

Kafka Connect Deployment and Configuration

Date published: 2024-06-11

Date modified: 2025-10-30



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Deploying Kafka Connect clusters

You can deploy a Kafka Connect cluster by creating a `KafkaConnect` resource. The Kafka Connect workers are automatically configured to run in distributed mode. You can configure the number of workers. Each worker is a separate pod.

Before you begin

- Ensure that the Strimzi Cluster Operator is installed and running. See [Installation](#).
- Ensure that you have a working Kafka cluster. The Kafka cluster does not need to be managed by Strimzi, and it does not need to run on Kubernetes.
- Ensure that a namespace is available where you can deploy your cluster. If not, create one.

```
kubectl create namespace [***NAMESPACE***]
```

- Ensure that the `Secret` containing credentials for the Docker registry where Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator artifacts are hosted is available in the namespace where you plan on deploying your cluster. If the `Secret` is not available, create it.

```
kubectl create secret docker-registry [***REGISTRY CREDENTIALS SECRET***] \
  --namespace [***NAMESPACE***] \
  --docker-server [***YOUR REGISTRY***] \
  --docker-username [***USERNAME***] \
  --docker-password "$(echo -n 'Enter your password: ' >&2; read -s password; echo >&2; echo $password)"
```

- `[***REGISTRY CREDENTIALS SECRET***]` must be the same as the name of the `Secret` containing registry credentials that you created during Strimzi installation.
- Replace `[***YOUR REGISTRY***]` with the server location of the Docker registry where Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator artifacts are hosted. If your Kubernetes cluster has internet access, use `container.repository.cloudera.com`. Otherwise, enter the server location of your self-hosted registry.
- Replace `[***USERNAME***]` with a username that provides access to the registry, and enter the corresponding password when prompted. If you are using `container.repository.cloudera.com`, enter your Cloudera credentials. Otherwise, enter credentials providing access to your self-hosted registry.
- The following steps walk you through a basic cluster deployment example. If you want to deploy a Kafka Connect cluster that has third-party connectors or other types of plugins installed, see [Installing Kafka Connect connector plugins](#).

Procedure

1. Create a YAML configuration that contains your `KafkaConnect` resource.

```
apiVersion: kafka.strimzi.io/v1beta2
kind: KafkaConnect
metadata:
  name: my-connect-cluster
  annotations:
    strimzi.io/use-connector-resources: "true"
spec:
  version: 4.0.1.1.5
  replicas: 3
  bootstrapServers: my-cluster-kafka-bootstrap.kafka:9092
```

- The `spec.version` property specifies the Kafka version to use. The property must specify a Cloudera Kafka version supported by Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator. For example, 4.0.1.1.5. Do not add

Apache Kafka versions, they are not supported. You can find a list of supported Kafka versions in the Release Notes.



Note: In this version of Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator, only the latest version of Kafka is supported when deploying Kafka Connect. Earlier releases are not supported for Kafka Connect.

- The `bootstrapServers` property specifies the Kafka brokers to which to connect. Cloudera recommends providing multiple brokers to handle broker failures and enable connecting to another instance.

The `my-cluster-kafka-bootstrap.kafka:9092` value is the bootstrap of a Kafka cluster that is deployed on Kubernetes with Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator. `my-cluster` is the name of the cluster specified in `metadata.name` of the `Kafka` resource. The `kafka-bootstrap` string is fixed. The string `kafka` after the dot is the namespace where the cluster is deployed.



Note: You can deploy multiple connect clusters, as long as their name, group ID, and internal topic name is different. Strimzi provides a default group ID and internal topic name, but you can only use those if you run a single Kafka Connect cluster.

2. Deploy the resource.

```
kubectl apply --filename [***YAML CONFIG***] --namespace [***NAMESPACE***]
```

The namespace where you deploy Kafka Connect must be watched by the Strimzi Cluster Operator.

3. Verify that the `KafkaConnect` resource is ready.

```
kubectl get kafkaconnect [***CONNECT CLUSTER NAME***] --namespace [***NAMESPACE***] --watch
```

Results

If cluster deployment is successful, you should see an output similar to the following.

NAME	DESIRED REPLICAS	READY
my-connect-cluster	3	True

What to do next

- Learn more about configuring your Kafka Connect cluster. See [Configuring Kafka Connect clusters](#).
- Install third-party connectors. See [Installing Kafka Connect connector plugins](#).
- Deploy connectors. See [Deploying connectors](#).

