

[MS-SWN]: Service Witness Protocol

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1 Introduction

The Service Witness Protocol is a remote procedure call (RPC)-based protocol that is used to promptly notify a client of resource changes that have occurred on a highly available server.

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 [\[MS-GLOS\]](#):

fully qualified domain name (FQDN)
IPv4
IPv6
Microsoft Interface Definition Language (MIDL)
NetBIOS name
remote procedure call (RPC)
RPC context handle
RPC server
RPC transport
Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
UUID

The following terms are specific to this document:

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.

[C706] The Open Group, "DCE 1.1: Remote Procedure Call", C706, August 1997, <https://www2.opengroup.org/ogsys/catalog/c706>

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

[MS-ERREF] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Error Codes](#)".

[MS-RPCE] Microsoft Corporation, "[Remote Procedure Call Protocol Extensions](#)".

[MS-SRVS] Microsoft Corporation, "[Server Service Remote Protocol](#)".

[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](#)".

[MS-SMB2] Microsoft Corporation, "[Server Message Block \(SMB\) Protocol Versions 2 and 3](#)".

1.3 Overview

In highly available systems, there can be many instances of a service (for instance an SMB3 file service [\[MS-SMB2\]](#)) running on a server or group of servers. These service instances are accessed by clients through network DNS names and associated IP addresses.

The Service Witness Protocol enables a client application (for instance, an SMB3 client) to receive prompt and explicit notifications about the failure or recovery of a network name and associated services, rather than relying on slower detection mechanisms such as timeouts and keep alives.

The Service Witness Protocol is an independent protocol which is used alongside other protocols, as illustrated by the following figure.

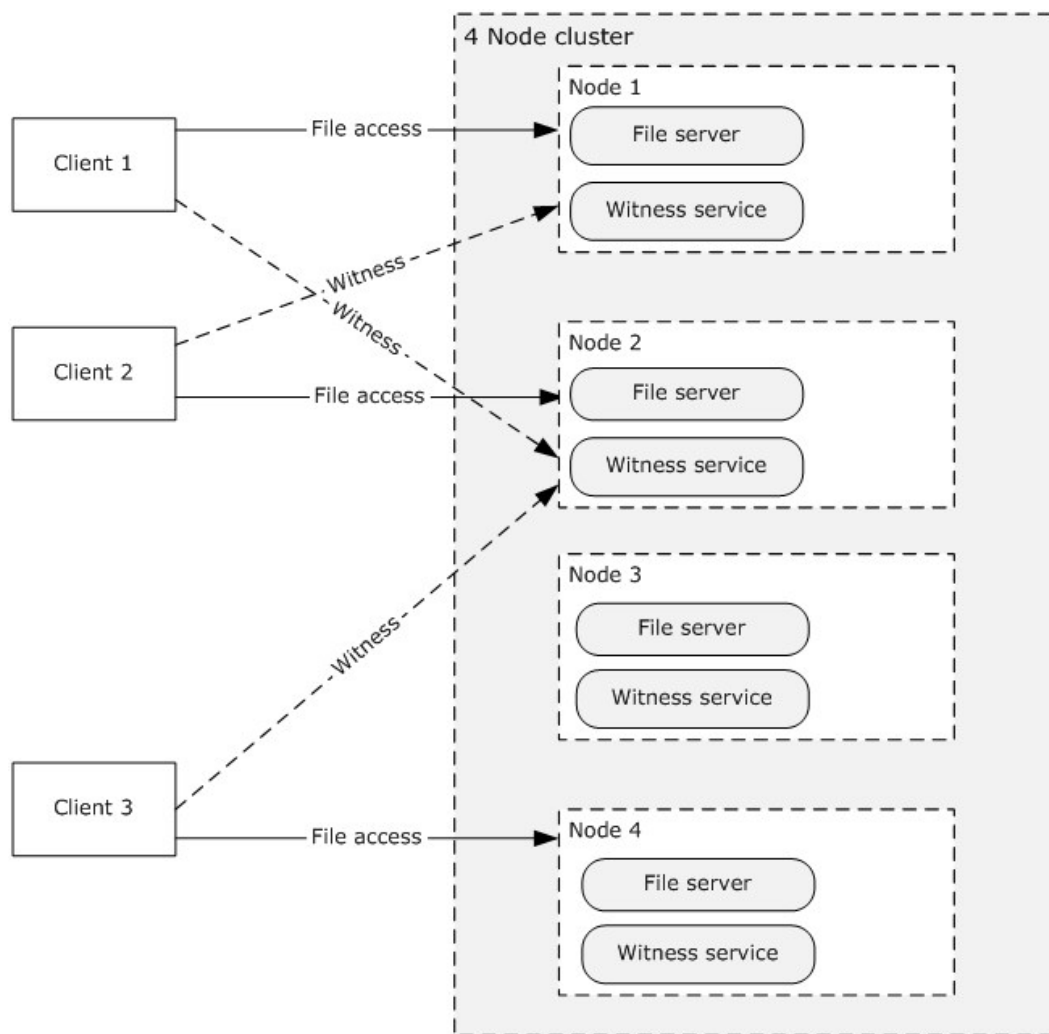


Figure 1: Witness clients communicating with Witness servers

1.4 Relationship to Other Protocols

This protocol depends on the **RPC transport** and uses **RPC** over **TCP**, as specified in section [2.1](#).

1.5 Prerequisites/Preconditions

The Service Witness Protocol is an RPC interface and, as a result, has the prerequisites that are described in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 1.5 as being common to RPC interfaces.

1.6 Applicability Statement

This protocol applies in the following environments, where it is important that:

- The client promptly detects when a resource has failed, and is now available for reconnection.
- The administrator controls the client use of server resources, for instance, to achieve load-balancing or during server maintenance periods.

1.7 Versioning and Capability Negotiation

The protocol supports versioning negotiation. The current protocol supports two versions.

Version	Value
Witness protocol version 1	0x00010001
Witness protocol version 2	0x00020000

1.8 Vendor Extensible Fields

This protocol does not define any vendor-extensible fields.

This protocol uses Win32 error codes as defined in [\[MS-ERREF\]](#) section 2.2. Vendors SHOULD reuse those values with their indicated meaning. Choosing any other value runs the risk of a collision in the future.

1.9 Standards Assignments

Parameter	Value	Reference
UUID for Witness	ccd8c074-d0e5-4a40-92b4-d074faa6ba28	[C706]

2 Messages

2.1 Transport

This protocol MUST use the **UUID** as specified in section [1.9](#). The RPC version number is 1.0.

This protocol allows any user to establish a connection to the **RPC server**. The protocol uses the underlying RPC protocol to retrieve the identity of the caller that made the method call, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 3.3.3.4.3. The server SHOULD use this identity to perform method-specific access checks as specified in section [3.1.4](#).

2.2 Common Data Types

In addition to RPC base types defined in [\[C706\]](#) and [\[MS-RPCE\]](#), the data types that follow are defined in the **Microsoft Interface Definition Language (MIDL)** specification for this RPC interface.

The following data types are specified in [\[MS-DTYP\]](#):

Data Type name	Section
BOOLEAN	section 2.2.4
DWORD	section 2.2.9
LPWSTR	section 2.2.36
PBYTE	section 2.2.6
UINT	section 2.2.46
UINT32	section 2.2.49
ULONG	section 2.2.51
USHORT	section 2.2.58
WCHAR	section 2.2.60

2.2.1 Data Types

Data Type name	Section	Description
PCONTEXT_HANDLE	2.2.1.1	An RPC context handle returned by the WitnessrRegister method, to be provided as an input parameter to the WitnessrUnRegister method.
PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED	2.2.1.3	An RPC context handle returned by the WitnessrRegister method, to be provided as an input parameter to the WitnessrAsyncNotify method.
PPCONTEXT_HANDLE	2.2.1.2	A reference to PCONTEXT_HANDLE.

2.2.1.1 PCONTEXT_HANDLE

PCONTEXT_HANDLE: An RPC context handle, as specified in [C706] Chapter 6, returned by the WitnessRegister method, to be provided as an input parameter to the WitnessUnRegister method.

```
typedef [context_handle] void* PCONTEXT_HANDLE;
```

2.2.1.2 PPCONTEXT_HANDLE

PPCONTEXT_HANDLE: A reference to PCONTEXT_HANDLE, as specified in section 2.2.1.1.

```
typedef [ref] PCONTEXT_HANDLE *PPCONTEXT_HANDLE;
```

2.2.1.3 PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED

PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED: An RPC context handle, as specified in [C706] Chapter 6, returned by the WitnessRegister method, to be provided as a parameter to the WitnessAsyncNotify method.

```
typedef [context_handle] PCONTEXT_HANDLE PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED;
```

2.2.2 Structures

Unless otherwise specified, multiple-byte fields (16-bit, 32-bit, and 64-bit fields) MUST be transmitted in little-endian order (least-significant byte first) for the structures specified in section 2.2.2.1 (IPADDR_INFO), 2.2.2.2 (IPADDR_INFO_LIST), and 2.2.2.3 (RESOURCE_CHANGE). Other structures defined in this section use RPC encoding.

