

Lesson 200.6 Creating Reports and Dashboards





Learning Objectives

At the end of this lesson, learners will be able to:

- Save a search as a report.
- Edit reports.
- Create reports that display statistics (tables).
- Create reports that display visualizations (charts).
- Create a dashboard.
- Add a report to a dashboard.
- Edit a dashboard.





Introduction

Splunk reports are generated from search actions and can display statistics and visualizations of events.

Once created and saved, reports can run at any time, retrieving up-to-date results with each run.

Reports can be shared with other users and added to dashboards for easy access.

Advanced reports often include drill-down functionality, allowing users to explore the underlying events that contribute to the generated statistics.



image: Freepik.com





Introduction (continued)

Splunk Dashboards are views that are made up of panels.

The panels can contain modules such as search boxes, fields, charts, tables, and lists.

Dashboard panels are usually connected to reports.

After creating a search visualization or saving a report, you can add it to a new or existing dashboard.

A Dashboard Editor allows you to create and edit dashboards. It is useful when you have a set of saved reports that you want to quickly add to a dashboard.

In this lesson, we will explore Splunk reports and dashboards.

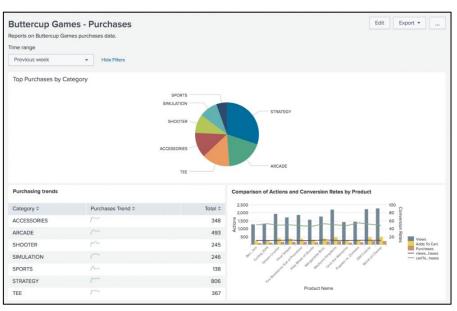


image: https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation





Introduction (continued)

Splunk visualization capabilities -

Visualizations serve as a powerful storytelling tool.

Combined with reports and dashboards, visualizations convey information, insights, and findings to stakeholders or team members in a compelling and easy-to-understand manner, fostering better communication and collaboration.



image: Freepik.com







Overview

When you create a **search** or a pivot that you would like to run again or share with others, you can **save it as a report**.

Once you create a report you can:

- View the results that the report returns on the report viewing page or Splunk Mobile.
- Open the report and edit it so that it returns different data or displays its data in a different manner.

Note:

The Pivot tool lets you report on a specific data set without the Splunk Search Processing Language (SPL™). It provides a drag-and-drop interface to design and generate pivots that present different aspects of that data in the form of tables, charts, and other visualizations.





6.1 Save a Search as a Report (continued)

Manually create a report in Splunk Web

There are **four ways** to create reports using Splunk web:

- From Search, by saving a search as a report.
- From Pivot, by saving a pivot as a report.
- By selecting Settings > Searches, reports, and alerts and clicking New Report to add a new report.
- From a dashboard, by converting an inline-search-powered dashboard panel to a report.

On the following slides, we will explore some of these options.







Saving a search as a report

Scenario: Display the bandwidth used by internet usage type in the last 7 days.

```
index=* sourcetype=cisco_wsa_squid | stats min(sc_bytes) as "Minimum Bytes" max(sc_bytes) as "Maximum Bytes" avg
(sc_bytes) as "Average Bytes" by usage | eval Average Bytes = round('Average Bytes',2)
```

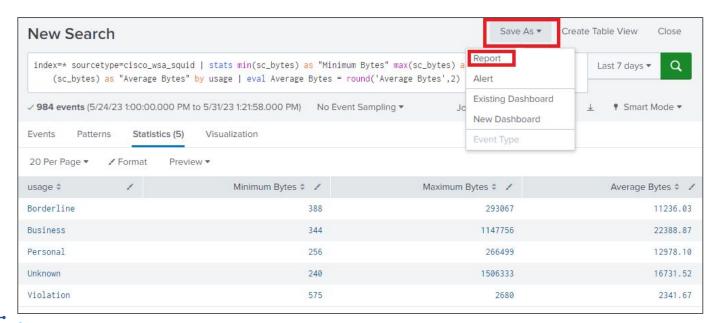




6.1 Save a Search as a Report (continued)

Saving a search as a report

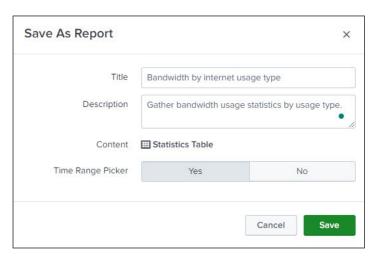
• From the **Save As** drop-down menu, select **Report**.





Saving a search as a report

- Provide a unique **Title** for the report.
 - Supported characters for titles are a-z, A-Z, 0-9, or _.
- (Optional) Provide a **Description** of the report.
- (Optional) Add a time range picker to the report.
 - A time range picker allows users without write permissions to rerun the report over a different time range without actually editing it.
- If you **do not** provide a time range picker, the report **always** runs over the same time range as the **original** search.



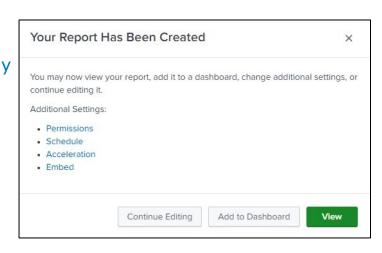




6.1 Save a Search as a Report (continued)

Saving a search as a report

- At this point, your report has been created. You may view it, add it to a dashboard, change additional settings, or continue editing it.
- The additional settings are:
 - Permissions
 - Schedule
 - Acceleration
 - Embed
- Click on the **View** button to view the report.