Related Information

[Configuring group IDs](#)

[Configuring internal topics](#)

[Deploying Kafka Connect | Strimzi](#)

[KafkaConnect schema reference | Strimzi API Reference](#)

Configuring Kafka Connect clusters

Learn how you can update Kafka Connect properties in your `KafkaConnect` resource.

Updating Kafka Connect configurations

You update Kafka Connect configuration by editing your `KafkaConnect` resources.

Procedure

1. Run the following command.

```
kubectl edit kafkaconnect [***CONNECT CLUSTER NAME***] --namespace [***NAMESPACE***]
```

Running `kubectl edit` opens the resource manifest in an editor.

2. Make your changes.
3. Save the file.
Once the changes are saved, a rolling update is triggered and the workers restart one after the other with the applied changes.

Related Information

[Kafka Connect Configs | Apache Kafka](#)

[KafkaConnectSpec schema properties | Strimzi](#)

Configurable Kafka Connect properties and exceptions

Learn which Kafka Connect properties you can configure in the `KafkaConnect` resource and what default values some properties have, as well as which properties are managed by Strimzi.

Kafka Connect properties are configured by adding as keys to `config` in your `KafkaConnect` resource. The values can be one of the following JSON types:

- String
- Number
- Boolean

You can find a full reference of the available Kafka Connect properties in the Apache Kafka documentation. All properties can be specified, however, some properties are automatically configured with a default value if they are not specified in `spec.config`. Also, some properties are managed by Strimzi, and cannot be changed.

Properties with default values

The following properties are configured with default values unless you specify your configuration in `spec.config`.

- `group.id`, the default value of which is `connect-cluster`
- `offset.storage.topic`, the default value of which is `connect-cluster-offsets`
- `config.storage.topic`, the default value of which is `connect-cluster-configs`
- `status.storage.topic`, the default value of which is `connect-cluster-status`
- `key.converter`, the default value of which is `org.apache.kafka.connect.json.JsonConverter`
- `value.converter`, the default value of which is `org.apache.kafka.connect.json.JsonConverter`

Exceptions

Strimzi takes care of configuring and managing certain properties. The values of these properties cannot be changed.

The properties Strimzi takes care of are related to the following.

- Kafka cluster bootstrap address
- Security (encryption, authentication, and authorization)
- Listener and REST interface configuration
- Plugin path configuration

This means that properties with the following prefixes cannot be set.

- `bootstrap.servers`
- `consumer.interceptor.classes`

- listeners.
- plugin.path
- producer.interceptor.classes
- rest.
- sasl.
- security.
- ssl.

If the config property contains an option that cannot be changed, it is disregarded, and a warning message is logged in the Strimzi Cluster Operator log. All other supported properties are forwarded to Kafka, including the following exceptions to the options configured by Strimzi:

- Any SSL configuration for supported TLS versions and cipher suites

Related Information

[Supported TLS versions and cipher suites | Strimzi](#)

[Kafka Connect Configs | Apache Kafka](#)

[KafkaConnectSpec schema properties | Strimzi](#)

Configuring group IDs

Kafka Connect workers use a group ID for coordinating the cluster. All Connect workers use the same group ID inside a cluster.

About this task

Make sure to choose the group ID carefully, especially if you run multiple Kafka Connect clusters using the same Kafka cluster, because the group IDs must not clash with each other.

Configure the group ID by setting the value of the group.id property.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    group.id: my-connect-cluster
```

Configuring internal topics

Kafka Connect uses three internal Kafka topics to store connector and task configurations, offsets, and status.

About this task

Configure the internal Kafka topics in the spec.config property of the configuration file. This property contains the worker configurations.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    offset.storage.topic: my-connect-cluster-offsets
    config.storage.topic: my-connect-cluster-configs
    status.storage.topic: my-connect-cluster-status
    config.storage.replication.factor: 3
    offset.storage.replication.factor: 3
    status.storage.replication.factor: 3
```

**Note:**

Make sure to choose the internal topic names carefully, especially if you run multiple `KafkaConnect` clusters using the same Kafka clusters, because their internal topic names must not clash with each other.

Cloudera recommends setting the replication factor to at 3 in a production environment. If you set the replication factor to -1, the default replication factor of the Kafka cluster will be used.

Configuring worker replica count

You can configure the number of worker pods created in the Kafka Connect cluster. Cloudera recommends having more than one worker pod for high availability.