Structure name	Section	Description
IPADDR_INFO	2.2.2.1	The IPADDR_INFO structure specifies the IP addresses of the interface.
IPADDR_INFO_LIST	2.2.2.2	The IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure contains the list of available IP addresses on the destination Interface group.
RESOURCE_CHANGE	2.2.2.3	The server notifies the registered client of resource state changes through the RESOURCE_CHANGE structure.
RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY	2.2.2.4	The RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY structure contains the resource change type.
WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO	2.2.2.5	The WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO structure specifies the IP addresses of the interface.
WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST	2.2.2.6	The WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST structure specifies the list of interfaces available for witness registration.

2.2.2.1 IPADDR_INFO

The IPADDR_INFO structure specifies the IP addresses of the interface.

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
Flags																															
IPV4																															
IPV6																															
...																															
...																															
...																															

Flags (4 bytes): The Flags field SHOULD [<1>](#) be set to a combination of one or more of the following values.

Value	Description
0x00000001 IPADDR_V4	If set, the IPV4 field contains a valid address. When this bit is set, the IPADDR_IPV6 bit MUST NOT be set.
0x00000002 IPADDR_V6	If set, the IPV6 field contains a valid address. When this bit is set, the IPADDR_IPV4 bit MUST NOT be set.
0x00000008 IPADDR_ONLINE	If set, the IPV4 or IPV6 address is available. This flag is applicable only for the servers implementing version 2.
0x00000010 IPADDR_OFFLINE	If set, the IPV4 or IPV6 address is not available. This flag is applicable only for the server implementing version 2.

IPV4 (4 bytes): The **IPv4** address of the interface, if the IPADDR_V4 flag is set in the Flags field.

IPV6 (16 bytes): The **IPv6** address of the interface, if the IPADDR_V6 flag is set in the Flags field.

2.2.2.2 IPADDR_INFO_LIST

The IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure contains a list of available IP addresses on the destination Interface group.

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
Length																															
Reserved																															
IPAddrInstances																															

IPAddrInfo (variable)
...

Length (4 bytes): The size of the IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure, in bytes.

Reserved (4 bytes): This field MUST NOT be used and MUST be reserved. The server MUST set this field to 0, and the client MUST ignore it on receipt.

IPAddrInstances (4 bytes): The number of IPADDR_INFO structures in the **IPAddrInfo** member.

IPAddrInfo (variable): An array of one or more IPADDR_INFO structures, as specified in section [2.2.2.1](#), indicating the IP addresses of the destination Interface group.

2.2.2.3 RESOURCE_CHANGE

The server notifies the registered client of resource state changes through the use of the RESOURCE_CHANGE structure.

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
Length																															
ChangeType																															
ResourceName (variable)																															
...																															

Length (4 bytes): The size of the resource change notification, in bytes.

ChangeType (4 bytes): Specifies state change of the resource. The following values are used to specify the change type.

Value	Meaning
0x00000000	RESOURCE_STATE_UNKNOWN
0x00000001	RESOURCE_STATE_AVAILABLE
0x000000FF	RESOURCE_STATE_UNAVAILABLE

ResourceName (variable): The null terminated resource name on which the change has been detected. This MUST be either the NetName or IP address provided in a WitnessrRegister call, or an InterfaceGroupName returned to the client in a WitnessrGetInterfaceList response.

2.2.2.4 RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY

The RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY structure contains the resource change type.

```

typedef struct _RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY {
    UINT MessageType;
    UINT Length;
    UINT NumberOfMessages;
    [size_is(Length)] [unique] PBYTE MessageBuffer;
} RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY, *PRESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY;

```

MessageType: Specifies the notification type. This field MUST contain one of the following values.

Value	Meaning
1	RESOURCE_CHANGE_NOTIFICATION
2	CLIENT_MOVE_NOTIFICATION
3	SHARE_MOVE_NOTIFICATION This value is applicable only for the server implementing version 2.
4	IP_CHANGE_NOTIFICATION This value is applicable only for the server implementing version 2.

Length: Specifies the size of the **MessageBuffer** field, in bytes.

NumberOfMessages: Total number of notifications in the **MessageBuffer** field.

MessageBuffer: Contains an array of notification information structures whose type is determined by the **MessageType** field.

2.2.2.5 WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO

The WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO structure specifies the IP addresses of the interface.

```

typedef struct _WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO {
    WCHAR InterfaceGroupName[260];
    ULONG Version;
    USHORT State;
    ULONG IPV4;
    USHORT IPV6[8];
    UINT Flags;
} WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO, *PWITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO;

```

InterfaceGroupName: The null-terminated string that specifies a name of the interface group.

Version: The current version of the Witness Service running on the server.

State: The current state of the interface. This field MUST contain one of the following values:

Value	Meaning
UNKNOWN	The state of the interface is unknown.

Value	Meaning
0x0000	
AVAILABLE 0x0001	The interface is available.
UNAVAILABLE 0x00FF	The interface is unavailable.

IPv4: The IPv4 address of the interface, if the IPv4 flag is set in **Flags** field.

IPv6: The IPv6 address of the interface, if the IPv6 flag is set in **Flags** field.

Flags: The **Flags** field specifies information about the interface. This field MUST be set to combination of zero or more of the following values:

Value	Meaning
IPv4 0x00000001	If set, the IPv4 field contains a valid address.
IPv6 0x00000002	If set, the IPv6 field contains a valid address.
INTERFACE_WITNESS 0x00000004	If set, the interface is available for witness registration. If not set, the interface MUST NOT be used for witness registration.

2.2.2.6 WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST

The WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST structure specifies the list of interfaces available for witness registration.

```
typedef struct _WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST {
    UINT NumberOfInterfaces;
    [size_is(NumberOfInterfaces)] [unique] PWITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO InterfaceInfo;
} WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST, *PWITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST;
```

NumberOfInterfaces: The number of WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO structures in **InterfaceInfo**.

InterfaceInfo: Contains an array of WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO structures, as specified in section [2.2.2.5](#).

3 Protocol Details

3.1 Witness Server Details

The server responds to messages it receives from the client and also produces notifications as requested by the client. The server performs additional actions in response to administrative, configuration, and status changes on the machine, as driven by applications local to the server.

3.1.1 Abstract Data Model

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

3.1.1.1 Global

The server implements the following properties:

- **InterfaceList:** A list of available Interfaces as specified in section [3.1.1.2](#).
- **WitnessRegistrationList:** A list of witness registrations on the server, as specified in section [3.1.1.3](#).
- **WitnessServiceVersion:** The highest Witness protocol version supported by the Witness Service. The value MUST be one of those listed in section [1.7](#).
- **ServerGlobalName:** A hostname by which clients access the server being witnessed.

3.1.1.2 Per Interface in InterfaceList

- **InterfaceGroupName:** The name of the interface group, in the form of a **NetBIOS name**.
- **State:** The state of the interface. This MUST be set to one of the values specified in section [2.2.2.5](#).
- **IPv4Address:** An IPv4 address of the interface, if any.
- **IPv6Address:** An IPv6 address of the interface, if any.

3.1.1.3 Per WitnessRegistration in WitnessRegistrationList

The server implements the following properties per witness registration.

- **WitnessClientName:** A null-terminated string containing the name of the client.
- **NetworkName:** The NetName specified in the client registration call.
- **IPAddress:** An IP address specified in the client registration call.
- **RegistrationKey:** A unique value assigned by the server for this registration, in the form of context_handle, as specified in section [2.2.1.1](#).
- **PendingChangeNotifications:** A list of change notifications pending for this registration.

- **PendingMoveNotification:** The most recent move notification, if any, pending for this registration.

If the server implements version 2 of the protocol, the server also implements the following properties:

- **WitnessClientVersion:** The Witness protocol version implemented by the client.
- **ShareName:** The *ShareName* specified in the client registration call.
- **ShareNameNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that this registration requires notifications based on the *ShareName*.
- **IPNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that this registration requires notifications based on the IP addresses changes on the server associated with *NetName*.
- **PendingShareMoveNotification:** The most recent share move notification, if any, pending for this registration.
- **PendingIPNotification:** The most recent IP change notification, if any, pending for this registration.
- **KeepAliveTime:** The maximum amount of the time, in milliseconds, the server can hold the pending asynchronous notification.
- **LastUseTime:** The time at which the server received a registration request, an asynchronous notify request, or at which time the server sent a response to an asynchronous notification.
- **IsAsyncNotifyRegistered:** A Boolean flag indicating whether asynchronous notification is registered or not.

3.1.1.4 Per Notification in PendingChangeNotifications

- **ResourceName:** The name of the resource whose state has changed.
- **NewState:** The new resource state.

3.1.1.5 PendingMoveNotification

- **Destination:** A null-terminated string describing the resource to move to.