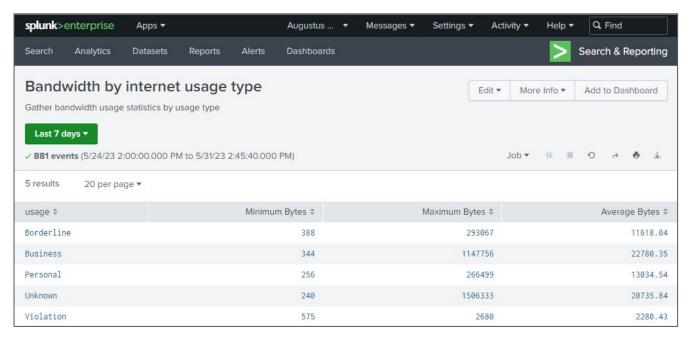








View of the Bandwidth by internet usage type report-









Set report permissions

- Any report you create is initially private and only available to you.
- If the capabilities granted to you by your role allow it, you can **change the report permissions to share it with others**.
- There are a number of ways that you can access the Edit Permissions dialog:
 - When you first create the report.
 - From the **reports listing** page.
 - From the **report display** view.
 - From **settings**.

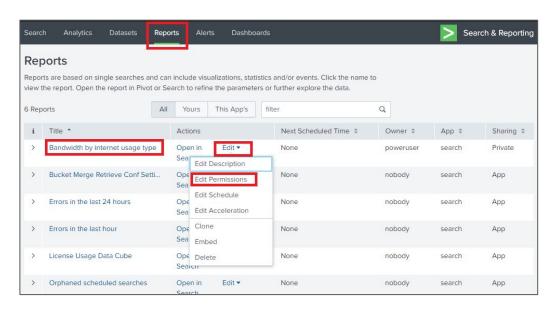






Set report permissions from the Reports listing page.

- Navigate to the Reports listing page.
- Locate the report that you want to edit permissions for, click Edit, and select Edit Permissions.



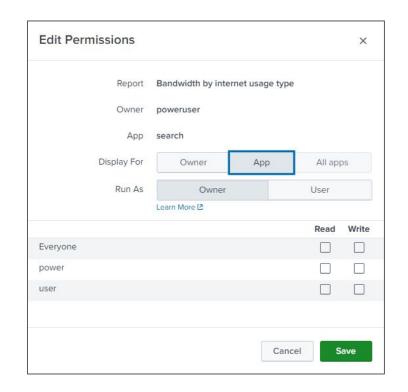




Set report permissions - Edit permissions dialog box.

- Select either App or All apps.
 - Note: All reports are created in the context of a specific app.
- Select App to share the report with other users of the app that the report belongs to.
- Select All apps to share the report with all users of your Splunk platform implementation.

Selecting App or All apps exposes the **Run as field** and **role permissions** settings.







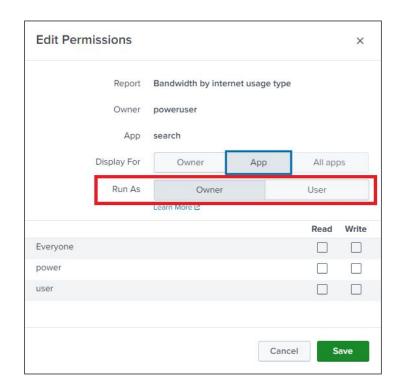
Set report permissions - Edit permissions dialog box - Owner vs. User.

When you **share** a report with other users, you have the option of having it run with the **permissions** of the report "**owner**" (the person who created the report) or the report "**user**" (the person who is running the report).

This setting is used for two reasons:

- It can allow access to search data that might otherwise be unavailable to the person running the report.
- It helps **prevent situations** where your concurrent search limit is reached when too many people run reports that you own.

All reports run as **Owner** by default.

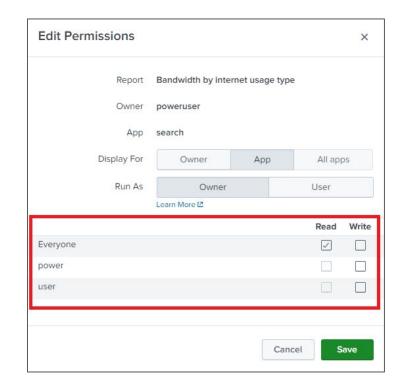




Set report permissions - Edit permissions dialog box - Read/Write.

Set the Read and Write permissions by role.

- Read gives a user with the selected role the ability to see and run the report, but they cannot edit it.
- Write gives the user the ability to run and edit the report if they wish.
- If you leave these settings unmarked for a particular role, that role cannot see the report.
- Click Save to save your permissions changes.





Objective 8.1 - Describe scheduled reports

A **scheduled report** is a report that **runs** on **scheduled intervals** and which can **trigger** an **action** each time it runs.

You can define **up to four actions** for a scheduled report:

- Send a report summary by email.
- Write the report results to a CSV lookup file.
- **Set up a webhook** that sends a message to an external web resource such as a chatroom.
- **Log and index** searchable events.



Objective 8.2 - Configure scheduled reports

Open the **Edit Schedule dialog** to define a **schedule** for an **existing report**, and optionally set up **actions** that are **triggered** each time the report **runs** on its schedule.

