

## Pulp - Task #8740

### [EPIC] Publication based plugins should use either `distribution.repository` or `distribution.publication` but not both

05/12/2021 10:38 PM - bmbouter

<b>Status:</b> NEW	<b>Start date:</b>
<b>Priority:</b> Normal	<b>Due date:</b>
<b>Assignee:</b>	<b>% Done:</b> 100%
<b>Category:</b>	<b>Estimated time:</b> 0:00 hour
<b>Sprint/Milestone:</b>	<b>Tags:</b>
<b>Platform Release:</b>	<b>Sprint:</b>
<b>Groomed:</b> No	<b>Quarter:</b>
<b>Sprint Candidate:</b> No	

**Description**

### Problems

1. Currently, when auto-publish creates a publication, for distributions to go live with that the code needs to make a data change on the distribution. Here is [an example](#) in pulp\_rpm. This requires the sync+publish code to lock on every distribution referencing the repository being sync'd. So instead of a lock like ["repository foo"] you get ["repository foo", "some distribution" "another distribution", "maybe a third distribution"].
2. Using both fields doesn't capture the user's intent. If a user wants to have a distribution always publish the latest publication setting the distribution.repository captures that nicely. If a user wants to have a distribution distribute a specific version of a publication (even if newer ones get created) setting distribution.publication captures that nicely. What we've got though is both fields being used together which captures conflicting requirements, they want the latest publication for a repository, but they also want this specific publication? If the distribution.publication is pointing to the latest publication then we're using two pieces of data when we only need one.

### Why did we do it this way?

I suspect because it was convenient since the content app already knows how to serve distribution.publication so by setting that data the publication will serve correctly.

### What to do instead?

1. For plugins that use publications, have their Distribution serializers validate to not allow both repository and publication at the same time.
2. Provide a migration to fix the data in cases where both are used.
3. Update the content app to find the latest publication when MyDistribution.repository is set and MyDistribution.publication is unset. This would happen [here](#). This is roughly how the content app auto distributes non-publication plugins, see the implementation [here](#).

**Subtasks:**

Story # 8759: Adjust auto-publish feature to not modify distributions	CLOSED - CURRENT
Story # 8760: Setup Content App to auto-distribute latest publication if `SomeDistribut...	CLOSED - CURRENT
Story # 8761: Add validation to Distribution serializer	CLOSED - CURRENT
Story # 8762: Adjust auto-publish feature to not modify distributions	CLOSED - CURRENT
Task # 8792: Test autodistribute in pulpcore fails after changing plugins to no longer ...	CLOSED - CURRENT

**Related issues:**

Related to RPM Support - Story #8673: Auto-publishing should be more fault-to...	NEW
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### History

#1 - 05/12/2021 10:51 PM - bmbouter

By not having to also update the distributions I think we'll be going a step closer to this request also: <https://pulp.plan.io/issues/8673>

**#2 - 05/12/2021 11:06 PM - dalley**

I would additionally suggest adding a database constraint (in core) so that plugin writers can't violate this invariant or mess up the validation.

Something equivalent to

`~Q(repository_isnull=False, repository_version__isnull=False) & ~Q(repository_isnull=False, publication__isnull=False)`

**#3 - 05/12/2021 11:07 PM - dalley**

- Related to Story #8673: Auto-publishing should be more fault-tolerant added

**#4 - 05/13/2021 05:25 PM - bmbouter**

[dalley](#), would you be able to list the plugins that need this change?

**#5 - 05/13/2021 10:12 PM - dalley**

It should be only file, rpm, and python.

But only file has been released with support AFAIK.

**#6 - 05/14/2021 05:50 PM - bmbouter**

- Subject changed from *Publication based plugins should use either `distribution.repository` or `distribution.publication` but not both* to [EPIC] *Publication based plugins should use either `distribution.repository` or `distribution.publication` but not both*