

# Streaming Design Patterns Using Alpakka Kafka Connector

Sean Glover, Lightbend  
@seg1o



# Who am I?

I'm Sean Glover

- Principal Engineer at [Lightbend](#)
- Member of the [Lightbend Pipelines](#) team
- Organizer of [Scala Toronto \(scalator\)](#) 🗣️
- Author and contributor to various projects in the Kafka ecosystem including [Kafka](#), [Alpakka Kafka \(reactive-kafka\)](#), [Strimzi](#), [Kafka Lag Exporter](#), [DC/OS Commons SDK](#)



/seg1o



“

*The Alpakka project is an initiative to implement a library of integration modules to build stream-aware, reactive, pipelines for Java and Scala.*

”



Cloud Services



Data Stores



JMS



Iron



Messaging



“

*This Alpakka Kafka connector lets you  
connect Apache Kafka to Akka Streams.*

”

# Top Alpakka Modules

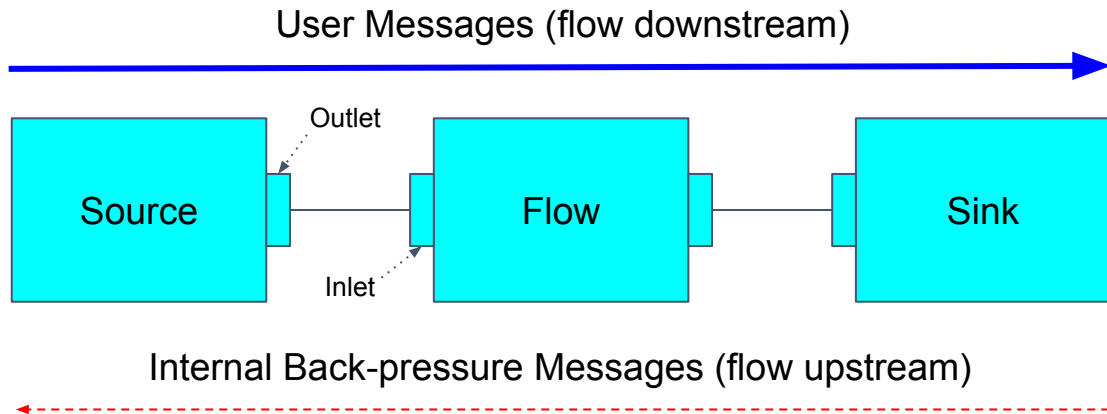
Alpakka Module	Downloads in August 2018
<b>Kafka</b>	<b>61177</b>
Cassandra	15946
AWS S3	15075
MQTT	11403
File	10636
Simple Codecs	8285
CSV	7428
AWS SQS	5385
AMQP	4036



“

*Akka Streams is a library toolkit to provide low latency complex event processing streaming semantics using the Reactive Streams specification implemented internally with an Akka actor system.*

”





# Reactive Streams Specification

“

*Reactive Streams is an initiative to provide a standard for asynchronous stream processing with non-blocking back pressure.*

”

<http://www.reactive-streams.org/>

# Reactive Streams Libraries



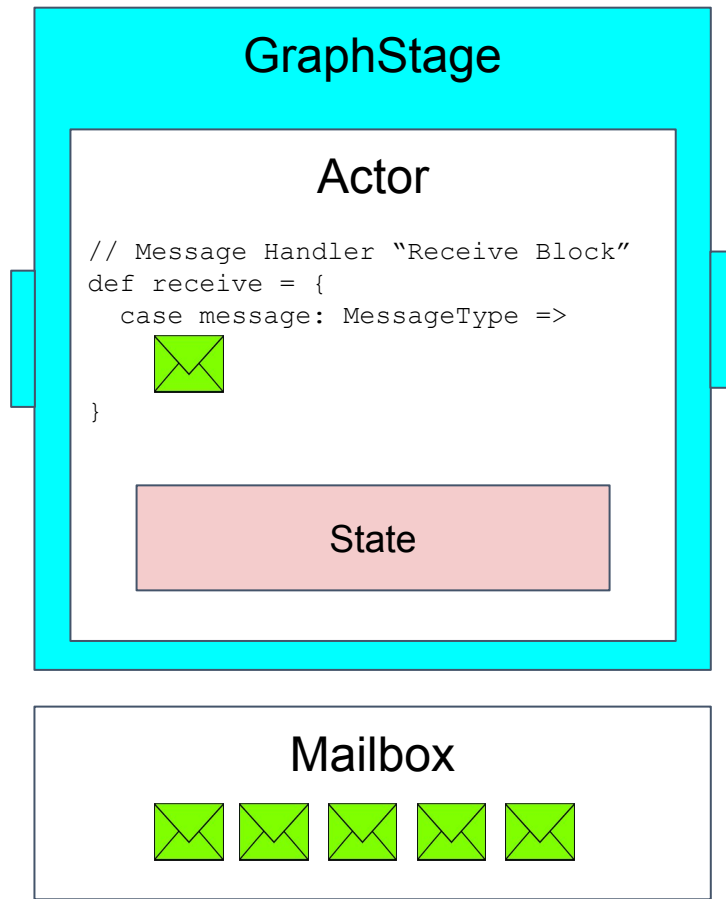
*migrating to*

Spec now part of JDK 9

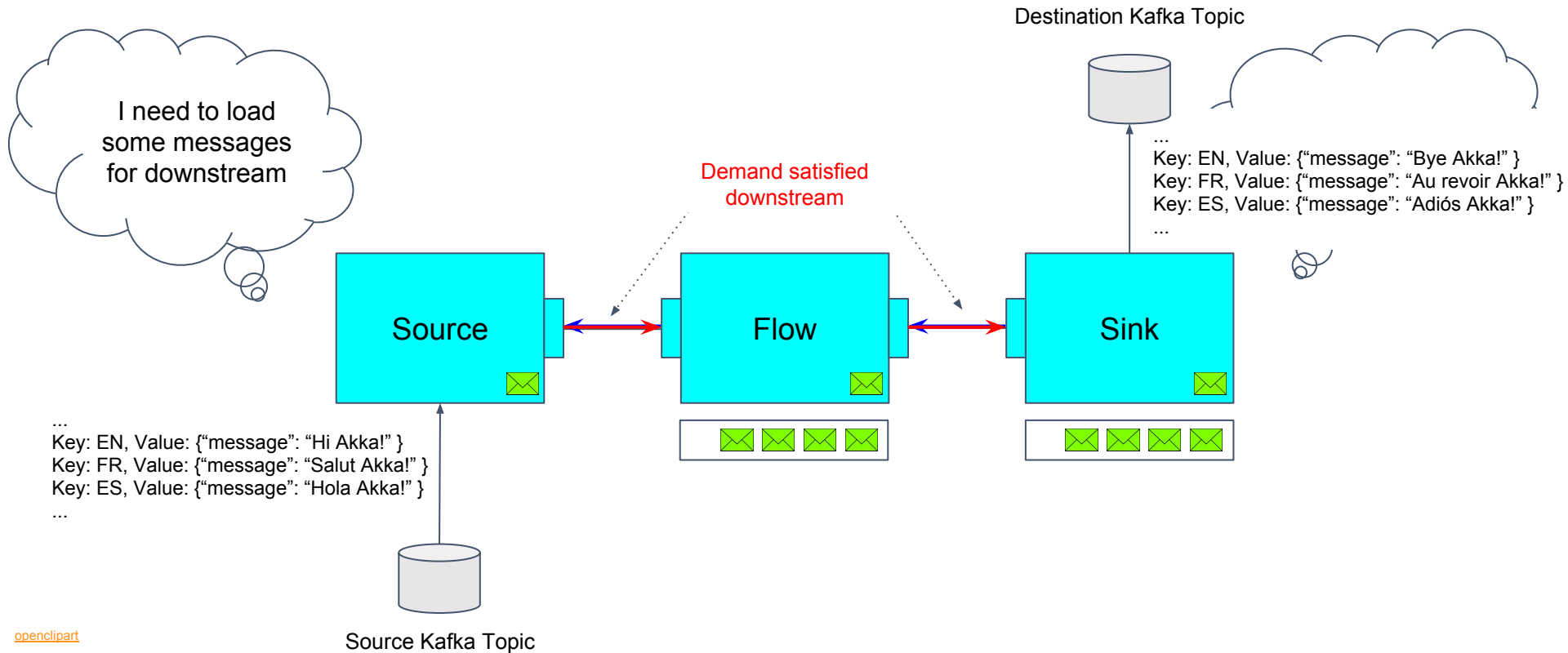
`java.util.concurrent.Flow`

# Akka Actor Concepts

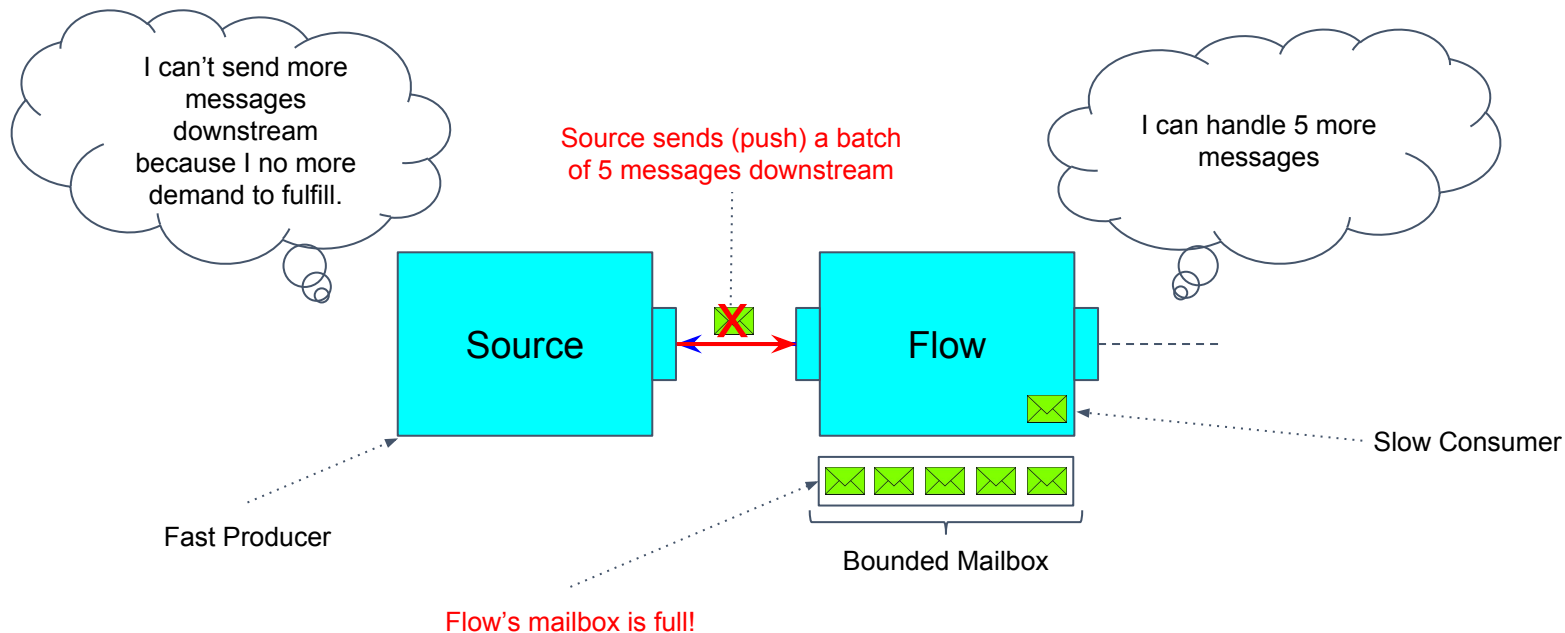
1. Constrained Actor Mailbox
2. One message at a time  
“Single Threaded Illusion”
3. May contain state



# Back Pressure Demo



# Dynamic Push Pull



# Why Back Pressure?

- Prevent cascading failure
- Alternative to using a big buffer (i.e. Kafka)
- Back Pressure flow control can use several strategies
  - Slow down until there's demand (classic back pressure, “throttling”)
  - Discard elements
  - Buffer in memory to some max, then discard elements
  - Shutdown

# Why Back Pressure? A case study.

 **Enno Runne**  
@ennru Following

"This implementation worked fine with few thousands messages in SQS. But failed catastrophically when this number grew up to millions." @programmerohit explains why they needed backpressure [medium.com/@programmerohi](https://medium.com/@programmerohi) ...  
Alpakka SQS has backpressure included [doc.akka.io/docs/alpakka/c](https://doc.akka.io/docs/alpakka/c) ...