Configure the number of worker pods created by setting the value of the `spec.replicas` property.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  replicas: 3
```



Note: Changing the number of replicas in the Kafka Connect cluster is how you scale your cluster. Unlike with Kafka brokers, no additional preparation, steps, or other configuration is needed for scaling. Simply increasing or decreasing the replica count is sufficient.

Configuring the Kafka bootstrap

You can configure the bootstrap servers of a Kafka cluster. Cloudera recommends providing multiple brokers, as this makes the connection between Kafka and Kafka Connect clusters highly available.

Configure the bootstrap servers of the Kafka cluster by setting the value of the `spec.bootstrapServers` property.

You can provide additional security configurations in `spec.authentication` and `spec.tls`.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  bootstrapServers: my-cluster-kafka-bootstrap.kafka:9092
  authentication:
    type: tls
    certificateAndKey:
      certificate: user.crt
      key: user.key
      secretName: connect-user
  tls:
    trustedCertificates:
      - certificate: ca.crt
        secretName: my-cluster-kafka-cluster-ca-cert
```

This example specifies a Kafka cluster that has TLS encryption and authentication.

Enabling KafkaConnector resources

Kafka Connect connectors are managed either using `KafkaConnector` resources or with the Kafka Connect REST API. If you want to manage connectors using `KafkaConnector` resources, you must enable them in the `KafkaConnect` resource. Managing connectors with `KafkaConnector` resources is the method recommended by Cloudera.

You enable `KafkaConnector` resource by setting the `strimzi.io/use-connector-resources` annotation to `true`.

```
#...
```



```
kind: KafkaConnect
metadata:
  annotations:
    strimzi.io/use-connector-resources: "true"
```

Managing connectors with `KafkaConnector` resources or the Kafka Connect REST API are mutually exclusive connector management methods.

- If you do not enable the use of `KafkaConnector` resources, you can only use the REST API to manage connectors in this Kafka Connect cluster.
- If you enable the use of `KafkaConnector` resources, you can only manage connectors using `KafkaConnector` resources. If you make any changes over the REST API, the changes are reverted by the Strimzi Cluster Operator.

Cloudera recommends creating connectors using `KafkaConnector` resources, that is, enabling this annotation for all your Kafka Connect clusters. Cloudera does not recommend exposing and using Kafka Connect REST API externally, because the REST API is insecure.



Tip: Even if you enable `KafkaConnector` resources, you can still use some API endpoints to query information about the connector.

Related Information

[Using the Kafka Connect REST API](#)

Configuration providers

Learn how to provide configuration that is not in plain text key-value pair format.

Connectors connect to external systems, requiring additional connection and security configurations. The connector configurations only contain key-value pairs. For some use-cases and configurations, this is not viable. For example, credentials like passwords, access keys, or any other sensitive information should not be added as plain text to the configuration of a connector.

To support these use-cases, connectors can use `ConfigProviders` and configuration references.

`ConfigProviders` are responsible for pulling configurations from external configuration stores. Kafka Connect in Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator ships with various `ConfigProviders` that are available by default. Cloudera recommends using the following `ConfigProviders`.

- `KubernetesSecretConfigProvider` - Loads configurations from Kubernetes secrets. You can use it to store sensitive configurations securely.
- `KubernetesConfigMapConfigProvider` - Loads configurations from Kubernetes `ConfigMaps`. You can use it to group and centralize reusable configurations across multiple connectors.
- `FileConfigProvider` - Loads configurations from a property file. You can use it to reference properties from files available in the Kafka Connect worker file system.

`ConfigProviders` must be enabled in the `KafkaConnect` resource if you want to use them in your connector configuration. You enable `ConfigProviders` in `spec.config`.

This example enables the `ConfigProviders` recommended by Cloudera.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    config.providers: cfmap,secret,file
    config.providers.cfmap.class: io.strimzi.kafka.KubernetesConfigMapConfig
    config.providers.secret.class: io.strimzi.kafka.KubernetesSecretConfigP
    rovider
```

```
config.providers.file.class: org.apache.kafka.common.config.provider.FileConfigProvider
```



Important: Configurations referenced through config providers do not get automatically updated when the underlying configmap/secret is updated. Connectors referring to these resources need a manual restart to get the configuration updates.

Example config provider usage of a secret, where the secret resource called connect-secrets is located in the connect-ns namespace, and contains a sasl.jaas.config key:

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnector
spec:
  config:
    producer.override.sasl.jaas.config: ${secret:connect-ns/connect-secrets:sasl.jaas.config}
```

Kubernetes*ConfigProviders

When using the `Kubernetes*ConfigProviders`, the Kafka Connect workers require permissions to access the configuration maps and secrets in the Kubernetes cluster. Strimzi automatically creates a `ServiceAccount` for the Kafka Connect worker pods. An additional `Role` and `RoleBinding` is required to make the configuration providers work.

