

+++ title = “InfluxDB templates” description = “Guide for templates in InfluxDB” weight = 300 +++

InfluxDB templates

Instead of hard-coding things like server, application and sensor name in your metric queries you can use variables in their place.

For more information, refer to [Templates and variables]({{< relref “../variables/_index.md” >}}).

Using variables in InfluxDB queries

There are two syntaxes:

`$<varname>` Example:

```
SELECT mean("value") FROM "logins" WHERE "hostname" =~ /^$host$/ AND $timeFilter GROUP BY t
```

`[[varname]]` Example:

```
SELECT mean("value") FROM "logins" WHERE "hostname" =~ /^[host]]$/ AND $timeFilter GROUP BY t
```

Why two ways? The first syntax is easier to read and write but does not allow you to use a variable in the middle of a word. When the **Multi-value** or **Include all value** options are enabled, Grafana converts the labels from plain text to a regex compatible string. Which means you have to use `=~` instead of `=`.

Example dashboard: InfluxDB Templated Dashboard

Query variables

If you add a query template variable, then you can write an InfluxDB exploration (metadata) query. These queries can return things like measurement names, key names or key values. For more information, refer to [Add query variable]({{< relref “../variables/variable-types/add-query-variable.md” >}}).

For example, you can have a variable that contains all values for tag `hostname` if you specify a query like this in the query variable **Query**.

```
SHOW TAG VALUES WITH KEY = "hostname"
```

Chained or nested variables

You can also create nested variables, sometimes called [chained variables]({{< relref “../variables/variable-types/chained-variables.md” >}}).

For example, if you had another variable, for example `region`. Then you could have the hosts variable only show hosts from the current selected region with a query like this:

```
SHOW TAG VALUES WITH KEY = "hostname" WHERE region = '$region'
```

You can fetch key names for a given measurement.

```
SHOW TAG KEYS [FROM <measurement_name>]
```

If you have a variable with key names you can use this variable in a group by clause. This will allow you to change group by using the variable list at the top of the dashboard.

Ad hoc filters variable

InfluxDB supports the special **Ad hoc filters** variable type. This variable allows you to specify any number of key/value filters on the fly. These filters are automatically applied to all your InfluxDB queries.

For more information, refer to [Add ad hoc filters]({{< relref “../variables/variable-types/add-ad-hoc-filters.md” >}}).