**Back-Pressure implementation: AWS SQS polling from a sharded Akka Clust...**  
NOTE: This blog post requires reader to have prior knowledge of AWS SQS, Akka Actors and Akka Cluster Sharding.  
[medium.com](https://medium.com)

3:24 AM - 27 Mar 2019

19 Retweets 53 Likes

1 19 53

<https://medium.com/@programmerohit/back-pressure-implementation-aws-sqs-polling-from-a-sharded-akka-cluster-running-on-kubernetes-56ee8c67efb>

# Akka Streams Factorial Example

```
import ...

object Main extends App {
  implicit val system = ActorSystem("QuickStart")
  implicit val materializer = ActorMaterializer()

  val source: Source[Int, NotUsed] = Source(1 to 100)
  val factorials = source.scan(BigInt(1))((acc, next) => acc * next)
  val result: Future[IOResult] =
    factorials
      .map(num => ByteString(s"$num\n"))
      .runWith(FileIO.toPath(Paths.get("factorials.txt")))
}
```

<https://doc.akka.io/docs/akka/2.5/stream/stream-quickstart.html>



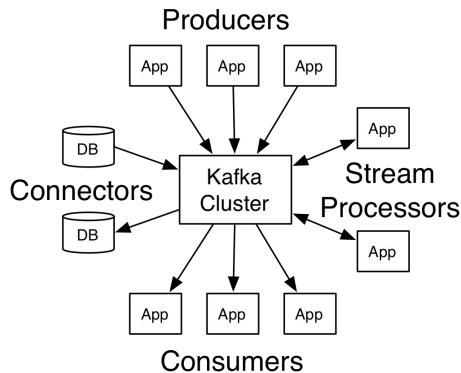
# Apache Kafka



“

*Apache Kafka is a distributed streaming system. It's best suited to support **fast, high volume, and fault tolerant**, data streaming platforms.*

”



[Kafka Documentation](#)

# When to use Alpakka Kafka?



!=



Akka Streams and Kafka Streams solve different problems

# When to use Alpakka Kafka?

1. To build back pressure aware integrations
2. Complex Event Processing
3. A need to model the most complex of graphs

# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka app

# Alpakka Kafka Setup

```
val consumerClientConfig = system.settings.config.getConfig("akka.kafka.consumer")
val consumerSettings =
  ConsumerSettings(consumerClientConfig, new StringDeserializer, new ByteArrayDeserializer)
    .withBootstrapServers("localhost:9092")
    .withGroupId("group1")
    .withProperty(ConsumerConfig.AUTO_OFFSET_RESET_CONFIG, "earliest")

val producerClientConfig = system.settings.config.getConfig("akka.kafka.producer")
val producerSettings = ProducerSettings(system, new StringSerializer, new ByteArraySerializer)
  .withBootstrapServers("localhost:9092")
```

[Alpakka Kafka config](#) & [Kafka Client config](#) can go here

Set ad-hoc Kafka client config

# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka App

A small Consume -> Transform -> Produce Akka Streams app using Alpakka Kafka

```
val control = Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions. topics(topic1))
    .map { msg =>
        ProducerMessage. single(
            new ProducerRecord(topic1, msg.record.key, msg.record.value),
            passThrough = msg.committableOffset)
        }
    .via(Producer. flexiFlow(producerSettings))
    .map(_._passThrough)
    .toMat(Committer. sink(committerSettings))(Keep. both)
    .mapMaterializedValue(DrainingControl. apply)
    .run()

// Add shutdown hook to respond to SIGTERM and gracefully shutdown stream
sys.ShutdownHookThread {
    Await.result(control.shutdown(), 10.seconds)
}
```

# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka App

```
val control = Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions. topics(topic1))
    .map { msg =>
        ProducerMessage. single(
            new ProducerRecord(topic1, msg.record.key, msg.record.value),
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    .run()

// Add shutdown hook to respond to SIGTERM and gracefully shutdown stream
sys.ShutdownHookThread {
    Await.result(control.shutdown(), 10.seconds)
}
```

The Committable Source propagates Kafka offset information downstream with consumed messages

# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka App

```
val control = Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions. topics(topic1))
    .map { msg =>
        ProducerMessage. single(
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    .map(_ .passThrough)
    .toMat(Committer. sink(committerSettings))(Keep. both)
    .mapMaterializedValue(DrainingControl. apply)
    .run()

// Add shutdown hook to respond to SIGTERM and gracefully shutdown stream
sys.ShutdownHookThread {
    Await.result(control.shutdown(), 10.seconds)
}
```

ProducerMessage used to map consumed offset to transformed results.

## One to One (1:1)

```
ProducerMessage. single
```

## One to Many (1:M)

```
ProducerMessage. multi(
    immutable.Seq(
        new ProducerRecord(topic1, msg.record.key, msg.record.value),
        new ProducerRecord(topic2, msg.record.key, msg.record.value)),
    passthrough = msg.committableOffset
)
```

## One to None (1:0)

```
ProducerMessage. passThrough(msg.committableOffset)
```



# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka App

```
val control = Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions. topics(topic1))
    .map { msg =>
        ProducerMessage. single(
            new ProducerRecord(topic1, msg.record.key, msg.record.value),
            passThrough = msg.committableOffset)
        }
    .via(Producer. flexiFlow(producerSettings))
    .map(_ .passThrough)
    .toMat(Committer. sink(committerSettings))(Keep. both)
    .mapMaterializedValue(DrainingControl. apply)
    .run()

// Add shutdown hook to respond to SIGTERM and gracefully shutdown stream
sys.ShutdownHookThread {
    Await.result(control.shutdown(), 10.seconds)
}
```

Produce messages to destination topic

`flexiFlow` accepts new `ProducerMessage` type and will replace deprecated `flow` in the future.

# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka App

```
val control = Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions. topics(topic1))
    .map { msg =>
        ProducerMessage. single(
            new ProducerRecord(topic1, msg.record.key, msg.record.value),
            passThrough = msg.committableOffset)
        }
    .via(Producer. flexiFlow(producerSettings))
    .map(_ .passThrough)
    .toMat (Committer. sink(commmitterSettings)) (Keep. both)
    .mapMaterializedValue (DrainingControl. apply)
    .run()

// Add shutdown hook to respond to SIGTERM and gracefully shutdown stream
sys.ShutdownHookThread {
    Await.result(control.shutdown(), 10.seconds)
}
```

Batches consumed offset commits

Passthrough allows us to track what messages have been successfully processed for **At Least Once** message delivery guarantees.

# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka App

```
val control = Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions. topics(topic1))
    .map { msg =>
        ProducerMessage. single(
            new ProducerRecord(topic1, msg.record.key, msg.record.value),
            passThrough = msg.committableOffset)
        }
    .via(Producer. flexiFlow(producerSettings))
    .map(_ .passThrough)
    .toMat(Committer. sink(committerSettings)) (Keep. both)
    .mapMaterializedValue(DrainingControl. apply)
    .run()

// Add shutdown hook to respond to SIGTERM and gracefully shutdown stream
sys.ShutdownHookThread {
    Await.result(control.shutdown(), 10.seconds)
}
```

## Gracefully shutdown stream

1. Stop consuming (polling) new messages from Source
2. Wait for all messages to be successfully committed (when applicable)
3. Wait for all produced messages to ACK

# Anatomy of an Alpakka Kafka App

```
val control = Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions.topics(topic1))
    .map { msg =>
        ProducerMessage.single(
            new ProducerRecord(topic1, msg.record.key, msg.record.value),
            passThrough = msg.committableOffset)
        }
    .via(Producer.flexiFlow(producerSettings))
    .map(_._passThrough)
    .toMat(Committer.sink(committerSettings))(Keep.both)
    .mapMaterializedValue(DrainingControl.apply)
    .run()

// Add shutdown hook to respond to SIGTERM and gracefully shutdown stream
sys.ShutdownHookThread {
    Await.result(control.shutdown(), 10.seconds)
}
```

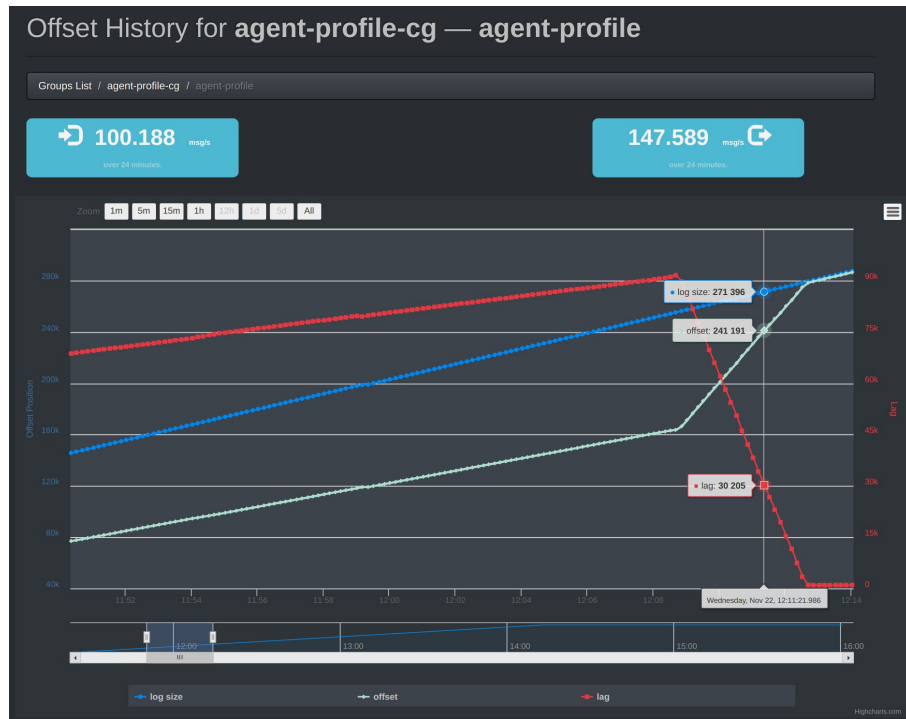
Graceful shutdown when SIGTERM sent to app (i.e. by docker daemon)

Force shutdown after grace interval

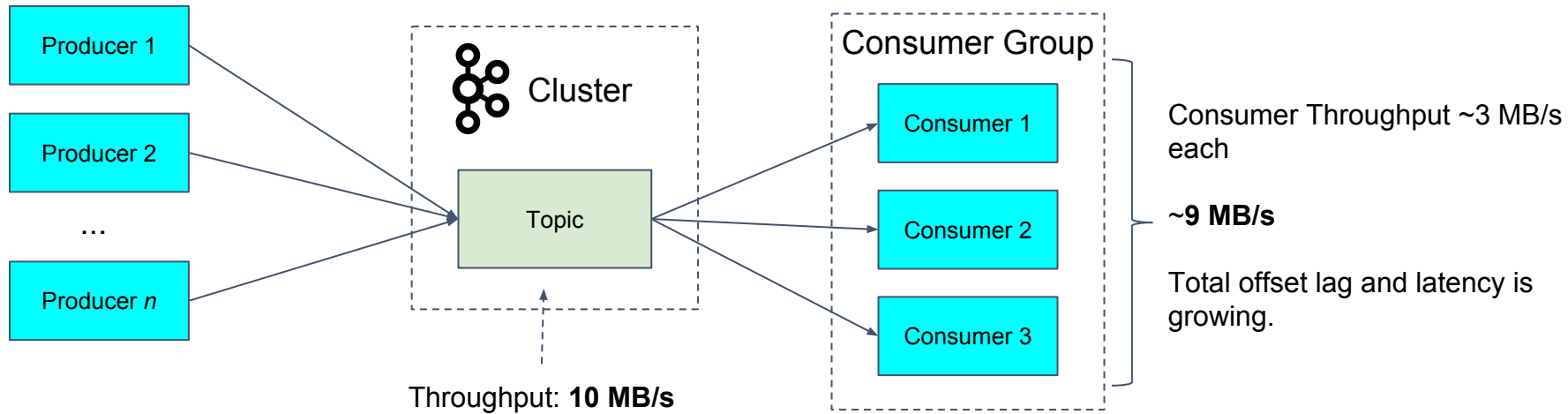
# Consumer Group Rebalancing

# Why use Consumer Groups?

1. Easy, robust, and performant scaling of consumers to reduce **consumer lag**

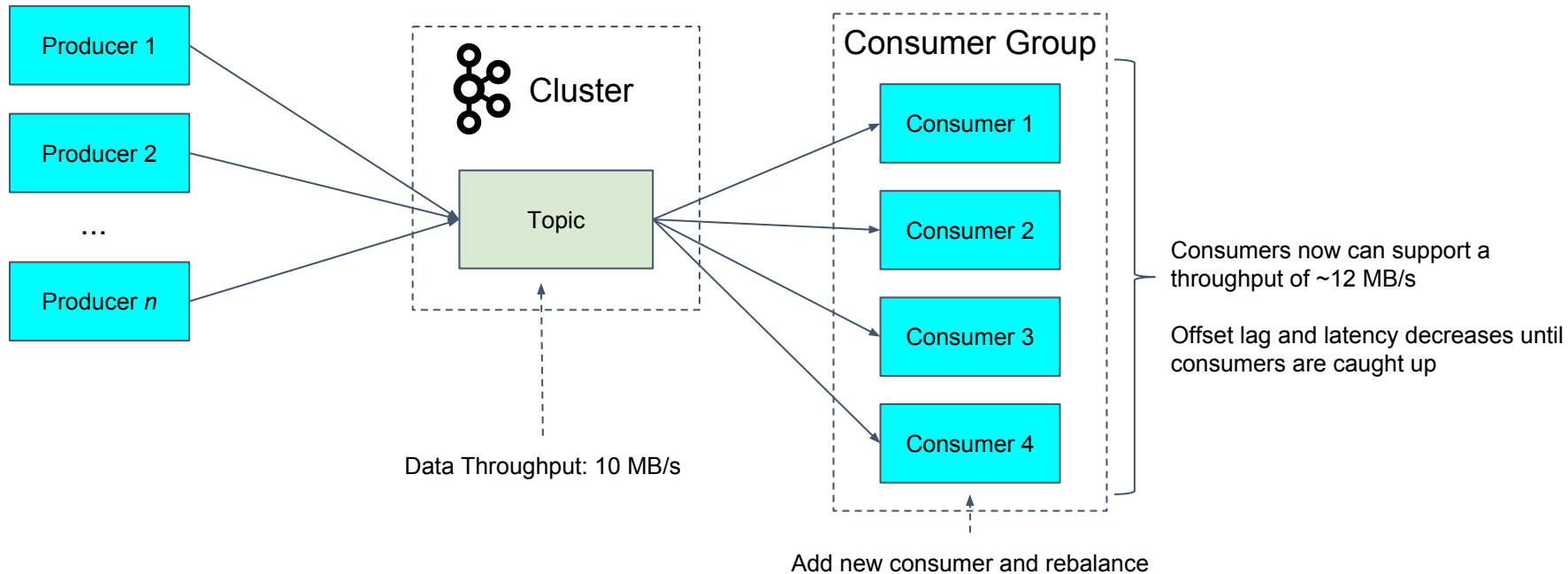


# Latency and Offset Lag



~~Back Pressure~~

# Latency and Offset Lag





# Committable Sink

```
val committerSettings = CommitterSettings(system)

val control: DrainingControl[Done] =
  Consumer
    .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions.topics(topic))
    .mapAsync(1) { msg =>
      business(msg.record.key, msg.record.value)
        .map(_ => msg.committableOffset)
    }
    .toMat(Committer.sink(committerSettings))(Keep.both)
    .mapMaterializedValue(DrainingControl.apply)
    .run()
```

