Introducing the new OLE DB provider for linked servers in Azure SQL Managed Instance

Last updated by | Vitor Tomaz | Feb 24, 2023 at 3:29 AM PST

Contents

Issue

Customer may get the following notification via email:

> **Introducing the new OLE DB provider for linked servers in Azure SQL Managed Instance**
>
> You're receiving this email because you currently use a linked server with the SNAC (SQLNCLI) provider specified in your Azure SQL managed instances.
> The regular Azure SQL Managed Instance service upgrade that's scheduled for rollout during January and February 2023 will deactivate the outdated OLE DB driver known as SQL Native Client Driver (SNAC), or SQLNCLI. Current linked servers with the SQLNCLI provider specified will automatically start using the next-generation OLE DB provider, MSOLEDBSQL, which is backward compatible with SQLNCLI. At the same time, creation of new linked servers with the SQLNCLI provider specified will be deactivated. The newer provider, MSOLEDBSQL, should be specified instead.
>
> **Recommended action**
>
> To avoid interruptions, update any scripts for the creation of new linked server objects to specify the MSOLEDBSQL provider instead of SQLNCLI. If you don't want to rely on implicit mapping to the MSOLDBSQL provider, you may re-create existing linked server objects and specify MSOLEDBSQL instead of the SQLNCLI provider.
>
> **More information**
>
> MSOLEDBSQL is the third generation of Microsoft OLE DB provider for SQL Server that was released in 2018 and is backward compatible with the second-generation SNAC provider, which is no longer supported. Learn more about generations of OLE DB driver and creating a linked server. If you have questions, please contact us.

Investigation/Analysis

How to see what linked servers are still using the provider? Customers may use the following query:

```
SELECT name, provider, data_source, provider_string
FROM sys.servers
WHERE server_id != 0
```

Mitigation

As mentioned in the notification, if customers are creating linked servers via scripts, they should update any scripts for the creation of new linked server objects to specify the MSOLEDBSQL provider instead of SQLNCLI.

If customer wants to upgrade the linked servers themselves, they may re-create existing linked server objects and specify MSOLEDBSQL instead of the SQLNCLI provider.

How good have you found this content?