Replication Agent(s) fails with error - Windows logins are not supported in this version of SQL Server - 40607

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Contents

Issue

The customer has configured Transactional Replication and when the replication agents start for the first time, they are failing with error messages similar to these:

```
-- Agent history:
2019-07-10 12:52:58.04 Connecting to Distributor pipe 'np:\.\pipe\DB.2-BA3CE609BD64\sql\query'
2019-07-10 12:52:58.09 Connecting to Distributor 'servername.958419820FE9.DATABASE.WINDOWS.NET '
2019-07-10 12:52:58.12 The replication agent had encountered an exception.
2019-07-10 12:52:58.12 Source: Replication
2019-07-10 12:52:58.12 Exception Type: Microsoft.SqlServer.Replication.ConnectionFailureException
2019-07-10 12:52:58.12 Exception Message: Windows logins are not supported in this version of SQL Server.
2019-07-10 12:52:58.12 Message Code: 40607


-- SQL Server errorlog:
2020-08-12 11:34:37.610 Status: 0, code: 20015, text: 'Windows logins are not supported in this version of SQL
2020-08-12 11:34:37.610 Windows logins are not supported in this version of SQL Server.
```

Investigation/Analysis

Transactional Replication in MI does not support Windows authentication, and the customer very likely has misconfigured the job logins for the Snapshot, Log Reader, and/or Distribution Agents.

This might happen if the customer is re-using a Transact-SQL script that has worked well for their on-premise environment. Or it might occur if the customer was using the SSMS wizards and chose the option "Run under the SQL Server Agent service account" in the security settings.

You can check the current settings with the following queries against the Distribution database:

```
select name, publisher_db, publication, publisher_security_mode, publisher_login, job_login from distribution.
select name, publisher_db, publication, publisher_security_mode, publisher_login, job_login  from distribution
select name, publisher_db, publication, subscriber_db, subscriber_security_mode, subscriber_login, job_login f
```
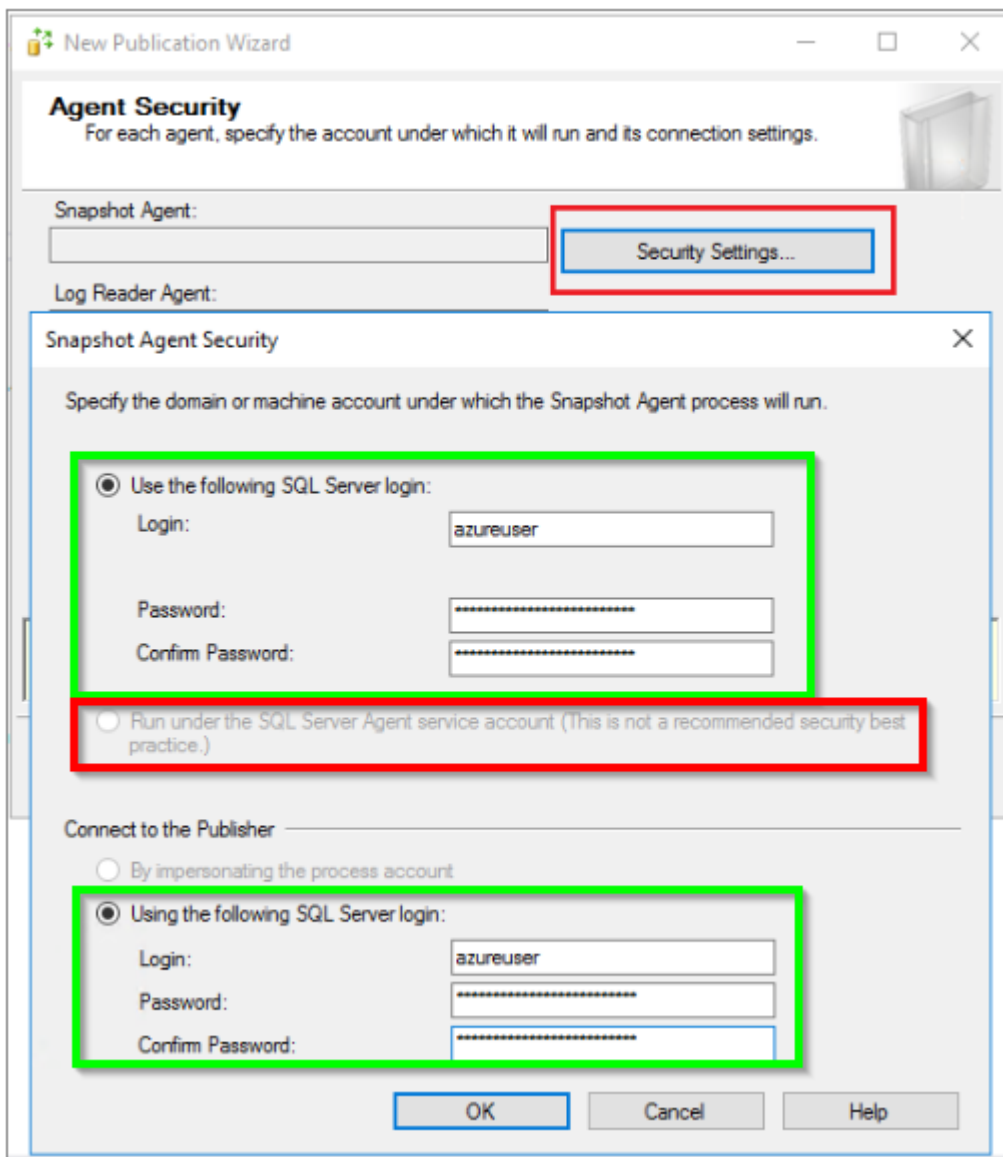
Mitigation

