

# KIP-850: REST API for filtering Connector plugins by type

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## Status

**Current state:** *"Discarded"*

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

**JIRA:** [KAFKA-4279](#)

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

## Motivation

KAFKA-4279 states "We have a REST resource that allows users to see the available plugins, but we have no equivalent that allows listing available converters".

I propose that we implement a generic "filter" API which will list connector plugins matched by type (one of SOURCE,SINK,CONVERTER, HEADER\_CONVERTER).

## Public Interfaces

We will add a new REST endpoint for Connect:

```
GET /connector-plugins/filter?pluginType=CONVERTER
```

## Proposed Changes

The proposed REST endpoint will accept a query parameter `pluginType` based on which connector plugins are filtered.

### Sample response if `pluginType` is set to `header_converter`

```
[
  {
    "class": "org.apache.kafka.connect.json.JsonConverter",
    "type": "converter"
  },
  {
    "class": "org.apache.kafka.connect.storage.SimpleHeaderConverter",
    "type": "header_converter"
  },
  {
    "class": "org.apache.kafka.connect.storage.StringConverter",
    "type": "converter"
  }
]
```

## Sample response if `pluginType` is set to invalid type

```
{
  "error_code": 400,
  "message": "pluginType must be set to one of: SOURCE,SINK,CONVERTER,HEADER_CONVERTER"
}
```

## Compatibility, Deprecation, and Migration Plan

Since this is a new REST API, there should not be any concerns on compatibility, deprecation and migration.

## Rejected Alternatives

Today [listConnectorPlugins](#) API supports an optional flag, `connectorsOnly`, which is set to "true" by default. We could have a similar flag "convertersOnly", but this would cause confusion.

Eg: User would assume that `GET /connector-plugins?convertersOnly=true` should list only converter plugins, but it will include source and sink plugins as well.

If we change the default value of `connectorsOnly`, user will have to explicitly specify the value while listing connector plugins - which is a deviation from current usage.