

KIP-563: Add 'tail -n' feature for ConsoleConsumer

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Status

Current state: *Under Discussion*

Discussion thread: [here](#)

JIRA: [here](#)

Please keep the discussion on the mailing list rather than commenting on the wiki (wiki discussions get unwieldy fast).

Motivation

Currently, ConsoleConsumer does not allow a negative offset to support `tail -n` feature. However, it's convenient to quickly check the last N messages for a partition when debugging.

For better user experience, it would be nice to add `tail -n` capability for ConsoleConsumer.

Public Interfaces

None.

Proposed Changes

Currently, three valid types of values for `offsets` option in ConsoleConsumer include:

- earliest (ignoring case): reading from the earliest offset
- latest (ignoring case): reading from the latest offset
- non-negative number: reading from the specified offset

To support `tail -n`, a fourth valid type of value is added:

- negative number (-N): reading from the "log end offset - N" offset. Take some for example, -1 means reading the last committed message; -2 means reading the last 2 messages and so on.

Similar to `tail -n`, the consumer will seek to the earliest offset if an extremely small negative value is specified.

Compatibility, Deprecation, and Migration Plan

None.

Rejected Alternatives

None.