

WSUS on Windows Server 2025 cannot complete initial category sync (invalid update identity, AtLeastOne Prerequisite)

Failing update: CF56FF39-8BA5-4177-9265-E30D4DD58CF5 rev 100 (Windows Subsystem for Linux). Missing prerequisite: 79d72fdc-efcd-4911-8d4f-a3f00c69bdf4 rev 201.

Summary

A newly built WSUS server cannot complete its initial synchronization with Microsoft Update. Every synchronization attempt fails at the configuration-update (category) stage because one product category - **"Windows Subsystem for Linux"** (CF56FF39-8BA5-4177-9265-E30D4DD58CF5, revision 100) - cannot be imported. Its prerequisite, the product-family category 79d72fdc-efcd-4911-8d4f-a3f00c69bdf4 (revision 201, also titled "Windows Subsystem for Linux"), is never delivered by Microsoft Update, so the import is rejected on every retry and the handshake anchor is never saved.

I have confirmed the missing prerequisite by comparing the SUSDB of the failing server with the SUSDB of a known-good WSUS server. This appears to be a catalog ordering/consistency issue on the Microsoft Update side rather than a local configuration problem.

Environment

- OS: Windows Server 2025
- Reproduced on every patch level from the GA build up to and including the August 2026 cumulative update (i.e. the failure is not specific to one build)
- WSUS role: the in-box version shipped with Windows Server 2025 (no separate WSUS update applied)
- Database: Windows Internal Database (WID)
- Upstream: Microsoft Update (no upstream WSUS)
- Proxy: none (direct connection)
- Fresh installation; SUSDB has not been manually modified

Symptom

Synchronization always fails at the category sync stage with the same update. Relevant excerpt from SoftwareDistribution.log (2026-09-03 UTC):

```
CatalogSyncAgentCore.SyncConfigUpdatesFromUSS Category Sync: Filter: <filter SyncAnchor="0,2000-01-01 00:00:01.000" GetConfig="1"></filter>
CatalogSyncAgentCore.SyncConfigUpdatesFromUSS Need 4239 config updates, 19 are new
DBConnection.ExecuteCommandNoResult SqlException occurred. Number 50000 and message invalid update identity (AtLeastOne Prerequisite) in XML for update CF56FF39-8BA5-4177-9265-E30D4DD58CF5\100
DBConnection.ExecuteCommandNoResult SqlException occurred. Number 50000 and message invalid update identity (AtLeastOne Prerequisite) in XML for update CF56FF39-8BA5-4177-9265-E30D4DD58CF5\100
CatalogSyncAgentCore.ImportMultipleUpdates Imported 18/19 updates in 2 iterations; 1 will be retried
CatalogSyncAgentCore.GetUpdateDataInChunksAndImport 1 updates to go
CatalogSyncAgentCore.SyncConfigUpdatesFromUSS 1 update(s) could not be imported after repeated retry:
CatalogSyncAgentCore.SyncConfigUpdatesFromUSS Bad Update Revision #0: cf56ff39-8ba5-4177-9265-e30d4dd58cf5\100
CatalogSyncAgentCore.SyncConfigUpdatesFromUSS new handshake anchor will not be saved.
CatalogSyncAgentCore.ExecuteSyncProtocol One or more updates failed to import to local database. - Microsoft.
UpdateServices.ServerSync.CatalogSyncException
```

- 18 of the 19 outstanding configuration updates import successfully; the same single update fails every time.
- Retrying manually (via the console and via `Get-WsusServer / StartSynchronization()`) over multiple days produces the identical failure.
- Network connectivity, DNS resolution and TLS validation to `sws.update.microsoft.com` are confirmed working (SSL validation succeeded in the log).

Investigation

1. The failing update is a legitimate product category

On a known-good WSUS server, the update exists:

- UpdateID: cf56ff39-8ba5-4177-9265-e30d4d58cf5 ; RevisionNumber: 100; UpdateType: Category; Title: Windows Subsystem for Linux

On the failing server, it does not exist in `tbUpdate` at all (the import is rejected before any row is written).

2. Its prerequisites, as recorded on the known-good server

Query on the known-good server (`tbPrerequisiteDependency` joined to `tbUpdate` / `tbRevision` / `tbProperty` / `tbLocalizedProperty`):

- PrereqUpdateID: 56309036-4c77-4dd9-951a-99ee9c246a94 ; PrereqRevision: 101; PrereqType: Category; PrereqTitle: Microsoft
- PrereqUpdateID: 79d72fdc-efcd-4911-8d4f-a3f00c69bdf4 ; PrereqRevision: 201; PrereqType: Category; PrereqTitle: Windows Subsystem for Linux

3. Presence of those prerequisites on the failing server

- UpdateID: 56309036-4c77-4dd9-951a-99ee9c246a94 ; RevisionNumber: 1, 101; IsLatestRevision: 101 = True; Present on failing server: **Yes**
- UpdateID: 79d72fdc-efcd-4911-8d4f-a3f00c69bdf4 ; RevisionNumber: -; IsLatestRevision: -; Present on failing server: **No - not present in any revision**

The product-family category 79d72fdc-efcd-4911-8d4f-a3f00c69bdf4 (revision 201) has never been delivered to the failing server, so the import of the child product category CF56FF39-...\100 cannot resolve the referenced identity and is rejected with `invalid update identity (AtLeastOne Prerequisite)`.

Note that the "AtLeastOne" condition is logically satisfied by the presence of the "Microsoft" category, but the import stored procedure resolves every referenced identity before evaluating the condition, so a single unresolvable identity causes the failure regardless.

4. Ruled out

- **KB5121986 (TestProduct detectoid buildup)**: the failing server's SUSDB contains **0** detectoids with title `Product Detectoid for ProductName TestProduct` (prefix match), so the documented cleanup does not apply.
- **MaxXMLPerRequest**: this only limits XML returned to downstream clients and does not affect data received from Microsoft Update; the failure occurs at DB import, after the data has been received.
- **SUSDB corruption**: the same failure has been reported on clean installations of Windows Server 2019/2022/2025 since mid-June 2026 (e.g. Microsoft Q&A question 5920536), and the server in question is a fresh build with no manual DB changes.

Impact

The server cannot complete its first synchronization, so no products/classifications can be selected and no updates can be distributed to clients.

Workaround identified (not yet applied)

Importing metadata from the known-good WSUS server via `wsusutil.exe export` / `wsusutil.exe import` (or temporarily pointing the failing server at the known-good server as its upstream) is expected to supply both the parent (79d72fdc-...\201) and child (CF56FF39-...\100) categories, after which synchronization with Microsoft Update should succeed. I have not applied this yet. It requires access to a healthy WSUS server and is not a general fix.

Request

1. Please confirm whether the product-family category 79d72fdc-efcd-4911-8d4f-a3f00c69bdf4 (revision 201, "Windows Subsystem for Linux") is currently being delivered by the Microsoft Update server-sync endpoint during initial category sync, and if not, whether the catalog can be corrected so that new WSUS installations can complete their first synchronization without an intermediate WSUS server.
2. If a supported method exists to import a single missing category/revision into SUSDB without a second WSUS server, please share it.

Attachments (available on request)

- Full `SoftwareDistribution.log` covering the failed synchronization attempts
- Output of the SUSDB queries above from both servers
- Application event log entries (source: Windows Server Update Services) for the failed synchronizations