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How to Start Kafka with Conduktor?
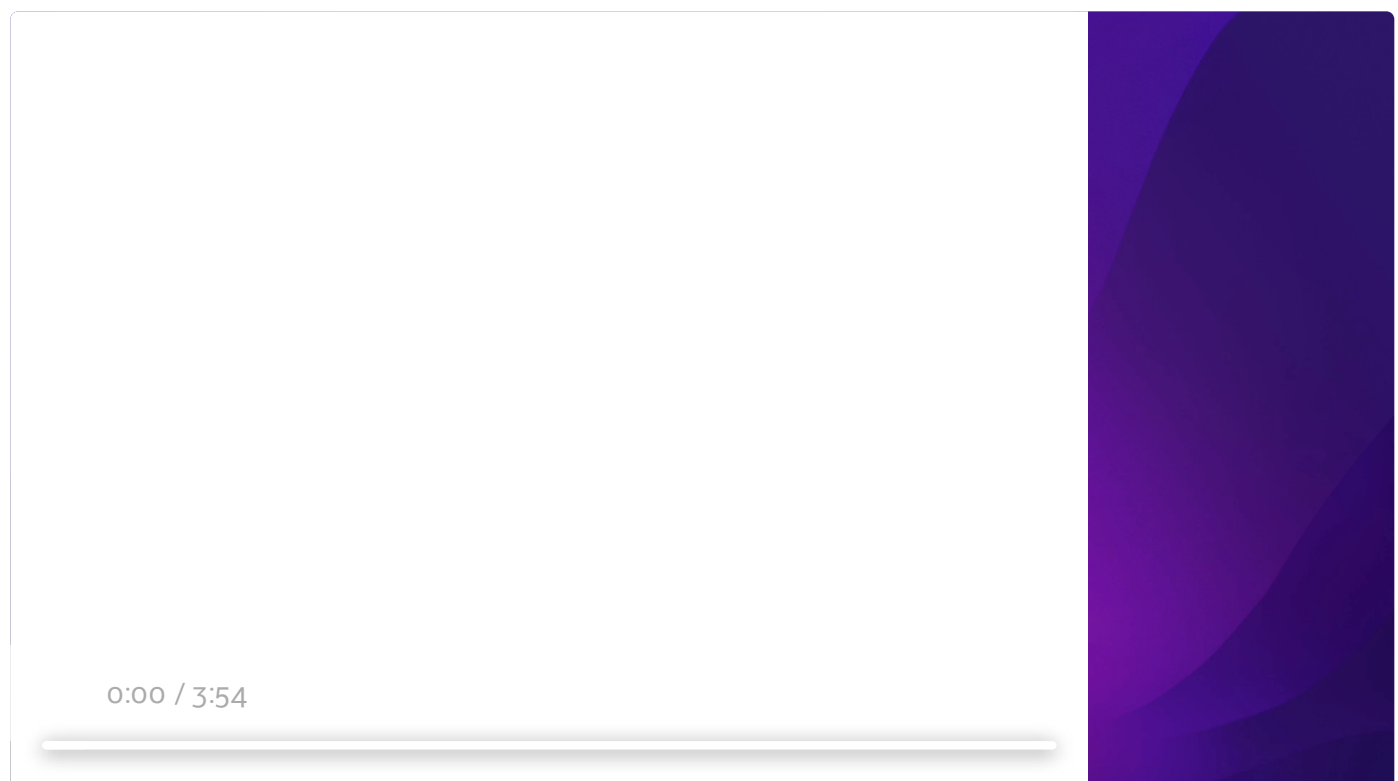
Create Kafka clusters in seconds

Getting started with Kafka can be really painful, and you need a cluster to start working. This cluster can be difficult to start, especially on Windows; some tutorials will offer Docker as a solution, but most of the time it requires a lot of fiddling.

At the end of the day, getting started with Kafka can be irritating. And we know it, we were there first.

To help you get started quickly we created Conduktor Playground. **Once you sign up** for Conduktor you get two free Kafka clusters to use without any restrictions.

