

Plugins



Plugins

Besides the wide range of visualizations and data sources that are available immediately after you install Grafana, you can extend your Grafana experience with **plugins**.

You can install one of the plugins built by the Grafana community, or build one yourself.

Grafana supports three types of plugins: **panels**, **data sources**, and **apps**.

Plugins



Panel Plugins

Add new visualizations to your dashboard with panel plugins, such as the **Worldmap Panel**, **Clock**, and **Pie Chart**.

Use panel plugins when you want to:

- Visualize data returned by data source queries.
- Navigate between dashboards.
- Control external systems, such as smart home devices.

Data Source Plugins

Data source plugins add support for new databases, such as *Google BigQuery*.

Data source plugins communicate with external sources of data and return the data in a format that Grafana understands. By adding a data source plugin, you can immediately use the data in any of your existing dashboards.

Use data source plugins when you want to import data from external systems.

App Plugins

Applications, or app plugins, bundle data sources and panels to provide a cohesive experience, such as the **Zabbix** and **Kubernetes** apps.

Apps can also add custom pages for things like control panels.

Use app plugins when you want to create a custom out-of-the-box monitoring experience.

Install Grafana Plugins

Grafana supports data source, panel, and app plugins. Having panels as plugins makes it easy to create and add any kind of panel, to show your data, or improve your favorite dashboards. Apps enable the bundling of data sources, panels, dashboards, and Grafana pages into a cohesive experience.

- In a web browser, navigate to the official Grafana Plugins page and find a plugin that you want to install.
- Click the plugin, and then click the [Installation](#) tab.

Install plugin on Grafana Cloud

On the [Installation](#) tab, in the For field, click the name of the Grafana instance that you want to install the plugin on.

Grafana Cloud handles the plugin [installation](#) automatically.

Install plugin on local Grafana

Follow the instructions on the Install tab. You can either install the plugin with a Grafana CLI command or by downloading and uncompress a .zip file into the Grafana plugins directory. We recommend using Grafana CLI in most instances. The .zip option is available if your Grafana server does not have access to the internet.