# Hortonworks Data Platform

Configuring Kafka for Kerberos Over Ambari

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# Hortonworks Data Platform: Configuring Kafka for Kerberos Over Ambari

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# 1. Overview

This chapter describes how to configure Kafka for Kerberos security on an Ambarimanaged cluster.

Kerberos security for Kafka is an optional feature. When security is enabled, features include:

- Authentication of client connections (consumer, producer) to brokers
- ACL-based authorization

# 2. Preparing the Cluster

Before you enable Kerberos, your cluster must meet the following prerequisites:

Prerequisite	References*	
Ambari-managed cluster with Kafka installed.	Installing, Configuring, and Deploying a HDP Cluster in	
Ambari Version 2.1.0.0 or later	Automated Install with Ambari	
Stack version HDP 2.3.2 or later		
Key Distribution Center (KDC) server installed and running	Installing and Configuring the KDC in the Ambari Security Guide	
JCE installed on all hosts on the cluster (including the Ambari server)	Enabling Kerberos Security in the Ambari Security Guide	

Links are for Ambari 2.2.0.0.

When all prerequisites are fulfilled, enable Kerberos security. (For more information see Launching the Kerberos Wizard (Automated Setup) in the Ambari Security Guide.)

# 3. Configuring the Kafka Broker for Kerberos

During the installation process, Ambari configures a series of Kafka settings and creates a JAAS configuration file for the Kafka server.

It is not necessary to modify these settings, but for more information see Appendix A, Kafka Configuration Options.

# 4. Creating Kafka Topics

When you use a script, command, or API to create a topic, an entry is created under ZooKeeper. The only user with access to ZooKeeper is the service account running Kafka (by default, kafka). Therefore, the first step toward creating a Kafka topic on a secure cluster is to run kinit, specifying the Kafka service keytab. The second step is to create the topic.

1. Run kinit, specifying the Kafka service keytab. For example:

```
kinit -k -t /etc/security/keytabs/kafka.service.keytab kafka/
c6401.ambari.apache.org@EXAMPLE.COM
```

2. Next, create the topic. Run the kafka-topics.sh command-line tool with the following options:

```
/bin/kafka-topics.sh --zookeeper <hostname>:<port> --create --topic <topic-name> --partitions <number-of-partitions> --replication-factor <number-of-replicating-servers>
```

#### For example:

```
/bin/kafka-topics.sh --zookeeper c6401.ambari.apache.org:2181 --create --
topic test_topic --partitions 2 --replication-factor 2

Created topic "test_topic".
```

For more information about kafka-topics.sh parameters, see Basic Kafka Operations on the Apache Kafka website.

#### **Permissions**

By default, permissions are set so that only the Kafka service user has access; no other user can read or write to the new topic. In other words, if your Kafka server is running with principal \$KAFKA-USER, only that principal will be able to write to ZooKeeper.

For information about adding permissions, see Authorizing Access when Kerberos is Enabled.

# 5. Producing Events/Messages to Kafka on a Secured Cluster

**Prerequisite**: Make sure that you have enabled access to the topic (via Ranger or native ACLs) for the user associated with the producer process. We recommend that you use Ranger to manage permissions. For more information, see the Apache Ranger User Guide for Kafka.

During the installation process, Ambari configures a series of Kafka client and producer settings, and creates a JAAS configuration file for the Kafka client. It is not necessary to modify these settings, but for more information about them see Appendix A, Kafka Configuration Options.

**Note**: Only the Kafka Java API is supported for Kerberos. Third-party clients are not supported.

#### To produce events/messages:

1. Specify the path to the JAAS configuration file as one of your JVM parameters:

```
-Djava.security.auth.login.config=/usr/hdp/current/kafka-broker/config/kafka_client_jaas.conf
```

For more information about the kafka\_client\_jaas file, see "JAAS Configuration File for the Kafka Client" in Kafka Configuration Options.

- 2. kinit with the principal's keytab.
- 3. Launch kafka-console-producer.sh with the following configuration options. (Note: these settings are the same as in previous versions, except for the addition of --security-protocol SASL\_PLAINTEXT.)

```
./bin/kafka-console-producer.sh --broker-list <hostname:port
[,hostname:port, ...]> --topic <topic-name> --security-protocol
SASL_PLAINTEXT
```

#### For example:

```
./bin/kafka-console-producer.sh --broker-list
c6401.ambari.apache.org:6667,c6402.ambari.apache.org:6667 --
topic test_topic --security-protocol SASL_PLAINTEXT
```