For example, assume you have a db-credentials Secret that contains credentials for a database to which that your connector will connect. To establish access to this secret through a `ConfigProvider` you need to create the following `Role` and `Rolebinding`.

For example, the following role grants access to the db-credentials secret in the database namespace:

```
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: Role
metadata:
  name: connector-configuration-role
  namespace: database
rules:
  - apiGroups: [""]
    resources: ["secrets"]
    resourceNames: ["db-credentials"]
    verbs: ["get"]
```

The following `RoleBinding` binds the new Role to the Connect `ServiceAccount`:

```
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: RoleBinding
metadata:
  name: connector-configuration-role-binding
subjects:
  - kind: ServiceAccount
    name: my-connect-connect
    namespace: my-project
roleRef:
  kind: Role
  name: connector-configuration-role
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
```

The service account name is always generated with the `[***CLUSTER NAME***]-connect` pattern.

Related Information

[Loading configuration values from external sources | Strimzi](#)

Adding external configuration to Kafka Connect worker pods

Depending on the connector plugins and the connection settings of the external system, you might need to configure additional external configurations for the Kafka Connect workers that are stored in environment variables or in additional volumes. Environment variables and volumes are specified in your `KafkaConnect` resource.

Adding environment variables

Environment variables are added using `spec.externalConfiguration.env`. For example, connectors may need a topic prefix which is stored in an environment variable.

The alias for the configuration provider is used to define other configuration parameters. The provider parameters use the alias from `spec.config.providers`, taking the form `spec.config.provider.s.***ALIAS***.class`.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    config.providers: env
    config.providers.env.class: org.apache.kafka.common.config
    provider.EnvVarConfigProvider
  externalConfiguration:
    env:
      - name: TOPIC_PREFIX
        value: prefix-text
```

Mounting additional volumes

Additional volumes are mounted using pod and container templates (`spec.template.*`) properties. For example, connectors might require an additional TLS truststore or keystore.

Specify additional volumes for Kafka Connect workers in the `spec.template.pod.volumes` property of the `KafkaConnect` resource. Attach volumes to the Kafka Connect container with the `spec.template.connectContainer.volumeMounts` property.

The volumes you specify are mounted under the path you specified in `mountPath`. In the following example, this is `/mnt/dbkeystore/[***A FILE NAME FROM THE VOLUME***]`.



Important: All additional mounted paths must be located inside the `/mnt` path. If you mount a volume outside of this path, the `Kafka` resource remains in a `NotReady` state, the Kafka pods are not created, and a related warning is logged in the Strimzi Cluster Operator log.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  template:
    pod:
      volumes:
        - name: dbkeystore
          secret:
            secretName: dbkeystore
    connectContainer:
      volumeMounts:
        - name: dbkeystore
          mountPath: /mnt/dbkeystore
```

Related Information

[ExternalConfiguration schema reference | Strimzi](#)

[Additional Volumes | Strimzi](#)

[AdditionalVolume schema reference | Strimzi API reference](#)

[ContainerTemplate schmea properties | Strimzi API reference](#)
[VolumeMount v1 core | Kubernetes](#)

Configuring connector configuration override policy

Learn how to configure the connector configuration override policy. The override policy controls what client properties can be overridden by connectors.

The Kafka Connect framework manages Kafka clients (producers, consumers, and admin clients) used by connectors and tasks. By default, these clients use worker-level properties. You can fine-tune worker-level properties with connector configuration overrides. Properties specified with configuration overrides take priority over worker-level properties. Additionally, they can be applied on a per connector basis.

What configuration properties can be overridden is controlled by a configuration override policy. The policy is specified for Kafka Connect workers (`KafkaConnect` resource).

Kafka Connect includes the following policies by default.

- All - Allow overrides for all client properties (default).
- None - Do not allow any overrides.
- Principal - Only allow overriding JAAS configurations.