# Anatomy of a Consumer Group

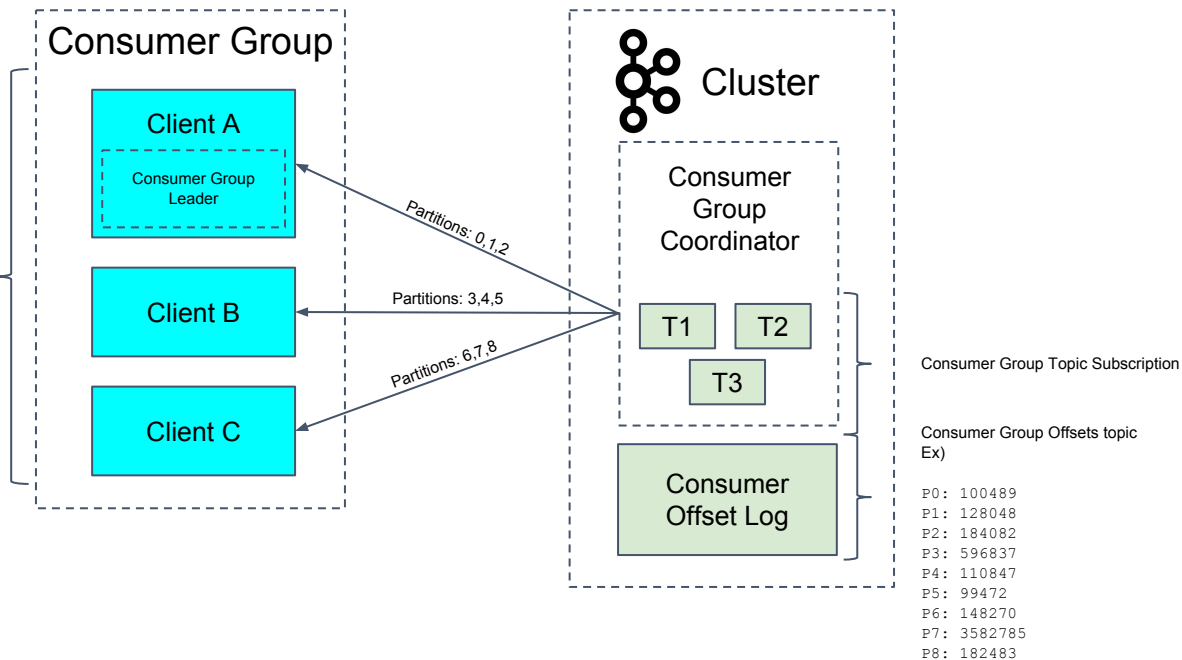
## Important Consumer Group Client Config

Topic Subscription:

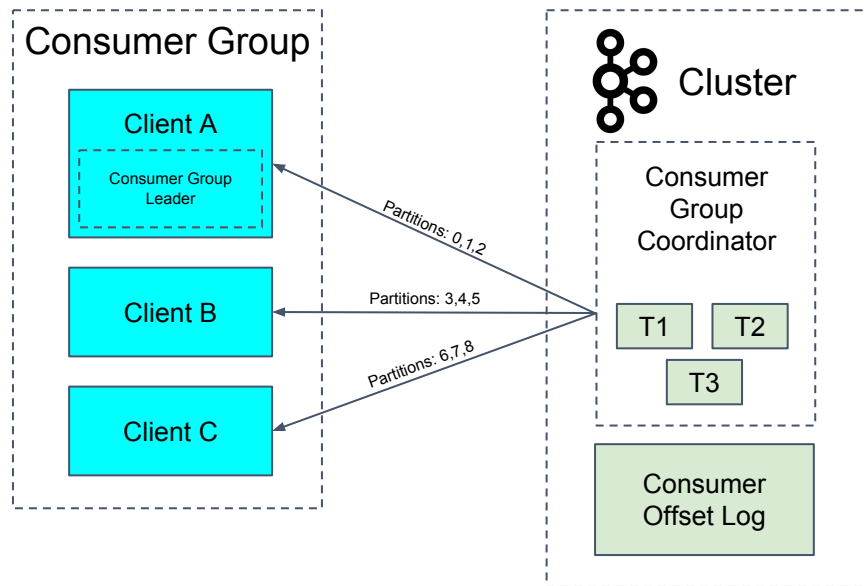
```
Subscription.topics("Topic1", "Topic2", "Topic3")
```

Kafka Consumer Properties:

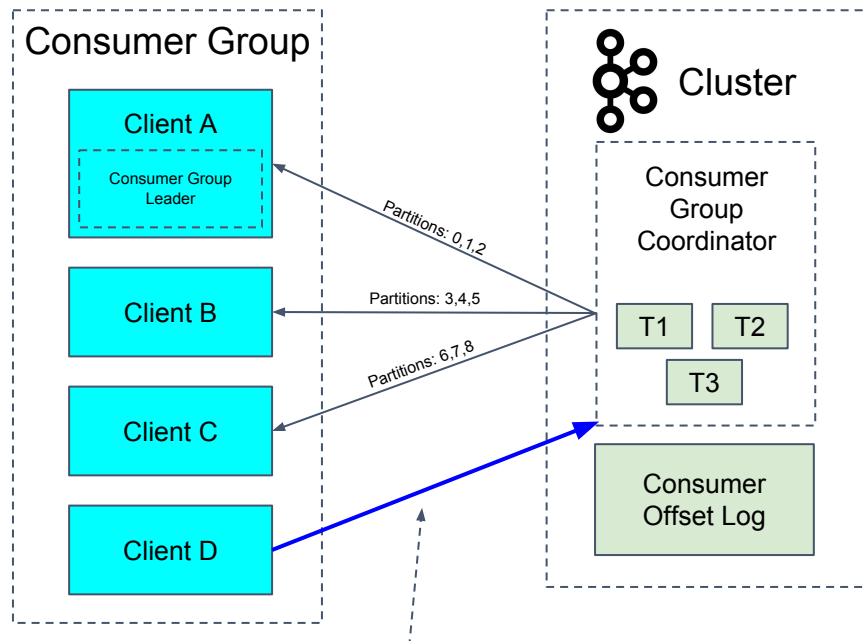
```
group.id: ["my-group"]  
session.timeout.ms: [30000 ms]  
partition.assignment.strategy: [RangeAssignor]  
heartbeat.interval.ms: [3000 ms]
```



# Consumer Group Rebalance (1/7)



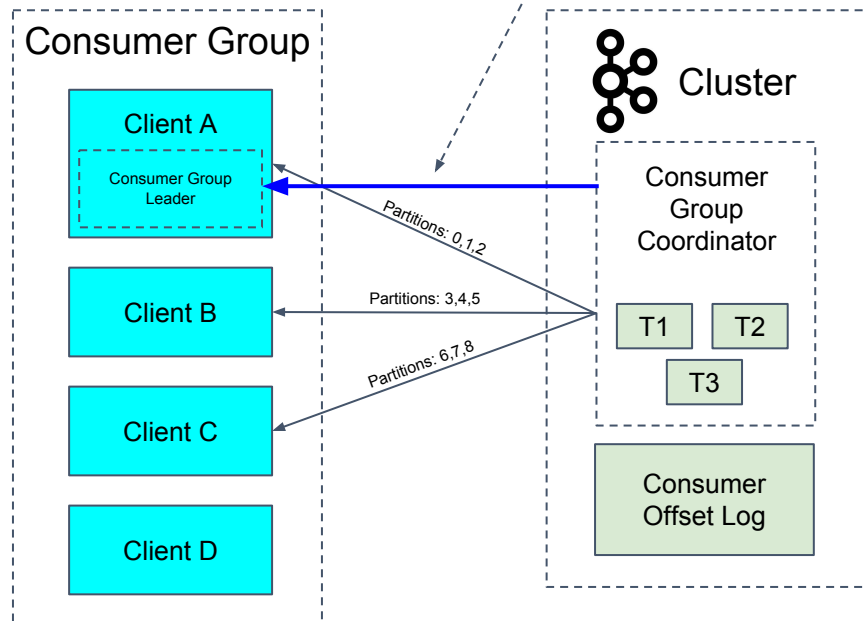
# Consumer Group Rebalance (2/7)



New Client D with same group.id sends a request to join the group to Coordinator

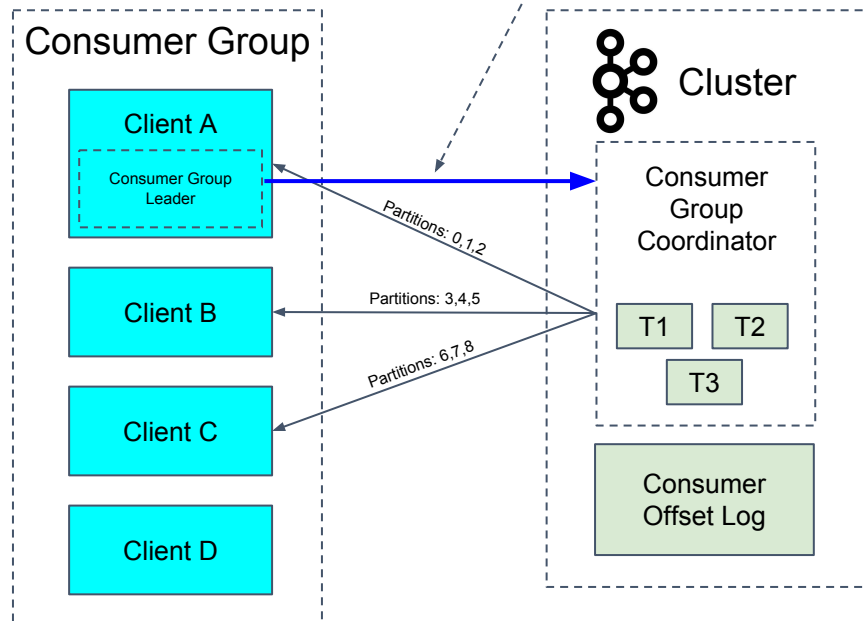
# Consumer Group Rebalance (3/7)

Consumer group coordinator requests group leader to calculate new Client:partition assignments.

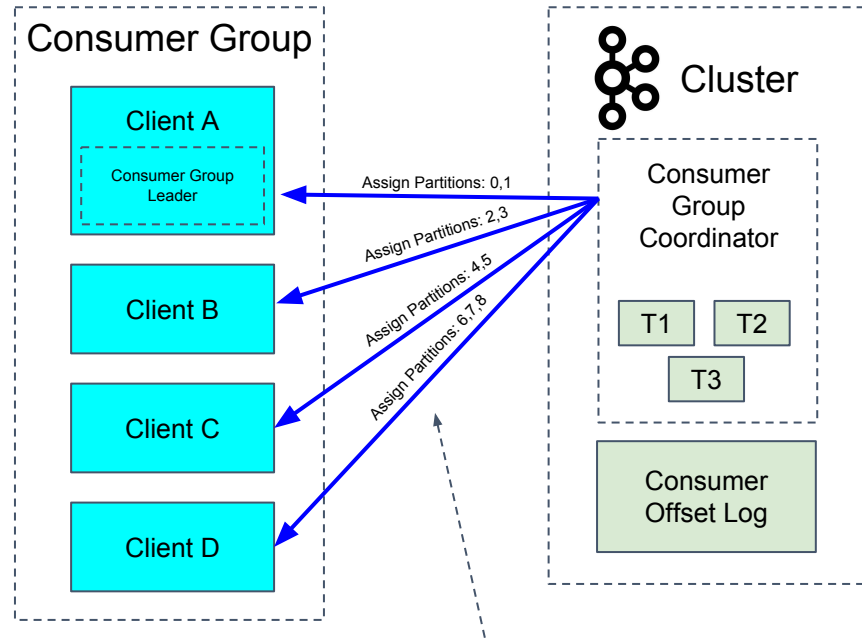


# Consumer Group Rebalance (4/7)

Consumer group leader sends new Client:Partition assignment to group coordinator.

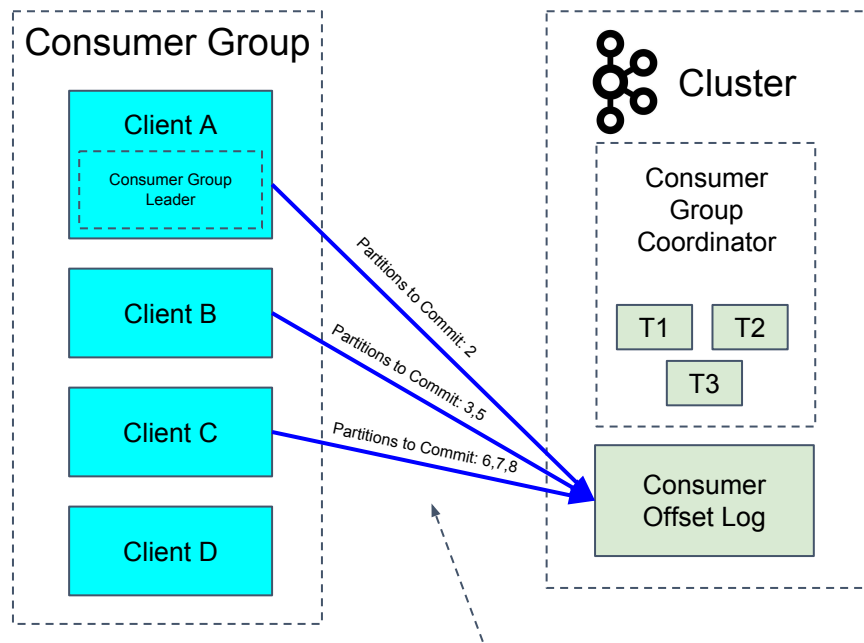


# Consumer Group Rebalance (5/7)



Consumer group coordinator informs all clients of their new Client:Partition assignments.

