

Kafka makes it easy to write code that communicates with a Kafka cluster, but sometimes we may need to interact with the cluster directly from the command line. In this lesson, we will discuss the various command line tools offered by Kafka as well as how to access them.

## Relevant Documentation

- [Kafka Quick Start](#)
- [Confluent CLI](#)

## Lesson Reference

1. Download the Kafka binaries:

```
wget http://mirror.cogentco.com/pub/apache/kafka/2.2.0/kafka_2.12-2.2.0.tgz
tar -xvf kafka_2.12-2.2.0.tgz
mv kafka_2.12-2.2.0 kafka
cd kafka/
```

2. Use the shell scripts that come with the Kafka binaries to list the topics in the cluster:

```
./bin/kafka-topics.sh --bootstrap-server localhost:9092 --list
```

3. List the shell scripts:

```
ls -l ./bin/
```

4. Use the `kafka-topics` command that comes with the Confluent package installation to list the topics in the cluster:

```
kafka-topics --bootstrap-server localhost:9092 --list
```

5. List the Kafka shell scripts that were installed with the Confluent packages:

```
ls -l /usr/bin | grep kafka
```

6. Run the `confluent` command:

```
confluent
```