To configure the policy, set `connector.client.config.override.policy` in `spec.config` of your `KafkaConnect` resource. You can set the value of this property to the fully qualified name or the standard service name (for example, `None`) of the chosen policy.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    connector.client.config.override.policy: None
```



Tip: Policies use the plugin framework of Kafka Connect and can be extended. You can create a custom policy by developing your own implementation of `ConnectorClientConfigOverridePolicy`. You can install your custom policy plugin the same way you install connector plugins.

Related Information

[Configuring client overrides in connectors](#)
[Installing Kafka Connect connector plugins](#)
[client.config.override.policy | Kafka](#)

Configuring delayed rebalance

Learn how to disable or configure the delayed rebalance of Kafka Connect workers.

By default, Kafka Connect workers operate with a delayed rebalance. This means that if a worker stops for any reason, its resources (tasks and connectors) are not immediately reassigned to a different worker.

Instead, by default, a five minute grace period is in effect. During this time, the resource assigned to the stopped worker remains unassigned. This allows the worker to restart and rejoin its group. Worker resources are only reassigned to a different worker after the five minute period is up.

This is useful if the tasks and connectors are heavy operations and you do not want them to be rescheduled immediately. However, this also means that in case of a stoppage, some worker resources might be in an idle state of up to five minutes, which leads to a temporary service outage. This is true even if the stopped worker restarts and rejoins its group before the five minutes is up.

You can configure the delay to be shorter, or disable it altogether. To do this, configure the `scheduled.rebalance.max.delay.ms` Kafka Connect property in your `KafkaConnect` resource.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    scheduled.rebalance.max.delay.ms: 0
```



Note: When the Connect group leader is restarted, an immediate rebalance is triggered. This cancels the delayed rebalance.

Related Information

[scheduled.rebalance.max.delay.ms](#) | [Kafka](#)

Installing Kafka Connect connector plugins

Learn how to install third-party connectors in Kafka Connect. Third-party connectors are installed by building a new Kafka image that includes the connector artifacts. In Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator, you build new images with Strimzi by configuring the `KafkaConnect` resource.



Note: In addition to connector plugins, Kafka Connect supports various other types of plugins, like data converters and transforms. While the following instructions are focused on connectors, you can follow them to install any other type of third-party plugin. The installation process is exactly the same.

By default the Strimzi Cluster Operator deploys a Kafka Connect cluster using the Kafka image shipped in Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator. The Kafka image contains the connector plugins that are included by default in Apache Kafka.

Additional, third-party connectors are not included. If you want to deploy and use a third-party connector, you must build a new Kafka image that includes the connector plugins that you want to use. Your new image will be based on the default Kafka image that is shipped in Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator. If the connector plugins are included in the image, you will be able to deploy instances of these connectors using `KafkaConnector` resources.

To build a new image, you add various properties to your `KafkaConnect` resource. These properties specify what connector plugin artifacts to include in the image as well the target registry where the image is pushed.

If valid configuration is included in the resource, Strimzi automatically builds a new Kafka image that includes the specified connector plugins. The image is built when you deploy your `KafkaConnect` resource. Specifically, Strimzi downloads the artifacts, builds the image, uploads it to the specified container registry, and then deploys Kafka Connect cluster.

The images built by Strimzi must be pushed to a container registry. Otherwise, they cannot be used to deploy Kafka Connect. You can use a public registry like quay.io or Docker Hub. Alternatively, you can push to your self-hosted registry. What registry you use will depend on your operational requirements and best practices.

If you are deploying multiple Kafka Connect clusters, Cloudera recommends using a unique image (different tag) for each of your clusters. Images behind tags can change and a change in an image should not affect more than a single cluster.

Building a new Kafka image automatically with Strimzi

You can configure your `KafkaConnect` resource so that Strimzi automatically builds a new container image that includes your third-party connector plugins. Configuration is done in `spec.build`.

About this task

When you specify `spec.build.plugins` properties in your `KafkaConnect` resource, Strimzi automatically builds a new Kafka image that contains the specified connector plugins. The image is pushed to the container registry specified in `spec.build.output`. The newly built image is automatically used in the Kafka Connect cluster that is deployed by the resource.

Before you begin



Important: Ensure that the JDK version of your platform is compatible with the Java version that the connector was compiled with. Mismatched versions prevent connectors from loading properly.

