206 error on insertion to Always Encrypted column

Last updated by | Vitor Tomaz | Feb 24, 2023 at 3:23 AM PST

Contents

Known Issue

Customer runs sp_describe_parameter_encryption to examine columns protected by Always Encrypted feature and faces 206 error.

```
Msg 206, Level 16, State 2, Line 10
Operand type clash: varchar(256) encrypted with (encryption_type = 'DETERMINISTIC', encryption_algorithm_name
Msg 8180, Level 16, State 1, Procedure sp_describe_parameter_encryption, Line 1 [Batch Start Line 9]
Statement(s) could not be prepared.
```

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Investigation/Analysis (Workaround)

The root cause was identified as a code bug in Azure SQL DB.

Repro scenario

```
-- Create a database with non BIN2 collation for example SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS

-- Create table
create table t1 (
        id int not null,
        c1 varchar(256) COLLATE Japanese_XJIS_100_BIN2 ENCRYPTED WITH (COLUMN_ENCRYPTION_KEY = [MyCEK],
                ENCRYPTION_TYPE = Deterministic, ALGORITHM = 'AEAD_AES_256_CBC_HMAC_SHA_256') NOT NULL,
)
go

-- The following results in 206 error
exec sp_describe_parameter_encryption N'insert into t1 values(@c1, @c2)',
        N'@c1 int, @c2 varchar(256)'
```

Workaround

1. Change column type to nvarchar for the encryption column
2. Use BIN2 for the database collation such as 'Japanese_BIN2'

Internal Reference

- [Repair item 2058379](#) ↗
- [ICM 344841090](#) ↗

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