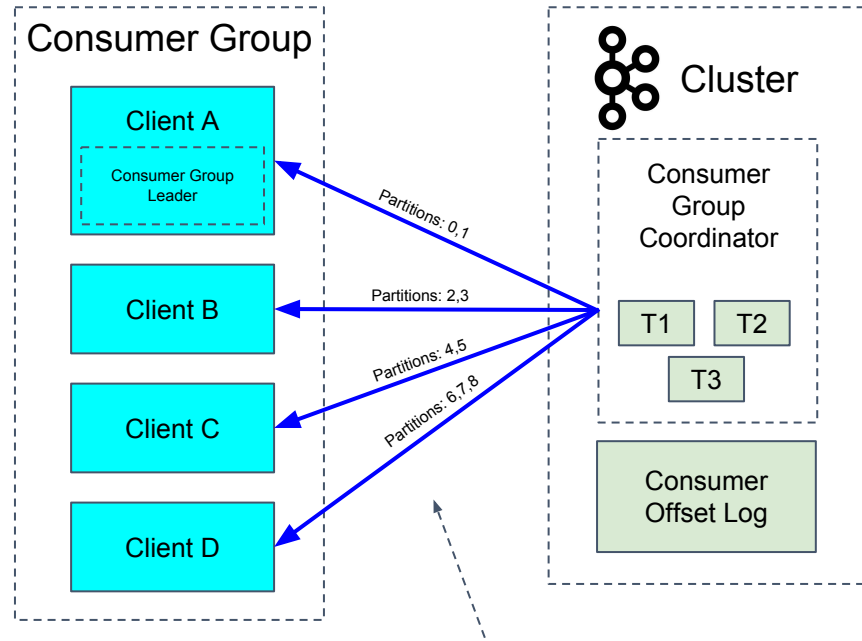
# Consumer Group Rebalance (6/7)



Clients that had partitions revoked are given the chance to commit their latest processed offsets.



# Consumer Group Rebalance (7/7)



Rebalance complete. Clients begin consuming partitions from their last committed offsets.

# Consumer Group Rebalancing (asynchronous)

```
class RebalanceListener extends Actor with ActorLogging {  
  def receive: Receive = {  
    case TopicPartitionsAssigned(sub, assigned) =>  
    case TopicPartitionsRevoked(sub, revoked) =>  
      processRevokedPartitions(revoked)  
  }  
}  
  
val subscription = Subscriptions.topics("topic1", "topic2")  
  .withRebalanceListener(system.actorOf(Props[RebalanceListener]))  
  
val control = Consumer.committableSource(consumerSettings, subscription)  
  ...
```

Declare an Akka Actor to handle assigned and revoked partition messages asynchronously.

Useful to perform **asynchronous** actions during rebalance, but not for blocking operations you want to happen during rebalance.

# Consumer Group Rebalancing (asynchronous)

```
class RebalanceListener extends Actor with ActorLogging {  
  def receive: Receive = {  
    case TopicPartitionsAssigned(sub, assigned) =>  
    case TopicPartitionsRevoked(sub, revoked) =>  
      processRevokedPartitions(revoked)  
  }  
}
```

Add Actor Reference to Topic subscription to use.

```
val subscription = Subscriptions.topics("topic1", "topic2")  
  .withRebalanceListener(system.actorOf(Props[RebalanceListener]))  
  
val control = Consumer.committableSource(consumerSettings, subscription)  
...  

```

# Consumer Group Rebalancing (synchronous)

Synchronous partition assignment handler for next release by [Enno Runne](https://github.com/akka/alpakka-kafka/pull/761)  
<https://github.com/akka/alpakka-kafka/pull/761>

- Synchronous operations difficult to model in async library
- Will allow users block Consumer Actor thread (Consumer.poll thread)
- Provides limited consumer operations
  - Seek to offset
  - Synchronous commit

# Transactional “Exactly-Once”

# Kafka Transactions

“

*Transactions enable atomic writes to multiple Kafka topics and partitions. All of the messages included in the transaction will be successfully written or none of them will be.*

”

# Message Delivery Semantics

- At most once
- At least once
- “Exactly once” 🍷

# Exactly Once Delivery vs Exactly Once Processing

“

*Exactly-once message delivery is impossible between two parties where failures of communication are possible.*

”

[Two Generals/Byzantine Generals problem](#)

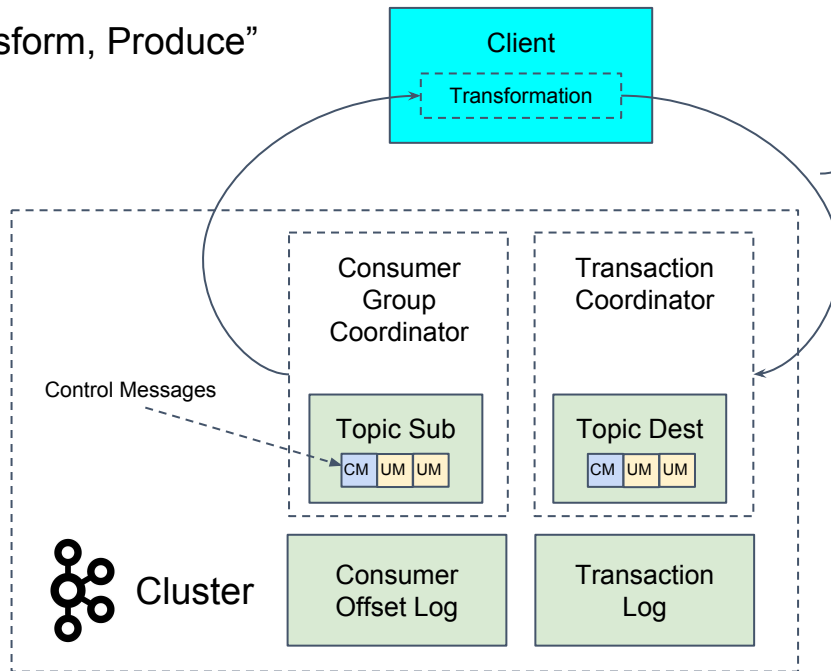


# Why use Transactions?

1. Zero tolerance for duplicate messages
2. Less boilerplate (deduping, client offset management)

# Anatomy of Kafka Transactions

“Consume, Transform, Produce”



## Important Client Config

Topic Subscription:

```
Subscription.topics("Topic1", "Topic2", "Topic3")
```

Destination topic partitions get included in the transaction based on messages that are produced.

Kafka Consumer Properties:

```
group.id: "my-group"
isolation.level: "read_committed"
plus other relevant consumer group configuration
```

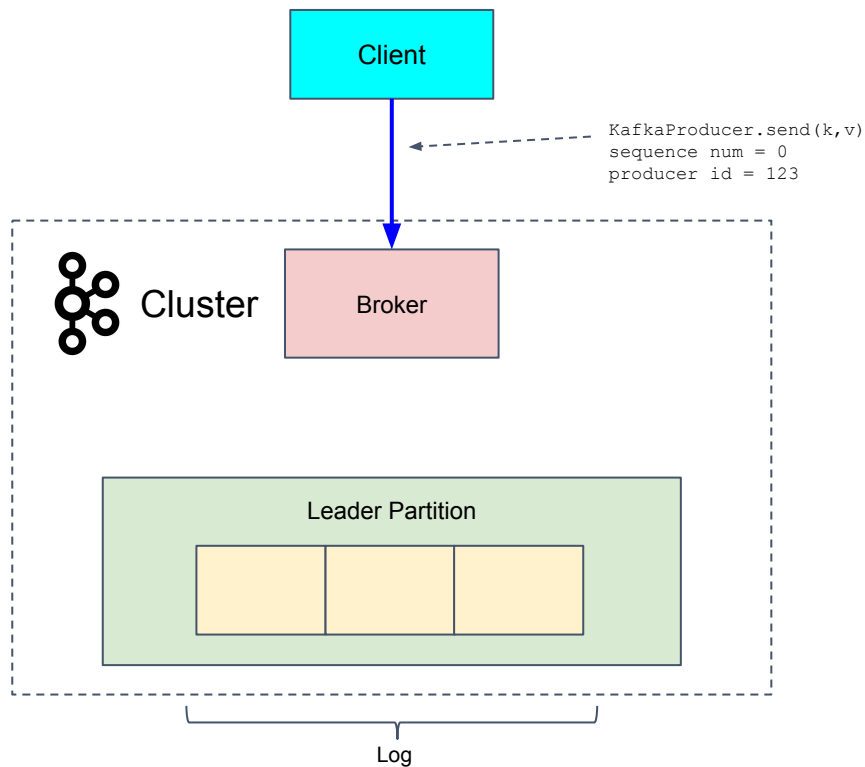
Kafka Producer Properties:

```
transactional.id: "my-transaction"
enable.idempotence: "true" (implicit)
max.in.flight.requests.per.connection: "1" (implicit)
```

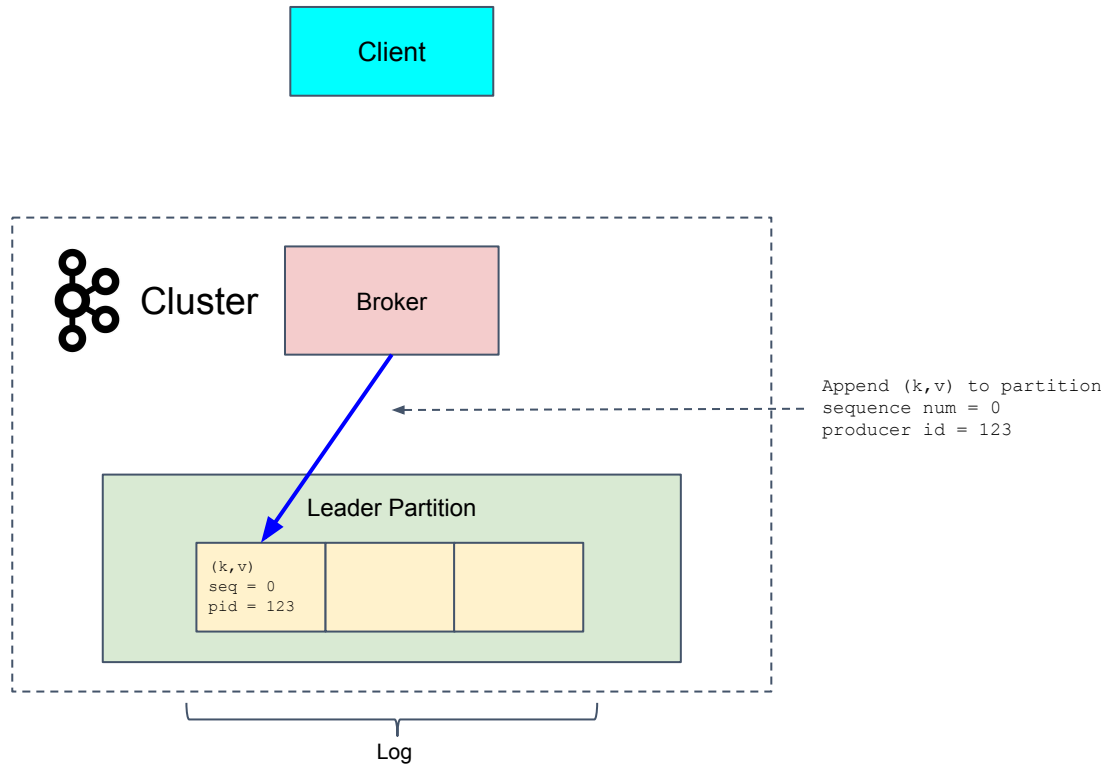
# Kafka Features That Enable Transactions