#### **Troubleshooting**

**Issue**: If you launch the producer without specifying the <code>security-protocol</code> option, you will see the following error:

```
2015-07-21 04:14:06,611] ERROR fetching topic metadata for topics
[Set(test_topic)] from broker
[ArrayBuffer(BrokerEndPoint(0,c6401.ambari.apache.org,6667),
BrokerEndPoint(1,c6402.ambari.apache.org,6667))] failed
(kafka.utils.CoreUtils$)
kafka.common.KafkaException: fetching topic metadata for topics
[Set(test_topic)] from broker
[ArrayBuffer(BrokerEndPoint(0,c6401.ambari.apache.org,6667),
BrokerEndPoint(1,c6402.ambari.apache.org,6667))] failed
    at kafka.client.ClientUtils$.fetchTopicMetadata(ClientUtils.scala:73)
Caused by: java.io.EOFException: Received -1 when reading from channel, socket has likely been closed.
    at kafka.utils.CoreUtils$.read(CoreUtils.scala:193)
    at kafka.network.BoundedByteBufferReceive.
readFrom(BoundedByteBufferReceive.scala:54)
```

**Solution**: Add --security-protocol SASL\_PLAINTEXT to the kafka-console-producer.sh runtime options.

# 6. Consuming Events/Messages from Kafka on a Secured Cluster

**Prerequisite**: Make sure that you have enabled access to the topic (via Ranger or native ACLs) for the user associated with the consumer process. We recommend that you use Ranger to manage permissions. For more information, see the Apache Ranger User Guide for Kafka.

During the installation process, Ambari configures a series of Kafka client and producer settings, and creates a JAAS configuration file for the Kafka client. It is not necessary to modify these values, but for more information see see Appendix A, Kafka Configuration Options.

**Note**: Only the Kafka Java API is supported for Kerberos. Third-party clients are not supported.

#### To consume events/messages:

1. Specify the path to the JAAS configuration file as one of your JVM parameters. For example:

```
-Djava.security.auth.login.config=/usr/hdp/current/kafka-broker/config/kafka_client_jaas.conf
```

For more information about the kafka\_client\_jaas file, see "JAAS Configuration File for the Kafka Client" in Kafka Configuration Options.

- 2. kinit with the principal's keytab.
- 3. Launch kafka-console-consumer.sh with the following configuration settings.

  (Note: these settings are the same as in previous versions, except for the addition of --security-protocol SASL\_PLAINTEXT.)

```
./bin/kafka-console-consumer.sh --zookeeper
c6401.ambari.apache.org:2181 --topic test_topic --from-beginning
--security-protocol SASL_PLAINTEXT
```

#### **Troubleshooting**

 $\begin{tabular}{l} \textbf{Issue}: If you launch the consumer without specifying the {\tt security-protocol}\ option, \\ you will see the following error: \\ \end{tabular}$ 

```
2015-07-21 04:14:06,611] ERROR fetching topic metadata for topics
[Set(test_topic)] from broker
[ArrayBuffer(BrokerEndPoint(0,c6401.ambari.apache.org,6667),
BrokerEndPoint(1,c6402.ambari.apache.org,6667))] failed
(kafka.utils.CoreUtils$)
kafka.common.KafkaException: fetching topic metadata for topics
[Set(test_topic)] from broker
[ArrayBuffer(BrokerEndPoint(0,c6401.ambari.apache.org,6667),
BrokerEndPoint(1,c6402.ambari.apache.org,6667))] failed
    at kafka.client.ClientUtils$.fetchTopicMetadata(ClientUtils.scala:73)
Caused by: java.io.EOFException: Received -1 when reading from channel, socket has likely been closed.
    at kafka.utils.CoreUtils$.read(CoreUtils.scala:193)
    at kafka.network.BoundedByteBufferReceive.
readFrom(BoundedByteBufferReceive.scala:54)
```

**Solution**: Add --security-protocol SASL\_PLAINTEXT to the kafka-console-consumer.sh runtime options.

# 7. Authorizing Access when Kerberos is **Enabled**

Kafka ships with a pluggable Authorizer and an out-of-box authorizer implementation that uses ZooKeeper to store Access Control Lists (ACLs). Authorization can be done via Ranger (see the Kafka section of the Ranger Install Guide) or with native ACLs.

A Kafka ACL entry has the following general format:

Principal P is [Allowed/Denied] Operation O From Host H On Resource R

#### where

 A principal is any entity that can be authenticated by the system, such as a user account, a thread or process running in the security context of a user account, or security groups of such accounts. Principal is specified in the PrincipalType:PrincipalName (User:dev@EXAMPLE.COM) format. Specify User:\* to indicate all principals.