There are **several** ways to open the **Edit Schedule dialog**:

- After saving a search as a report.
- When you extend a dataset as a scheduled report.
- From the **Reports listing** page.
- From the report display view.
- From **Settings**.

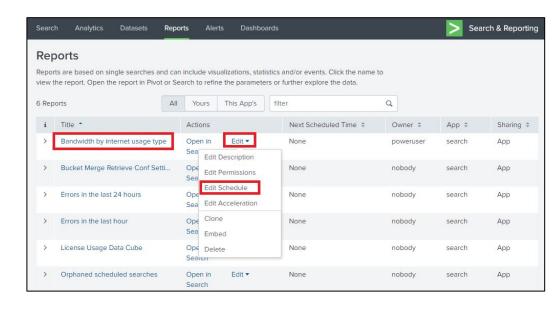






(8.2) Schedule reports - From the Reports listing page

- Navigate to the Reports listing page.
- **Locate** the report that you want to schedule.
- Click Edit, and select Edit
 Schedule.



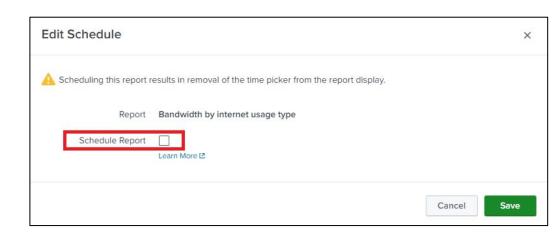






(8.2) Schedule reports - Edit schedule dialog box.

- On the Edit Schedule dialog box, check the Schedule Report checkbox to display the schedule options.
- Note that scheduling a report results in removal of the time picker from the report display.

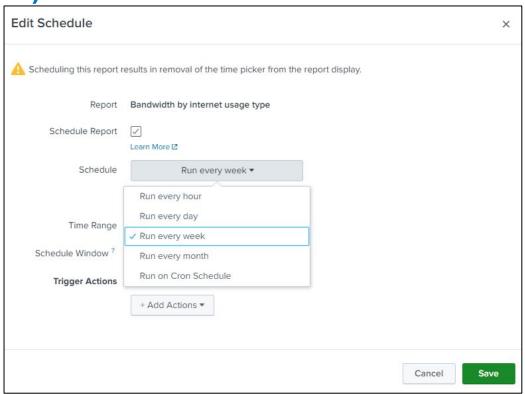






(8.2) Schedule reports - Set a schedule to run the report.

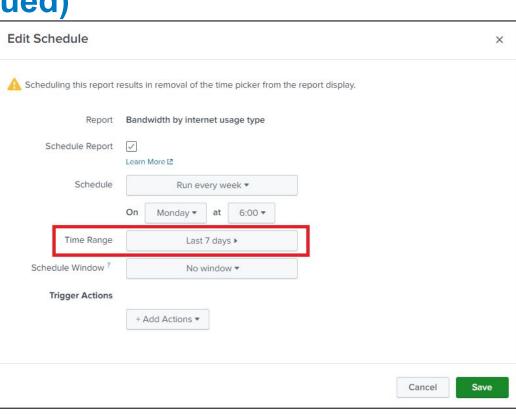
- Select the **Schedule** for the report.
- You can select a predefined schedule such as Run every hour, or you can select Run on Cron Schedule, and then define a custom schedule with a Cron Expression.





(8.2) Schedule reports - Set the report's time range.

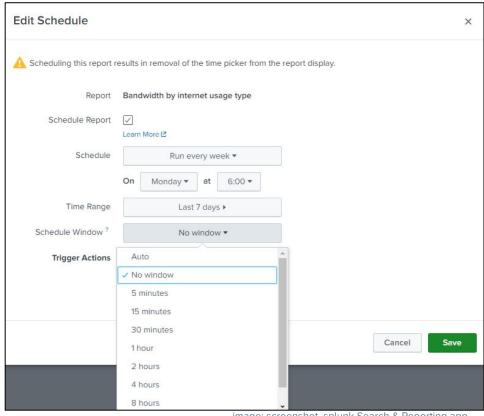
- Select the **Time range** for the report.
- Time range is the time range for which the report collects data.
- It **defaults** to the time range that you have set for the **report**.
- Specify a new time range to override the default.





(8.2) Schedule reports - Select a schedule window.

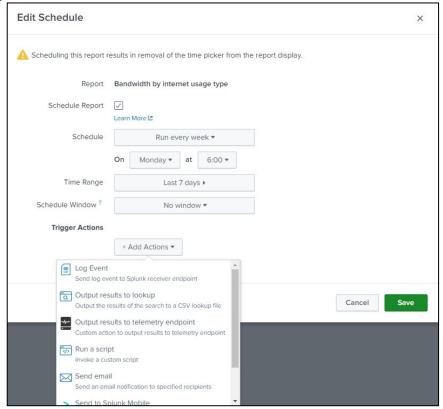
- (Optional) Select a **Schedule Window** for the report to run within.
- When there are many scheduled reports set to run concurrently, you can set Schedule Window to specify how long the report scheduler can defer this report and cause it to yield to **higher-importance** reports.





(8.2) Schedule reports - Define actions for a scheduled report.