- Ensure that the Strimzi Cluster Operator is installed and running. See [Installation](#).
- A container registry is available where you can upload the container image.
- These steps demonstrate a basic configuration and deployment example. You can find additional information regarding `spec.build.output` and `spec.build.plugin` in [Configuring the target registry](#) and [Configuring connectors to add](#). Alternatively, see [Build schema reference](#) in the Strimzi API documentation.

Procedure

1. Create a Docker configuration JSON file named `docker_secret.json` which contains your credentials to both the Cloudera container repository and your own repository where the images will be pushed.

```
{
  "auths": {
    "container.repository.cloudera.com": {
      "username": "[***CLOUDERA USERNAME***]",
      "password": "[***CLOUDERA PASSWORD***]"
    },
    "[***YOUR REGISTRY***]": {
      "username": "[***USERNAME***]",
      "password": "[***PASSWORD***]"
    }
  }
}
```



Note: If you installed Cloudera Streams Messaging - Kubernetes Operator from a self-hosted registry (air-gapped installation), replace `container.repository.cloudera.com` with the location of your self-hosted registry. Additionally, replace `[***CLOUDERA USERNAME***]` and `[***CLOUDERA PASSWORD***]` with credentials for your self-hosted registry.

2. In the namespace where the `KafkaConnect` resource will be created, create a secret with the Docker credentials.

```
kubectl create secret docker-registry [***SECRET NAME***] --from-file=.dockerconfigjson=docker_secret.json
```

3. Configure your `KafkaConnect` resource.

The resource configuration has to specify a container registry in `spec.build.output`. Third-party connector plugins are added to `spec.build.plugin`.

The following example adds the Kafka `FileStreamSource` and `FileStreamSink` example connectors and uploads the newly built image to a secured registry of your choosing.

```
apiVersion: kafka.strimzi.io/v1beta2
kind: KafkaConnect
metadata:
  name: my-connect-cluster
  annotations:
    strimzi.io/use-connector-resources: "true"
```

```
spec:
  version: 4.0.1.1.5
  replicas: 3
  bootstrapServers: my-cluster-kafka-bootstrap.kafka:9092
  config:
    group.id: my-connect-cluster
    offset.storage.topic: my-connect-cluster-offsets
    config.storage.topic: my-connect-cluster-configs
    status.storage.topic: my-connect-cluster-status
  build:
    output:
      type: docker
      image: [***YOUR_REGISTRY***]/[***IMAGE***]:[***TAG***]
      pushSecret: [***SECRET_NAME***]
    plugins:
      - name: kafka-connect-file
        artifacts:
          - type: maven
            group: org.apache.kafka
            artifact: connect-file
            version: 3.7.0
```

4. Deploy the resource.

```
kubectl apply --filename [***YAML CONFIG***] --namespace [***NAMESPACE***]
```

5. Wait until images are built and pushed. The Kafka Connect cluster is automatically deployed afterwards. During this time you can monitor the deployment process with `kubectl get` and `kubectl logs`.

```
kubectl get pods --namespace [***NAMESPACE***]
```

The output lists a pod called `[***CONNECT CLUSTER NAME***]-connect-build`. This is the pod responsible for building and pushing your image.

NAME	READY	STATUS	RESTARTS
#...			
my-connect-cluster-connect-build	1/1	Running	0

You can get additional information by checking the log of this pod.

```
kubectl logs [***CONNECT CLUSTER NAME***]-connect-build --namespace [***NAMESPACE***]
```

You should see various INFO entries related to building and pushing the image.

Once the image is successfully built and pushed, the pod that built the image is deleted.

Afterwards, your Kafka Connect cluster is deployed.

6. Verify that the cluster is deployed.

```
kubectl get kafkaconnect [***CONNECT CLUSTER NAME***] --namespace [***NAMESPACE***]
```

If cluster deployment is successful, you should see an output similar to the following.

NAME	DESIRED REPLICAS	READY
#...		
my-connect-cluster	3	True

7. Verify that connector plugins are available.

You can do this by listing the contents of `/opt/kafka/plugins` in any Kafka Connect pod.

```
kubectl exec -it \
  --namespace [***NAMESPACE***] \
  [***CONNECT CLUSTER NAME***]-connect-[***ID***] \
  --container [***CONNECT CLUSTER NAME***]-connect \
  -- /bin/bash -c "ls /opt/kafka/plugins"
```



Tip: You can list available connectors with the GET `/connector-plugins` endpoint of the Kafka Connect API as well.

Results

Kafka Connect is deployed with an image that contains third-party connectors. Deploying the third-party connectors you added is now possible with `KafkaConnector` resources.

