

[AzureSqlDatabase, Azure Synapse Analytics] Behavior difference between 'stop on first error' and 'continue on error'

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Issue

When customer uses Azure SQL Database, Azure Synapse Analytics as sink in dataflow (preview data, debug/trigger run...). He may find behavior difference between error row handling and normal insert.

1. if the schema contains column type with nvarchar/varchar, and the column has empty string (the length is not fixed, for example, ", ' ', ' '). It may succeed for 'continue on error' but failed for 'stop on first error'.

Root Cause

1. Customer's data must contain empty string which length larger than target table column length. For SQL connector, dataflow will write the data into a staging table and then move data from staging table to target table. 'stop on first error' will create the staging table with nvarchar/varchar length exact the same as target table, 'continue on error' will create 'nvarchar(max)/varchar(max)' to make the table more compatible. So for 'stop on first error', it will fail when insert from dataflow to staging table due to column length mismatch. But for 'continue on error', move to staging table always succeeds for length is max. And in SQL server, no matter what length of empty string, it will always has length 0. You can verify by 'select len(column) from table' from a table contains empty string. So since the empty string column length is 0, it can move from staging table to target table.

Resolution

1. It's hard for customer to identify the empty string rows, so unless customer want to keep the empty string with different length, customer should just switch to 'continue on error'. Since we will take the behavior of 'stop on first error' as a wrong result due to SQL driver limitation.

Additional Information:

- Icm Reference: N/A
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- Keywords:

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