- When you schedule a report, you can optionally define actions that are triggered each time it runs on its schedule.
- If you add an email notification action to a scheduled report, each time that report runs, the Splunk software will send an email with the results of the report to a set of stakeholders.
- To add actions to a scheduled report, select one or more options from the Add Actions menu.

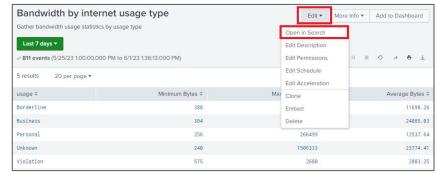




Edit a report's definition.

There are two ways to edit a **report's definition**, depending on whether you are on the **Reports listing page** or looking at the **report itself**.

- On the Reports listing page, locate the report you want to edit, go to the Actions column, and click Open in Search or Open in Pivot (you will see one or the other, depending on which tool you used to create the report).
- Looking at the report itself, click Edit and select Open in Search or Open in Pivot (you will see one or the other, depending on which tool you used to create the report).



Looking at the report itself - second bullet

image: screenshot, Splunk Search & Reporting app



Edit the definition of a report opened in Search.

- After you open a report in search, you can change the search string, time range, or report formatting.
- After you rerun the report, a Save button will be enabled, located in the upper-right section
 of the report. Click this to save the report.
- You also have the option of saving your edited search as a new report.

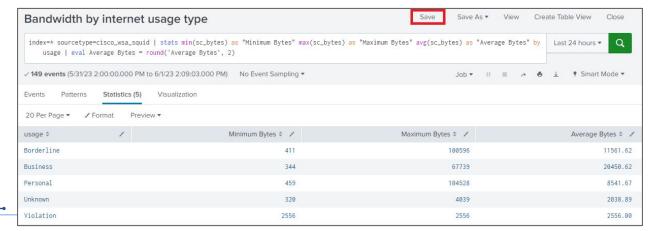


image: screenshot, Splunk Search & Reporting app

6.3 Reports That Display Statistics (continued)

- Any search that contains transforming commands, a command that "transforms" the specified cell values for each event into numerical values for statistical purposes, produces statistics that can be represented in a table or visualized.
- A report that is based on a search string containing a transforming command will display a statistics table.
- This is similar to the examples displayed on this presentation so far.



image: https://docs.splunk.com/ Documentation/Splunk/9 .0.4/SearchReference/C ommandsbytype





6.3 Reports That Display Statistics (continued)

The following search aims to display the difference between the Listed Price and the Sales
 Price of products sold by the manufacturer over a 24-hour period.



image: screenshot, Splunk Search & Reporting app

Note: The | addcoltotals command at the end of the search string will sum the Listed Price and the Sales Price columns.





6.3 Reports That Display Statistics (continued)

- Savings this search as a report,
 will create a report that displays
 statistics in tabular format.
- Tables can help you compare and aggregate field values.
- Use a table to visualize patterns for one or more metrics across a data set.
- There are plenty of options to <u>format table visualizations</u>, helping create better visual representation of the data.

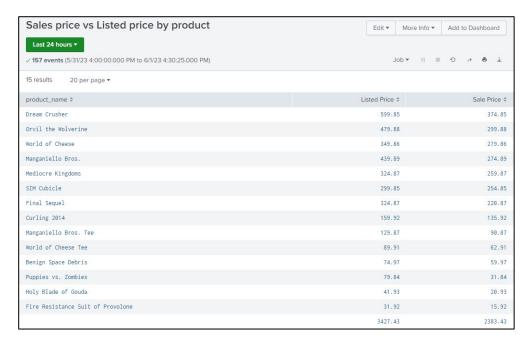


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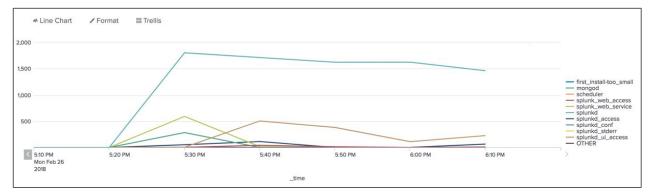






Data for charts

- As mentioned before, Splunk supports a wide range of of charts.
- To **build** any **chart**, start with a **transforming search** that **generates** one or more **data series**.
- A series is a **sequence of related data points**. These points can be plotted on a chart. For example, each line in a line chart shows one series





Types of charts.

- By default, Splunk supports the following chart types:
 Pie, Bar, Column, Line,
 Area, Scatter, and Bubble.
- Note that different charts work better for different types of data.
- In addition, Splunk supports visualizations such as Single Value, Radial Gauge, and Cluster Maps.

