In a Group Replication topology in multi-primary mode, care needs to be taken when executing data definition statements, also commonly known as data definition language (DDL).

MySQL 8.0 introduces support for atomic Data Definition Language (DDL) statements, where the complete DDL statement is either committed or rolled back as a single atomic transaction. However, DDL statements, atomic or otherwise, implicitly end any transaction that is active in the current session, as if you had done a `COMMIT` before executing the statement. This means that DDL statements cannot be performed within another transaction, within transaction control statements such as `START TRANSACTION ... COMMIT`, or combined with other statements within the same transaction.

Group Replication is based on an optimistic replication paradigm, where statements are optimistically executed and rolled back later if necessary. Each server executes without securing group agreement first. Therefore, more care needs to be taken when replicating DDL statements in multi-primary mode. If you make schema changes (using DDL) and changes to the data that an object contains (using DML) for the same object, the changes need to be handled through the same server while the schema operation has not yet completed and replicated everywhere. Failure to do so can result in data inconsistency when operations are interrupted or only partially completed. If the group is deployed in single-primary mode this issue does not occur, because all changes are performed through the same server, the primary.

For details on atomic DDL support in MySQL 8.0, and the resulting changes in behavior for the replication of certain statements, see Section 13.1.1, “Atomic Data Definition Statement Support”.

Version Compatibility

For optimal compatibility and performance, all members of a group should run the same version of MySQL Server and therefore of Group Replication. In multi-primary mode, this is more significant because all members would normally join the group in read-write mode. If a group includes members running more than one MySQL Server version, there is a potential for some members to be incompatible with others, because they support functions others do not, or lack functions others have. To guard against this, when a new member joins (including a former member that has been upgraded and restarted), the member carries out compatibility checks against the rest of the group.

One result of these compatibility checks is particularly important in multi-primary mode. If a joining member is running a higher MySQL Server version than the lowest version that the existing group members are running, it joins the group but remains in read-only mode. (In a group that is running in single-primary mode, newly added members default to being read-only in any case.) Members running MySQL 8.0.17 or higher take into account the patch version of the release when checking their compatibility. Members running MySQL 8.0.16 or lower, or MySQL 5.7, only take into account the major version.

In a group running in multi-primary mode with members that use different MySQL Server versions, Group Replication automatically manages the read-write and read-only status of members running MySQL 8.0.17 or higher. If a member leaves the group, the members running the version that is now the lowest are automatically set to read-write mode. When you change a group that was running in single-primary mode to run in multi-primary mode, using the `group_replication_switch_to_multi_primary_mode()` function, Group Replication automatically sets members to the correct mode. Members are automatically placed in read-only mode if they are running a higher MySQL server version than the lowest version present in the group, and members running the lowest version are placed in read-write mode.

For full information on version compatibility in a group and how this influences the behavior of a group during an upgrade process, see Section 18.8.1, “Combining Different Member Versions in a Group” .

18.1.4 Group Replication Services

This section introduces some of the services that Group Replication builds on.

18.1.4.1 Group Membership