1. Idempotent producer
2. Multiple partition atomic writes
3. Consumer read isolation level

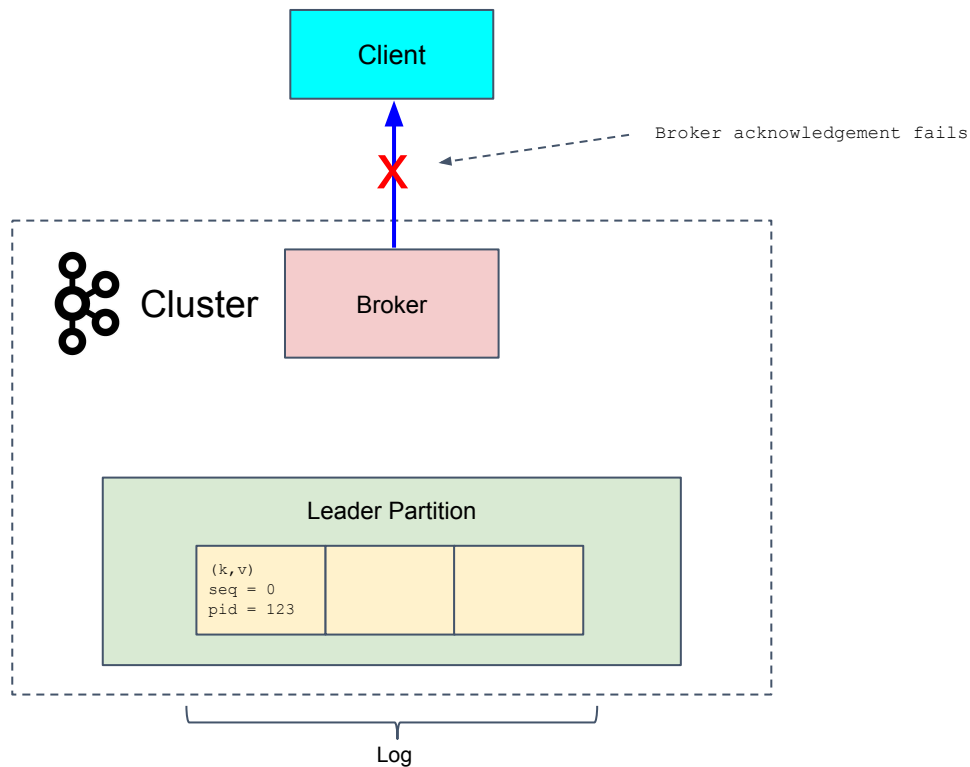
# Idempotent Producer (1/5)



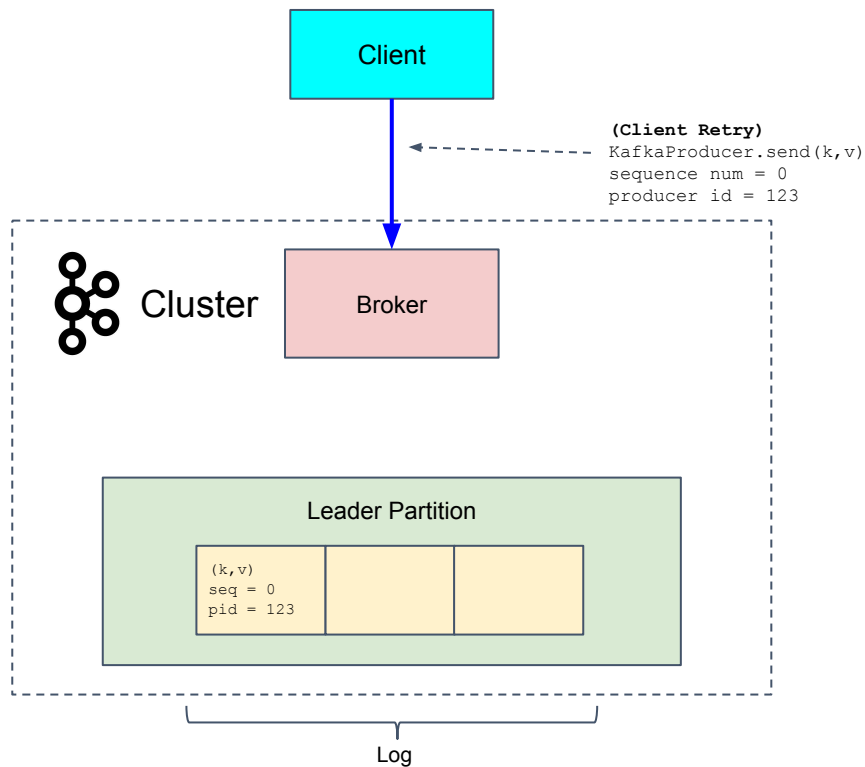
# Idempotent Producer (2/5)



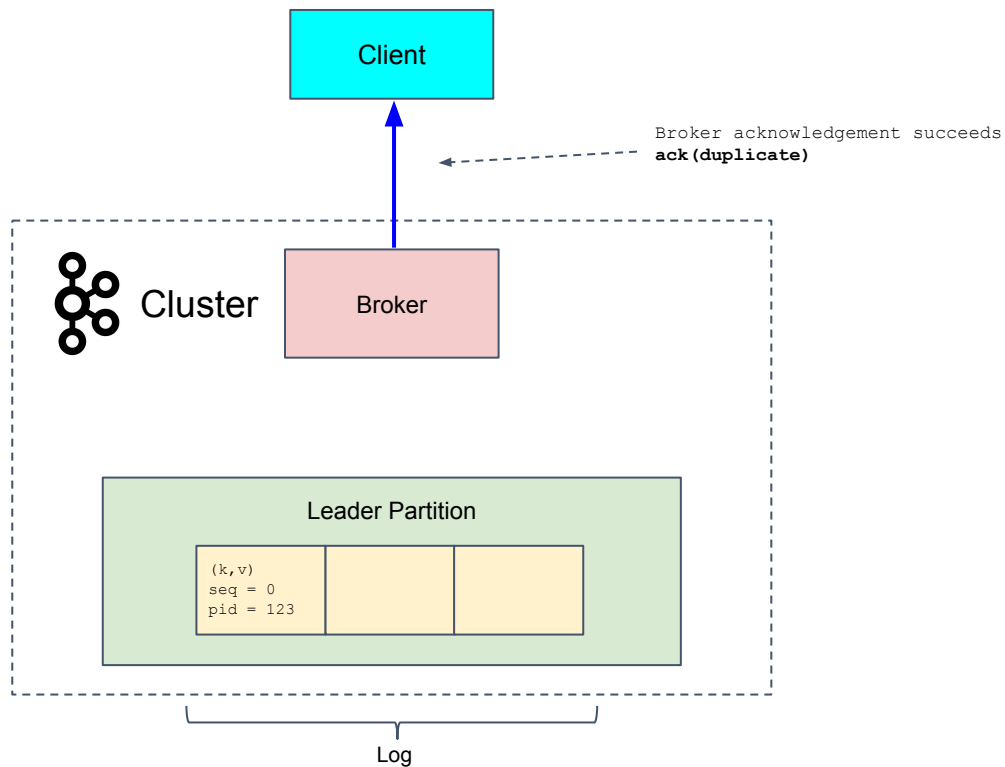
# Idempotent Producer (3/5)



# Idempotent Producer (4/5)



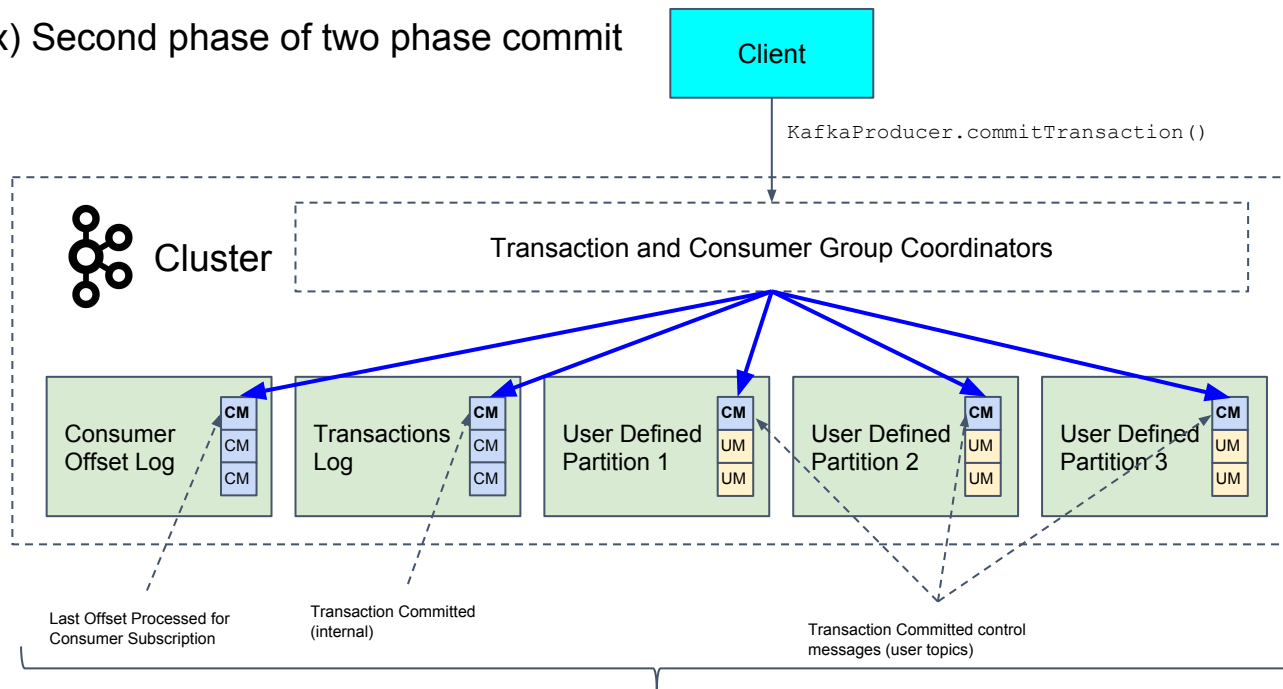
# Idempotent Producer (5/5)