What to do next

Deploy a connector using a `KafkaConnector` resource. See, [Deploying connectors](#).

Related Information

[Using the Kafka Connect REST API](#)

Configuring the target registry

The Kafka image built by Strimzi is uploaded to a container registry of your choosing. The target registry where the image is uploaded is configured in your `KafkaConnect` resource with `spec.build.output`.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  build:
    output:
      type: docker
      image: [***YOUR_REGISTRY***]/[***IMAGE***]:[***TAG***]
      pushSecret: [***SECRET_NAME***]
```

- `type` - specifies the type of image Strimzi outputs. The value you specify is decided by the type of your target registry. The property accepts `docker` or `imagestream` as valid values.
- `image` - specifies the full name of the image. The name includes the registry, image name, as well as tags.
- `pushSecret` - specifies the name of the secret that contains the credentials required to connect to the registry specified in image. This property is optional and required only if the registry requires credentials for access.

Related Information

[output](#) | [Strimzi API reference](#)

Configuring connector plugins to add

The Kafka image built by Strimzi includes the connector plugins that you reference in the `spec.build.plugin` property of your `KafkaConnect` resource.

Each connector plugin is specified as an array.

```
#...
spec:
  build:
    plugins:
      - name: kafka-connect-file
```



```
artifacts:
- type: maven
  group: org.apache.kafka
  artifact: connect-file
  version: 3.7.0
```

Each connector plugin must have a name and a type. The name must be unique in the Kafka Connect deployment.

Various artifact types are supported including jar, tgz, zip, maven, and other.

The type of the artifact defines what required and optional properties are supported. At minimum, for all types, you must specify a location where the artifact is downloaded from. For example, with maven type artifacts, you specify the Maven group and artifact. For jar type artifacts you specify a URL.

You can specify artifacts for other types of plugins, like data converters or transforms, not just connectors.



Note: For maven type artifacts, you can configure the repository property, which specifies the Maven repository where the artifact is downloaded from. If the repository property is omitted, the artifact is downloaded from Maven Central.

Related Information

[Maven Central](#) | [Maven plugins](#) | [Strimzi API reference](#)

Rebuilding a Kafka image

It is possible that the base image or the plugin behind the URL changed over time. You can trigger Strimzi to rebuild the image by applying the `strimzi.io/force-rebuild=true` annotation on the Kafka Connect StrimziPodSet resource.

```
kubectl annotate strimzipodsets.core.strimzi.io --namespace [***NAMESPACE***] \
  [***CONNECT_CLUSTER_NAME***]-connect \
  strimzi.io/force-rebuild=true
```

Exactly-once semantics

Exactly-once semantics (EOS) is a feature that enables Kafka and Kafka applications to guarantee that each message is delivered precisely once without it being duplicated or lost. EOS can be enabled for Kafka Connect and Kafka Connect source connectors.

Source connectors progress is tracked by periodically committing the offsets of the processed messages. If the connector fails, uncommitted messages are reprocessed after the connector starts running again.

Using EOS, source connectors are able to handle offset commits and message produces in a single transaction. This either results in a successful operation where messages are produced to the target topic along with offset commits, or a rollback of the whole operation. EOS is enabled in the `KafkaConnect` resource. Additionally you can fine-tune EOS related properties in the configuration of connector instances.



Note: Consumers consuming the target topic should have `isolation.level` set to `read_committed` to avoid reading uncommitted data.

Enabling exactly-once semantics

You enable EOS for source connectors by configuring `exactly.once.source.support` in the `KafkaConnect` resource. Configuration differs for newly deployed resources and existing resources.

For New resources

Set `exactly.once.source.support` to `enabled`.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    exactly.once.source.support: enabled
```

For Existing resources

1. Set `exactly.once.source.support` to `preparing`.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    exactly.once.source.support: preparing
```

2. Wait until configuration changes are applied. This happens in the next reconciliation loop.
3. Set `exactly.once.source.support` to `enabled`.

Disabling exactly-once semantics

You disable EOS for source connectors by configuring `exactly.once.source.support` in the `KafkaConnect` resource.

Procedure

1. Set `exactly.once.source.support` to `preparing`.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  config:
    exactly.once.source.support: preparing
```

2. Wait until configuration changes are applied.
This happens in the next reconciliation loop.
3. Set `exactly.once.source.support` to `disabled`.

