KIP-897: Publish a single kafka (aka core) Maven artifact in Apache Kafka 4.0

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Status

Current state: Discarded

Discussion thread: here

JIRA: **KAFKA-14819** - Getting issue details... STATUS

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

Motivation

Update: This KIP was discarded in favor of moving the code from the `kafka` (aka `core`) module to other modules. Once that effort is completed, `kafka` (aka `core`) will be empty and a separate KIP will propose its removal (along with proposed alternatives).

Since Scala 2 is not binary compatible across minor versions, a separate `kafka` (aka `core`) artifact is published for each supported Scala version (as is typical for Scala projects). More concretely, we currently publish kafka_2.12 and kafka_2.13 for Scala 2.12 and 2.13 respectively. This requires building the project and running all the tests once for each supported Scala version. In addition, it's not uncommon for contributors to have to fix pull requests so that they work on both Scala versions.

Projects written in Java can use any of the two jars (i.e. there is no benefit in having both artifacts), but projects written in Scala should use the jar with the matching Scala version. It is worth noting that the `kafka` jar does not expose any public API, so we are doing extra work to support Scala users who access internal APIs. That said, it's not uncommon for users and other projects to depend on internal broker classes to start an embedded kafka cluster for testing purposes (we should have a public API for testing, but that's a subject for another KIP).

As part of KIP-751, we deprecated support for Scala 2.12 with the goal to remove it in Apache 4.0 – that is, a single Scala version would be supported at that point. I propose we take the chance to formalize that only a single Scala version will be supported by the `kafka` (aka `core`) module from Apache Kafka 4.0 and the artifact name should be changed to be simply `kafka` (i.e. the Scala version suffix will be removed).

Public Interfaces

Rename Maven artifact `kafka_2.13` to `kafka` in Apache Kafka 4.0.

Proposed Changes

Update the build to achieve what's been mentioned in the `Public Interfaces` section.

Compatibility, Deprecation, and Migration Plan

Users and projects that depend on `kafka_2.13` would have to change their build to refer to `kafka` instead.

Projects written in Scala that are using a different version than the one `kafka` supports would have to either use a separate classloader, shading or running kafka in a separate process via testcontainers (or similar).

Test Plan

Verify that the published artifact has the updated name.

Rejected Alternatives

Maintain the status quo.