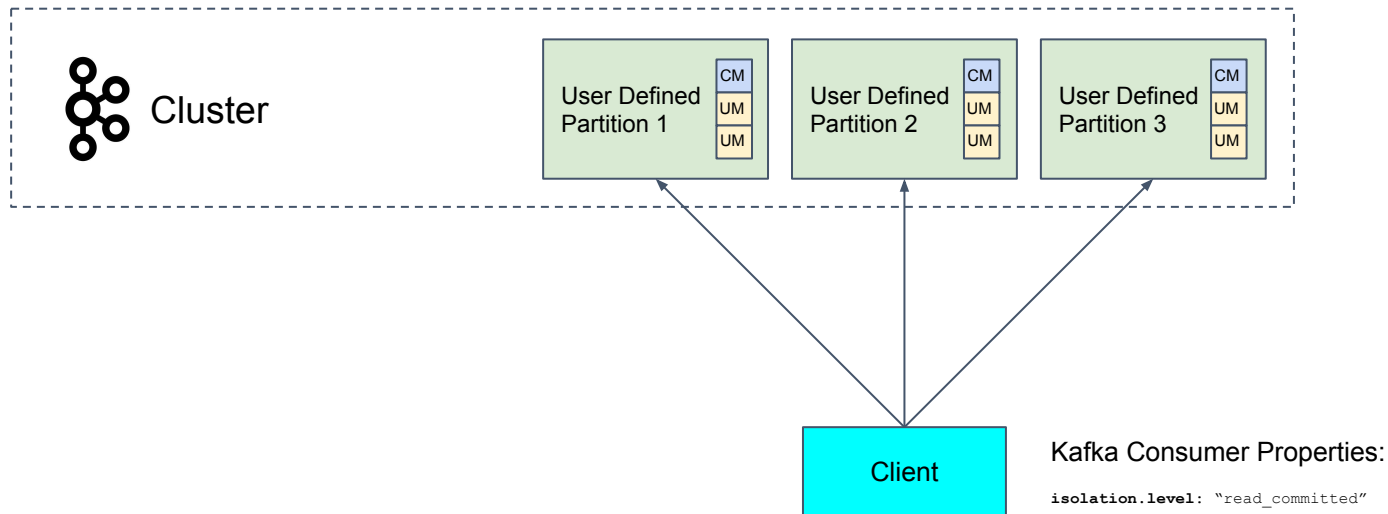


# Multiple Partition Atomic Writes

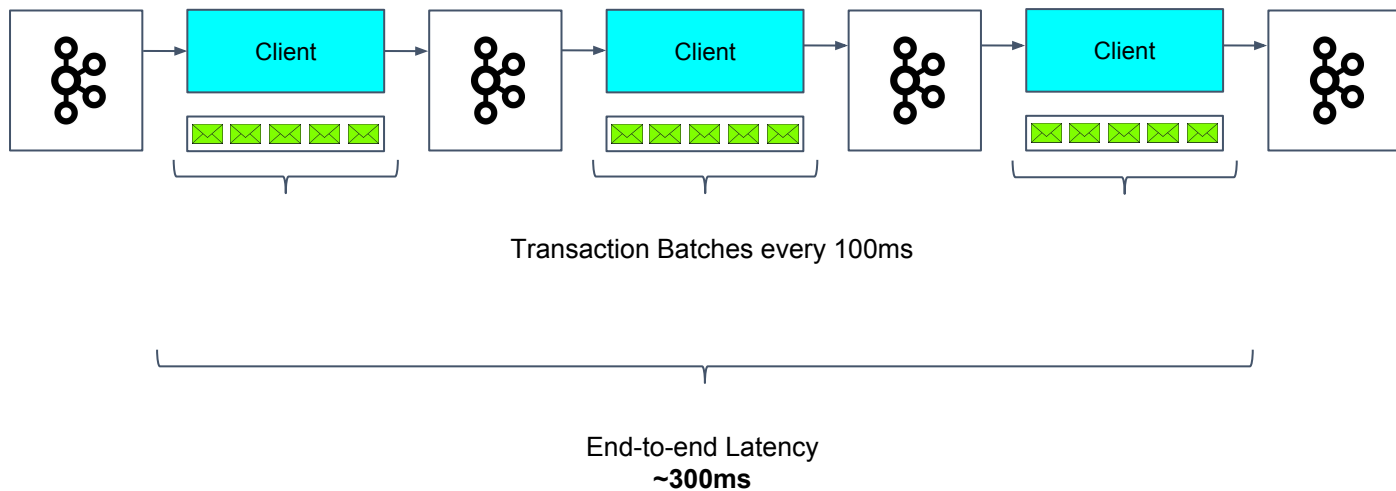
Ex) Second phase of two phase commit



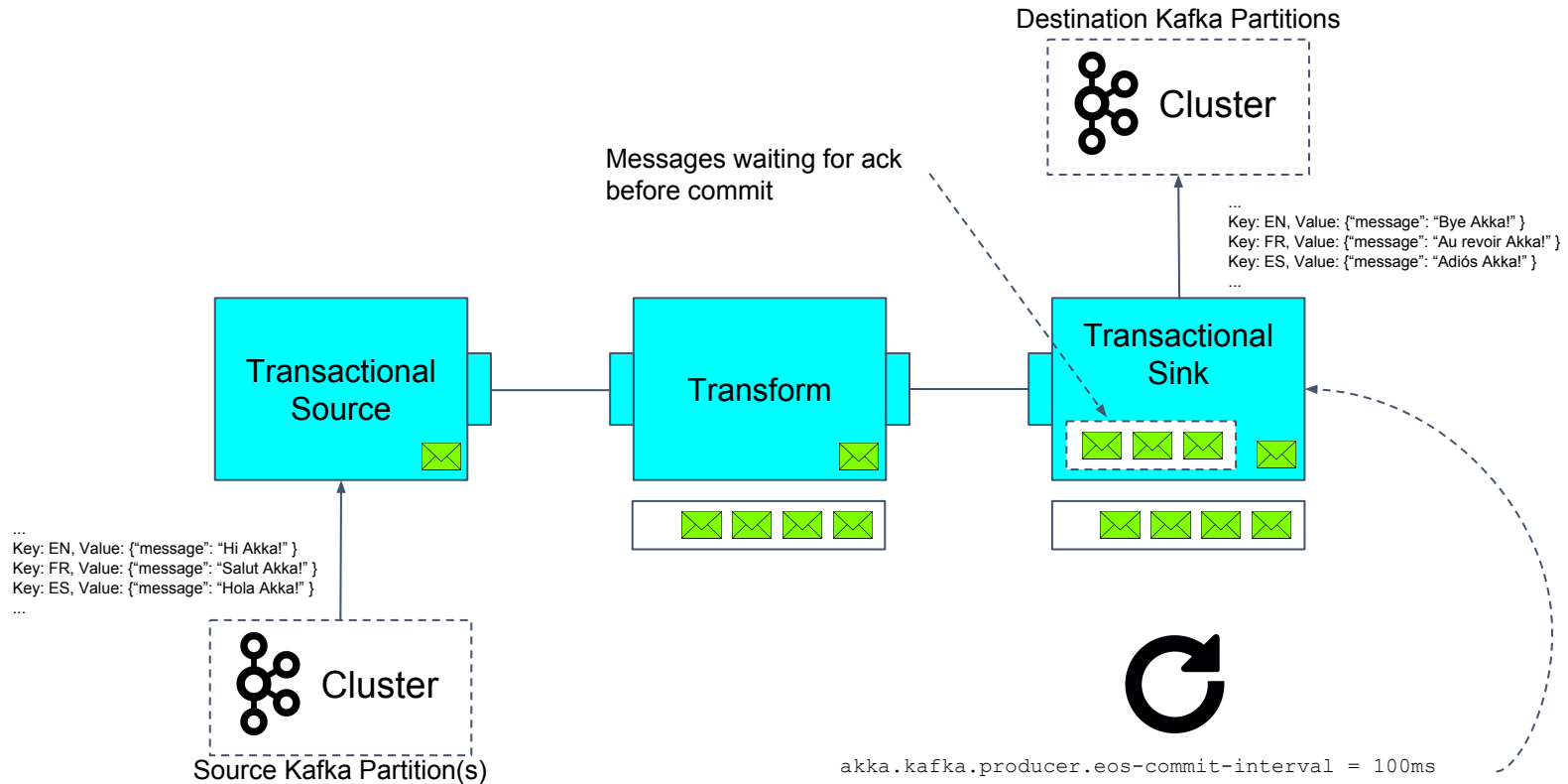
# Consumer Read Isolation Level



# Transactional Pipeline Latency

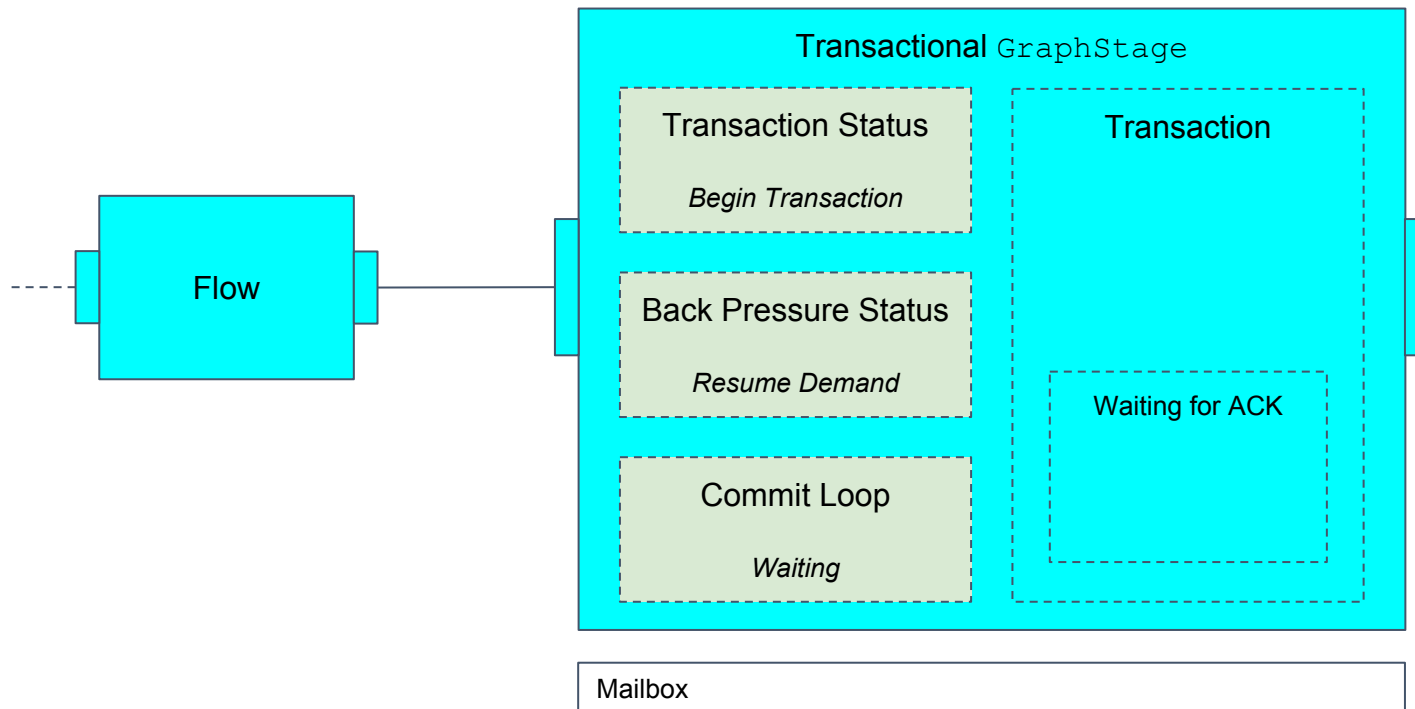


# Alpakka Kafka Transactions

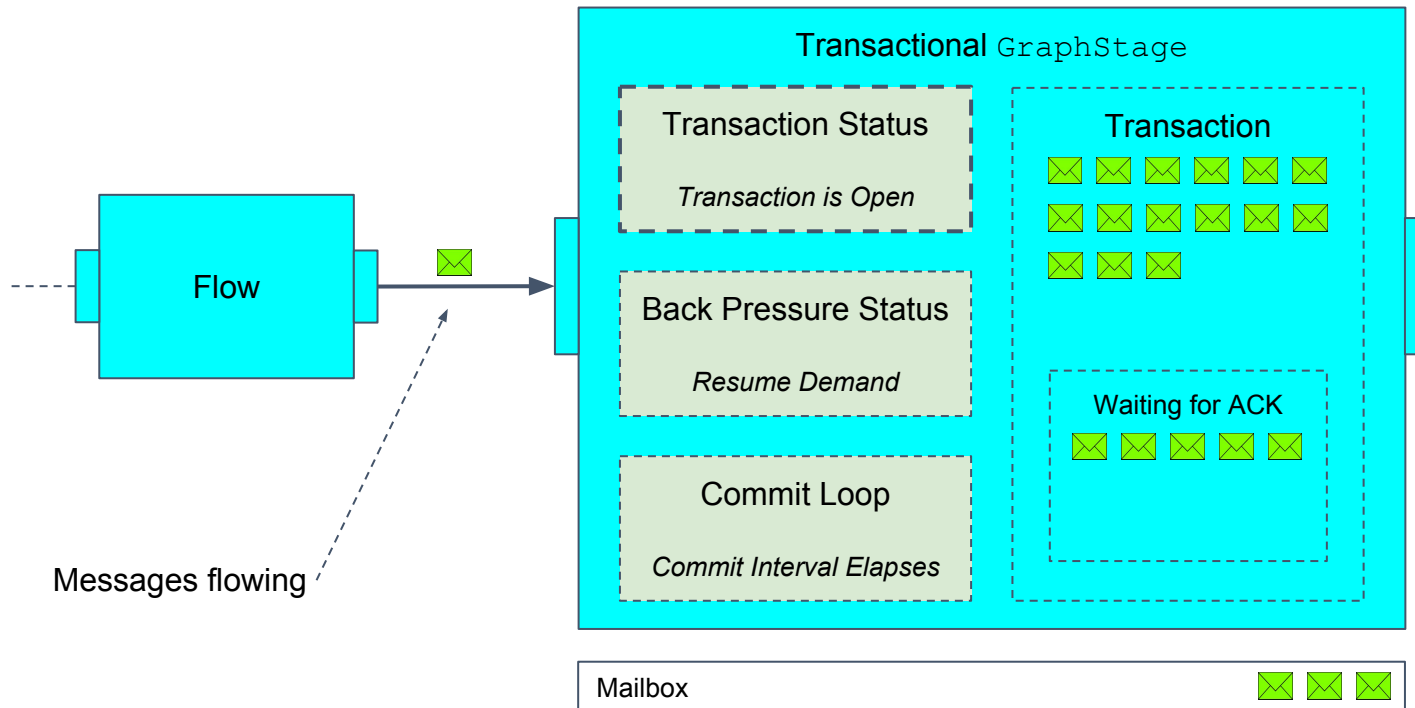


[openclipart](#)

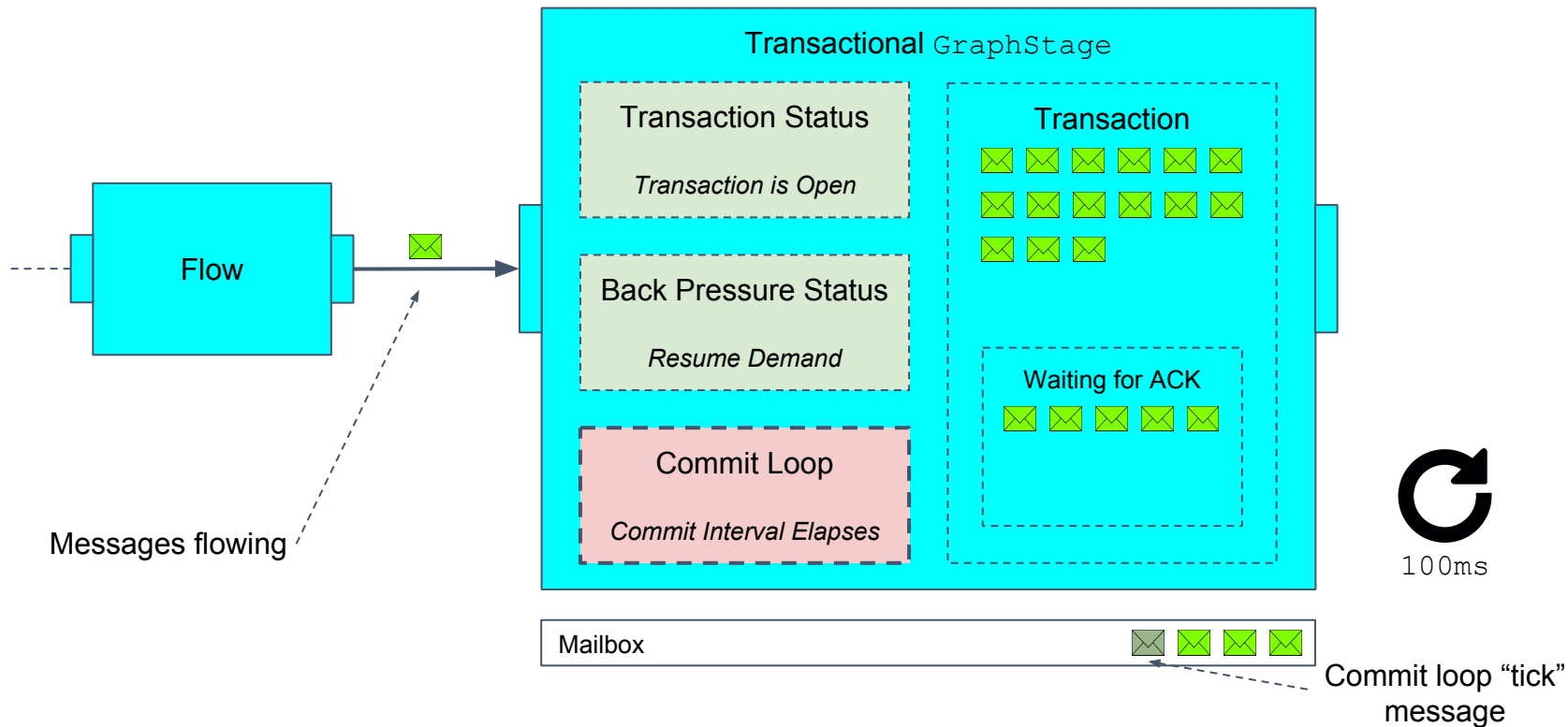
# Transactional GraphStage (1/7)



