

Get Confluent | Sign up for [Confluent Cloud](#) or download [Confluent Platform](#)

Deleting Schemas

Security

Developer Guide

Schema Formats

Formats, Serializers, and Deserializers

Avro

Protobuf

JSON Schema

Integrate Schemas from Connectors

Security

Multi-DC Deployment Architectures

Administer

Confluent Health+


Resources

Release Notes

Search documentation

HomeCloudPlatformConnectorsToolsClients

Get Started Free

▼

With Protobuf and JSON Schema support, the Confluent Platform adds the ability to add new schema formats using schema plugins (the existing Avro support has been wrapped with an Avro schema plugin).

Schema References

Confluent Platform (versions 5.5.0 and later) provides full support for the notion of *schema references*, the ability of a schema to refer to other schemas. Support for schema references is provided for out-of-the-box schema formats: Avro, JSON Schema, and Protobuf. Schema references use the `import` statement of Protobuf and the `$ref` field of JSON Schema. Avro in Confluent Platform is also updated to support schema references.

A schema reference consists of the following:

- A name for the reference. (For Avro, the reference name is the fully qualified schema name, for JSON Schema it is a URL, and for Protobuf, it is the name of another Protobuf file.)
- A subject, representing the subject under which the referenced schema is registered.
- A version, representing the exact version of the schema under the registered subject.

On this page:

Supported Formats

Schema References

Multiple Event Types in the Same Topic

APIs

Schema Format Extensibility

Subject Name Strategy

Overview

Group by Topic or Other Relationships

How the Naming Strategies Work

Limitations

Configuration Details

Compatibility Checks

Command-Line Utilities and JSON Encoding of Messages