Production Health Check

Engagement Objectives
To have a Confluent Kafka expert work alongside your technical teams to assess your current Kafka deployment's health and overall capabilities, making recommendations to meet the ongoing needs of your organization.

We forensically analyze system metrics, logs and consider a number of critical dimensions for Kafka deployments, such as scalability, reliability, throughput, latency, hardware, monitoring, and capacity estimation. In conjunction, we review your business use cases and SLAs to understand the holistic view.

By engaging with Confluent, you’ll proactively ensure that your Kafka/Confluent Platform deployments are in the best possible health whilst also learning more about configuration and performance tuning best practices.

Who Should Be Involved?
Engineers and operations staff responsible for managing one or more active Kafka clusters

Prerequisites
» A Kafka / Confluent Platform cluster currently in production
» Monitoring tools already in place, to monitor the server, network, and Kafka (via JMXmetrics)
» Moderate Kafka operational knowledge (a few months), or one or more staff having completed the Confluent Operations Training

Project Activities
» Pre-engagement survey and kickoff call
  • Align on engagement expectations and goals
  • Confirm logistics
» Use case discovery
  • Business purpose of your Kafka deployment
  • Discuss volume and characteristics of the data in your cluster
  • Type and quantity of producers and consumers of this data
  • Broker hardware, operating system, and configuration
  • Review programming languages used and related Kafka clients in use
» Production Health Check
  • Investigate server, network, and Kafka metrics, at peak load and non-peak load
  • Investigate architecture and configuration changes that could improve performance and/or reliability
  • Discuss “what-if” scenarios around failure—what to do if a broker fails, how failure will impact your applications, if the consumer is lagging, etc.
  • Discuss future planning as load increases
» JVM tuning assessment
» ZooKeeper hardening and operationalization
» Monitoring assessment
  • Review current monitoring plan
  • Identify gaps, and recommend tools/improvements
» Daemon log management
» Post-engagement report delivery
  • Survey and follow-up call

(continued)
Knowledge Transfer
At the end of the project, the Confluent engineer will provide a written summary of their analysis and recommendations, which may include:

1. The health of your Kafka cluster
2. Insight into any areas of concern
3. Proposed configuration changes to host systems and/or Kafka
4. Any other recommended changes such as to monitoring

Project Duration
Two days of direct, continuous interaction between a Confluent engineer and the appropriate members of your technical team.

Project Location
Onsite at customer's premises, a room with a whiteboard and a screen, or projector.

More Information
To discuss the Kafka Production Health Check consulting engagement, or any of the other services and training courses offered by Confluent, please contact us at contact@confluent.io.

Confluent offers a wide range of Professional Services engagements.
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