

```
+++ title = "Annotations" keywords = ["grafana", "annotations", "documentation", "guide"] aliases =  
["/docs/grafana/latest/reference/annotations/"] weight = 9 +++
```

## Annotations

Annotations provide a way to mark points on the graph with rich events. When you hover over an annotation you can get event description and event tags. The text field can include links to other systems with more detail.

```
{{< figure src="/static/img/docs/v46/annotations.png" max-width="800px" >}}
```

### Native annotations

Grafana comes with a native annotation store and the ability to add annotation events directly from the graph panel or via the [HTTP API]({{< relref "../http\_api/annotations.md" >}}).

### Adding annotations

By holding down Ctrl/Cmd+Click. Adding tags to the annotation will make it searchable from other dashboards.

```
{{< figure src="/static/img/docs/annotations/annotation-still.png" max-width="600px" animated-  
gif="/static/img/docs/annotations/annotation.gif" >}}
```

### Adding regions events

You can also hold down Ctrl/Cmd and select region to create a region annotation.

```
{{< figure src="/static/img/docs/annotations/region-annotation-still.png" max-width="600px" animated-  
gif="/static/img/docs/annotations/region-annotation.gif" >}}
```

### Built-in query

After you added an annotation they will still be visible. This is due to the built in annotation query that exists on all dashboards. This annotation query will fetch all annotation events that originate from the current dashboard and show them on the panel where they were created. This includes alert state history annotations. You can stop annotations from being fetched and drawn by opening the **Annotations** settings (via Dashboard cogs menu) and modifying the query named `Annotations & Alerts (Built-in)`.

When you copy a dashboard using the **Save As** feature it will get a new dashboard id so annotations created on source dashboard will no longer be visible on the copy. You can still show them if you add a new **Annotation Query** and filter by tags. But this only works if the annotations on the source dashboard had tags to filter by.

### Query by tag

You can create new queries to fetch annotations from the native annotation store via the `-- Grafana --` data source by setting *Filter by* to `Tags`.

Grafana v8.1 and later versions also support typeahead of existing tags, provide at least one tag.

For example, create an annotation query name `outages` and specify a tag `outage`. This query will show all annotations (from any dashboard or via API) with the `outage` tag. If multiple tags are defined in an annotation query, then Grafana will only show annotations matching all the tags. To modify the behavior, enable `Match any`, and Grafana will show annotations that contain any one of the tags you provided.

{{< figure src="/static/img/docs/annotations/annotations\_typeahead\_support-8-1-0.png" max-width="600px" >}}

In Grafana v5.3+ it's possible to use template variables in the tag query. So if you have a dashboard showing stats for different services and a template variable that dictates which services to show, you can now use the same template variable in your annotation query to only show annotations for those services.

{{< figure src="/static/img/docs/annotations/annotation\_tag\_filter\_variable-8-1-0.png" max-width="600px" >}}

## Querying other data sources

Annotation events are fetched via annotation queries. To add a new annotation query to a dashboard open the dashboard settings menu, then select `Annotations`. This will open the dashboard annotations settings view. To create a new annotation query hit the `New` button.

{{< figure src="/static/img/docs/v50/annotation\_new\_query.png" max-width="600px" >}}

Specify a name for the annotation query. This name is given to the toggle (checkbox) that will allow you to enable/disable showing annotation events from this query. For example you might have two annotation queries named `Deploys` and `Outages`. The toggle will allow you to decide what annotations to show.

### Annotation query details

The annotation query options are different for each data source. For information about annotations in a specific data source, refer to the specific `[data source]` [topic](#).