Source connector properties for exactly-once semantics

After enabling EOS for source connectors in the `KafkaConnect` resource, you can fine-tune EOS by configuring your connector instances (`KafkaConnector` resources).

Use the following source connector properties to configure EOS. Cloudera recommends that you use the default values.

Name	Default value	Description
exactly.once.support	requested	Permitted values are requested and forces a preflight check for the connector to provide exactly-once delivery with Kafka Connect. Some connectors may be capable of exactly-once delivery but not signal to Kafka Connect this. In this case, review the documentation before connector deployment and set the property to requested. Additionally, if the value is set to requested, the connector worker that performs preflight validation will enable exactly-once support for the connector to create or validate the connector.
transaction.boundary	poll	Permitted values are poll, connector, and producer. If set to poll, a new producer transaction is started for every batch of records that each connector provides to Kafka Connect. If set to connector, connector-defined transaction boundaries are used. If connectors are capable of defining transaction boundaries, and in that case, attempting to set the property to connector will fail. If set to producer, transactions only after a user-defined transaction.
offsets.storage.topic	null	The name of a separate offsets topic. If left empty or not specified, the worker's default name is used. If specified, the offsets topic does not already exist on the Kafka cluster. If the connector (which may be different from the worker's global offsets topic if the connector's producer has been set to the worker's).
transaction.boundary.interval.ms	null	If transaction.boundary is set to interval, this property sets the interval for producer transaction commit. If unset, defaults to the value of the transaction.boundary.interval.ms property.

Configuring Kafka Connect for Prometheus monitoring

To monitor Kafka Connect with Prometheus, you must configure your Kafka Connect cluster to expose the necessary metric endpoints that integrate with your Prometheus deployment. This is done by configuring the `metricsConfig` property in your `KafkaConnect` resource.

About this task

By default a Kafka Connect cluster you deploy with a `KafkaConnect` resource does not expose metrics that Prometheus can scrape. In order to use Prometheus to monitor your Kafka Connect cluster, you must enable and expose these metrics. This is done by adding a `metricsConfig` property to the spec of your `KafkaConnect` resource.

Specifying `metricsConfig` in the `KafkaConnect` resource enables the Prometheus JMX Exporter which exposes metrics through a HTTP endpoint. The metrics are exposed on port 9094. The `metricsConfig` property can reference a `ConfigMap` that holds your JMX metrics configuration or will include the metrics configurations in-line. The following steps demonstrate the configuration by referencing a `ConfigMap`.

Before you begin

A Prometheus deployment that can connect to the metric endpoints of the Kafka connect cluster running in the Kubernetes environment is required. Any properly configured Prometheus deployment can be used to monitor Kafka Connect. You can find additional information and examples on Prometheus setup in the [Strimzi documentation](#).

Procedure

1. Create a ConfigMap with JMX metrics configuration for Kafka Connect.

```
kind: ConfigMap
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: connect-metrics
  labels:
    app: strimzi
data:
  metrics-config.yml: |
    [***KAFKA-CONNECT-METRICS-CONFIGURATION***]
```

Replace [***KAFKA-CONNECT-METRICS-CONFIGURATION***] with your JMX Prometheus metrics configuration.

2. Update your KafkaConnect resource with a metricsConfig property. The property needs to reference the ConfigMap you created in 1 on page 20.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  metricsConfig:
    type: jmxPrometheusExporter
    valueFrom:
      configMapKeyRef:
        name: connect-metrics
        key: metrics-config.yml
```

What to do next

- Configure Prometheus and specify alert rules to start scraping metrics from the Kafka Connect pods. You can find an example rules file (prometheus-rules.yaml) as well as various other configuration examples on the Cloudera Archive. Examples related to Prometheus are located in the /csm-operator/1.2/examples/metrics directory.
- Review Cloudera recommendations on what alerts and metrics to configure. See [Monitoring with Prometheus](#).

Related Information

[Cloudera Archive](#)

[Prometheus JMX Exporter | GitHub](#)

Configuring the security context of Kafka Connect

Learn how to configure the security context of Kafka Connect pods

The Kafka Connect resource allows users to specify the security context at the pod and/or the container level with template properties.

```
#...
kind: KafkaConnect
spec:
  template:
    pod:
      securityContext:
        allowPrivilegeEscalation: false
      capabilities:
        drop:
          - ALL
      runAsNonRoot: true
```

```
seccompProfile:  
  type: RuntimeDefault
```