3.1.1.6 PendingShareMoveNotification

If the server implements version 2 of the protocol, the server also implements the following:

- **Destination:** A null-terminated string describing the resource the share has been moved to.

3.1.1.7 PendingIPNotification

If the server implements version 2 of the protocol, the server also implements the following:

- **ChangeIndication:** A null-terminated string describing the IP changes on the server.

3.1.2 Timers

3.1.2.1 Unused Registration Timer

If the server implements version 2 of the protocol, it MUST implement this timer.

This timer controls the amount of time that a registration can stay unused, in other words, the time for which the registration is permitted to remain without registering for any asynchronous notifications. The server MUST schedule this timer periodically with an implementation-specific interval and remove unused registrations.

3.1.2.2 AsyncNotify Pending Timer

If the server implements version 2 of the protocol, it MUST implement this timer.

This timer controls the scheduling of periodic searches for pending asynchronous notifications that have passed their expiration time. This value is based on the **KeepAliveTimeout** value provided by the client as specified in section [3.1.4.5](#).

3.1.3 Initialization

The server MUST initialize **WitnessRegistrationList** to empty.

The server MUST initialize **InterfaceList** in an implementation-specific manner from the configuration store.

The server MUST initialize **WitnessServiceVersion** to the highest Witness protocol version supported by the server. [<2>](#)

The server MUST initialize **ServerGlobalName** with an administrator-defined string.

3.1.4 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules

The Witness interface defines the following methods:

Method	Description
WitnessrGetInterfaceList	The WitnessrGetInterfaceList method returns information about the interfaces to which witness client connections can be made. Opnum: 0
WitnessrRegister	The WitnessrRegister method allows the witness client to register for notifications from the server. Opnum: 1
WitnessrUnRegister	The WitnessrUnRegister method allows the client to unregister for notifications from the server. Opnum: 2
WitnessrAsyncNotify	The WitnessrAsyncNotify method is used by the client to request notification of resource changes from the server. Opnum: 3
WitnessrRegisterEx	The WitnessrRegisterEx method allows the witness client to register for notifications from the server for a specific share and with optional flags. This

Method	Description
	opnum is only applicable for Witness protocol version 2. Opnum: 4

For all methods, the server SHOULD<3> enforce security measures to verify that the caller has the required permissions to execute any method. If the server enforces security measures, and the caller does not have the required credentials, then the server MUST fail the call and return ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED. For more details about determining the identity of the caller for the purpose of performing an access check, see [MS-RPCE] section 3.3.3.1.3.

3.1.4.1 WitnessrGetInterfaceList (Opnum 0)

The WitnessrGetInterfaceList method returns information about the interfaces to which witness client connections can be made.

```
DWORD WitnessrGetInterfaceList(
    [in] handle_t Handle,
    [out] PWITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST* InterfaceList);
```

Handle: An RPC binding handle [C706].

InterfaceList: A pointer to a PWITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST, as specified in section 2.2.2.6.

Return Values: Returns 0x00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS) on success or a nonzero error code, as specified in [MS-ERREF] section 2.2. The most common error codes are listed in the following table.

Return value/code	Description
0x00000000 ERROR_SUCCESS	The operation completed successfully.
0x00000005 ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED	Access is denied.
0x00000057 ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER	The parameter is incorrect.
0x00000103 ERROR_NO_MORE_ITEMS	No more data is available.
0x0000000E ERROR_OUTOFMEMORY	There is not enough storage space to complete the operation.

If there are no entries in the **InterfaceList**, the server MUST fail the request and return the error code ERROR_NO_MORE_ITEMS.

If no entry in the InterfaceList has a State of AVAILABLE, the server MUST wait until at least one entry enters that State, as specified in section 3.1.6.1.

For each **Interface** in the **InterfaceList**, the server MUST construct a WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO structure as follows:

- The **InterfaceGroupName** field of the WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO structure MUST be set to **Interface.InterfaceGroupName**.
- The **State** field MUST be set to **Interface.State**.
- The **Version** field MUST be set to **WitnessServiceVersion**.
- If **Interface.IPv4Address** is not empty, the **IPV4** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv4Address**, and IPv4 flag MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
- If **Interface.IPv6Address** is not empty, the **IPV6** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv6Address**, and IPv6 flag MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
- In an implementation-dependent manner, the server MUST determine if the **IPv4Address** or **IPv6Address** match any interface which is hosted on the server and the server is also running this Witness Service instance. If the address is not hosted on the local server, the INTERFACE_WITNESS flag MUST be set in the **Flags** field. Otherwise, the flag MUST NOT be set.

The server MUST construct the WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST structure as follows:

- All WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO structures MUST be copied into the **InterfaceInfo** field of the WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST structure.
- The **NumberOfInterfaces** field of the WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST structure MUST be set to the number of interfaces provided by **InterfaceInfo**.

The WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST structures MUST be copied into the *InterfaceList* parameter.

The server MUST return ERROR_SUCCESS and the *InterfaceList* parameter to the caller.

3.1.4.2 WitnessrRegister (Opnum 1)

The WitnessrRegister method allows the witness client to register for resource state change notifications of a NetName and IPAddress. The client can subsequently call the WitnessrAsyncNotify method to receive notifications when there is a state change on any of these resources.

```
DWORD WitnessrRegister(
    [in] handle_t Handle,
    [out] PCONTEXT_HANDLE ppContext,
    [in] ULONG Version,
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR NetName,
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR IPAddress,
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR ClientComputerName);
```

Handle: An RPC binding handle [\[C706\]](#).

ppContext: A context handle of type PCONTEXT_HANDLE, as specified in section [2.2.1.2](#), that identifies the client on the server.

Version: The version of the Witness protocol currently in use by the client.

NetName: A pointer to a null-terminated string that specifies the name of the resource for which the client requires notifications.

IPAddress: A pointer to a null-terminated string that specifies the IP address to which the client application connection is established.

ClientComputerName: A pointer to a null-terminated string that is used to identify the Witness client.

Return Values: Returns 0x00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS) on success or a nonzero error code, as specified in [\[MS-ERREF\]](#) section 2.2. The most common error codes are listed in the following table.

Return value/code	Description
0x00000000 ERROR_SUCCESS	The operation completed successfully.
0x00000005 ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED	Access is denied.
0x000005AA ERROR_NO_SYSTEM_RESOURCES	Insufficient system resources exist to complete the requested service.
0x00000057 ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER	The parameter is incorrect.
0x0000139F ERROR_INVALID_STATE	The specified resource state is invalid.
0x0000051A ERROR_REVISION_MISMATCH	The client request contains an invalid Witness protocol version.

If the **Version** field of the request is not 0x00010001, the server MUST stop processing the request and return the error code ERROR_REVISION_MISMATCH.

If the *NetName* parameter is not equal to **ServerGlobalName**, the server MUST fail the request and return the error code ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER.

The server MUST search for an **Interface** in **InterfaceList**, where **Interface.IPv4Address** or **Interface.IPv6Address** matches the *IpAddress* parameter based on its format. If no matching entry is found, the server MUST fail the request and return the error code ERROR_INVALID_STATE.

The server MUST enumerate the shares by calling **NetrShareEnum** as specified in [\[MS-SRVS\]](#) section 3.1.4.8. In the enumerated list, if any of the shares have shi*_type set to STYPE_CLUSTER_SOFS, as specified in [\[MS-SRVS\]](#) section 2.2.2.4, the server MUST fail the request and return the error code ERROR_INVALID_STATE.

The server MUST create a **WitnessRegistration** entry as follows and insert it into the **WitnessRegistrationList**.

- **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientName** MUST be set to the *ClientComputerName* parameter.
- **WitnessRegistration.NetworkName** MUST be set to the *NetName* parameter.
- **WitnessRegistration.IPAddress** MUST be set to the *IpAddress* parameter.
- **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** MUST be set to a UUID generated by the server.
- **WitnessRegistration.PendingChangeNotifications** and **WitnessRegistration.PendingMoveNotification** MUST be set to empty.

If **WitnessServiceVersion** is 0x00020000, the server MUST set the following values in **WitnessRegistration** entry:

- **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientVersion** MUST be set to the value of the *Version* parameter value in the request.
- **WitnessRegistration.ShareName** MUST be set to empty.
- **WitnessRegistration.ShareNameNotificationRequired** MUST be set to FALSE.
- **WitnessRegistration.IPNotificationRequired** MUST be set to FALSE.
- **WitnessRegistration.PendingShareMoveNotification** MUST be set to empty
- **WitnessRegistration.PendingIPNotification** MUST be set to empty.

The server MUST copy the **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** into the *ppContext* parameter.

The server MUST return ERROR_SUCCESS and the *ppContext* parameter to the caller.

