

Deleting folders is not supported

Last updated by | Ranjith Katukojwala | Mar 7, 2023 at 11:35 AM PST

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Issue

The customers cannot use ADF delete activity to delete folders.

Root Cause

Today it is not supported to delete folders with delete activity.

Solution

If customer wants to achieve the goal, he can use following way to work around it:

Solution-1:

1. Use "Get-Metadata" + "filter" activity to get the folder list which wants to be deleted.

```
{
  "name": "FilterActivity",
  "type": "Filter",
  "dependsOn": [
    {
      "activity": "Get-Metadata-Activity",
      "dependencyConditions": [
        "Succeeded"
      ]
    }
  ],
  "userProperties": [],
  "typeProperties": {
    "items": {
      "value": "@activity('Get-Metadata-Activity').output.childItems",
      "type": "Expression"
    },
    "condition": {
      "value": "@equals(item().type, 'Folder')",
      "type": "Expression"
    }
  }
}
```

2. Use "Foreach" activity to loop up result.
3. Try to trigger "Delete" activity in the loop of "Foreach" activity. Because you want to use modifiedDate (which is file attribute filter), so please set Delete activity with configuration like "folderPath + fileName (*) + modifiedDate + recursive=true", later empty folder will be left there.

Solution-2:

1. Use "Azure function" activity to get all the folders that want to be deleted with following logic:

- Connect the storage which has multiple folders with LS context.

```
72 folders
|---100 sub-folders
|---5000 files
```

- Write logic to enumerate the folder recursively to get each folder's full path (72*100) with modifiedDate.
- Write logic to operate each folder, here the customer can use parallel-run with multiple system.thread.tasks to delete them.

Reference: Delete activity and its limitation: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/data-factory/delete-activity> 

Known limitation

- Delete activity does not support deleting list of folders described by wildcard.
- When using file attribute filter: modifiedDatetimeStart and modifiedDatetimeEnd to select files to be deleted, make sure to set "fileName": "*" in dataset.

Additional Information:

- **Icm References:**
- **Author:** Monica
- **Reviewer:** vimals
- **Micro-service:** Transfer Web, Self-hosted IR, Azure IR, Task Management Service
- **Keywords:**

How good have you found this content?