Chart name	Optimized for single series?	Optimized for multiple series?	Notes
Pie	Yes	No	Pie charts can only render a single series.
Bar	Yes	Yes	
Column	Yes	Yes	
Line	Yes	Yes	Typically, line charts are used for multiple series.
Area	No	Yes	Use an area chart to render multiple series.
Scatter	No	Yes	Scatter charts work best with two data series.
Bubble	No	Yes	Bubble charts work best with three data series.

image: image: https://docs.splunk.com/images/b/b3/7.1_line_chart.png



Here, the previous search example is used to display the difference between the Listed
 Price and the Sales Price of products sold by the manufacturer over a 24-hour period, using a chart:

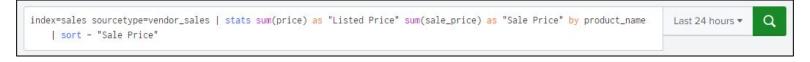


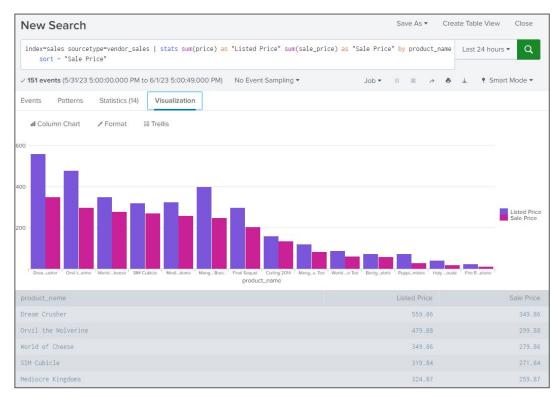
image: screenshot, splunk Search & Reporting app

Note: The | addcoltotals command was omitted from this example



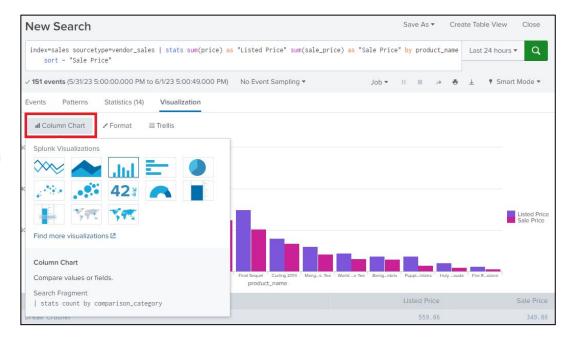


- Once the search completes, select the **Visualization** tab.
- Note that the result (in this case) displays a column chart followed by a statistics table.





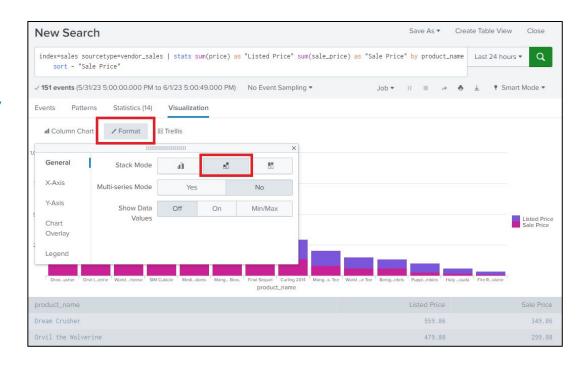
- To select a different chart type, click on the Column Chart button.
- The popup menu provides a short description of the chart or visualization, accompanied by a Search Fragment.







- To adjust the chart format, click on the Format button
- Many options are available, but for this example, only select **Stack Mode**.





6.4 Reports That Display Visualizations (continued)

- When saving this search as a report, there are three content type options:
 - Column Chart and Statistic Table
 - Column Chart
 - Statistic Table
- This example, demonstrates the Column Chart option.

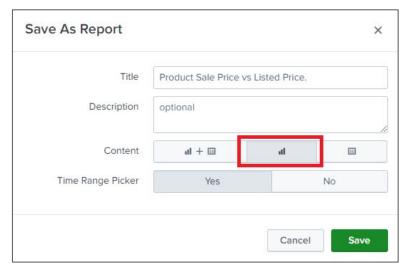


image: screenshot, splunk Search & Reporting app





6.4 Reports That Display Visualizations (continued)

- A **report** that **displays** a **visualization** has been created.
- All sharing, scheduling, and editing options that are available for reports that display tables are also available for reports that display visualizations.







6.5 Create a Dashboard

About dashboards

- Dashboards are views that are made up of panels. The panels can contain modules such as search boxes, fields, charts, tables, and lists.
- Dashboard panels are usually connected to reports.
- After you create a search visualization or save a report, you can add it to a new or existing dashboard.
- There is also a **Dashboard Editor** that you can use to **create** and **edit** dashboards.

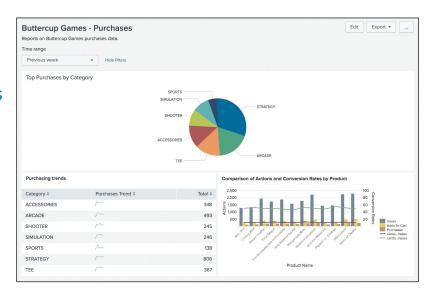


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https://docs.splunk.com/images/8/87/7.1.0_morepanels_rearrange2-compressor.png







Getting started

- There are now two different frameworks you can use for creating visualizations and dashboards.
- The **Classic Splunk dashboards** and visualizations framework uses **Simple XML** as the source code and has a limited user interface.
- The **Splunk Dashboard Studio** framework uses **JSON-formatted** stanzas as the source code for the objects in a dashboard and for the entire dashboard.
- This section will focus only on the **Classic** Splunk dashboards.



Getting started.

- There are two main ways to create a dashboard:
 - Directly from the Search & Reporting App. Any Search can be directly saved as a new dashboard or added to an existing dashboard.
 - Using the **Dashboard Editor** to add **new** visualizations or reuse **prebuilt** content.

Dashboard Editor.

• On the **Splunk Enterprise** interface navigate to the **Dashboards** tab.



