



Verified Integration Program Verification Guide: Standard Integrations with Confluent Platform

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Revision History

Versions	Date	Author	Description
0.1	Jun 12 2019	jwfbean@confluent.io	First whack at guide
0.2	March 2020	jwfbean@confluent.io	Added “testing” phase with deliverables to accommodate self-verification, added Confluent Cloud as an integration point.

Overview

This document describes the criteria Confluent employs to verify an integration with Confluent at the standard level. Because of the breadth of the platform there are lots of integration points to be considered at this level and the requirements might change over time. Partners are encouraged to check back often to make sure they're always working with the most up-to-date criteria. The goal behind verification is to make sure we accurately capture the characteristics of the integration while also providing guidance to partners on the best practices behind using Confluent Platform.

Examples of these integrations include, but are not limited to:

- Sources and sinks that to Apache Kafka that use the consumer / producer API instead of Kafka Connect
- Visualization and Business intelligence using KSQL
- Storage systems
- Deployment environments
- Monitoring and management

Why Verification?

Verifying integrations is a mutually beneficial relationship between Confluent and its partners, as well as their direct customers. The verification of an integration not only provides assurances of a level of compatibility and functionality with the Confluent Platform ecosystem, but it signals to customers that there is an established mutually supported integration between Confluent Platform and the partner product.

What does it mean to be Verified?

Confluent maintains a set of best practices for integration development. Verification measures a integration's design and implementation against those practices. A standard verification indicates that Confluent has determined the integration is solid

and functional with Confluent Platform. Confluent publishes the best practice checklist in an integration document with each verification.

Submission Checklist

The following is required from the partner for consideration for verification:

Software Package

Something that identifies the product to be considered for verification. A link to github, a maven repo, a dropbox URL, etc. all suffice.

Documentation

Product Brief (REQUIRED)

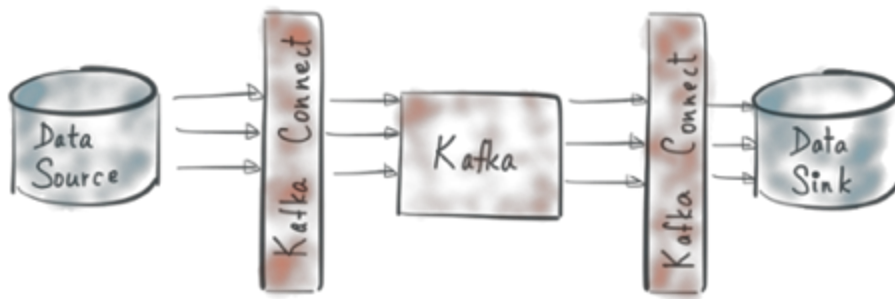
A field-facing 2 pager covering the following:

- Company and Product Info
 - Company Description
 - Product Description
 - Technical and Business Contact Info
 - Use cases
- Technical Brief
 - Integration Type
 - Product Version(s) <-> Confluent Version(s)
 - Product Version(s) <-> Target/Source Version(s)
 - Integration Points
 - Architecture Diagrams, for example
 - Product Centric
 - Confluent Centric
 - Detailed