Principal is a comma-separated list of principals. Specify \* to indicate all principals. (A principal is any entity that can be authenticated by the system, such as a user account, a thread or process running in the security context of a user account, or security groups of such accounts.)

- Operation can be one of: READ, WRITE, CREATE, DESCRIBE, or ALL.
- Resource is a topic name, a consumer group name, or the string "kafka-cluster" to indicate a cluster-level resource (only used with a CREATE operation).
- Host is the client host IP address. Specify \* to indicate all hosts.



#### **Note**

For more information about ACL structure, including mappings between Operations values and Kafka protocol APIs, see the Apache KIP-11 Authorization Interface document.

### 7.1. Kafka Authorization Command Line Interface

The Kafka Authorization CLI script, kafka-acls.sh, resides in the bin directory.

The following table lists ACL actions supported by the CLI script:

Action Type	Description
add	Add an ACL.
remove	Remove an ACL.
list	List ACLs.

The following table lists additional options for the Authorization CLI:

Option	Description	Default	Option Type
authorizer	The fully-qualified class name of the authorizer.	kafka.security.auth.S	<b>Configuration</b> horizer
authorizer- properties	A list of key=value pairs that will be passed to authorizer for initialization. Use this option multiple times to specify multiple properties.		Configuration
cluster	Specifies the cluster as resource.		Resource
topic <topic-name></topic-name>	Specifies the topic as resource.		Resource
consumer-group <consumer-group></consumer-group>	Specifies the consumer group as resource.		Resource
allow-principal	These principals will be used to generate an ACL with Allow permission.  Specify principal in		Principal
	PrincipalType:name format, such as User:devadmin.		
	To specify more than one principal in a single command, specify this option multiple times. For example:		
	allow- principal User: test1@EXAMPLE.COM		
	allow-principal User:test2@EXAMPLE.CO	M	
deny-principal	These principals will be used to generate an ACL with Deny permission.		Principal
	Principal is in PrincipalType:name format.		
	Multiple principals can be specified (see the allow-principal option).		
allow-host	IP address of the host from which the principals listed inallow-principal will have access. To specify multiple hosts, specify this option multiple times.	ifallow-principal is specified, this defaults to *, which translates to "all hosts"	Host
deny-host	IP Address of the host from which the principals listed indeny-principal will be denied access. To specify multiple hosts, specify this option multiple times.	ifdeny-principal is specified, this defaults to *, which translates to "all hosts"	Host
operation	An operation that will be allowed or denied based on principal options.	All	Operation

Option	Description	Default	Option Type
	Valid values: Read, Write, Create, Delete, Alter, Describe, ClusterAction, All		
producer	Convenience option to add or remove ACLs for the producer role. This will generate ACLs that allow WRITE, DESCRIBE on topic, and CREATE on cluster.		Convenience
consumer	Convenience option to add/ remove ACLs for consumer role. This will generate ACLs that allows READ, DESCRIBE on topic, and READ on consumer-group.		Convenience

## 7.2. Authorization Examples

By default, if a principal does not have an explicit ACL that allows access for an operation to a resource, access requests from the principal will be denied.

The following examples show how to add, remove, and list ACLs.

### 7.2.1. Grant Read/Write Access to a Topic

To add the following ACL:

"Principals user:bob and user:alice are allowed to perform Operation Read and Write on Topic Test-Topic from Host1 and Host2"

run the CLI with the following options:

bin/kafka-acls.sh --add --allow-principal User:bob --allowprincipal User:alice --allow-host host1 --allow-host host2 -operation Read --operation Write --topic test-topic

# 7.2.2. Grant Full Access to Topic, Cluster, and Consumer Group

To add ACLs to a topic, specify --topic <topic-name> as the resource option. Similarly, to add ACLs to cluster, specify --cluster; to add ACLs to a consumer group, specify --consumer-group <group-name>.

The following examples grant full access for principal bob to topic test-topic and consumer group 10, across the cluster. Substitute your own values for principal name, topic name, and group name.

bin/kafka-acls.sh --topic test-topic --add --allow-principal
user:bob --operation ALL --config /usr/hdp/current/kafka-broker/
config/server.properties

bin/kafka-acls.sh --consumer-group 10 --add --allow-principal
user:bob --operation ALL --config /usr/hdp/current/kafka-broker/
config/server.properties

bin/kafka-acls.sh --cluster --add --allow-principal user:bob -operation ALL --config /usr/hdp/current/kafka-broker/config/
server.properties

### 7.2.3. Add a Principal as Producer or Consumer

The most common use case for ACL management is to add or remove a principal as producer or consumer. The following convenience options handle these cases.

