Release Plan 3.8.0

Release Dates

(all are in 2024)

- KIP Freeze: **27nd March** (Wednesday)
    - A KIP must be accepted by this date in order to be considered for this release. Note, any KIP that may not be implemented in a week, or that might destabilize the release, should be deferred.
- Feature Freeze: **10th April** (Wednesday)
    - *major features merged & working on stabilisation, minor features have PR, release branch cut; anything not in this state will be automatically moved to the next release in JIRA*
- Code Freeze: **24th April** (Wednesday)
- At least two weeks of stabilization will follow Code Freeze, meaning we expect to release **no earlier** than **May 8th**. We will move as fast as we can, and aim completion the earliest we can in May.

These dates are goals and subject to change, but we expect to stay on the Time Based Release Plan unless unexpected critical issues come up. While the earliest possible release date is 2w after code freeze, release candidates (RCs) will roll out as needed until the release vote passes.

The release manager is <TBD>

How to Contribute

Before code freeze:

- Participate in votes and discussions to land or postpone the open KIPs.
- Review patches. We anticipate that this release, as it usually happens, **will be bottlenecked mostly on reviews**. The more reviewers, the more content we can fit in.
- Write unit/integration/system tests. We want to preserve the tradition of high-quality releases in Apache Kafka.

After code freeze:

- Write more unit/integration/system tests**.** We want to preserve the tradition of high-quality releases in Apache Kafka.
- Improve documentation.
- Test the release candidates.
- Open blocker JIRAs on critical issues found. Open non-blocker JIRAs on any other issues found.
- Fix critical bugs.
- Review bug fixes.
- Vote on release candidates. Even though only PMC votes are binding, community votes are super important as we evaluate the readiness of the release.

Open Issues

key	summary	type	created	updated	due	assignee	reporter	priority	status	resolution

> ⚠ JQL and issue key arguments for this macro require at least one Jira application link to be configured

Also, feel free to refer to the 3.8.0 release page for more details of the included tickets (requires logging in to the Apache Kafka Jira project).

Planned KIP Content

Note: The planned content is not binding - the final content will be based on the features committed by the branch-cutting date.

See Kafka Improvement Proposals for the full list of KIPs.

If you do not see your KIP here and want to, please reply to the mailing list thread about the release!

KIP	JIRA	Component	Status

Postponed to subsequent release

KIP	JIRA	Component	Status