

Cannot DROP function when applying snapshot

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Contents

- [Issue](#)
- [Investigation/Analysis](#)
- [Mitigation](#)
- [Internal reference](#)

Issue

Snapshot generated but fails when applied on the subscriber with the error:

Cannot DROP FUNCTION '<function_name>' because it is being referenced by object 'column_name'.

Investigation/Analysis

In short, the error is because when we try to recreate the object on the subscriber, it cannot be dropped because there is a dependent object.

This is easily reproduced on any SQL version (Azure or On prem). Create the function and table below on the publisher and subscriber before setting up the replication.

```
create function random_number()  
returns int  
as  
begin  
declare @i int  
  
set @i = 100  
  
return @i  
end  
  
GO  
create table test(id int default dbo.random_number(), col1 varchar(50))
```

When setup replication, after setting up the subscriber you will get the error mentioned above.

The error is due to the fact that the objects already exist on the subscriber and that in the Article properties we have the default setting to Drop the object at the destination if it exists.

Mitigation

Different ways to mitigate this. Any of them will work:

- drop the table at the subscriber (this way the function can be dropped and recreated)
- remove the function from the publication (if it makes sense for the customer needs)
- on the function article property choose the setting "Keep the existing object unchanged"

Internal reference

2211280050000307

How good have you found this content?