Please note: Conduktor Playground is meant to help you learn, test, and get started with Kafka. It is not meant for production workloads.
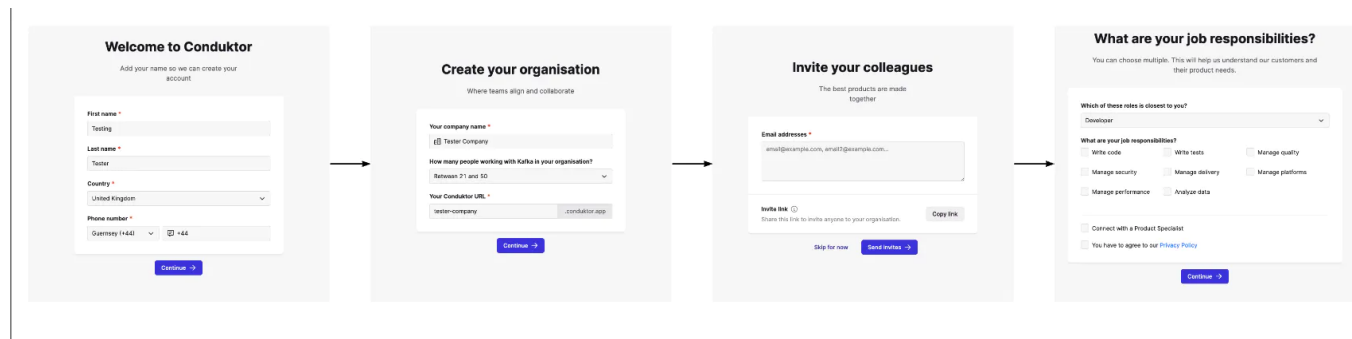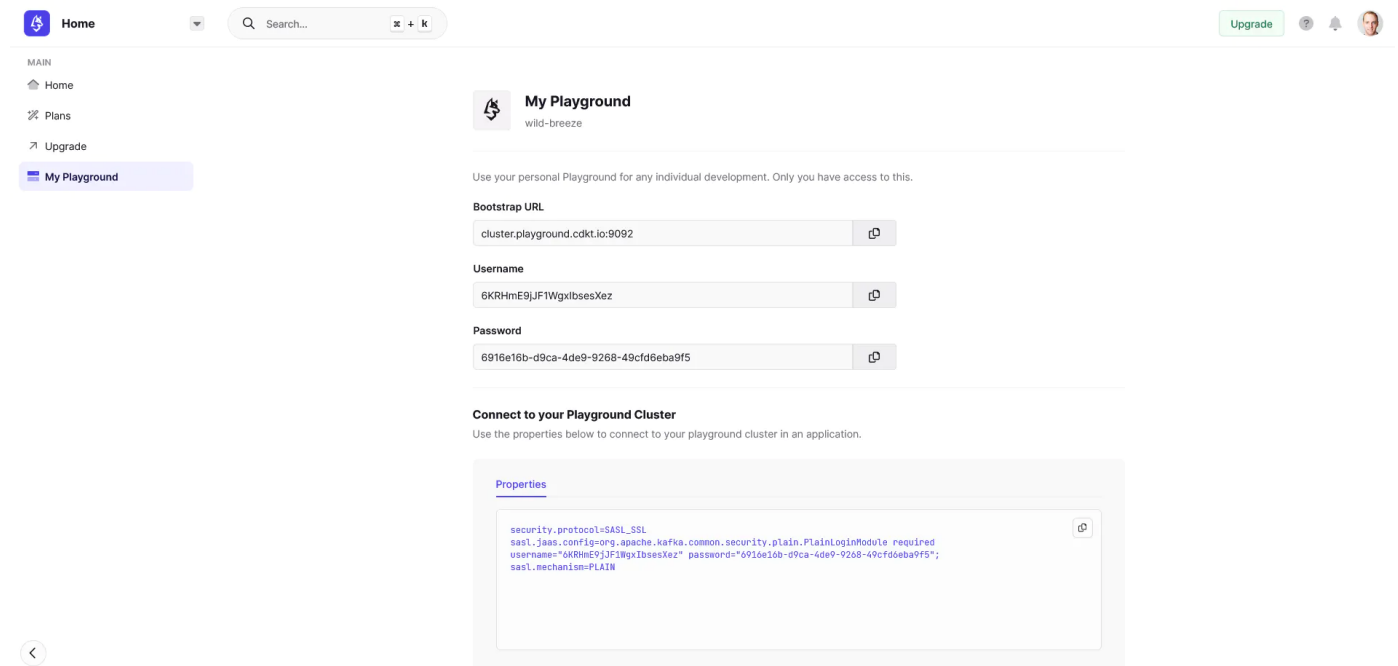
How does it work?

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From the Sign-up page, make sure to choose option 1, then enter your email to start creating your account:

You can use SSO to login with Google, Microsoft, or GitHub accounts, or create your own password.

Fill out the Account form. You'll have the opportunity to invite members of your team, but you can skip this section if it is just you.

And that's it. Conduktor Platform will open up in your browser. You'll see a "My Playground" option in the right hand menu, which will show your Playground Cluster details so you can connect to it:

That's all you need to do. You can go into Conduktor Console and start creating topics, producing data, and consuming data on your Playground Cluster. And every account comes with 2 clusters - one for personal use, and one per organization, allowing you to collaborate with others!

Connecting to your Playground Cluster

To connect applications to your cluster, you will need the Bootstrap Server URL and security details, which are shown on the "My Playground" page. Let's take the details from above as an example:

As you can see, our Bootstrap URL is `cluster.playground.cdkt.io:9092`. The security details are provided in an easily copiable form at the bottom. A standard Java properties file would look like the following:

```
1  bootstrap.servers=cluster.playground.cdkt.io:9092
2  security.protocol=SASL_SSL
3  sasl.jaas.config=org.apache.kafka.common.security.plain.PlainLoginModule requi
4  sasl.mechanism=PLAIN
```

You simply need to replace the `bootstrap.servers` and `sasl.jaas.config` instructions with your own details.

Installing Kafka Binaries

Launching Kafka using Conduktor allows you to start Kafka with no requirements, but if you would like to use the CLI tools, you currently need to install the Kafka binaries. Instructions are here (download Kafka and set up the $PATH variable and you're good to go):

Install Kafka Binaries on **Mac**

Install Kafka Binaries on **Windows**

Install Kafka Binaries on **Linux**

Feature requests? Feedback?

We are actively developing this feature and would love your feedback.

Send us an email at kafkademy [at] conduktor [dot] io and we'll be happy to read from you!

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