Linked servers

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Linked servers

Linked servers in managed instances support a limited number of targets:

- Supported targets are Managed Instances, Single Databases, and SQL Server instances.
- Linked servers don't support distributed writable transactions (MS DTC).
- Targets that aren't supported are files, Analysis Services, and other RDBMS. Try to use native CSV import from Azure Blob Storage using `BULK INSERT` or `OPENROWSET` as an alternative for file import.

Operations

- Cross-instance write transactions aren't supported.
- `sp_dropserver` is supported for dropping a linked server. See sp_dropserver ⧉.
- The `OPENROWSET` function can be used to execute queries only on SQL Server instances. They can be either managed, on-premises, or in virtual machines. See OPENROWSET ⧉.
- The `OPENDATASOURCE` function can be used to execute queries only on SQL Server instances. They can be either managed, on-premises, or in virtual machines. Only the `SQLNCLI`, `SQLNCLI11`, and `SQLOLEDB` values are supported as a provider. An example is `SELECT * FROM OPENDATASOURCE('SQLNCLI', '...').AdventureWorks2012.HumanResources.Employee`. See OPENDATASOURCE ⧉.
- Linked servers cannot be used to read files (Excel, CSV) from the network shares. Try to use [BULK INSERT] (https://docs.microsoft.com//sql/t-sql/statements/bulk-insert-transact-sql# ⧉ e-importing-data-from-a-csv-file) or [OPENROWSET](https://docs.microsoft.com/sql/t-sql/functions/openrowset-transact-sql# ⧉ g-accessing-data-from-a-csv-file-with-a-format-file) that reads CSV files from Azure Blob Storage. Track this requests on managed instance Feedback item ⧉|

Public Doc Reference

Managed instance T-SQL differences, limitations, and known issues

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/sql-database/sql-database-managed-instance-transact-sql-information# ⧉ linked-servers

Linked Servers (Database Engine)

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/linked-servers/linked-servers-database-engine?view=sql-server-ver15 ↗

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