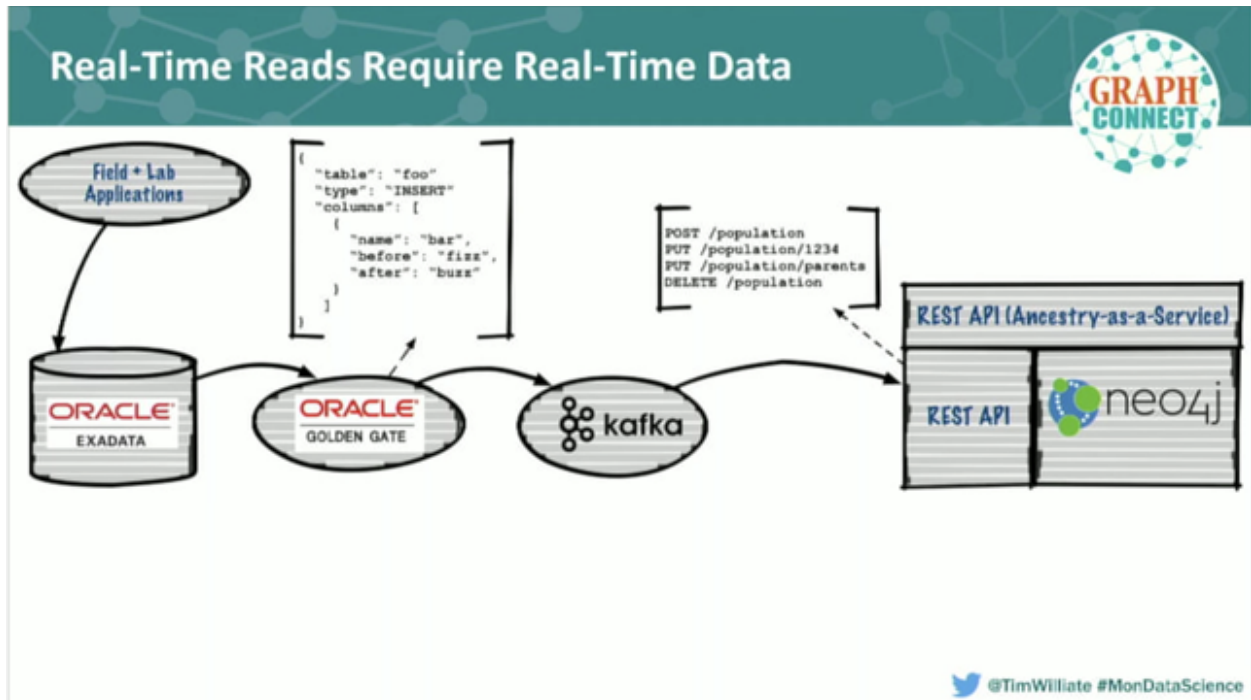
Sample Diagrams

Kafka Connect

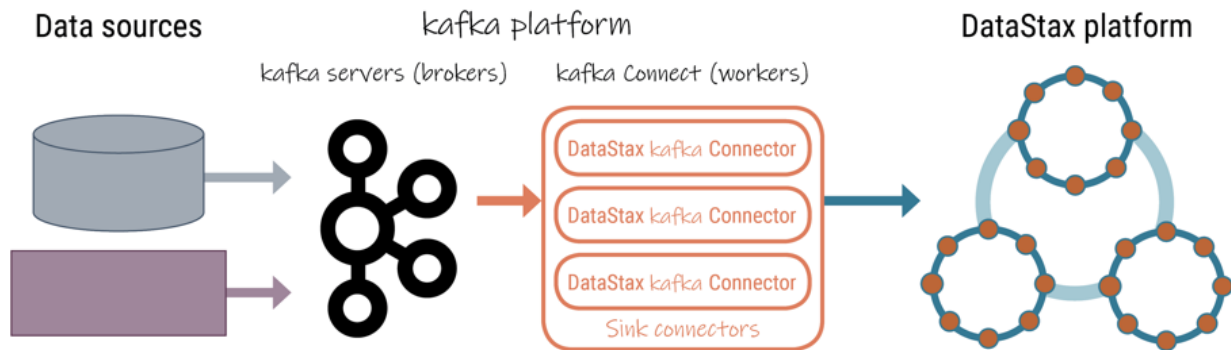
KAFKA CONNECT



Neo4J



DataStax



Quickstart / Tutorial

A guide to getting started with the integration from the point of view of a newbie. This can include installation instructions as well as a sample usage. A good quickstart / tutorial can also serve as an evaluation guide.

Other Documentation

Any other documentation that is relevant to the integration.

Evaluation Guide / Demonstration (REQUIRED)

In order to successfully count the integration as verified, Confluent requires either an evaluation guide or a scheduled demonstration with Confluent in order to showcase the integration, or both, at Confluent's discretion. An Evaluation Guide should detail all the steps required to showcase an integration with the goal of reproducing the entire integration for verification. When the entire integration cannot be readily reproduced without significant investment, a scheduled recorded demonstration with Confluent might serve in lieu.

Verification Criteria Detail

Fully supported

By verifying a connector with us, the partner pledges to fully support the connector in conjunction with Confluent.

Required in Product Brief

Technical Integration Category

The partner is required to classify Integrations are classified as follows (can be more than one):

- Sources and Sinks: Reads and writes data between the Confluent Platform or Confluent Cloud
- Deployment Platform: A runtime environment for Confluent Platform, such as OS, hardware architecture, cloud environment, kubernetes, etc.
- Stream Processors: Kafka Streams, KSQL clients, alternative stream processing engines, and so on.

- Complimentary Value-Add: Compliments the value of Confluent Platform to provide a complete solution to the end user, including but not limited to visualization and analytics, performance management, end-to-end data pipeline maintenance including heterogeneous sources and targets, and so on.
- Other: Describe

Technical and Business Contacts

In order to facilitate ongoing support and go-to-market activities, the partner is asked for contact information. We'll reach out to the technical contact if the connector is referenced in a support or pre-sales context. We'll reach out to the business contact for other activities.

License

We ask the partner to share the licensing and distribution model under which they're releasing the connector. This helps us to better position and understand the offering in the context of our ecosystem.

Integration Points

Confluent Cloud

Kafka Connect

Kafka Streams

ksqldb

Schema Registry

K8s Operator

Tiered Storage

Verification Process

The verified integration program is broken up into the following phases. This details the meaning of each phase and the criteria for exiting it.

Initiated

A connector initiative has been identified and the partner and Confluent have agreed to work together on it.

Deliverable: A 2 page product brief describing the connector and the partner information.

Guidance

The integration is actively being developed. Confluent can provide both development (Q&A) support as well as process support.

Deliverable: An integration for review via demonstration and/or evaluation. A completed verification checklist and evaluation guide.

Testing

Development is complete on the integration and the partner is in the process of running tests to confirm verification according to the checklist.

Deliverable: A completed standard verification checklist and test results form with appendix including reproducible tests.

Submitted

The integration is being reviewed by Confluent. There may be some revision and further discussion in this process as the evaluation guide is followed.

Deliverable: A completed verification report including a checklist confirmation and gap analysis.

Verified

The connector has been verified by Confluent.

Deliverable(s): Potentially including but not limited to: A card on the Confluent hub. An entry in the Confluent internal repository for field enablement. Blogs, co-marketing, etc.

Questions? Email vip@confluent.io