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# Quick Start for Confluent Cloud

Confluent Cloud is a resilient, scalable, streaming data service based on Apache Kafka®, delivered as a fully managed service. Confluent Cloud has a web interface called the Cloud Console, a local command line interface, and REST APIs. You can manage [cluster](#) resources, settings, and billing with the Cloud Console. You can use the Confluent CLI and REST APIs to create and manage Kafka [topics](#) and more.

## Get started for Free

[Sign up for a Confluent Cloud trial](#) and get \$400 of free credit.

This quick start gets you up and running with Confluent Cloud using a [Basic Kafka cluster](#).

- The first section shows how to use Confluent Cloud to create topics, and [produce](#) and [consume](#) data to and from the cluster.
- The second section walks you through how to use Confluent Cloud for Apache Flink® to run queries on the data using SQL syntax.

## Prerequisites

- Access to [Confluent Cloud](#). To get started for free, see [Deploy Free Clusters on Confluent Cloud](#).
- Internet connectivity

The quick start workflows assume you already have a working Confluent Cloud environment, which incorporates a Stream Governance package at time of environment creation. Stream Governance will already be enabled in the environment as a prerequisite to this quick start. To learn more about Stream Governance packages, features, and environment setup workflows, see [Stream Governance Packages, Features, and Limits in Confluent Cloud](#).

## Section 1: Create a cluster and add a topic

Follow the steps in this section to set up a Kafka cluster on Confluent Cloud and produce data to Kafka topics on the cluster.

### Step 1: Create a Kafka cluster in Confluent Cloud

In this step, you create and launch a basic Kafka cluster inside your default environment.

[Cloud Console](#) [Confluent CLI](#) [Confluent Cloud APIs](#)

1. Sign in to Confluent Cloud at <https://confluent.cloud>.
2. Click **Add cluster**.
3. On the **Create cluster** page, for the **Basic** cluster, select **Begin configuration**.

### Create cluster

1. Select cluster type

**Basic**

For learning and exploring Kafka and Confluent Cloud.

Ingress	up to 250 MB/s
Egress	up to 750 MB/s
Storage	up to 5,000 GB
Client connections	up to 1,000
Partitions	up to 2,048 (includes 10 free partitions)
Uptime SLA	up to 99.9%

**Standard**

For production-ready use cases. Full feature set and standard limits.

Ingress	up to 250 MB/s
Egress	up to 750 MB/s
Storage	unlimited
Client connections	up to 1,000
Partitions	up to 2,048 (includes 500 free partitions)
Uptime SLA	up to 99.99%

**Dedicated**

For use cases with high traffic or that require private networking.

Price as sized: 1 CPU

Ingress	up to 50 MB/s
Egress	up to 150 MB/s
Storage	unlimited
Client connections	up to 5,000

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Step 1: Create a Kafka cluster in Confluent Cloud

Step 2: Create a Kafka topic

Step 3: Create a sample producer

Step 4: View messages

Step 5: Inspect the data stream

Step 6: Delete resources (optional)

Section 2: Query streaming data with Flink SQL

Step 1: Create a Flink workspace

Step 2: Run Flink SQL statements

Step 3: Mask a field

Step 4: View the Stream Lineage

Step 5: Delete resources

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