3.1.4.3 WitnessrUnRegister (Opnum 2)

The WitnessrUnRegister method allows the client to unregister for notifications from the server. The Witness Service removes its internal state of the registration and no longer notifies the client in the event of any resource state changes.

```
DWORD WitnessrUnRegister(  
    [in] handle_t Handle,  
    [in] PCONTEXT_HANDLE pContext);
```

Handle: An RPC binding handle [\[C706\]](#).

pContext: A context handle of type PCONTEXT_HANDLE, specified in section [2.2.1.1](#), that identifies the client on the server.

Return Values: Returns 0x00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS) on success or a nonzero error code, as specified in [\[MS-ERREF\]](#) section 2.2. The most common error codes are listed in the following table.

Return value/code	Description
0x00000000 ERROR_SUCCESS	The operation completed successfully.
0x00000005 ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED	Access is denied.
0x00000490 ERROR_NOT_FOUND	The specified CONTEXT_HANDLE is not found.

The server MUST search for the **WitnessRegistration** in **WitnessRegistrationList**, where **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** matches the *pContext* parameter.

If no matching entry is found, the server SHOULD [<4>](#) stop processing the request and return the error code ERROR_NOT_FOUND.

If the matching entry is found, the server MUST remove the **WitnessRegistration** entry from the **WitnessRegistrationList** and return ERROR_SUCCESS to the caller.

3.1.4.4 WitnessrAsyncNotify (Opnum 3)

The WitnessrAsyncNotify method is used by the client to request notification of registered resource changes from the server.

```
DWORD WitnessrAsyncNotify(  
    [in] handle_t Handle,  
    [in] PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED pContext,  
    [out] PRESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY* pResp);
```

Handle: An RPC binding handle [\[C706\]](#).

pContext: A context handle of type PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED, as specified in section [2.2.1.3](#), that identifies the client on the server.

pResp: A pointer to a PRESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY structure, as specified in section [2.2.2.4](#).

Return Values: Returns 0x00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS) on success or a nonzero error code, as specified in [\[MS-ERREF\]](#) section 2.2. The most common error codes are listed in the following table.

Return value/code	Description
0x00000000 ERROR_SUCCESS	The operation completed successfully.
0x00000005 ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED	Access is denied.
0x000005AA ERROR_NO_SYSTEM_RESOURCES	Insufficient system resources exist to complete the requested service.
0x00000490 ERROR_NOT_FOUND	The specified resource name is not found.

The server MUST search for the **WitnessRegistration** in **WitnessRegistrationList**, where **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** matches the *pContext* parameter.

If no matching entry is found, the server MUST fail the request and return the error code ERROR_NOT_FOUND.

If the matching entry is found, and **WitnessServiceVersion** is 0x00020000, the server MUST update **WitnessRegistration.LastUseTime** to the current time, and **WitnessRegistration.IsAsyncNotifyRegistered** to TRUE.

The server MUST wait until either **WitnessRegistration.PendingChangeNotifications** or **WitnessRegistration.PendingMoveNotification** are not empty.

If **WitnessRegistration.PendingChangeNotifications** is not empty, the server MUST construct a RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY structure as follows:

- *pResp.MessageType*: MUST be set to RESOURCE_CHANGE_NOTIFICATION.

- *pResp.MessageBuffer*: MUST be set to a RESOURCE_CHANGE structure with the following values:
 - The **Length** field MUST be set to the size of the RESOURCE_CHANGE structure.
 - If the **NewState** of the **Notification** is UNAVAILABLE, the **ChangeType** field MUST be set to RESOURCE_STATE_UNAVAILABLE, else **ChangeType** MUST be set to RESOURCE_STATE_AVAILABLE.
 - The **ResourceName** field MUST be set to the **ResourceName** of the **Notification**.
 - If additional entries are present in **WitnessRegistration.PendingChangeNotifications**, the server MUST continue to add RESOURCE_CHANGE structures to the *pResp.MessageBuffer*, until no entries remain in the list.
- *pResp.NumberOfMessages*: MUST be set to the number of resources changed.
- *pResp.Length*: MUST be set to the length of the **MessageBuffer** field.

If the **WitnessRegistration.PendingMoveNotification** is not empty, the server MUST construct the structure as follows:

- *pResp.MessageType*: MUST be set to CLIENT_MOVE_NOTIFICATION.
- *pResp.MessageBuffer*: MUST be set to an IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure with the following values:
 - The **Reserved** field MUST be set to 0.
 - The **IPAddrInstances** field MUST be set to the number of available interfaces in **InterfaceList** for which **Interface.InterfaceGroupName** matches the **Notification.ChangeIndication**.
 - For each **Interface** matched, the server MUST construct an IPADDR_INFO structure as follows:
 - If **Interface.State** is AVAILABLE, then the IPADDR_ONLINE flag in the **Flags** field MUST be set. If **Interface.State** is UNAVAILABLE, then the IPADDR_OFFLINE flag in the **Flags** field MUST be set.
 - If **Interface.IPv4Address** is not empty, the **IPV4** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv4Address**, and IPADDR_V4 MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
 - If **Interface.IPv6Address** is not empty, the **IPV6** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv6Address**, and IPADDR_V6 MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
 - The IPADDR_INFO structure MUST be copied into the **IPAddrInfo** field.
 - The **Length** field MUST be set to the size of the IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure.
- *pResp.NumberOfMessages*: MUST be set to 1.
- *pResp.Length*: MUST be set to the length of the **MessageBuffer** field.

If **WitnessServiceVersion** is 0x00020000, **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00020000, and **WitnessRegistration.PendingShareMoveNotification** is not empty, the server MUST construct the structure as follows:

- *pResp.MessageType*: MUST be set to SHARE_MOVE_NOTIFICATION.

- *pResp.MessageBuffer*: MUST be set to an IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure with the following values:
 - The **Reserved** field MUST be set to 0.
 - The **IPAddrInstances** field MUST be set to the number of available interfaces in **InterfaceList** for which **Interface.InterfaceGroupName** matches the **Notification.Destination**.
 - For each **Interface** matched, the server MUST construct an IPADDR_INFO structure as follows:
 - If **Interface.IPv4Address** is not empty, the **IPV4** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv4Address**, and IPADDR_V4 MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
 - If **Interface.IPv6Address** is not empty, the **IPV6** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv6Address**, and IPADDR_V6 MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
 - The IPADDR_INFO structure MUST be copied into the **IPAddrInfo** field.
 - The **Length** field MUST be set to the size of the IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure.
- *pResp.NumberOfMessages*: MUST be set to 1.
- *pResp.Length*: MUST be set to the length of the **MessageBuffer** field.

If **WitnessServiceVersion** is 0x00020000, **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00020000, and **WitnessRegistration.PendingIPNotification** is not empty, the server MUST construct the structure as follows:

- *pResp.MessageType*: MUST be set to IP_CHANGE_NOTIFICATION.
- *pResp.MessageBuffer*: MUST be set to an IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure with the following values:
 - The **Reserved** field MUST be set to 0.
 - The **IPAddrInstances** field MUST be set to the number of available interfaces in **InterfaceList** for which **Interface.InterfaceGroupName** matches the **Notification.Destination**.
 - For each **Interface** matched, the server MUST construct an IPADDR_INFO structure as follows:
 - If **Interface.IPv4Address** is not empty, the **IPV4** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv4Address**, and IPADDR_V4 MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
 - If **Interface.IPv6Address** is not empty, the **IPV6** field MUST be set to **Interface.IPv6Address**, and IPADDR_V6 MUST be set in the **Flags** field.
 - The IPADDR_INFO structure MUST be copied into the **IPAddrInfo** field.
 - The **Length** field MUST be set to the size of the IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure.
- *pResp.NumberOfMessages*: MUST be set to 1.
- *pResp.Length*: MUST be set to the length of the **MessageBuffer** field.

The server MUST remove all entries that were processed from **WitnessRegistration.PendingChangeNotifications**,

WitnessRegistration.PendingMoveNotification, WitnessRegistration.PendingShareMoveNotification, and WitnessRegistration.PendingIPNotification.

If **WitnessServiceVersion** is 0x00020000, the server MUST set **WitnessRegistration.LastUseTime** to the current time and **WitnessRegistration.IsAsyncNotifyRegistered** to FALSE.

The server MUST return ERROR_SUCCESS and the *pResp* parameter to the client.

3.1.4.5 WitnessrRegisterEx (Opnum 4)

The WitnessrRegisterEx method allows the witness client to register for resource state change notifications of a NetName, ShareName and multiple IPAddresses. The client can subsequently call the WitnessrAsyncNotify method to receive notifications when there is a state change on any of these resources.

```
DWORD WitnessrRegisterEx(  
    [in] handle_t Handle,  
    [out] PCONTEXT_HANDLE ppContext,  
    [in] ULONG Version,  
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR NetName,  
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR ShareName,  
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR IpAddress,  
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR ClientComputerName,  
    [in] ULONG Flags,  
    [in] ULONG KeepAliveTimeout);
```

Handle: An RPC binding handle [\[C706\]](#).

ppContext: A context handle of type PCONTEXT_HANDLE, as specified in section [2.2.1.2](#), that identifies the client on the server.

