

+++ title = "Add variables" weight = 140 +++

## Variables types

Grafana uses several types of variables.

Variable type	Description
Query	Query-generated list of values such as metric names, server names, sensor IDs, data centers, and so on. [Add a query variable]{{{< relref "add-query-variable.md" >}}}).
Custom	Define the variable options manually using a comma-separated list. [Add a custom variable]{{{< relref "add-custom-variable.md" >}}}).
Text box	Display a free text input field with an optional default value. [Add a text box variable]{{{< relref "add-text-box-variable.md" >}}}).
Constant	Define a hidden constant. [Add a constant variable]{{{< relref "add-constant-variable.md" >}}}).
Data source	Quickly change the data source for an entire dashboard. [Add a data source variable]{{{< relref "add-data-source-variable.md" >}}}).
Interval	Interval variables represent time spans. [Add an interval variable]{{{< relref "add-interval-variable.md" >}}}).
Ad hoc filters	Key/value filters that are automatically added to all metric queries for a data source (InfluxDB, Prometheus, and Elasticsearch only). [Add ad hoc filters]{{{< relref "add-ad-hoc-filters.md" >}}}).
Global variables	Built-in variables that can be used in expressions in the query editor. Refer to [Global variables]{{{< relref "global-variables" >}}}).
Chained variables	Variable queries can contain other variables. Refer to [Chained variables]{{{< relref "chained-variables.md" >}}}).