

Restore System Database

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Issue

Customer is requesting to restore system databases (msdb, replicated master) due to a user inflicted issue (customer dropped user objects from system database).

Investigation/Analysis

We do not support restoring system databases (not including instance restore) as restoring any system objects is highly risky.

Mitigation/Workaround

Restoring system databases is an unsupported scenario. Restoring only the objects customer has deleted is also risky and cannot be executed by the customer due to missing permissions.

Advise Customer to create a new instance and restore data from the existing one to ensure that the master database on the new instance is healthy.

Two options are currently available:

1. Use cross-instance PITR to restore databases from current MI to new MI. Public docs:

[Point-in-time restore \(PITR\)](#) 

[Cross-instance point-in-time restore](#) 

2. Use failover group to "restore databases" to new MI then do a manual failover to new MI and drop old one.

[Configure a failover group](#) 

[Manually initiate a failover on SQL Managed Instance](#) 

[User initiated manual failover on SQL Managed Instance](#) 

Next Steps

Customers should not store user data nor modify existing data in the system databases. They should create user database and store their data there.

Internal Reference

[Incident-280055906](#) 

[Incident-268658014](#) 

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