

# KIP-629: Use racially neutral terms in our codebase

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## Status

**Current state:** *Adopted*

**Discussion thread:** <https://lists.apache.org/thread.html/rbe19a71644c85c53de7ea5cfa00e4c90f530332f09758f24709b81f6%40%3Cdev.kafka.apache.org%3E>

**JIRA:**

 Unable to render Jira issues macro, execution error.

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

## Motivation

In a number of places our code uses racially charged terms such as "blacklist" and "whitelist". Other open source projects have taken similar actions: [https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromium/src/+master/styleguide/inclusive\\_code.md#racially-neutral](https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromium/src/+master/styleguide/inclusive_code.md#racially-neutral) <https://go-review.googlesource.com/c/go/+236857/>.

This is a proposal to replace them with neutral terms such as "include" and "exclude", which we already use in other places such as Kafka Connect (see <https://github.com/apache/kafka/blob/trunk/connect/runtime/src/main/java/org/apache/kafka/connect/runtime/TopicCreationConfig.java#L33-L42>)

## Public Interfaces

Affected configurations and command line arguments will be renamed. The old name will continue to be supported for backwards compatibility, but deprecated.

List of affected configurations

component	type	existing	new config
JmxReporter	config	metrics.jmx.blacklist	metrics.jmx.exclude
JmxReporter	config	metrics.jmx.whitelist	metrics.jmx.include
MirrorMaker 2	config	topics.blacklist	topics.exclude
MirrorMaker 2	config	groups.blacklist	groups.exclude
MirrorMaker 2	config	config.properties.blacklist	config.properties.exclude
kafka-mirror-maker CLI	command line argument	--whitelist	--include
Kafka Connect Transforms	config	blacklist	exclude
Kafka Connect Transforms	config	whitelist	include
kafka-console-consumer CLI	command line argument	--whitelist	--include
kafka-replica-verification CLI	command line argument	--topic-white-list	--topics-include

## Proposed Changes

In addition to the public interface changes above, internal APIs and other occurrences in code (e.g. method, variable names, comments, and log messages) will be updated accordingly.

Other terms that appear in our codebase we should consider updating:

- replace *blackout* with *backoff*

## Compatibility, Deprecation, and Migration Plan

Existing configuration names will be deprecated but will continue to work for backwards compatibility.

## Rejected Alternatives

N/A