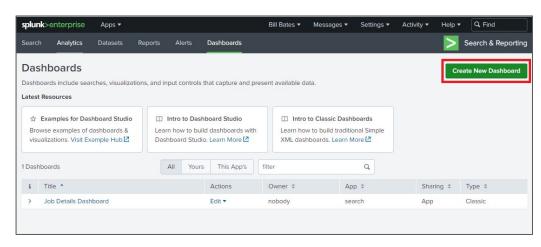






Getting started - Dashboard Editor

- The Dashboard section displays the existing dashboards and provides filtering and search options to help locate a specific dashboard.
- Note the resources available in the Latest Resources section.
- To create a **new** dashboard from scratch, click on the **Create New Dashboard** button.



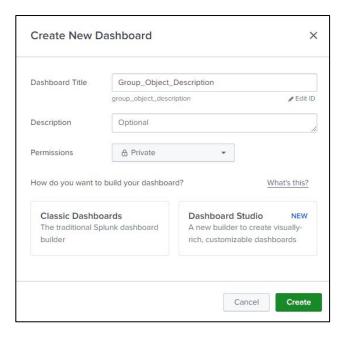




Getting started - Dashboard Editor

On the **Create New Dashboard** dialog box, the following options are available:

- Dashboard Title (required).
- Description (optional).
- Permissions.
- Classic Dashboards or Dashboard Studio (required).





Getting started - Dashboard editor

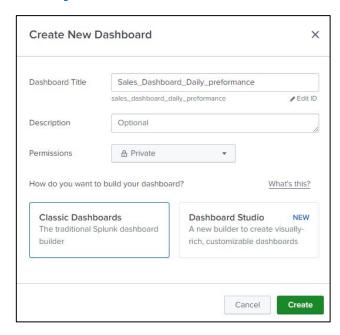
Note: Splunk Dashboard naming convention recommendation is using the

Group_Object_Description format.

- Group represents a business unit such as sales or operations.
- Object represents the **object type** such as report or alert.
- Description describes the dashboard.

For example: Sales_Dashboard_Daily_preformance

Click the Create button to create the dashboard.



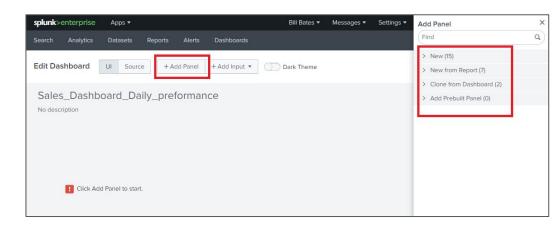






Getting started - Dashboard editor

- On the Edit Dashboard interface, click the + Add Panel button.
- The Add Panel section allows for adding panels to the dashboard from the following sources:
 - New
 - New from Report
 - Clone from Dashboard
 - Add Prebuilt Panel

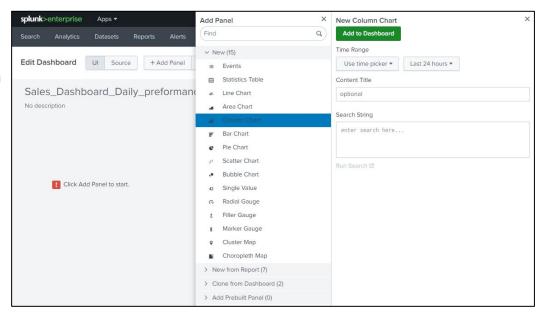






Getting started - Add a New panel

- The New option under the Add
 Panel section allows for selecting a chart or visualization.
- For example: Expanding the New section and selecting the Column Chart item opens a New Column Chart dialog into which a Search String can be entered, a Time Range selected, and a Content Title set.
- Clicking the Add to Dashboard button will add the panel to the dashboard.

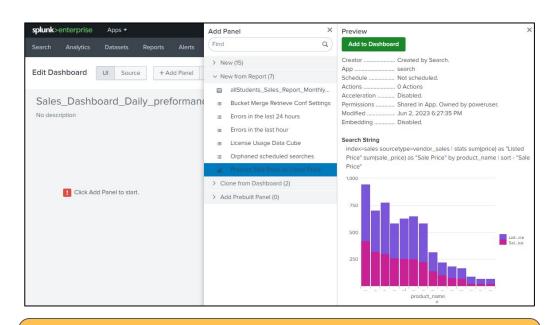






Objective 6.6 Add a report to a dashboard.

- The New from report option under the Add Panel section allows selecting a report and using it as a panel.
- Expand the New from report
 section and select the Product Sale
 Price vs Listed Price report opens
 a Preview dialog displaying the
 report's details.
- Click the Add to Dashboard button to add the panel to the dashboard.



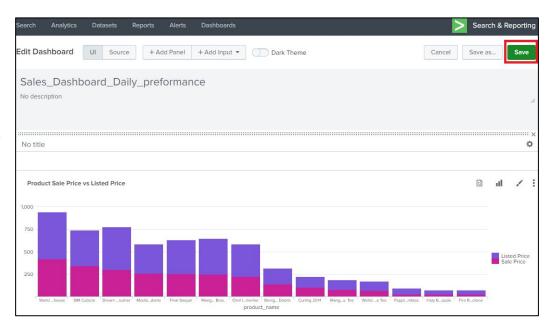
Note: The remaining options - Clone from Dashboard and Add Prebuilt Panel will not be discussed on this presentation.