The customer needs to use SQL authentication for the replication agent job and agent logins.

Mitigation - SSMS

Install a current version of SSMS 18.x or newer (versions 17.x and older do not have the option to set SQL logins).

When configuring the **Agent Security** on the **Publication Wizard**, you can set the security to use **SQL logins**. Note the option for the "SQL Server Agent Service Account", which should be avoided:

Mitigation - Transact-SQL

If the replication agents were already created, you can reconfigure them by executing the following stored procedures on the Distributor.
Note that the `@publisher_security_mode` is set to "0", which means "use SQL logins":

```sql
-- Snapshot Agent
exec sp_changepublication_snapshot
    @publication = '<publication name>',
    @publisher_security_mode = 0,
    @publisher_login = '<Publisher SQL login name>',
    @publisher_password = '<Publisher SQL password>',
    @job_login = '<Distributor SQL login name>',
    @job_password = '<Distributor SQL password>'

-- Log Reader Agent
exec sp_changelogreader_agent
    @publisher_security_mode = 0,
    @publisher_login = '<Publisher SQL login name>',
    @publisher_password = '<Publisher SQL password>',
    @job_login = '<Distributor SQL login name>',
    @job_password = '<Distributor SQL password>'

-- Distribution Agent (connection to Distributor)
exec sp_changesubscription
    @publication = '<publication name>',
    @article = N'all',
    @subscriber = '<subscriber server name>',
    @destination_db = '<subscriber database name>',
    @property = N'distrib_job_login',
    @value = '<SQL login name>'
exec sp_changesubscription
    @publication = '<publication name>',
    @article = N'all',
    @subscriber = '<subscriber server name>',
    @destination_db = '<subscriber database name>',
    @property = N'distrib_job_password',
    @value = '<password>'

-- Distribution Agent (connection to Subscriber)
exec sp_changesubscription
    @publication = '<publication name>',
    @article = N'all',
    @subscriber = '<subscriber server name>',
    @destination_db = '<subscriber database name>',
    @property = N'subscriber_security_mode',
    @value = 0
exec sp_changesubscription
    @publication = '<publication name>',
    @article = N'all',
    @subscriber = '<subscriber server name>',
    @destination_db = '<subscriber database name>',
    @property = N'subscriber_login',
    @value = 'SQL login name>'
exec sp_changesubscription
    @publication = '<publication name>',
    @article = N'all',
    @subscriber = '<subscriber server name>',
    @destination_db = '<subscriber database name>',
    @property = N'subscriber_password',
    @value = '<password>'
```

Public Doc Reference

[sp_changepublication_snapshot](#) ⧉
[sp_changelogreader_agent](#) ⧉
[sp_changesubscription](#) ⧉

[Tutorial: Configure transactional replication - Create the publication](#) ⧉

Root Cause Classification

Cases resolved by this TSG should be coded to the following root cause:
Azure SQL DB MI/Replication/User Issue/Error

How good have you found this content?