

KIP-829: (console-consumer) add print.topic property

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Status

Current state: Under Discussion

Discussion thread: [here](#) *[Change the link from the KIP proposal email archive to your own email thread]*

JIRA: [here](#) *[Change the link from KAFKA-1 to your own ticket]*

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

Motivation

We all know that it is possible to listen to multiple topics by using the `kafka-console-consumer` CLI tool and using the `--include` argument. While I find this functionality useful personally, there are no way to know from which topic the message came from. This is useful to me, especially during development of projects that publishes message to Kafka, and I don't see a way to do it, neither with `kafka-console-consumer` nor with other 3rd party tools I know of. I find the change to be quite trivial, it's definitely helpful to me, and I wish that it helps others that may need it.

Public Interfaces

Currently `--property` exists for printing extra information such as `key`, `headers`, `partition`, etc...

This led me to propose adding `--property print.topic=true` to the `kafka-console-consumer` tool.

Printing a message with the "print.topic" set to "true" would produce this output:

```
Topic:topic      value
```

Printing a message with these properties:

```
"print.offset" -> "true"
"print.topic" -> "true"
"print.timestamp" -> "true"
"print.partition" -> "true"
"print.key" -> "true"
```

produces the following output:

```
NO_TIMESTAMP      Partition:0      Offset:123      Topic:topic      key      value
```

Proposed Changes

Adding `-property print.topics=true` would print the topic of the message. The `topic()` accessor already exists in the `consumerRecord` object.

Compatibility, Deprecation, and Migration Plan

No impact on existing user, as this change will only add a new `-property print.topic=true` option in the `kafka-console-consumer` tool.

Rejected Alternatives

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