Apache Kafka CLI

Event streaming tools

CONCEPTS

On a tarball install the tools are bin/*.sh; package and container installs often drop the .sh suffix.

Producer writes records
↓ key picks partition
Topic split in partitions
↓ offset per partition
Consumer group one member per partition
↓ commits offsets
__consumer_offsets saved position

Order is guaranteed only within a partition; give related records the same key.

Every tool needs --bootstrap-server; the old --zookeeper flag is gone in KRaft-era Kafka.

TOPICS

kafka-topics.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--list**
List topics

kafka-topics.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--create --topic** *<topic>*
Create a topic

kafka-topics.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--create --topic** *<topic>* **--partitions** *<n>* **--replication-factor** *<n>*
Create with sizing

kafka-topics.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--describe --topic** *<topic>*
Show partitions, leaders, replicas

PRODUCE

kafka-console-producer.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--topic** *<topic>*
Send lines as messages

kafka-console-producer.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--topic** *<topic>* **--property parse.key=true --property key.separator=:**
Send key:value records

CONSUME

kafka-console-consumer.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--topic** *<topic>*
Read new messages

kafka-console-consumer.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--topic** *<topic>* **--from-beginning**
Read from the start

kafka-console-consumer.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--topic** *<topic>* **--group** *<group>*
Consume as a named group

kafka-console-consumer.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--topic** *<topic>* **--property print.key=true**
Show keys too

CONSUMER GROUPS

kafka-consumer-groups.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--list**
List groups

kafka-consumer-groups.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--describe --group** *<group>*
Show offsets and lag

kafka-consumer-groups.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--group** *<group>* **--reset-offsets --to-earliest --topic** *<topic>* **--dry-run**
Preview an offset reset

kafka-consumer-groups.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--group** *<group>* **--reset-offsets --to-earliest --topic** *<topic>* **--execute**
Rewind to the start

CONFIGS AND ACLS

kafka-configs.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--describe --entity-type topics --entity-name** *<topic>*
Show topic overrides

kafka-configs.sh --bootstrap-server *<broker>* **--alter --entity-type topics --entity-name** *<topic>* **--add-config retention.ms=***<ms>*
Set a topic config