

# KIP-137: Enhance TopicCommand --describe to show topics marked for deletion

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## Status

**Current state:** *Adopted*

**Discussion thread:** [here](#)

**JIRA:** [KAFKA-4291](#)

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

**KIP Authors:** [Edoardo Comar](#) and [Mickael Maison](#)

## Motivation

When using `TopicCommand --describe`, it does not show if a topic is marked for deletion. Such information is only displayed when using `--list`. It would be helpful to have the `--describe` command include all details instead of having to go back and forth between multiple commands.

Moreover when using `TopicCommand --describe` with `--under-replicated-partitions` or `--unavailable-partitions`, topics marked for deletion are listed without being marked appropriately which can be confusing!

## Public Interfaces

The change would only be in the **output** of `TopicCommand` when using the `--describe` flag. This is the class called by the `kafka-topics.sh` script.

## Proposed Changes

If a topic is marked for deletion, `--describe` will return the following:

```
Topic:testtopic    PartitionCount:1    ReplicationFactor:1    Configs:cleanup.policy=compact,flush.ms=1000    Mar
kedForDeletion:true
Topic: testtopic    Partition: 0    Leader: none    Replicas: 0    Isr:
```

When running with `--unavailable-partitions` or `--under-replicated-partitions`, the topic header is not displayed. In this case, the marker will be added on each partition:

```
Topic: testtopic    Partition: 0    Leader: none    Replicas: 0    Isr:    MarkedForDeletion:true
```

## Compatibility, Deprecation, and Migration Plan

- *What impact (if any) will there be on existing users?*

There is a concern that people may be parsing the raw output as there is no structured output from this command. In that case, people will need to adjust their parsing logic.

## Rejected Alternatives

*We tried reusing the same string used by `--list` ("marked for deletion") but we found the output inconsistent compared to the other fields in `--describe`.*

```
Topic:testtopic    PartitionCount:1    ReplicationFactor:1    Configs:cleanup.policy=compact,flush.ms=1000    -  
marked for deletion  
Topic: testtopic    Partition: 0    Leader: none    Replicas: 0    Isr:
```