To add User: Bob as a producer of Test-topic, run the following command:

```
bin/kafka-acls.sh --add --allow-principal User:bob --producer --
topic test-topic
```

Similarly, to add User:Alice as a consumer of test-topic with consumer group group-1, pass the --consumer option.



#### Note

When using the consumer option you must specify the consumer group.

```
bin/kafka-acls.sh --add --allow-principal User:bob --consumer --
topic test-topic --consumer-group group-1
```

### 7.2.4. Deny Access to a Principal

In rare cases you might want to define an ACL that allows access to all but one or more principals. In this case, use the --deny-principal and --deny-host options.

For example, to allow all users to read from test-topic except user bob from host bad-host:

```
bin/kafka-acls.sh --add --allow-principal User:* --allow-host * --
deny-principal User:bob --deny-host bad-host --operation Read --
topic test-topic
```

### 7.2.5. Remove Access

Removing ACLs is similar to adding ACLs. The only difference is that you need to specify the --remove option instead of the --add option.

To remove the ACLs for principals bob and alice (added in "Grant Read/Write Access to a Topic"), run the CLI with the following options:

```
bin/kafka-acls.sh --remove --allow-principal User:bob --allow-principal User:alice --allow-host host1 --allow-host host2 -- operation Read --operation Write --topic test-topic
```

Similarly, to remove a principal from a producer or consumer role, specify the --remove option instead of --add:

bin/kafka-acls.sh --remove --allow-principal User:bob --producer
--topic test-topic

### 7.2.6. List ACLs

To list ACLs for any resource, specify the --list option with the resource. For example, to list all ACLs for Test-topic, run the CLI with following options:

bin/kafka-acls.sh --list --topic test-topic

### 7.2.7. Configure Authorizer Settings

To specify which authorizer to use, include the --authorizer option. For example:

--authorizer kafka.security.auth.SimpleAclAuthorizer...

To specify one or more authorizer initialization settings, include the –authorizer-properties option; for example:

--authorizer-properties zookeeper.connect=localhost:2181...

## 7.3. Troubleshooting Authorizer Settings

Frequently-asked Questions:

When should I use Deny?

By default, all principals that are not explicitly granted permissions get rejected. You should not need to use Deny. (Note: when defined, DENY takes precedence over ALLOW.)

Then why do we have deny?

Deny was introduced into Kafka for advanced use cases where negation was required. Deny should only be used to negate a large allow, where listing all principals or hosts is cumbersome.

Can I define ACLs with principal as user@<realm>?

You can if you are not using principal.to.local.class, but if you have set this configuration property you must define your ACL with users without REALM. This is a known issue in HDP 2.3.

I just gave a user CREATE Permissions on a cluster, but the user still can't create topics. Why?

Right now, Kafka create topic is not implemented as an API, but as a script that directly modifies ZooKeeper entries. In a secure environment only the Kafka broker user is allowed to write to ZooKeeper entries. Granting a user CREATE access does not allow that user to modify ZooKeeper entries.

However, if that user makes a producer request to the topic and has auto.create.topics.enable set to true, a topic will be created at the broker level.

# 8. Appendix: Kafka Configuration Options

## 8.1. Server.properties key-value pairs

Ambari configures the following Kafka values during the installation process. Settings are stored as key-value pairs stored in an underlying server.properties configuration file.

#### listeners

A comma-separated list of URIs that Kafka will listen on, and their protocols.

Required property with three parts:

```
<port>
```

Set protocol> to SASL\_PLAINTEXT, to specify the protocol that server accepts
connections. SASL authentication will be used over a plaintext channel. Once SASL
authentication is established between client and server, the session will have the client's
principal as an authenticated user. The broker can only accept SASL (Kerberos) connections,
and there is no wire encryption applied. (Note: For a non-secure cluster, protocol>
should be set to PLAINTEXT.)

Set hostname to the hostname associated with the node you are installing. Kerberos uses this value and "principal" to construct the Kerberos service name. Specify hostname 0.0.0 to bind to all interfaces. Leave hostname empty to bind to the default interface.

Set port to the Kafka service port. When Kafka is installed using Ambari, the default port number is 6667.

#### Examples of legal listener lists::

```
listeners=SASL_PLAINTEXT://kafka1.witzend.com:6667
listeners=PLAINTEXT://myhost:9092, TRACE://:9091,
SASL_PLAINTEXT://0.0.0.0:9093
```

#### advertised.listeners

A list of listeners to publish to ZooKeeper for clients to use, if different than the listeners specified in the preceding section.

In laaS environments, this value might need to be different from the interface to which the broker binds.

