kcat Kafka on the shell

CONCEPTS

The mode flag picks the job: -P produce, -C consume, -G group consume, -L metadata, -Q offset query. Without one, kcat guesses from stdin and stdout.

stdin one message per line
↓ -P -t -p
Topic partition ordered log
↓ -C -o -e
stdout payload or -f / -J
↓ pipe to jq
Your tools jq, grep, files

Put -b, -X and credentials in a config file (-F or ~/.config/kcat.conf) so commands stay short.

METADATA

kcat -b *<broker>* **-L**
List brokers, topics and partitions

kcat -b *<broker>* **-L -t** *<topic>*
Show one topic only

kcat -b *<broker>* **-L -J**
Metadata as JSON

CONSUME

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C**
Read all partitions and wait

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -e**
Exit at end of partition

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -p** *<n>*
Read one partition

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -o beginning**
Start from the oldest message

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -o -***<n>*
Last n messages per partition

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -c** *<n>*
Stop after n messages

OUTPUT FORMAT

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -J**
One JSON envelope per message

OUTPUT FORMAT (cont.)

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -K:**
Print key:value

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -f '***<fmt>***'**
Custom output format

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-C -f '%t[%p]@%o %k=%s\n'**
Topic, partition, offset, key, value

Format tokens (-f)

Token	Prints
%s	Payload
%S	Payload length
%k	Key
%K	Key length
%t	Topic
%p	Partition
%o	Offset
%T	Timestamp (ms)
%h	Headers
%R	Payload length, then payload (binary)

PRODUCE

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-P**
Send each stdin line as a message

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-P -l** *<file>*
Send a file, one message per line

kcat -b *<broker>* **-t** *<topic>* **-P -K:**
Split key:value on the colon

CONSUMER GROUPS

kcat -b *<broker>* **-G** *<group>* *<topic>*
Balanced consume with a group

kcat -b *<broker>* **-G** *<group>* *<topic>* **-X auto.offset.reset=earliest**
New group starts at the beginning

CONFIG AND SECURITY

kcat -F *<file>*
Read settings from a config file

kcat -b *<broker>* **-X** *<prop>*=*<value>*
Set any librdkafka property