Version: The version of the Witness protocol currently in use by the client.

NetName: A pointer to a null-terminated string that specifies the name of the resource for which the client requires notifications.

ShareName: A pointer to a null-terminated string that specifies the name of the share resource for which the client requires notifications.

IpAddress: A pointer to a null-terminated string that specifies the IP address to which the client application connection is established.

ClientComputerName: A pointer to a null-terminated string that is used to identify the Witness client.

Flags: The type of Witness registration. This field MUST be set to one of the following values:

Value	Meaning
WITNESS_REGISTER_NONE 0x00000000	If set, the client requests notifications only for the registered IP address.
WITNESS_REGISTER_IP_NOTIFICATION	If set, the client requests notifications of any eligible server IP

Value	Meaning
0x00000001	addresses.

KeepAliveTimeout: The maximum number of milliseconds for any notification response from the server.

Return Values: Returns 0x00000000 (ERROR_SUCCESS) on success or a nonzero error code, as specified in [\[MS-ERREF\]](#) section 2.2. The most common error codes are listed in the following table.

Return value/code	Description
0x00000000 ERROR_SUCCESS	The operation completed successfully.
0x00000005 ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED	Access is denied.
0x000005AA ERROR_NO_SYSTEM_RESOURCES	Insufficient system resources exist to complete the requested service.
0x00000057 ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER	The parameter is incorrect.
0x0000139F ERROR_INVALID_STATE	The specified resource state is invalid.
0x0000051A ERROR_REVISION_MISMATCH	The client request contains an invalid Witness protocol version.

This opnum is applicable only to servers that implement Witness protocol version 2.

If the **Version** field of the request is not 0x00020000, the server MUST stop processing the request and return the error code ERROR_REVISION_MISMATCH.

If the *NetName* parameter is not equal to **ServerGlobalName**, the server MUST fail the request and return the error code ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER.

The server MUST search for an **Interface** in **InterfaceList**, where **Interface.IPv4Address** or **Interface.IPv6Address** matches the *IpAddress* parameter based on its format. If no matching entry is found, the server MUST fail the request and return the error code ERROR_INVALID_STATE.

If *ShareName* is not NULL, the server MUST enumerate the shares by calling *NetrShareEnum* as specified in [\[MS-SRVS\]](#) section 3.1.4.8. If the enumeration fails or if no shares are returned, the server MUST return the error code ERROR_INVALID_STATE.

If none of the shares in the list has shi*_type set to STYPE_CLUSTER_SOFS as specified in [\[MS-SRVS\]](#) section 3.1.4.8, the server MUST ignore **ShareName**.

Otherwise, the server MUST fail the request with the error code ERROR_INVALID_STATE for the following:

- **ShareName** does not exist in the enumerated list.
- **ShareName** has shi*_type set to STYPE_CLUSTER_SOFS, as specified in [\[MS-SRVS\]](#) section 2.2.2.4.

The server MUST create a **WitnessRegistration** entry as follows and insert it into the **WitnessRegistrationList**.

- **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientVersion** MUST be set to the value of the *Version* parameter.
- **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientName** MUST be set to the *ClientComputerName* parameter.
- **WitnessRegistration.LastUseTime** MUST be set to the current time.
- **WitnessRegistration.KeepAliveTime** MUST be set to **KeepAliveTimeout**.
- **WitnessRegistration.IsAsyncNotifyRegistered** MUST be set to FALSE.
- **WitnessRegistration.NetworkName** MUST be set to the *NetName* parameter.
- **WitnessRegistration.ShareName** MUST be set to the *ShareName* parameter.
- If **ShareName** is not NULL, **WitnessRegistration.ShareNameNotificationRequired** MUST be set to TRUE; otherwise set to FALSE.
- If **Flags** field has WITNESS_REGISTER_IP_NOTIFICATION set, **WitnessRegistration.IPNotificationRequired** MUST be set to TRUE; otherwise set to FALSE.
- **WitnessRegistration.IPAddress** MUST be set to the *IPAddress* parameter.
- **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** MUST be set to a newly generated UUID.
- **WitnessRegistration.PendingChangeNotifications**,
WitnessRegistration.PendingMoveNotification,
WitnessRegistration.PendingShareMoveNotification,
WitnessRegistration.PendingIPNotification MUST be set to empty.

The server MUST copy the **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** into the *ppContext* parameter.

The server MUST return ERROR_SUCCESS and the *ppContext* parameter to the caller.

3.1.5 Timer Events

3.1.5.1 Unused Registration Timer Event

If the server implements version 2 of the protocol, it MUST implement this timer event.

When the Unused Registration Timer (section [3.1.2.1](#)) expires, the server MUST search for the **WitnessRegistration** entry in **WitnessRegistrationList**. If **WitnessRegistration.IsAsyncNotifyRegistered** is FALSE and **WitnessRegistration.LastUseTime** plus an implementation-specific timeout<5> is earlier than the current time, the server MUST remove the **WitnessRegistration** entry from the **WitnessRegistrationList**.

3.1.5.2 AsyncNotify Pending Timer Event

If the server implements version 2 of the protocol, it MUST implement this timer event.

When the Notification Pending Timer (section [3.1.2.2](#)) expires, the server MUST search for the **WitnessRegistration** entry in **WitnessRegistrationList**. If

WitnessRegistration.IsAsyncNotifyRegistered is TRUE and **WitnessRegistration.LastUseTime** plus **WitnessRegistration.KeepAliveTime** is earlier than the current time, the server MUST fail the request with ERROR_TIMEOUT.

3.1.6 Other Local Events

The Service Witness Protocol is driven by a series of higher-layer triggered events in the following categories:

- A resource being enabled or disabled.
- A request for a client to move to another resource.
- The ownership of a share moving between resources.
- An IP address being added, removed, enabled, or disabled.

3.1.6.1 Server Application Notifies of an Interface Being Enabled or Disabled

The calling application provides the interface group name, IPv4 and/or IPv6 addresses, and state.

The server MUST search for the **Interface** in the **InterfaceList** where **Interface.InterfaceGroupName** matches the application-provided interface group name, and **Interface.IPv4Address** or **Interface.IPv6Address** matches one or both of the application-provided IP addresses.

If a matching entry is found, the server MUST set **Interface.State** to the application-provided state. Then for each entry in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.NetworkName** matches the application-provided interface group name and **WitnessRegistration.IPAddress** matches the application-provided IP address, the server SHOULD<6> add a change entry to **WitnessRegistration.PendingChangeNotifications**, with a **ResourceName** of the **Interface.InterfaceGroupName** and a **NewState** of the application-provided state.

Else if no matching entry is found, the server MUST create a new **Interface** as follows, and add it to the **InterfaceList**:

- **Interface.InterfaceGroupName**: MUST be set to the application-provided interface group name.
- **Interface.State**: MUST be set to the application-supplied state.
- If the application supplied an IPv4 address, then **Interface.IPv4Address** MUST be set to it, else **Interface.IPv4Address** MUST be set to empty.
- If the application supplied an IPv6 address, then **Interface.IPv6Address** MUST be set to it, else **Interface.IPv6Address** MUST be set to empty.

The server MUST awaken any pending client requests awaiting notification in sections [3.1.4.1](#) and [3.1.4.4](#).

3.1.6.2 Server Application Notifies of a Request to Move to a New Resource

The calling application provides the Witness client name and resource name. The resource name can be an interface group name, an IP address, or a host name.

The server MUST search for all **WitnessRegistrations** in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientName** matches the application-provided witness client name.

For each **WitnessRegistration** matched, the server MUST create or overwrite the move entry in **WitnessRegistration.PendingMoveNotification**, setting the **Notification.Destination** to the application-provided resource name.

The server MUST awaken any client requests awaiting notification in section [3.1.4.4](#).

3.1.6.3 Server Application Notifies of a Change in the Resource that Owns a Share

This notification is applicable only to servers implementing version 2 (0x00020000). The calling application provides the Witness client name, share name, and resource name. The resource name can be an interface group name, an IP address, or a host name.

The server MUST search for all **WitnessRegistrations** in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientName** matches the application-provided witness client name, **WitnessRegistration.ShareName** matches the application-provided share name, and **WitnessRegistration.ShareNameNotificationRequired** is TRUE.

For each **WitnessRegistration** matched, the server MUST create or overwrite the share move entry in **WitnessRegistration.PendingShareMoveNotification**, setting the **Notification.Destination** to the application-provided resource name.

The server MUST awaken any client requests awaiting notification in section [3.1.4.4](#).

3.1.6.4 Server Application Notifies of an IP Address Being Added, Removed, Enabled or Disabled

This notification is applicable only to servers implementing version 2 (0x00020000). The calling application provides the Witness client name and resource name. The resource name can be an interface group name, an IP address, or a host name.