Getting started - Save the Dashboard

- Once the New from Report panel was added to the Dashboard, you can continue to edit the Dashboard.
- Changes you make to the chart visuals at this point will not affect the original report.
- Save the Dashboard by clicking on the **Save** button.



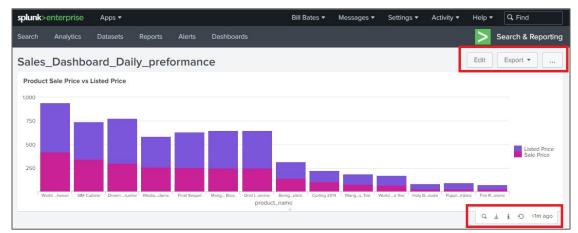






View the Dashboard

- Splunk Enterprise displays the new Sales_Dashboard_Daily_preformance Dashboard.
 Note that this is a live display that will react to the mouse moving over it.
- At this point, you can Edit, Export, Clone, Set as Home Dashboard, Delete, Refresh,
 Inspect, and Open in Search.

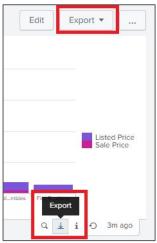




Exporting the Dashboard

Note: The Dashboard interface provides two exporting options.

- Using the Export button on the upper-right corner of the dashboard view - This exports the entire Dashboard and supports only PDF.
- Hovering with the mouse over the chart and selecting the Export option - This will export the underlying reports data and supports PDF, CSV, XML, and JSON.

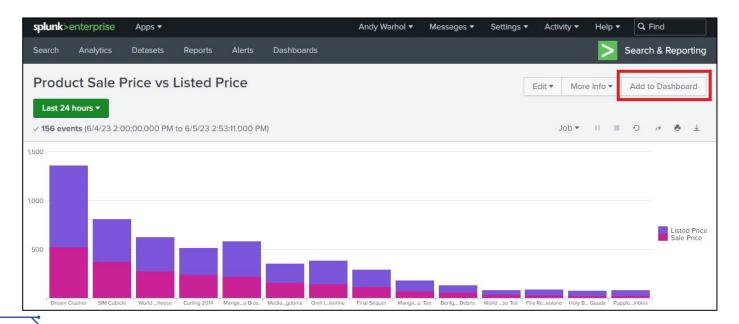


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File Name ?	op PDF	
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6.6 Add a Report to a Dashboard

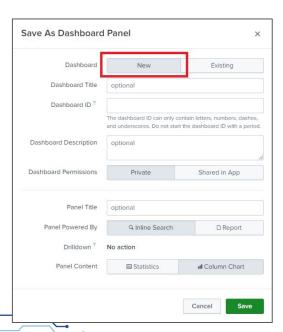
 Another way to add a report to a dashboard or to create a new Dashboard is by navigating to the report and clicking the Add to Dashboard button.

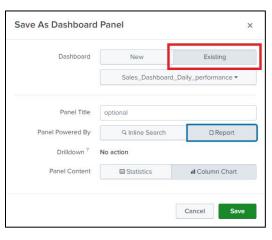




6.6 Add a Report to a Dashboard (continued)

The Save As Dashboard Panel dialog box allows for adding the report to a New or Existing
Dashboard





When adding a report as a Panel to an existing Dashboard, select the Dashboard from the dropdown menu

Selecting the Panel Powered By
Report option creates a link
between the report and the
dashboard. Any change to the report
will reflect on the dashboard, where
as the Inline Search option will clone
the report's search string and time
picker and save them internally on
the dashboard

When editing a Splunk dashboard, you have **various options** to **customize** and **enhance** its appearance and functionality.

Here are some elements you can edit on a Splunk dashboard:

Layout and Panels:

- Add panels: Insert new panels to display search results, visualizations, or other components.
- Remove panels: Delete existing panels from the dashboard.
- Rearrange panels: Drag and drop panels to change their order and placement within the dashboard.
- Resize panels: Adjust the size of panels to accommodate different content or optimize the layout.





Panel Settings:

- Search query: Modify the search query associated with a panel to retrieve specific data.
- **Time range**: Adjust the time range for the panel's search results.
- Visualization type: Select different visualization types (charts, tables, maps, etc.)
 to present the data.
- Display options: Customize the appearance of the panel, including colors, fonts, labels, and legends.
- **Refresh settings**: Specify the refresh interval for real-time updates on the panel.





• Drilldown and Interactivity:

- Create drilldowns: Configure clickable elements or actions within panels to navigate to detailed views or related dashboards.
- Set up interactivity: Establish interactions between panels, enabling users to select data points or perform cross-panel analysis.

Dashboard Titles and Descriptions:

- Modify the dashboard title and subtitle: Update the title and subtitle to provide a clear description or context for the dashboard's purpose.
- Add descriptions: Include descriptive text to provide additional information or instructions to users.





- Permissions and Sharing:
 - Set permissions: Define who can access and edit the dashboard based on user roles and access controls.
 - Share the dashboard: Share the dashboard with specific users or groups within your Splunk environment.

Note that the available editing options may **vary** depending on your **Splunk version**, the installed **apps** or **add-ons**, and your **user permissions**.

The Splunk dashboard editor provides a user-friendly interface to make these edits, allowing you to customize the dashboard to meet your specific requirements.





