Replication Agent time out on first start

Last updated by | Vitor Pombeiro | Mar 22, 2022 at 3:19 AM PDT

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Issue

You have configured Transactional Replication successfully, but you see that the replication agents are failing on their first start and continue to fail on each retry. The replication agent *jobs* are started successfully, but then the replication agent that is started by the job is failing.

Investigation

When checking the replication agent history, you see that the agents are timing out when connecting to either Publisher, Distributor, or Subscriber.

Mitigation

The default login timeout of 30 seconds might be too low for the Managed Instance environment or a remote Subscriber.

Run the following steps at the Distributor for increasing the login timeout and to force the TCP protocol. If the agents are running (still retrying the agent), you also need to restart them for picking up the change.

```
-- Increase the default login timeouts for all jobs
update msdb..sysjobsteps set command = command + N' -LoginTimeout 150'
where subsystem in ('Distribution','LogReader','Snapshot') and command not like '%-LoginTimeout %'

-- Explicitly set the tcp protocol for the connections:
update msdb..sysjobsteps set command = replace(command,' -Distributor [',' -Distributor [tcp:')
where subsystem in ('Distribution','LogReader','Snapshot') and command not like '% -Distributor \[tcp:%' escap
```

The -LoginTimeout parameter's unit is seconds, and a value of 150 sets the timeout to 2.5 minutes.

How good have you found this content?