



Creating Dashboards

Cloud Insights

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Creating Dashboards

Dashboards Overview

Cloud Insights provides users the flexibility to create operational views of infrastructure data, by allowing you to create custom dashboards with a variety of widgets, each of which provides extensive flexibility in displaying and charting your data.



The examples in these sections are for explanation purposes only and do not cover every possible scenario. The concepts and steps herein can be used to create your own dashboards to highlight the data specific to your particular needs.

Creating a Dashboard

You create a new dashboard in one of two places:

- **Dashboards > [+New dashboard]**
- **Dashboards > Show all dashboards > click the [+Dashboard] button**

Dashboard Controls

The Dashboard screen has several controls:

- **Time selector:** allows you to view dashboard data for a range of time from the last 15 minutes to the last 30 days, or a custom time range of up to 31 days. You can choose to override this global time range in individual widgets.
- **Edit button:** Selecting this will enable Edit mode, which allows you to make changes to the dashboard. New dashboards open in Edit mode by default.
- **Save button:** Allows you to save or delete the dashboard.

You can rename the current dashboard by typing a new name before clicking **Save**.

- **Add Widget button,** which allows you to add any number of tables, charts, or other widgets to the dashboard.

Widgets can be resized and relocated to different positions within the dashboard, to give you the best view of your data according to your current needs.

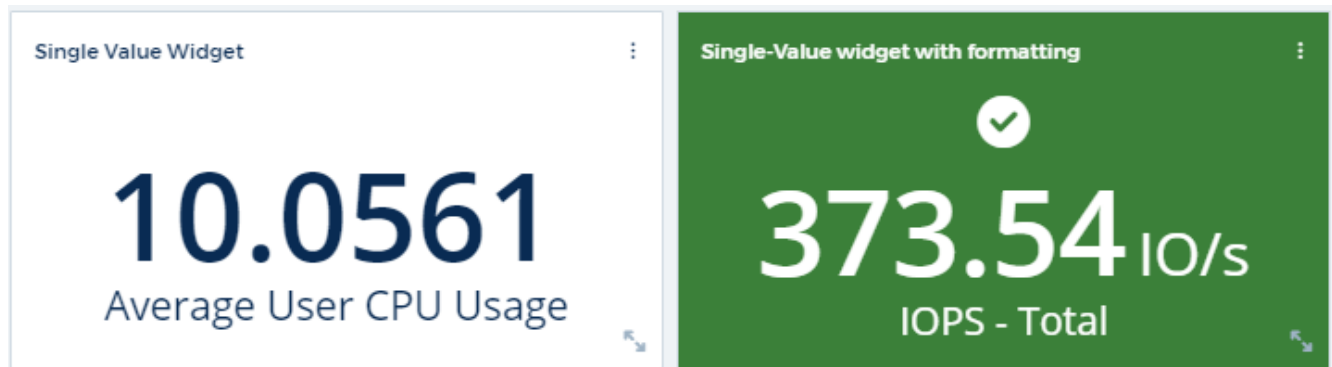
Widget types

You can choose from the following widget types:

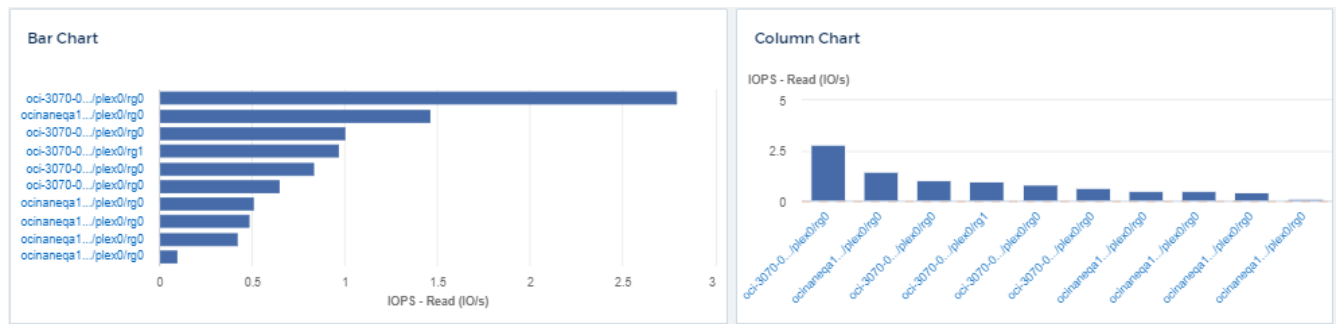
- **Table widget:** A table displaying data according to filters and columns you choose. Table data can be combined in groups that can be collapsed and expanded.

Storage Nodes			
6 items found in 2 groups			
Model	Name	Utilization - Max (%)	Version
FA56210 (4)		25.56	8.3.2 clustered Data ONTAP
FA56210	ocinaneqa1-02	7.80	8.3.2 clustered Data ONTAP
FA56210	ocinaneqa1-01	25.56	8.3.2 clustered Data ONTAP
FA56210	ocinaneqa1-03	7.78	8.3.2 clustered Data ONTAP

- **Line, Spline, Area, Stacked Area Charts:** These are time-series chart widgets on which you can display performance and other data over time.
- **Single Value widget:** A widget allowing you to display a single value that can be derived either directly from a counter or calculated using a query or expression. You can define color formatting thresholds to show whether the value is in expected, warning, or critical range.