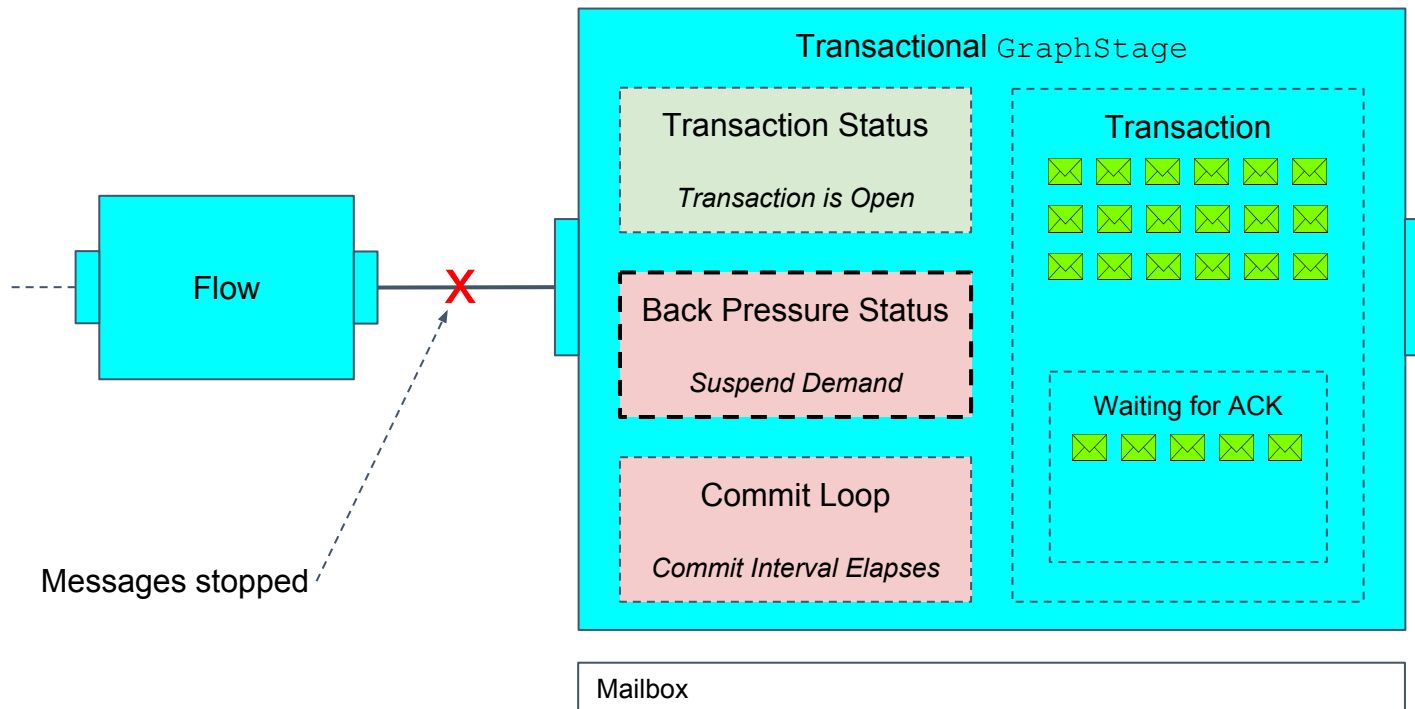
# Transactional GraphStage (2/7)



# Transactional GraphStage (3/7)

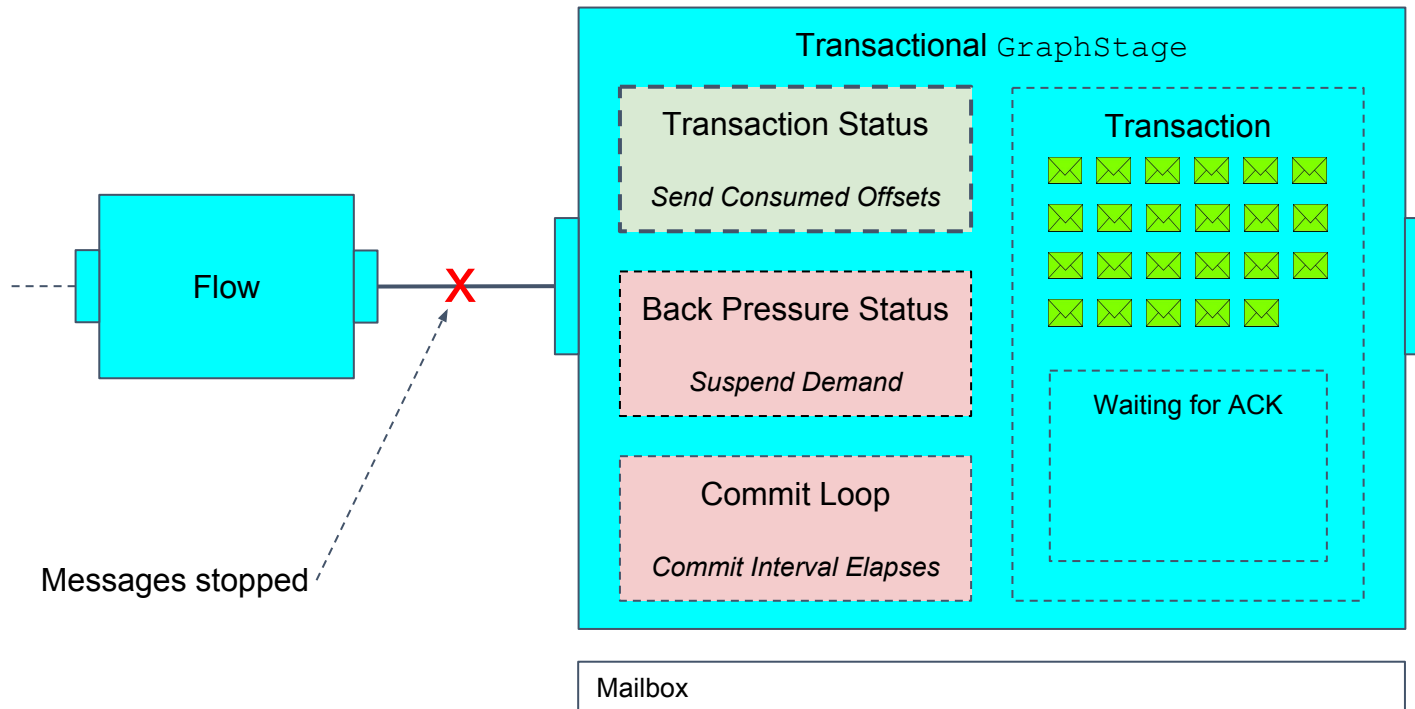


# Transactional GraphStage (4/7)

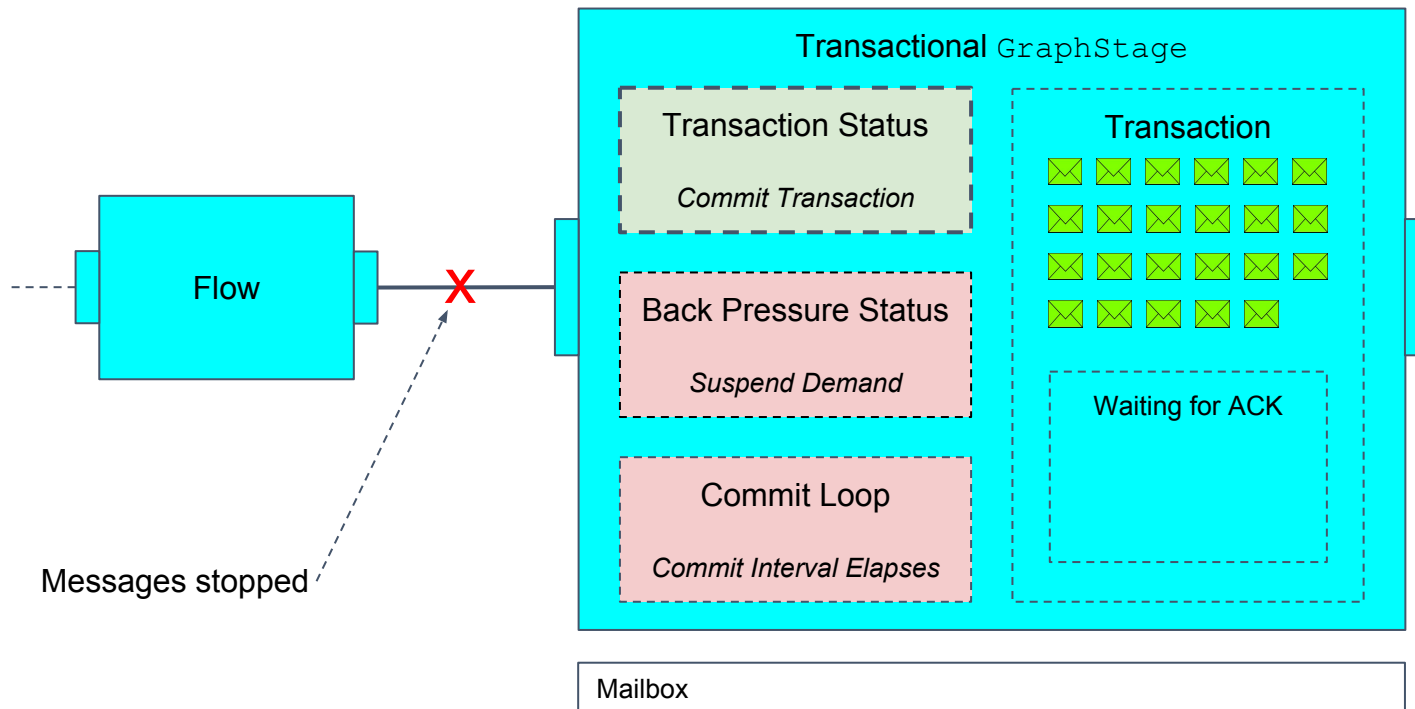




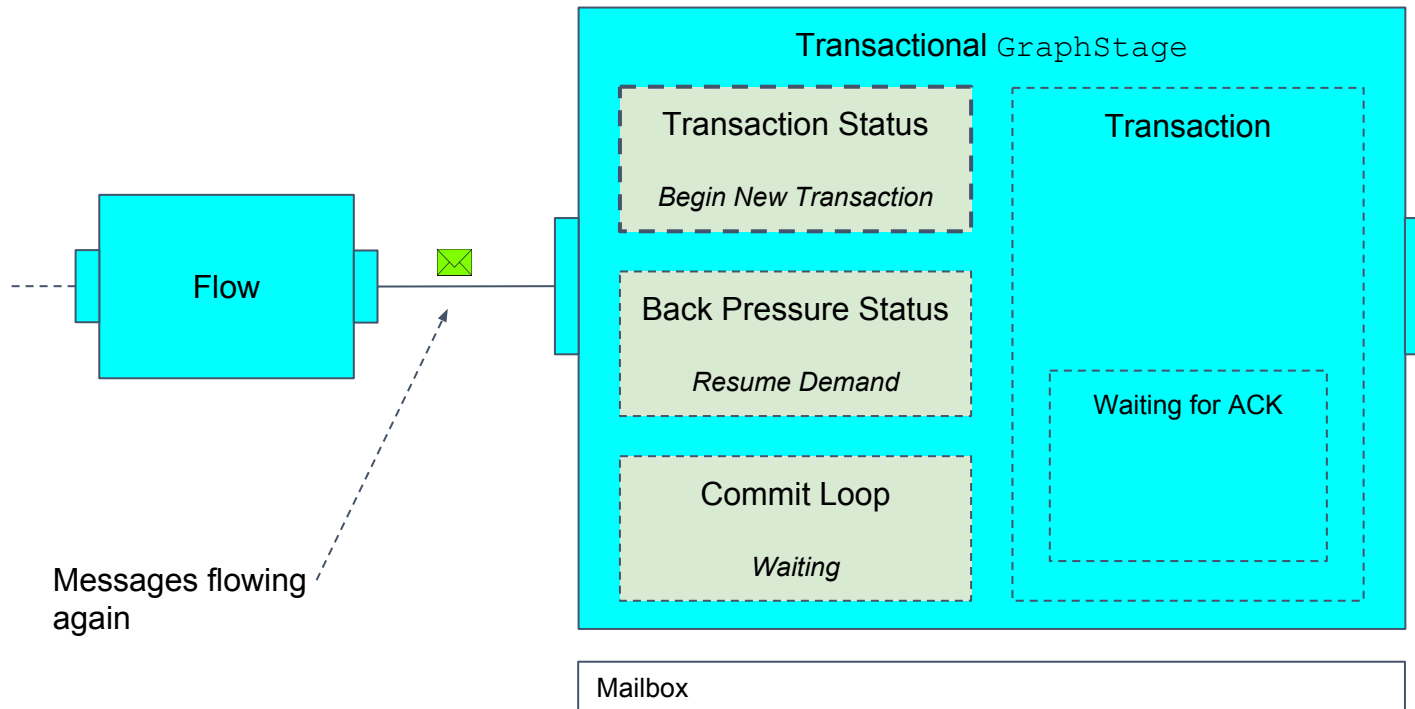
# Transactional GraphStage (5/7)



# Transactional GraphStage (6/7)



# Transactional GraphStage (7/7)



# Alpakka Kafka Transactions

```
val producerSettings = ProducerSettings(system, new StringSerializer, new ByteArraySerializer)
    .withBootstrapServers("localhost:9092")
    .withEosCommitInterval(100.millis)
```

Optionally provide a Transaction  
commit interval (default is 100ms)

```
val control =
    Transactional
        .source(consumerSettings, Subscriptions.topics("source-topic"))
        .via(transform)
        .map { msg =>
            ProducerMessage.Single(new ProducerRecord[String, Array[Byte]]("sink-topic", msg.record.value),
                msg.partitionOffset)
        }
        .to(TransactionalSink(producerSettings, "transactional-id"))
        .run()
```

# Alpakka Kafka Transactions

```
val producerSettings = ProducerSettings(system, new StringSerializer, new ByteArraySerializer)
    .withBootstrapServers("localhost:9092")
    .withEosCommitInterval(100.millis)
```

```
val control =
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        }
        .to(Transactional.sink(producerSettings, "transactional-id"))
        .run()
```

Use `Transactional.source` to propagate necessary info to `Transactional.sink` (CG ID, Offsets)

# Alpakka Kafka Transactions

```
val producerSettings = ProducerSettings(system, new StringSerializer, new ByteArraySerializer)
    .withBootstrapServers("localhost:9092")
    .withEosCommitInterval(100.millis)

val control =
    Transactional
        .source(consumerSettings, Subscriptions.topics("source-topic"))
        .via(transform)
        .map { msg =>
            ProducerMessage.Single(new ProducerRecord[String, Array[Byte]]("sink-topic", msg.record.value),
                msg.partitionOffset)
        }
        .to(Transactional.sink(producerSettings, "transactional-id"))
        .run()
```

Call `Transactional.sink` or `.flow` to produce and commit messages.

