

# KIP 172: Add regular-expression topic support for sink connector

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## Status

**Current state:** Discarded, and superseded by [KIP-215: Add topic regex support for Connect sinks](#)

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

**JIRA:** [here](#)

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

## Motivation

For now we provide topic names in a properties file as following:

```
topics=test1,test2
```

If there are a few topics to deal with, It's ok to list all the topics in a comma-seperated way. But when you have to deal with hundreds or thousands of topics, it doesn't help. In those situations, we would like to use a wildcard expression to specify topics.

## Public Interfaces

- client configuration file

## Proposed Changes

- add an additional option "topics.regex"
- a user can only specify one of "topics" or "topics.regex"
- if a user specifies "topics" in their config file, it works the same way as the current version.
- if a user specifies "topics.regex", it can handle all the topics matching the regular expressions.

## Compatibility, Deprecation, and Migration Plan

- *What impact (if any) will there be on existing users?*
  - N/A
- *If we are changing behavior how will we phase out the older behavior?*
  - N/A
- *If we need special migration tools, describe them here.*
  - Not needed
- *When will we remove the existing behavior?*
  - N/A

## Rejected Alternatives

It is possible to update the interpretation of the existing option "topics" in a way that our users can specify reglar expressions there. But since there are some special characters in the regular expression that can be used in topic names, eg. "." and "-", we need some workaround. Also this aproach has some effects on existing users.