

# Create publication fails with 14018 error

Last updated by | Akio Hose | Jun 17, 2022 at 12:09 AM PDT

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## Issue

User creates a publication but fails with 14018 error.

```
EXEC sp_addpublication
    @publication = N'mypubname',
    @status = N'active';
```

-- Result


Job 'SQLMITEST100.4E5575E5EBD8.DATABASE.WINDOWS.-pubdb-1' started successfully.

Warning: The logreader agent job has been implicitly created and will run under the SQL Server Agent Service A  
Msg 515, Level 16, State 2, Procedure sys.sp\_MSrepl\_addpublication, Line 1540 [Batch Start Line 22]

Cannot insert the value NULL into column 'pubid', table 'pubdb.dbo.IHpublications'; column does not allow null  
The statement has been terminated.

Msg 14018, Level 16, State 1, Procedure sys.sp\_MSrepl\_addpublication, Line 1568 [Batch Start Line 22]  
Could not create the publication.



## Possible causes

The user configured a database as both the distribution database and publication database. The customer was following a [tutorial](#)  and mistakenly specified a publication database in the bellow stored procedure (Step 6 in the tutorial)

```
-- Tutorial Step 6 - Configure distribution
USE [master]
GO

EXEC sp_adddistributor @distributor = @@ServerName;
EXEC sp_adddistributiondb @database = N'pubdb'; -- The customer was specifying the publication database inste
GO

-- The above mistake causes sp_addpublication to fail with error 14018 (Step 8 - Create publication and subscr
USE [pubdb]
EXEC sp_addpublication
    @publication = N'$(publication_name)',
    @status = N'active';
```

The [sp\\_adddistributiondb](#)  stored procedure creates objects that are required for a distribution database. If the user runs the sp\_addpublication stored procedure on a database that was configured as a distribution database, this confuses the execution flow in sys.sp\_MSrepl\_addpublication procedure, which is called within [sp\\_addpublication](#) , and results in 14018 error. Once a database has become under this state, attempting to configure the database for publication will always fail and the user will have to remove the objects ('IH%' tables/views) that are associate with distribution database objects manually.

## Cleanup

The most simple and clean method to cleanup is to drop the problematic database and re-create it. If the user has to retain the database and continue to use it for publication, they can follow these steps to cleanup. It should be noted that there are functions and stored procedures besides tables and views that are created when configuring a database for distribution. The steps described below only mentions cleaning up the tables and views will not be a complete cleanup. However, removing the tables and views would be sufficient to be able to configure the database for publication.




```
-- Verify current settings
select name, is_published, is_distributor from sys.databases

use master
EXEC sp_removedbreplication '<publication database>';

EXEC sp_dropdistributor @no_checks = 1, @ignore_distributor = 1

-- List up objects that were created during distribution database and drop all objects.
use [<publication database>]
select name, type from sys.objects
    where name like 'IH%' or name like 'MS%' or name like 'sys%'
    and type = 'U' or type = 'V'
    and is_ms_shipped = 1
order by type desc
```

## External reference

- [sp\\_addpublication](#) 
- [sp\\_removedbreplication](#) 
- [sp\\_dropdistributor](#) 

## Internal reference

- [repltran.sql](#) 

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