IBM Systems

IBM Health Check for Apache Kafka

Reduce complexity, boost performance, and deploy Apache Kafka with confidence

Why enterprises are using Kafka

Today's enterprises require modern data architectures that allow the movement of large amounts of data quickly, at scale, and in real-time. Apache Kafka is the open-source streaming technology behind some of the most popular real-time, event-driven user experiences and is trusted by thousands of enterprises globally. As enterprises look to deploy Apache Kafka at scale, they can often encounter unanticipated complexities. IBM Health Check for Apache Kafka provides you with direct access to industry experts who will work with you to understand your business requirements, review your current architecture, and provide you with a customized assessment intended to help you make the best technical decisions to help you accelerate your business outcomes.

Common Challenges with Kafka

Scalability
Rapidly growing Kafka systems begin to face challenges to scale and tune their environment to meet demand from the business.

Deployment and Administration
Adding new brokers and managing the underlying infrastructure platform like storage and networking can be very complex, especially with a tightly coupled architecture.

Service Interruptions
As the Kafka system grows, data producers and consumers may be negatively impacted by re-balancing the Kafka cluster causing interruptions to dependent systems in the infrastructure.

Monitoring
Building and maintaining a consistent, reliable, and efficient monitoring system for Kafka is a fundamental element to any successful deployment.

Data and System Security
To ensure your data is protected from exposure there is a necessity to follow best practices for encryption, authentication, and access control imperatives. In addition, staying on top of system vulnerabilities requires automation and diligence.

Services Summary

With IBM Health Check for Apache Kafka, your organization will be assigned a team of IBM technical experts that will work with you throughout the duration of the engagement. Beginning with the completion of a client questionnaire, a collaborative process will be used to ensure IBM has a complete understanding of your unique business needs and existing Kafka estate. You will have the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops that include an outcome review session that provides a full health check assessment and recommendations for optimization that are tailored to your enterprise. The engagement with the IBM team is expected to take approximately 2-3 weeks.

The package (Features and Highlights)

Meet Your Team
Upon service start, you will receive a welcome package and be introduced to your named IBM Project Manager who will be your guide throughout the engagement. An initial onboarding call will be set so you can get to know your IBM team members.

Client Questionnaire
To help our team of architects get to know your business objectives, underlying infrastructure, Kafka system and your desired outcomes, we will ask that you complete a questionnaire.

Technical Workshops
As part of this package, your team will have the opportunity to participate in series of technical workshops. Each session will deep dive into a different aspect of your Kafka system.

Health Check Assessment
IBM will help identify potential pitfalls and deployment risks associated with your current Kafka system. Our recommendations based on industry best practices are intended to help you mitigate these risks and optimize your cluster. This may include suggestions on architectural changes, scalability, configuration settings, data durability, security policies, and administrations model. Our goal is to assist you in prioritizing your action plan so you can achieve your business objectives.

6 Month Trial to Open Source Proactive Reporting Insights (OSPRI)
Insights from the OSPRI tool are intended to help remove some of the burden from development teams by identifying Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs) and security vulnerabilities through the aggregation of critical security data from a wide variety of sources. The customized reporting can help clients strengthen their security posture while simultaneously improving developer productivity.

This service is best suited for clients who have already deployed Kafka either in a pre-production or production environment. The assessment will be performed using a maximum of 5 clusters.

Conclusion

IBM has been supporting open source for over two decades, providing enterprise-grade support and services for both community and commercial versions of open source software. With IBM Health Check for Apache Kafka, you gain access to industry experts who help close the skills gap of your in-house IT staff. Our experts around the world are ready to address your complex Kafka issues and help optimize your environment.

Why Technology Support Services?

IBM Technology Support Services professionals have decades of expertise in the technology industry. Our experts support over 30,000 IBM and other original equipment manufacturer, hardware and software products. In fact, "The Total Economic Impact of IBM Hybrid IT Support" study from Forrester, which was based on interviews from 286 IT decision-makers who have engaged IBM for multivendor support, found a 21% reduction in the time staff spent on these tasks.[1] You can also count on IBM Technology Support Services to help you keep your mission-critical systems running smoothly 24x7.

1 Total Economic Impact of IBM Hybrid IT Support

IBM