

# Feature 1637 Send out in batch and compression

- Status: Design
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- Discussion: <https://github.com/lf-edge/ekuiper/issues/1637>

## Requirement

eKuiper sink can send data out to external systems. By default, the sink produce data for each event. But this could be a problem if the data throughput is large:

- Overhead when sending to cloud
- IO overhead when save to db/file
- Compression ratio is low

In order to save bandwidth with higher compression ratio and boost performance, we would like to introduce batch send and compression in **sink**.

## Design

For batch send, we can achieve by two approaches:

1. Use window to batch data (supported now)
  - a. Pros: apply for all sinks
  - b. Cons:
    - i. Not suitable for continuous query semantically, thus may make the SQL more complex even no window is needed
    - ii. Cannot control in sink level, for example, cannot save locally in real time while publish to the cloud in batch
2. Set batch property for sink (to be implemented)
  - a. Flexible

## Usage

Add new properties into [sink common properties](<https://ekuiper.org/docs/en/latest/guide/sinks/overview.html#common-properties> ).

- batchSize:
  - The upper bound of count of events to be batched together before sending out.
  - This works together with lingerInterval. If both are set, which one meets firstly will trigger a sending.
  - A small batch size will make batching less common and may reduce throughput (a batch size of zero will disable batching entirely). A very large batch size may use more memory and reduce the sending times.
  - Default is 0, which means no batch, will send out after the linger time
- lingerInterval
  - The upper bound of time interval to wait before doing a send.
  - This works together with batchSize, if both are set, which one meets firstly will trigger a sending.
  - Default is 0, which means no linger. Will send out after the batchSize full. If both are 0, send out immediately.
- compressionType
  - The compression type to compress the data before sending out.
  - Optional property, should support `gzip`
  - In the future, support `gzip`, `snappy`, `lz4`, `zstd`

Use case

1. Publish to mqtt for **every 10 seconds defined by window** in **protobuf** format and compress by **gzip**

```
{
  "id": "rule1",
  "sql": "SELECT * FROM demo GROUP BY TumblingWindow(ss, 10)",
  "actions": [{
    "mqtt": {
      "server": "tcp://yourserver:1883",
      "topic": "mytopic",
      "format": "protobuf",
      "schema": "myschema.message",
      "compressionType": "gzip"
    }
  ]
}
```

2. Publish to mqtt for every 100 events or 100 seconds and compress by gzip; But publish to local mqtt for each event

```

{
  "id": "rule1",
  "sql": "SELECT * FROM demo",
  "actions": [{
    "mqtt": {
      "server": "tcp://cloud:1883",
      "topic": "remote",
      "sendSingle": "true",
      "batchSize": 100,
      "lingerInterval": 100000,
      "compressionType": "gzip"
    }
  }, {
    "mqtt": {
      "server": "tcp://local:1883",
      "topic": "local",
      "sendSingle": "true"
    }
  }]
}

```

? Adapt to file format, currently splited by lines \n  
 ? MQTT package size check

## Implementation

1. compression: Just like format, feed the batch and compression properties into the transform *GenTransform(internal/topo/transform/template.go)* function. Then each sink can use context `ctx.TransformOutput(data)` to do the transformation which will have compression is property set.
2. batch: In *SinkNode(internal/topo/node/sink\_node.go)*, accumulate by strategy before passing on to the sink implementation. Need to consider state saving.
3. In each sink implementations, if batch/compression is not supported, return error in the validate function. If supported, check if collect logic needs to be changed.

## Source consideration (Future)

"Drinking Our Own Champagne", the compressed data produced by sink should be able to be received by our source. This will add new properties like:

- `compressionType`: decompress the compressed content
- `isBatch`: decode the batch events and replay in stream