If advertised.listeners is not set, the value for listeners will be used.

#### Required value with three parts:

Set protocol to SASL\_PLAINTEXT, to specify the protocol that server accepts connections. SASL authentication will be used over a plaintext channel. Once SASL authentication is established between client and server, the session will have the client's principal as an authenticated user. The broker can only accept SASL (Kerberos) connections, and there is no wire encryption applied. (Note: For a non-secure cluster, cprotocol> should be set to PLAINTEXT.)

Set hostname to the hostname associated with the node you are installing. Kerberos uses this and "principal" to construct the Kerberos service name.

Set port to the Kafka service port. When Kafka is installed using Ambari, the default port number is 6667.

#### For example:

advertised.listeners=SASL\_PLAINTEXT://kafka1.witzend.com:6667

#### security.inter.broker.protocol

Specifies the inter-broker communication protocol. In a Kerberized cluster, brokers are required to communicate over SASL. (This approach supports replication of topic data.) Set the value to SASL\_PLAINTEXT:

security.inter.broker.protocol=SASL PLAINTEXT

#### authorizer.class.name

Configures the authorizer class.

Set this value to kafka.security.auth.SimpleAclAuthorizer:

authorizer.class.name=kafka.security.auth.SimpleAclAuthorizer

For more information, see "Authorizing Access when Kerberos is Enabled."

#### principal.to.local.class

Transforms Kerberos principals to their local Unix usernames.

Set this value to kafka.security.auth.KerberosPrincipalToLocal:

principal.to.local.class=kafka.security.auth.KerberosPrincipalToLocal

#### super.users

Specifies a list of user accounts that will have all cluster permissions. Kafka is included in the list by default, because it is the principal associated with brokers – it needs the permissions.

Set this value to user: < comma-separated-list-of-user-accounts>; for example:

super.users=user:kafka

## 8.2. JAAS Configuration File for the Kafka Server

The Java Authentication and Authorization Service (JAAS) API supplies user authentication and authorization services for Java applications.

After enabling Kerberos, Ambari sets up a JAAS login configuration file for the Kafka server. This file is used to authenticate the Kafka broker against Kerberos. The file is stored at:

```
/usr/hdp/current/kafka-broker/config/kafka_server_jaas.conf
```

Ambari adds the following settings to the file. (Note: serviceName="kafka" is required for connections from other brokers.)

```
KafkaServer {
       com.sun.security.auth.module.Krb5LoginModule required
       useKeyTab=true
      keyTab="/etc/security/keytabs/kafka.service.keytab"
       storeKey=true
       useTicketCache=false
       serviceName="kafka"
      principal="kafka/c6401.ambari.apache.org@EXAMPLE.COM";
Client { // used for zookeeper connection
      com.sun.security.auth.module.Krb5LoginModule required
       useKeyTab=true
      keyTab="/etc/security/keytabs/kafka.service.keytab"
       storeKey=true
      useTicketCache=false
       serviceName="zookeeper"
       principal="kafka/c6401.ambari.apache.org@EXAMPLE.COM";
```

## 8.3. Configuration Setting for the Kafka Producer

After enabling Kerberos, Ambari sets the following key-value pair in the server.properties file:

```
security.protocol=SASL_PLAINTEXT
```

## 8.4. JAAS Configuration File for the Kafka Client

After enabling Kerberos, Ambari sets up a JAAS login configuration file for the Kafka client. Settings in this file will be used for any client (consumer, producer) that connects to a Kerberos-enabled Kafka cluster. The file is stored at:

```
/usr/hdp/current/kafka-broker/config/kafka client jaas.conf
```

Ambari adds the following settings to the file. (Note: serviceName=kafka is required for connections from other brokers.)



#### Note

For command-line utilities like kafka-console-producer and kafka-console-consumer, use kinit. If you use a long-running process (for example, your own Producer), use keytab.

Kafka client configuration with keytab, for producers:

```
KafkaClient {
    com.sun.security.auth.module.Krb5LoginModule required
    useKeyTab=true
    keyTab="/etc/security/keytabs/storm.service.keytab"
    storeKey=true
    useTicketCache=false
    serviceName="kafka"
    principal="storm@EXAMPLE.COM";
};
```

Kafka client configuration without keytab, for producers:

```
KafkaClient {
    com.sun.security.auth.module.Krb5LoginModule required
    useTicketCache=true
    renewTicket=true
    serviceName="kafka";
};
```

Kafka client configuration for consumers:

```
KafkaClient {
   com.sun.security.auth.module.Krb5LoginModule required
   useTicketCache=true
   renewTicket=true
   serviceName="kafka";
   };
```