

Import error '...master keys without password are not supported...'

Last updated by | Subbu Kandhaswamy | Mar 25, 2022 at 12:46 PM PDT

Import error "...master keys without password are not supported..."

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Problem description

Following error is thrown when importing a bacpac created in Azure SQL Database to an on-prem SQL Server:

Error SQL72014: .Net SqlClient Data Provider: Msg 33161, Level 15, State 1, Line 1 Database master keys without password are not supported in this version of SQL Server.

Error SQL72045: Script execution error. The executed script:

CREATE MASTER KEY;

Cause

This happens after auditing is turned on. For this a database master key is created to encrypt the storage credentials for the auditing. The master key has no password defined. The creation of master key without a password is supported only in SQL Azure and SQL Data Warehouse (<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms174382.aspx>).

During the import when the CREATE MASTER KEY command is executed without a password on the on-prem SQL Server, the script execution error is thrown.

Fix

The issue seems to have started around 2017-03-01

PG is working on a permanent solution for the DacFx bug: set a dummy password for the master key when importing so user won't need to manually do anything.

ID	Title	Assigned To	State	Work Item Type
9715220	DACFX: BACPAC import fails to on-premise from Azure if the master key does not have a password	Active	Active	Defect

Workaround

A. Preferred:

Update the master key and set the password. Setting a password for the existing master key will mitigate the issue. Also, setting the password will not impact auditing and it will keep working.

The syntax to add the password is as follows:

-- execute in the user database

ALTER MASTER KEY ADD ENCRYPTION BY PASSWORD = '#####';

B. As described here: <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/40575610/ssms-2016-error-importing-azure-sql-v12-bacpac-master-keys-without-password-not>

create copy and regenerate database master key with password

C. turn off auditing and DROP MASTER KEY

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