39-af32-45bd-a7f8-8ba039aef229}\
  Shadow Copy Storage volume: (C:)\\?\Volume{1d14ab39-af32-45bd-
a7f8-8ba039aef229}\
  Used Shadow Copy Storage space: 9,34 GB (1%)
  Allocated Shadow Copy Storage space: 9,64 GB (2%)
  Maximum Shadow Copy Storage space: 10,0 GB (2%)
C:\WINDOWS\system32>vssadmin resize shadowstorage /For=c: /On=c:
/MaxSize=UNBOUNDED
vssadmin 1.1 - Volume Shadow Copy Service administrative command-line tool
(C) Copyright 2001-2013 Microsoft Corp.
```

Successfully resized the shadow copy storage association

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

• Or use vssuirun.exe to lift all VSS storage area limits to 'no limit'.

Settings				
Volume:				
Storage area Located on this volume: C:\ V Details				
Maximum size: ○ <u>N</u> o limit ● <u>U</u> se limit: 12252 → MB				
Note: You need at least 300MB free space to create a shadow copy.				
Schedule Schedule				
Note: The default schedule creates two shadow copies per day. Avoid creating shadow copies more frequently than once per hour.				
OK Cancel				

- There may be an excessive number of VSS shadows on the host. If you're not using any other backup tool it's safe to delete them all, using **vssadmin delete shadows /all**
- Use VSSUIRUN to check if there is a schedule that automatically creates these shadows. It's common when the Windows feature 'system restore' is being used. The 'next run time' column in VSSUIRUN next to each drive listed should say 'disabled'. You should disable all schedules if you find any

Shadow Copies 🗙				
Shadow Copies	5			
Shadow copies allow users to view the contents of shared folders as the contents existed at previous points in time. For information on Shadow Copies, <u>click here</u> . Select a volume:				
Volume	Next Run Time	Shares	Used ^	
□ D:\	Disabled	18	0 bytes on	
□ == E:\	Disabled	1	0 bytes on E:\ 📃	
● P:\	Disabled	4	~	
< III >				
Enable     Disable     Settings       Shadow copies of selected volume				
			Create Now	
			Delete Now	
			<u>R</u> evert	
OK Cancel				

- If the issue has to do with VSS snapshot timing please check if the following key exists in the host's registry:
  - HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\SPP\CreateTimeout
  - The "CreateTimeout" key should be added as a DWORD 32-bit, and it's value is in milliseconds. On a busy host you may want to shoot for a value of 1200000 ⇒ 20 minutes.

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