The server MUST search for all **WitnessRegistrations** in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.WitnessClientName** matches the application-provided witness client name and **WitnessRegistration.IPNotificationRequired** is TRUE.

For each **WitnessRegistration** matched, the server MUST create or overwrite the move entry in **WitnessRegistration.PendingIPNotification**, setting the **Notification.ChangeIndication** to the application-provided resource name.

The server MUST awaken any client requests awaiting notification in section [3.1.4.4](#).

3.1.6.5 Transport Connection Shutdown

When the RPC transport indicates that an RPC connection with a client has timed out, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 3.3.3.2.1, the server MUST delete the **WitnessRegistration** entry for that client from the **WitnessRegistrationList**.

3.2 Witness Client Details

The client performs requests made to it by the application.

3.2.1 Abstract Data Model

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

3.2.1.1 Global

The client implements the following properties:

- **WitnessRegistrationList:** A list of **WitnessRegistration** initiated by the client to the witness servers. The structure of registration is as specified in section [3.2.1.2](#).
- **WitnessClientVersion:** The highest Witness protocol version supported by the Witness client. The value MUST be one of those listed in section [1.7](#).

3.2.1.2 Per WitnessRegistration

The client implements the following properties per witness registration.

- **WitnessServerName:** A null-terminated string that contains the name of the server.
- **IPAddress:** An IP address of a connection target.
- **RegistrationKey:** A unique value assigned by the server for this registration, in the form of `context_handle`, as specified in section [2.2.1.1](#).
- **RPCHandle:** An RPC handle to be used for making requests of the Witness server.
- **WitnessNotifyRequest:** A Boolean indicating whether a `WitnessrAsyncNotify` request is outstanding.

If the client implements version 2 (0x00020000) of the Witness protocol, the client implements the following properties:

- **ShareName:** A null-terminated string that contains the share name.
- **NetNameNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that this registration requires notifications based on the *NetName*.
- **ShareNameNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that this registration requires notifications based on the *ShareName*.
- **IPNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that this registration requires notifications based on the IP address changes on the server associated with *NetName*.
- **WitnessServerVersion:** The Witness protocol version supported by the Witness server for this registration.

3.2.2 Timers

The client uses non-default behavior for the RPC Call Timeout timer defined in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 3.3.2.2.2. The timer value that the client uses is implementation-specific. [<7>](#)

3.2.3 Initialization

The client MUST initialize `WitnessRegistrationList` to empty.

The client MUST initialize **WitnessClientVersion** in an implementation-specific manner <8>.

3.2.4 Message Processing Events and Sequencing Rules

After the client is initialized, it is subsequently driven by the higher-layer events triggered by the applications. The following sections describe events triggered by the higher layer.

3.2.4.1 Application Requests Witness Register

The caller provides the following:

- **NetName**: The name that the application is requesting for notifications, typically the name to which it has connected.
- **IpAddress**: The IP address for which the application requires receiving asynchronous notification.
- **ShareName**: A string containing the share name on which the application had requested for notifications, typically the share name to which it has connected. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsNetNameNotificationRequired**: A Boolean when set; indicates that the application is requesting witness registration for receiving notifications based on the **NetName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsShareNameNotificationRequired**: A Boolean when set; indicates that the application is requesting witness registration for receiving notifications based on the **ShareName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsIPNotificationRequired**: A Boolean when set; indicates that the application is requesting witness registration for receiving notifications based on the IP addresses changes on the server associated with **NetName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.

If the **NetName** parameter is an IPv4 address as dotted-decimal with four parts or an IPv6 address as 8 hexadecimal numbers separated by colons, the client MUST return an implementation-specific error to the calling application.

The client MUST establish an RPC connection to the Witness Service running on the **IpAddress**, as specified in section 2.1 using implementation-specific <9> values for authentication level and authentication service. If the connection is not established, the resulting error MUST be returned to the caller.

The client MUST call the **WitnessrGetInterfaceList** method, by providing the RPC handle returned from the previous step as the *Handle* input parameter, and subsequently close the RPC handle. If the server returns an error, the client MUST return the same error code to the caller.

If the server returns `STATUS_SUCCESS`, the client MUST select an Interface returned in the `WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST` where the `INTERFACE_WITNESS` flag is set in the **Flags** field and **State** is `AVAILABLE`.

If **WitnessClientVersion** is `0x00020000`, the client MUST create a new **WitnessRegistration** entry in **WitnessRegistrationList** and set **WitnessRegistration.WitnessServerVersion** to the

Version value returned in the **WitnessGetInterfaceList** response and set **WitnessRegistration.IpAddress** to the *IpAddress*.

The client MUST establish an RPC Connection to the Witness Service running on the selected Interface, as specified in section 2.1 using implementation-specific<10> values for authentication level and authentication service. If the **IPv4** flag is set, the address in **Interface.IPv4** SHOULD be used for the connection. If the **IPv6** flag is set, the address in **Interface.IPv6** SHOULD be used for the connection. If the connection is not established, the resulting error MUST be returned to the caller.

If **WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00020000, and if **IsShareNameNotificationRequired** or **IsIPNotificationRequired** provided by the application is TRUE, the client MUST call the RPC **WitnessRegisterEx** method on the resulting RPC handle, providing the following values:

- **WitnessClientVersion** for the *Version* parameter
- **NetName** for the *NetName* parameter
- **ShareName** for the *ShareName* parameter
- **IpAddress** for the *IpAddress* parameter
- A name to be used to identify the client<11> for **ClientComputerName**
- If **IsIPNotificationRequired** is TRUE, 0x00000001 for **Flags**; otherwise 0x00000000 for **Flags**.
- An implementation-specific time out value for the **KeepAliveTimeout** parameter.<12>

If the server returns an error, the client MUST retry the registration using other entries returned by the server for the **WitnessGetInterfaceList** response. If all the entries are exhausted, the client MUST again call the **WitnessGetInterfaceList** method as specified earlier. The client SHOULD<13> retry this registration sequence until it gets STATUS_SUCCESS from the server. If the server returns STATUS_SUCCESS, the client MUST update **WitnessRegistration** entry with the following values:

- **WitnessServerName**: This value MUST be set to the *NetName* parameter.
- **ShareName**: This value MUST be set to *ShareName* parameter.
- **RegistrationKey**: This value MUST be set to the value in the *ppContext* parameter.
- **RPCHandle**: This value MUST be set to the RPC handle used in the previous step.
- **WitnessNotifyRequest**: This value MUST be set to FALSE.
- **NetNameNotificationRequired**: This value MUST be set to TRUE.
- **ShareNameNotificationRequired**: This value MUST be set to TRUE if **IsShareNameNotificationRequired** is TRUE; otherwise set to FALSE.
- **IPNotificationRequired**: This value MUST be set to TRUE if **IsIPNotificationRequired** is TRUE; otherwise set to FALSE.

Otherwise, the client MUST call the RPC **WitnessRegister** method on the resulting RPC handle, providing 0x00010001 for **Version**, **NetName**, **IpAddress**, and a name to be used to identify the client<14>, as input parameters. If the server returns an error, the client MUST retry the registration using other entries returned by the server for the **WitnessGetInterfaceList** response. If all the entries are exhausted, the client MUST again call the **WitnessGetInterfaceList** method

as specified earlier. The client SHOULD<15> retry this registration sequence until it gets STATUS_SUCCESS from the server. If the server returns STATUS_SUCCESS, the client MUST create a new **WitnessRegistration** entry with the following values, insert the entry in **WitnessRegistrationList**, and return success to the caller:

- **WitnessServerName:** This value MUST be set to the *NetName* parameter.
- **IPAddress:** This value MUST be set to the *IpAddress* parameter.
- **RegistrationKey:** This value MUST be set to the value in the *ppContext* parameter.
- **WitnessNotifyRequest:** This value MUST be set to FALSE.
- **RPCHandle:** This value MUST be set to the RPC handle used in the previous step.
- If **WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00020000, **ShareName** MUST be set to NULL, **NetNameNotificationRequired** MUST be set to TRUE, **ShareNameNotificationRequired** MUST be set to FALSE, and **IPNotificationRequiredRequired** MUST be set to FALSE.

The client MUST return success to the caller.

3.2.4.2 Application Requests Witness Event Notification

The caller provides the following:

- **NetName:** The name that the application is requesting for notifications, typically the name to which it has connected.
- **IpAddress:** The IP address for which the application requires receiving asynchronous notification.
- **ShareName:** A string containing the share name that the application is requesting for notifications, typically the share name to which it has connected. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsNetNameNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that the application had requested witness registration for receiving notifications based on the **NetName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsShareNameNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that the application had requested witness registration for receiving notifications based on the **ShareName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsIPNotificationRequired:** A Boolean when set; indicates that the application had requested witness registration for receiving notifications based on the IP addresses changes on the server associated with **NetName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.