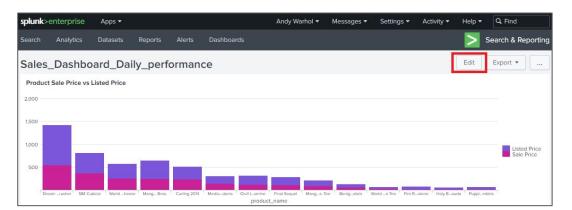


Simple dashboard editing example:

The Sales_Dashboard_Daily_preformance dashboard used previously on this
presentation is a very simple dashboard containing just one panel. It will be used for this
example.

Navigate to the Sales_Dashboard_Daily_preformance dashboard and click on the Edit

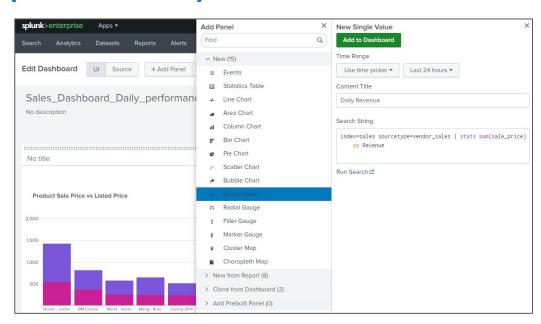
button.





Simple dashboard editing example:

- Click on the Add Panel button, expand the New section, and select Single Value.
- On the New Single Value section,
 Type Daily Revenue into the
 Content Title text box and type:
 index=sales
 sourcetype=vendor_sales | stats
 sum(sale_price) as Revenue
 into the Search String text box.
- Next, click the Add to Dashboard button

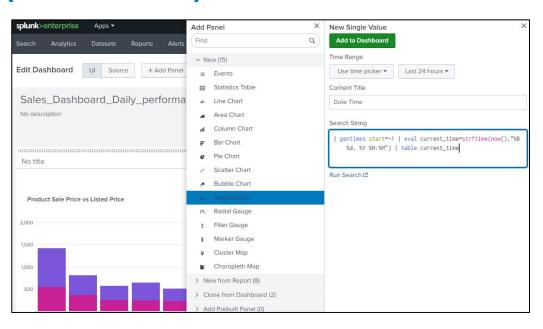






Simple dashboard editing example:

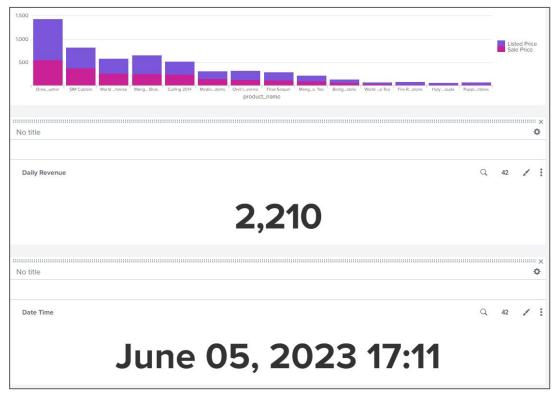
- Click on the Add Panel button, expand the New section, and select Single Value.
- On the New Single Value section,
 Type Date Time into the Content
 Title text box and type:
 | gentimes start=-1 | eval
 current_time=strftime(now(),"%B
 %d, %Y %H:%M") | table
 current_time
 into the Search String text box.
- Next, click the Add to Dashboard button





Simple dashboard editing example:

- The dashboard will now look something like this:
- At this point, you can drag and drop panels to rearrange the dashboard layout, you can resize panels, and edit any panel property.
- Once you are done editing the dashboard, click on the Save button.



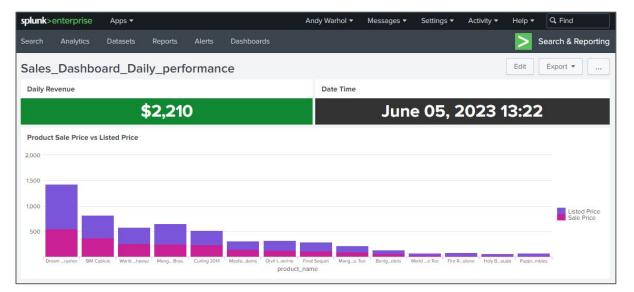






Simple dashboard editing example:

• **Experiment** with the **available options**. Try to achieve a dashboard that looks like the one in the image below.



6.1 - 7 Creating Reports and Dashboards - Summary

Splunk reports are generated from search actions and can display statistics and visualizations of events.

Splunk Dashboards are views that are made up of panels. The panels can contain modules such as search boxes, fields, charts, tables, and lists.

Visualizations serve as a powerful storytelling tool.

Reports and dashboards convey information, insights, and findings to stakeholders or team members in a compelling and essay-to-understand manner. It is relatively simple to create reports, add them to dashboards, and customize dashboards with a wide selection of formatting options.





Knowledge check.

- What type of search can be saved as a report?
- What has to be added to a report's search string to display statistical data?
- What options are available for editing immediately after saving a report?
- What are some options to edit the permissions for a report?
- What actions can a user define for a scheduled report to trigger?
- What is an advantage of scheduling a report?
- What are some of the visualization options available for statistical data in a Splunk dashboard?
- What are two ways to create a dashboard in Splunk?
- What is the Splunk recommended Dashboard naming convention?
- Name some of the options available to edit panels in a dashboard.

