

1. Generate and Sign a Client Certificate Using the Certificate Authority (CA)

```
cd ~/certs
keytool -keystore client.keystore.jks -alias kafkauser -validity 365 -
genkey -keyalg RSA -dname "CN=kafka"
keytool -keystore client.keystore.jks -alias kafkauser -certreq -file
client-cert-file
openssl x509 -req -CA ca-cert -CAkey ca-key -in client-cert-file -out
client-cert-signed -days 365 -CAcre
keytool -keystore client.keystore.jks -alias CARoot -import -file ca-cert
keytool -keystore client.keystore.jks -alias kafkauser -import -file
client-cert-signed
```

- `keytool -genkey`: This generates a new key pair and stores it in a keystore (`client.keystore.jks`). The key is for the Kafka client, with the alias `kafkauser`.
- `-validity 365`: Sets the certificate validity period to 365 days.
- `-keyalg RSA`: Specifies the key algorithm (RSA) to use.
- `keytool -certreq`: Generates a certificate signing request (CSR) for the key (`client-cert-file`).
- `openssl x509 -req`: Signs the CSR using the CA's private key (`ca-key`) and generates a client certificate (`client-cert-signed`).
- `keytool -import`: The CA certificate (`ca-cert`) and the signed client certificate (`client-cert-signed`) are imported into the keystore.+++

First command : In this command we are going to create new `client.keystore.jks` in which certificate and private key CN is referred as name of user which has to be mentioned in certificate. RSA is key algorithm used to encryption

Second command : in this command we are creating requesting file of certificate as `client-cert-file`

Third command : we are requesting to that requesting file to CA (certificate authority) to sign certificate request file by using `ca-key` and give outputfile as `client-cert-signed`

Fourth and fifth command : In this command we are going to import `ca-cert` and `client-cert-signed` to `client.keystore.jks`

At this stage, the client keystore (`client.keystore.jks`) contains the private key for the Kafka client and the signed client certificate.

2. Move the Client Keystore to an Appropriate Location

```
sudo cp client.keystore.jks /var/private/ssl/
sudo chown root:root /var/private/ssl/client.keystore.jks
```

The keystore containing the client certificate (`client.keystore.jks`) is moved to a secure directory `/var/private/ssl/`, which ensures it's only accessible to root.

`chown root:root:` Changes the owner of the keystore to `root`, further restricting access.

```
sudo vi /etc/kafka/server.properties
```

Open the `server.properties` file on each Kafka broker. This file contains the server's configuration.

4. Configure SSL Client Authentication in

```
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```
server.propertiesssl.client.auth=required
```

`ssl.client.auth=required`: This forces the Kafka brokers to require clients to authenticate using SSL/TLS certificates. Without this line, client authentication via certificates would not be mandatory.

5. Restart Kafka and Check its Status

```
sudo systemctl restart confluent-kafka
sudo systemctl status confluent-kafka
```

`systemctl restart confluent-kafka`: Restarts the Kafka service to apply the changes made in the `server.properties` file.

`systemctl status confluent-kafka`: Checks whether Kafka restarted successfully and is running correctly.

6. Attempt to Connect a Client to the Secure Port

At this point, try to connect a Kafka client without configuring SSL. This step is to ensure that the client authentication is enforced.

The connection attempt should **fail** because the client is not yet configured to use the client certificate.

This verifies that the server is correctly requiring SSL client certificates.

7. Configure Client Authentication with Client Certificate

```
Cd ~  
vi client-ssl.properties
```

set these values in file ↓

```
ssl.keystore.location=/var/private/ssl/client.keystore.jks  
ssl.keystore.password=<client keystore password>  
ssl.key.password=<client key password>
```

As we have created **client-ssl.properties** in TLS we just change directory to home where **client-ssl.properties** file is located and then we configure it

ssl.keystore.location: Specifies the location of the client keystore containing the client certificate.

ssl.keystore.password: The password for the client keystore.

ssl.key.password: The password for the private key within the keystore.

This configuration tells Kafka that the client should use SSL/TLS for authentication using its client certificate.

8. Test the Connection with the Configured Client

```
kafka-console-consumer --bootstrap-server zoo1:9093 --topic tls-test --  
from-beginning --consumer.config client-ssl.properties
```

This command runs a Kafka console consumer to connect to the **tls-test** topic using the secure broker (port 9093).

The **--consumer.config** option points to the **client-ssl.properties** file that you configured in the previous step.