# Complex Event Processing

# What is Complex Event Processing (CEP)?

“

*Complex event processing, or CEP, is event processing that combines data from multiple sources to infer events or patterns that suggest more complicated circumstances.*

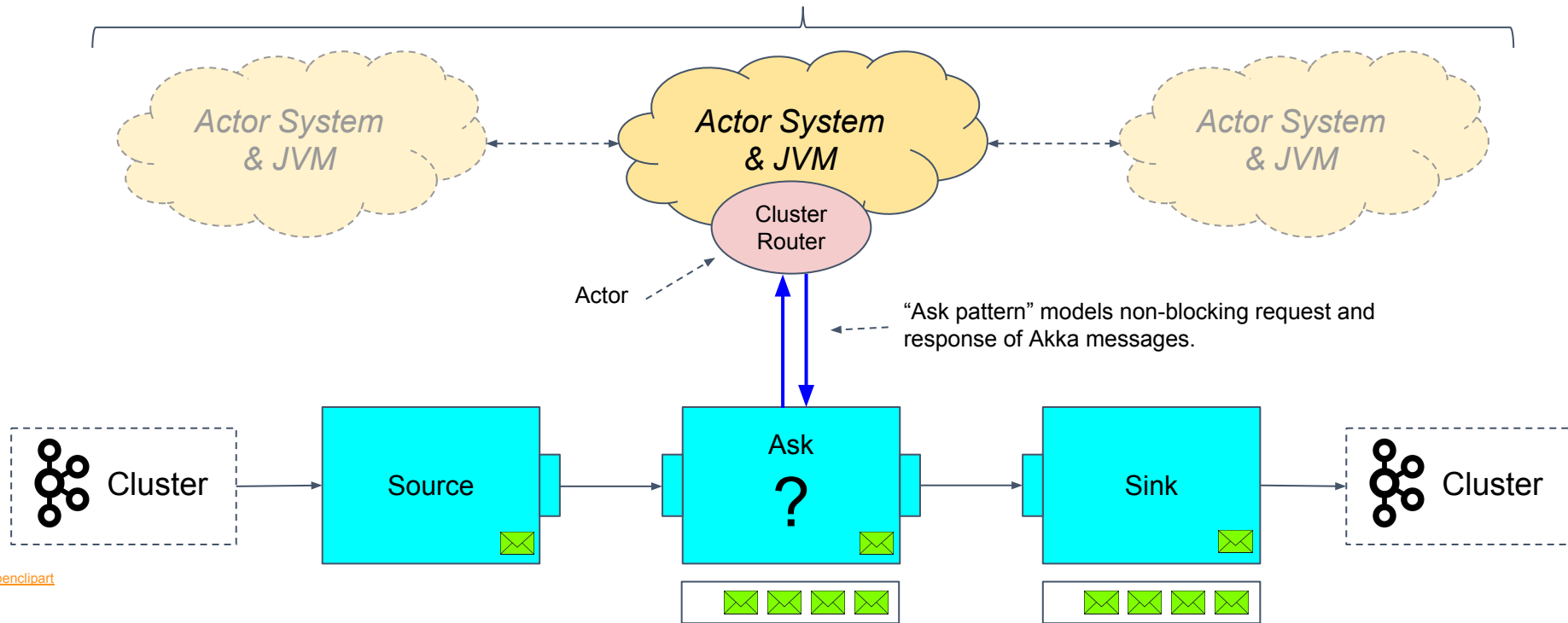
”

[Foundations of Complex Event Processing, Cornell](#)



# Calling into an Akka Actor System

Akka Cluster/Actor System



openclipart

# Actor System Integration

```
class ProblemSolverRouter extends Actor {  
  def receive = {  
    case problem: Problem =>  
      val solution = businessLogic(problem)  
      sender() ! solution // reply to the ask  
  }  
}  
  
...  
val control = Consumer  
  .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions.topics("topic1", "topic2"))  
  ...  
  .mapAsync(parallelism = 5) (problem => (problemSolverRouter ? problem).mapTo[Solution])  
  ...  
  .run()
```

Transform your stream by processing messages in an Actor System. All you need is an ActorRef.

# Actor System Integration

```
class ProblemSolverRouter extends Actor {  
  def receive = {  
    case problem: Problem =>  
      val solution = businessLogic(problem)  
      sender() ! solution // reply to the ask  
  }  
}  
...  
val control = Consumer  
  .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions.topics("topic1", "topic2"))  
  ...  
  .mapAsync(parallelism = 5) (problem => (problemSolverRouter ? problem).mapTo[Solution])  
  ...  
  .run()
```

Use Ask pattern (? function) to call provided ActorRef to get an async response

# Actor System Integration

```
class ProblemSolverRouter extends Actor {  
  def receive = {  
    case problem: Problem =>  
      val solution = businessLogic(problem)  
      sender() ! solution // reply to the ask  
  }  
}  
...  
val control = Consumer  
  .committableSource(consumerSettings, Subscriptions.topics("topic1", "topic2"))  
  ...  
  .mapAsync(parallelism = 5) (problem => (problemSolverRouter ? problem).mapTo[Solution])  
  ...  
  .run()
```

Parallelism used to limit how many messages in flight so we don't overwhelm mailbox of destination Actor and maintain stream back-pressure.

# Persistent Stateful Stages

# Options for implementing Stateful Streams

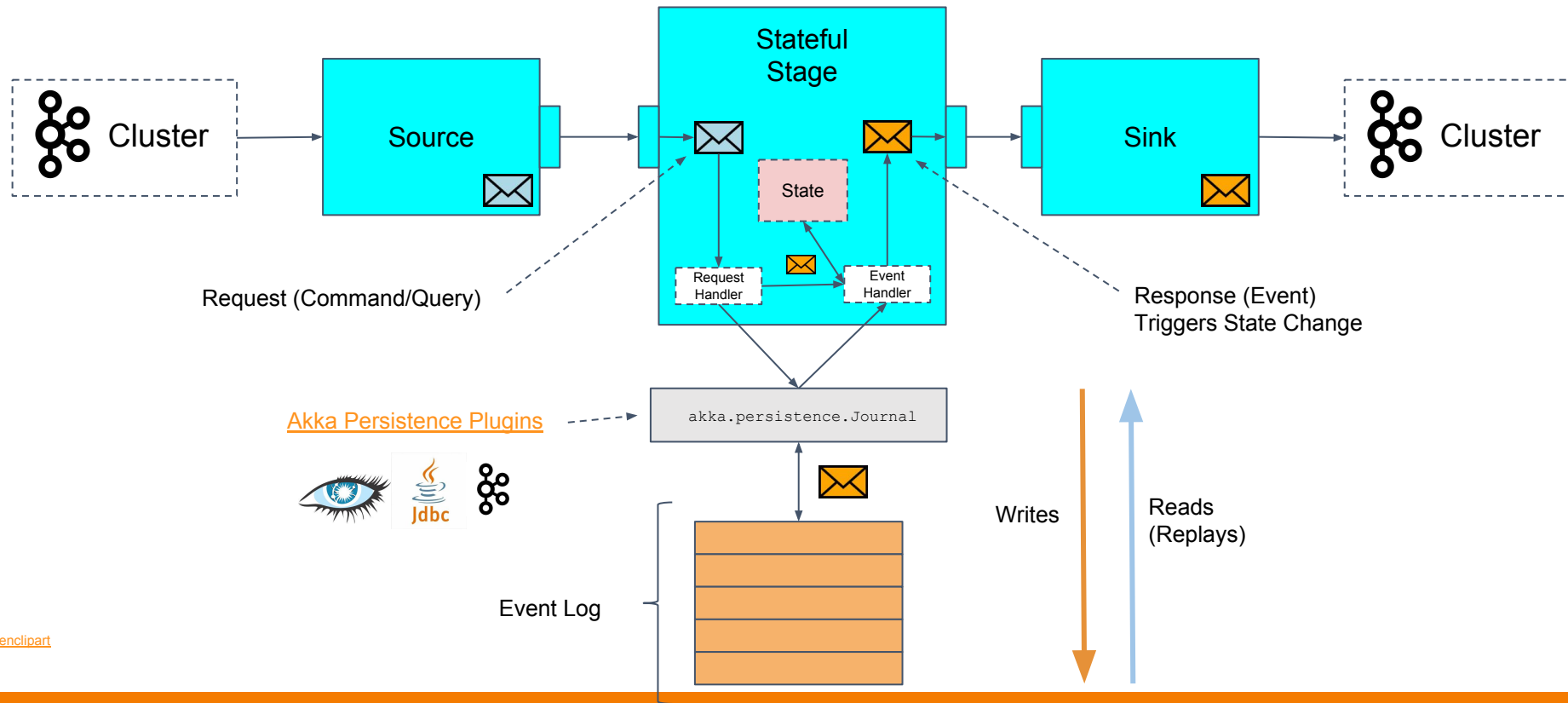
1. Provided Akka Streams stages: `fold`, `scan`, etc.
2. Custom `GraphStage`
3. Call into an Akka Actor System

# Persistent Stateful Stages using Event Sourcing

1. Recover state after failure
2. Create an event log
3. Share state

*Sound familiar?* `KTable`'s!

# Persistent GraphStage using Event Sourcing







## krasserm / akka-stream-event sourcing

“

*This project brings to Akka Streams what Akka Persistence brings to Akka Actors: persistence via event sourcing.*

”



Experimental

Public Domain Vectors

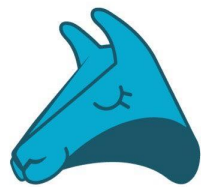
# New in Alpakka Kafka 1.0

# Alpakka Kafka 1.0 Release Notes

Released **Feb 28, 2019**. Highlights:

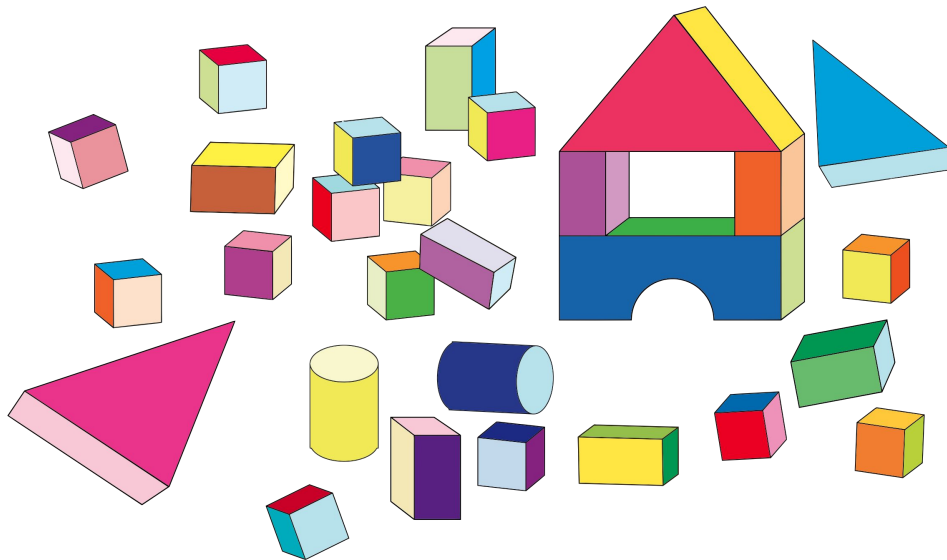
- Upgraded the Kafka client to version 2.0.0 [#544](#) by [@fr3akX](#)
  - Support new API's from [KIP-299: Fix Consumer indefinite blocking behaviour](#) in [#614](#) by [@zaharidichev](#)
- New Committer.sink for standardised committing [#622](#) by [@rtimush](#)
- Commit with metadata [#563](#) and [#579](#) by [@johnclara](#)
- Factored out akka.kafka.testkit for internal and external use: see [Testing](#)
- Support for merging commit batches [#584](#) by [@rtimush](#)
- Reduced risk of message loss for partitioned sources [#589](#)
- Expose Kafka errors to stream [#617](#)
- Java APIs for all settings classes [#616](#)
- Much more comprehensive tests

# Conclusion



# alpakka

kafka connector



[opencolorart](#)



Free eBook!

<https://bit.ly/2J9xmZm>

**Thank You!**

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