

How to distinguish a regular restart from a forced failover restart

Last updated by | Pedro Acevedo | Oct 21, 2022 at 3:43 PM PDT

Issue

When a forced failover is issued, the Azure Activity log doesn't show the activity, it simply shows a restart:

Operation name	Status	Time	Time stamp
Restart PostgreSQL server	Succeeded	7 minutes a...	Mon Oct 10...
Restart PostgreSQL server	Started	18 minutes ...	Mon Oct 10...
Restart PostgreSQL server	Accepted	18 minutes ...	Mon Oct 10...

In contrast, MySQL does show the difference:

10 items.			
Operation name	Status	Time	Time stamp
Update MySQL Server Create	Succeeded	7 minutes a...	Fri Oct 07 2...
Failover MySQL Server	Succeeded	14 minutes ...	Fri Oct 07 2...
Failover MySQL Server	Started	15 minutes ...	Fri Oct 07 2...
Failover MySQL Server	Accepted	15 minutes ...	Fri Oct 07 2...

Investigation/Analysis

This is by design in PostgreSQL, there are no plans to change the way the activity shows in the Azure Portal.

Mitigation

Customer can try the following two workarounds.

1. Review that there is private DNS update when the server is VNET injected:

Activity Edit columns Refresh Export Activity Logs Download as CSV Insights Pin current filters Res

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Management Group : None Subscription : peaceved Event severity : All Timespan : Last week Add Filter

First 96 items.

Operation name	Status	Time	Time stamp
> Restart PostgreSQL server	Succeeded	14 minutes ...	Mon Oct 10...
> Create or update record set of type A	Succeeded	25 minutes ...	Mon Oct 10...
> Restart PostgreSQL server	Succeeded	35 minutes ...	Mon Oct 10...

regular restart

2. Enable Audit logs: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/postgresql/flexible-server/concepts-audit> and run the following query from Azure Diagnostics:

```
AzureDiagnostics
| where Resource == "servername"
| where Message contains "standby"
```

There will be an entry as follows when there was a forced failover:

2022-10-10 21:50:09 UTC-6344937f.15a8-LOG: standby "azure_standby_b045e4213a4e_standby" is now a candidate for quorum synchronous standby.

Repro Steps

Issue a forced failover process on a PostgreSQL Flexible server. Follow this document: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/postgresql/flexible-server/how-to-manage-high-availability-portal#forced-failover>

Root Cause Classification

Cases resolved by this TSG should be coded to the following root cause:

/Root Cause: PostgreSQL Flexible Server/Azure Portal/User Request/Feature Requests/Server/Creation/configuration UX