If **WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00020000, the client MUST locate the **WitnessRegistration** entry in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.WitnessServerName** matches **NetName**, **WitnessRegistration.WitnessShareName** matches **ShareName**, **WitnessRegistration.IPAddress** matches **IPAddress**, **WitnessRegistration.NetNameNotificationRequired** matches **IsNetNameNotificationRequired**, **WitnessRegistration.ShareNameNotificationRequired** matches **IsShareNameNotificationRequired**, and **WitnessRegistration.IPNotificationRequired** matches **IsIPNotificationRequired**.

If **WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00010001, the client MUST locate a **WitnessRegistration** entry in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.WitnessServerName** matches the application-provided **NetName** and **WitnessRegistration.IPAddress** matches the application-provided **IPAddress**.

If no matching entry is found, or if the **WitnessRegistration.WitnessNotifyRequest** is TRUE, the client MUST stop processing and return an implementation-defined local error to the caller.

The client MUST set **WitnessRegistration.WitnessNotifyRequest** to TRUE.

The client MUST call the **WitnessrAsyncNotify** method, on **WitnessRegistration.RPCHandle**, passing **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** as *pContext*.

When the server replies, if **WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00020000 and the status indicates ERROR_TIMEOUT, the client MUST call the **WitnessrAsyncNotify** method as specified earlier.

Otherwise, the client MUST set **WitnessRegistration.WitnessNotifyRequest** to FALSE.

The status and any received RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY result obtained from the server in the previous step MUST be returned to the caller.

3.2.4.3 Application Requests Witness UnRegister

The caller provides the following:

- **NetName**: The name that the application is requesting to be unregistered, typically the name to which it has previously registered.
- **IPAddress**: The IP address on which the application previously registered for receiving asynchronous notification.
- **ShareName**: A string containing the share name that the application is requesting for notifications, typically the share name to which it has connected. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsNetNameNotificationRequired**: A Boolean when set; indicates that the application had requested witness registration for receiving notifications based on the **NetName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsShareNameNotificationRequired**: A Boolean when set; indicates that the application had requested witness registration for receiving notifications based on the **ShareName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.
- **IsIPNotificationRequired**: A Boolean when set; indicates that the application had requested witness registration for receiving notifications based on the IP addresses changes on the server associated with **NetName**. This parameter is only applicable for clients implementing Witness protocol version 2.

If **WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00020000, the client MUST locate the **WitnessRegistration** entry in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.WitnessServerName** matches **NetName**, **WitnessRegistration.WitnessShareName** matches **ShareName**, **WitnessRegistration.IPAddress** matches **IPAddress**, **WitnessRegistration.NetNameNotificationRequired** matches **IsNetNameNotificationRequired**, **WitnessRegistration.ShareNameNotificationRequired** matches **IsShareNameNotificationRequired**, and **WitnessRegistration.IPNotificationRequired** matches **IsIPNotificationRequired**.

If **WitnessClientVersion** is 0x00010001, the client MUST locate a **WitnessRegistration** entry in the **WitnessRegistrationList** where **WitnessRegistration.WitnessServerName** matches the application-provided NetName and **WitnessRegistration.IPAddress** matches the application-provided **IPAddress**.

If no matching entry is found, or if the **WitnessRegistration.WitnessNotifyRequest** is TRUE, the client MUST stop processing and return an implementation-defined local error to the caller.

The client MUST call the WitnessrUnRegister method, on the **WitnessRegistration.RPCHandle**, passing the **WitnessRegistration.RegistrationKey** as the context.

If the server returns an error, the client MUST return the same error code to the caller. If the server returns STATUS_SUCCESS, the client MUST close **WitnessRegistration.RPCHandle**, remove the **WitnessRegistration** from **WitnessRegistrationList**, and return STATUS_SUCCESS to the caller.

3.2.5 Timer Events

Upon the expiration of RPC Call Timeout Timer, as specified in section [3.2.2](#), the client MUST close the RPC connection to the server and release the binding handle.

3.2.6 Other Local Events

None.

4 Protocol Examples

The following section describes common scenarios that indicate normal traffic flow in order to illustrate the function of the Service Witness Protocol.

4.1 Registering Notification Changes from the Witness Server

The following diagram demonstrates the steps taken to register and unregister the client to receive notification changes from the server.

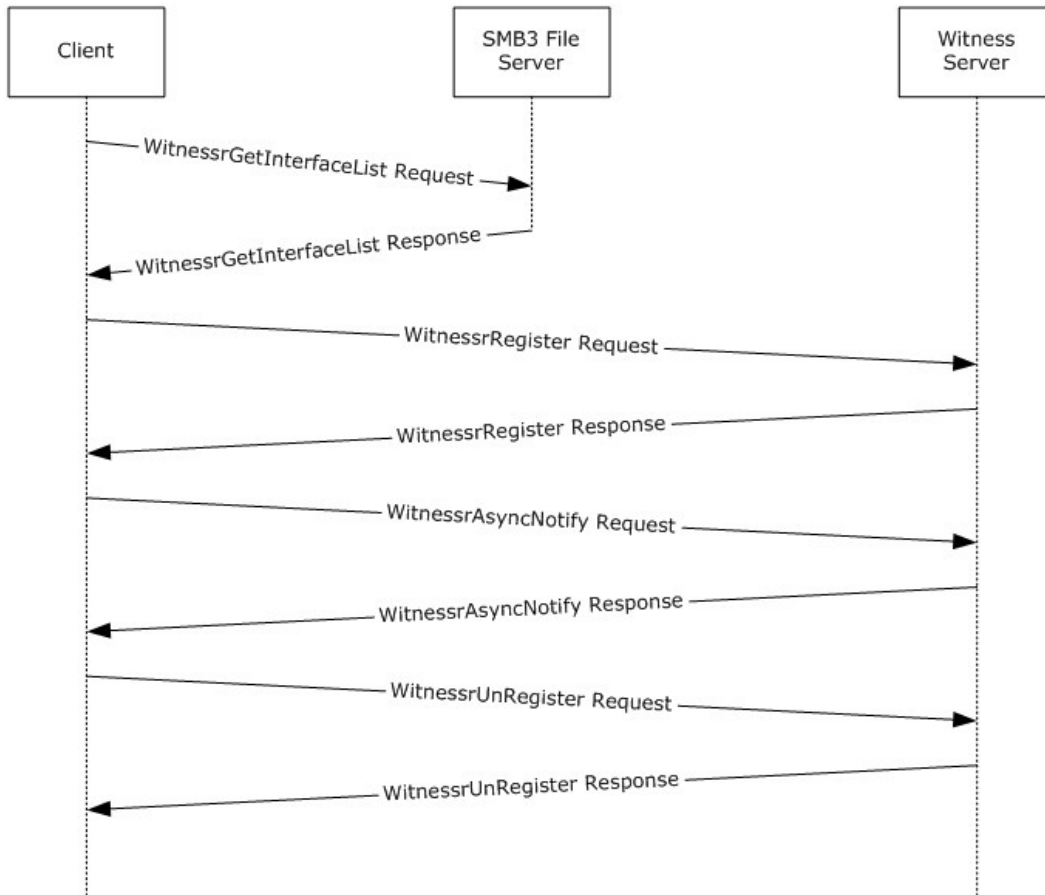


Figure 2: Message sequence used to register and unregister for notifications

1. The client sends a **WitnessrGetInterfaceList** request to the SMB3 Fileserver.
2. The SMB3 Fileserver returns information about the witness interfaces to which client connections can be made.

```
SWN: WitnessrGetInterfaceList Response, ReturnValue=0
  InterfaceList:
    WitnessInterfaceListPtr: Pointer To 0x00020000
    ReferentID: 0x00020000
    WitnessInterfaceList:
      NumberOfInterfaces: 2 (0x2)
```

```

WitnessInterfaceInfoPtr: Pointer To 0x00020004
  ReferentID: 0x00020004
InterfaceInfo:
  Size: 2 Elements
  MaxCount: 2
Element:
  InterfaceGroupName: NODE02
  padding: 0 Bytes
  Version: 4294967295 (0xFFFFFFFF)
  State: 1 (0x1)
padding1: 2 Bytes
  Padding: Binary Large Object (2 Bytes)
  IPV4: 192.168.1.22
  IPV6: 0:0:0:0:0:0:0:0
padding2: 0 Bytes
Flags: 5 (0x5)
Element:
  InterfaceGroupName: NODE01
  padding: 0 Bytes
  Version: 4294967295 (0xFFFFFFFF)
  State: 1 (0x1)
padding1: 2 Bytes
  Padding: Binary Large Object (2 Bytes)
  IPV4: 192.168.1.12
  IPV6: 0:0:0:0:0:0:0:0
padding2: 0 Bytes
Flags: 1 (0x1)
ReturnValue: 0 (0x0)

```

3. The client selects any one interface from the interface list and sends a **WitnessRegister** request to register for resource state change notifications of NetName and IPAddress.

```

SWN: WitnessRegister Request, Version=65537, NetName=generalfs,
IpAddress=192.168.1.200, ClientComputerName=CLIENT01.contoso.com
Version: 65537 (0x10001)
NetName: generalfs
  Pointer: Pointer To 0x00020000
  ReferentID: 0x00020000
  stringValue: generalfs
  Length: 10 Elements
  MaxCount: 10
  Offset: 0
  ActualCount: 10
Array: generalfs
  ArrayData: generalfs
IpAddress: 192.168.1.200
  Pointer: Pointer To 0x00020004
  ReferentID: 0x00020004
  stringValue: 192.168.1.200
  Length: 14 Elements
  MaxCount: 14
  Offset: 0
  ActualCount: 14
Array: 192.168.1.200
  ArrayData: 192.168.1.200
ClientComputerName: CLIENT01.contoso.com
  Pointer: Pointer To 0x00020008
  ReferentID: 0x00020008

```

```
stringValue: CLIENT01.contoso.com
Length: 21 Elements
MaxCount: 21
Offset: 0
ActualCount: 21
Array: CLIENT01.contoso.com
ArrayData: CLIENT01.contoso.com
```

4. The Witness server processes the request and returns a context handle that identifies the client on the server.

```
SWN: WitnessrRegister Response, Context=0x1, ReturnValue=0
Context: 0x1
ContextType: 0 (0x0)
ContextUuid: {8FC957B7-6C9B-9790-496A-F8A0F2193318}
ReturnValue: 0 (0x0)
```

5. The client sends a **WitnessrAsyncNotify** request to receive asynchronous notifications of registered resource changes from the server.

```
SWN: WitnessrAsyncNotify Request, Context=0x1
Context: 0x1
ContextType: 0 (0x0)
ContextUuid: {8FC957B7-6C9B-9790-496A-F8A0F2193318}
```

6. Whenever there is a state change on the registered resource, the Witness server responds to the client with a **WitnessrAsyncNotify** response.

```
SWN: WitnessrAsyncNotify Response, Resource Change Notification, ReturnValue=0
Resp:
  RespAsyncNotifyPtr: Pointer To 0x00020000
  ReferentID: 0x00020000
  RespAsyncNotify:
    MessageType: 1 (0x1)
    Length: 28 (0x1C)
    NumberOfMessages: 1 (0x1)
  NotificationPtr: Pointer To 0x00020004, 28 Elements
  ReferentID: 0x00020004
  MaxCount: 28
  Notification:
    ResourceChange:
      Length: 28 (0x1C)
      ChangeType: 255 (0xFF)
      ResourceName: GENERALFS
  pad: 0 Bytes
  ReturnValue: 0 (0x0)
```

7. The client sends a context handle in a **WitnessrUnRegister** request to unregister for notifications from the Witness server.

```
SWN: WitnessrUnRegister Request, Context=0x1
Context: 0x1
ContextType: 0 (0x0)
```

ContextUuid: {8FC957B7-6C9B-9790-496A-F8A0F2193318}

8. The Witness server processes the requests by removing the entry and no longer notifies the client of resource state changes.

SWN: WitnessrUnRegister Response, ReturnValue=0
ReturnValue: 0 (0x0)

5 Security

5.1 Security Considerations for Implementers

This protocol allows any user to connect to the server; therefore, any security weakness in the server implementation could be exploitable. The server implementation should enforce security on each method.

5.2 Index of Security Parameters

This protocol allows any user to establish a connection to the RPC server as specified in section [2.1](#).

6 Appendix A: Full IDL

For ease of implementation the full IDL is provided below, where "ms-dtyp.idl" refers to the IDL found in [\[MS-DTYP\]](#) Appendix A. The syntax uses the IDL syntax extensions defined in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) sections [2.2.4](#) and [3.1.1.5.1](#). For example, as noted in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 2.2.4.9, a pointer_default declaration is not required and pointer_default(unique) is assumed.

The **MessageBuffer** field in the RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY structure contains either a RESOURCE_CHANGE or an IPADDR_INFO_LIST structure. See sections [2.2.2.3](#) and [2.2.2.2](#) for details.

```
import "ms-dtyp.idl";
typedef [context_handle] void * PCONTEXT_HANDLE;
typedef [context_handle] PCONTEXT_HANDLE PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED;
typedef [ref] PCONTEXT_HANDLE * PPCONTEXT_HANDLE;

typedef struct _RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY {
    UINT MessageType;
    UINT Length;
    UINT NumberOfMessages;
    [size_is(Length)] [unique] PBYTE MessageBuffer;
} RESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY, *PRESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY;

typedef struct _WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO {
    WCHAR InterfaceGroupName[260];
    ULONG Version;
    USHORT State;
    ULONG IPV4;
    USHORT IPV6[8];
    UINT Flags;
} WITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO, *PWITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO;

typedef struct _WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST {
    UINT NumberOfInterfaces;
    [size_is(NumberOfInterfaces)] [unique] PWITNESS_INTERFACE_INFO InterfaceInfo;
} WITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST, *PWITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST;

[uuid(ccd8c074-d0e5-4a40-92b4-d074faa6ba28)]
[version(1.1)]
[pointer_default(unique)]
interface Witness {
    DWORD WitnessrGetInterfaceList(
        [in] handle_t Handle,
        [out] PWITNESS_INTERFACE_LIST * InterfaceList);
    DWORD WitnessrRegister(
        [in] handle_t Handle,
        [out] PPCONTEXT_HANDLE ppContext,
        [in] ULONG Version,
        [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR NetName,
        [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR IpAddress,
        [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR ClientComputerName);
    DWORD WitnessrUnRegister(
        [in] handle_t Handle,
        [in] PCONTEXT_HANDLE pContext);
    DWORD WitnessrAsyncNotify(
        [in] handle_t Handle,
        [in] PCONTEXT_HANDLE_SHARED pContext,
```

```
    [out] PRESP_ASYNC_NOTIFY * pResp);
DWORD WitnessrRegisterEx(
    [in] handle_t Handle,
    [out] PPCONTEXT_HANDLE ppContext,
    [in] ULONG Version,
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR NetName,
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR ShareName,
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR IPAddress,
    [in] [string] [unique] LPWSTR ClientComputerName,
    [in] ULONG Flags,
    [in] ULONG KeepAliveTimeout);
};
```

7 Appendix B: 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 8 operating system
- Windows Server 2012 operating system
- Windows 8.1 operating system
- Windows Server 2012 R2 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 2.2.2.1:](#) Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 set the undefined **Flags** field bits to arbitrary values.

[<2> Section 3.1.3:](#) Windows Server 2012 sets this value to 0x00010001. Windows Server 2012 R2 sets this value to 0xFFFFFFFF.

[<3> Section 3.1.4:](#) If the authentication level is not RPC_C_AUTHN_LEVEL_PKT_PRIVACY or RPC_C_AUTHN_LEVEL_PKT_INTEGRITY, Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 will fail the call with ERROR_ACCESS_DENIED.

Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2 will fail the call with ERROR_NOT_AUTHENTICATED if the authentication service is not equal to one of the following values:

- RPC_C_AUTHN_GSS_KERBEROS
- RPC_C_AUTHN_GSS_NEGOTIATE
- RPC_C_AUTHN_WINNT

[<4> Section 3.1.4.3:](#) Windows Server 2012 R2 fails the request with ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER.

[<5> Section 3.1.5.1:](#) Windows Server 2012 R2 server uses 30 seconds time out.

[<6> Section 3.1.6.1:](#) Windows Server will send a single notification for NetNames that are aliases of each other.

[<7> Section 3.2.2:](#) Windows 8.1 and Windows Server 2012 R2 use a default of 180 seconds.

[<8> Section 3.2.3:](#) Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012 clients set **WitnessClientVersion** to 0x00010001; Windows 8.1 and Windows Server 2012 R2 clients set **WitnessClientVersion** to 0x00020000.

<9> [Section 3.2.4.1](#): By default, Windows 8, Windows Server 2012, Windows 8.1, and Windows Server 2012 R2 set the authentication level to `RPC_C_AUTHN_LEVEL_PKT_INTEGRITY` and the authentication service to `RPC_C_AUTHN_GSS_NEGOTIATE`.

<10> [Section 3.2.4.1](#): By default, Windows 8, Windows Server 2012, Windows 8.1, and Windows Server 2012 R2 set the authentication level to `RPC_C_AUTHN_LEVEL_PKT_INTEGRITY` and the authentication service to `RPC_C_AUTHN_GSS_NEGOTIATE`.

<11> [Section 3.2.4.1](#): Windows uses the **FQDN** of the local computer to identify the client.

<12> [Section 3.2.4.1](#): Windows 8.1 and Windows Server 2012 R2 use a default **KeepAliveTime** value of 120 seconds.

<13> [Section 3.2.4.1](#): Windows clients retry the registration every 60 seconds.

<14> [Section 3.2.4.1](#): Windows uses the FQDN of the local computer to identify the client.

<15> [Section 3.2.4.1](#): Windows clients return the registration every 60 seconds.

8 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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