- **Gauge widget:** Displays single-value data in a traditional (solid) gauge or bullet gauge, with colors based on "Warning" or "Critical" values you [customize](#).
- **Bar, Column Charts:** Displays top or bottom N values, for example, Top 10 storages by capacity or bottom 5 volumes by IOPS.



- **Box Plot Chart:** A plot of the min, max, median, and the range between lower and upper quartile of data in a single chart.



- **Scatter Plot Chart:** Plots related data as points, for example, IOPS and latency. In this example, you can quickly locate assets with high throughput and low IOPS.



- **Pie Chart:** a traditional pie chart to display data as a piece of the total.



- **Note widget:** Up to 1000 characters of free text.



- **Violations Table:** Displays up to the last 1,000 performance policy violations.

For more detailed explanations of these and other Dashboard Features, [click here](#).

Setting a Dashboard as your Home Page

You can choose which dashboard to set as your environment's **home page** using either of the following methods:

- Go to **Dashboards > Show All Dashboards** to display the list of dashboards in your environment. Click on the options menu to the right of the desired dashboard and select **Set as Home Page**.
- Click on a dashboard from the list to open the dashboard. Click the drop-down menu in the upper corner and select **Set as Home Page**.

Dashboard Features

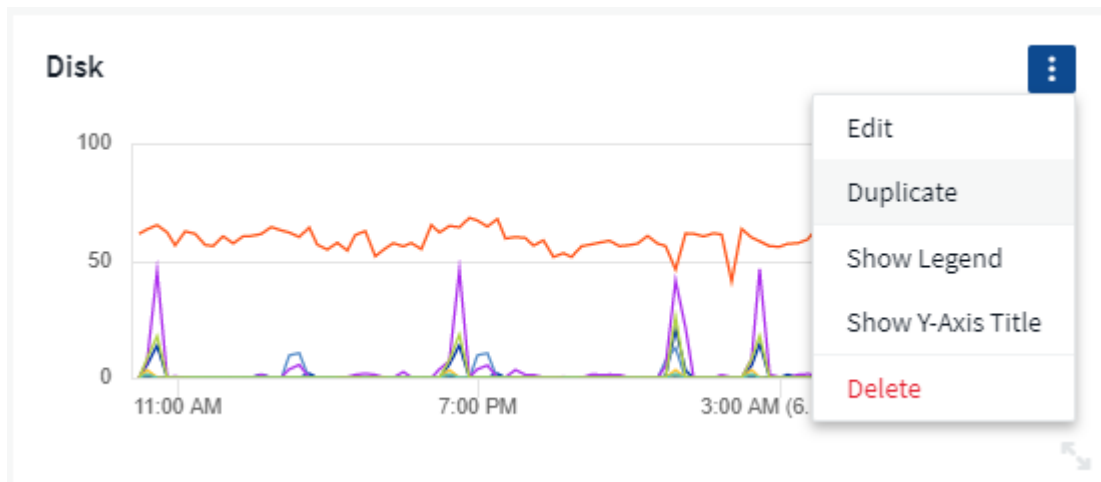
Dashboards and widgets allow great flexibility in how data is displayed. Here are some concepts to help you get the most from your custom dashboards.

Widget Placement and Size

All dashboard widgets can be positioned and sized according to your needs for each particular dashboard.

Duplicating a Widget

In dashboard Edit mode, click the menu on the widget and select **Duplicate**. The widget editor is launched, pre-filled with the original widget's configuration and with a “copy” suffix in the widget name. You can easily make any necessary changes and Save the new widget. The widget will be placed at the bottom of your dashboard, and you can position it as needed. Remember to Save your dashboard when all changes are complete.



Displaying Widget Legends

Most widgets on dashboards can be displayed with or without legends. Legends in widgets can be turned on or off on a dashboard by either of the following methods:

- When displaying the dashboard, click the **Options** button on the widget and select **Show Legends** in the menu.

As the data displayed in the widget changes, the legend for that widget is updated dynamically.

When legends are displayed, if the landing page of the asset indicated by the legend can be navigated to, the legend will display as a link to that asset page. If the legend displays "all", clicking the link will display a query page corresponding to the first query in the widget.

Dashboard widget queries and filters

Queries

The Query in a dashboard widget is a powerful tool for managing the display of your data. Here are some things to note about widget queries.

Some widgets can have up to five queries. Each query will plot its own set of lines or graphs in the widget. Setting rollup, grouping, top/bottom results, etc. on one query does not affect any other queries for the widget.

You can click on the eye icon to temporarily hide a query. The widget display updates automatically when you hide or show a query. This allows you to check your displayed data for individual queries as you build your widget.

The following widget types can have multiple queries:

- Area chart
- Stacked area chart
- Line chart
- Spline chart
- Single value widget

The remaining widget types can have only a single query:

- Table
- Bar chart
- Box plot
- Scatter plot

Filtering in dashboard queries

You can use any of the following alone or combined to refine your filter:

- An asterisk enables you to search for everything. For example,

```
vol*rhel
```

displays all resources that start with "vol" and end with "rhel".

- The question mark enables you to search for a specific number of characters. For example,

```
BOS-PRD??-S12
```

displays *BOS-PRD12-S12*, *BOS-PRD13-S12*, and so on.

- The OR operator enables you to specify multiple entities. For example,

FAS2240 OR CX600 OR FAS3270

finds multiple storage models.

- The NOT operator allows you to exclude text from the search results. For example,

NOT EMC*

finds everything that does not start with "EMC". You can use

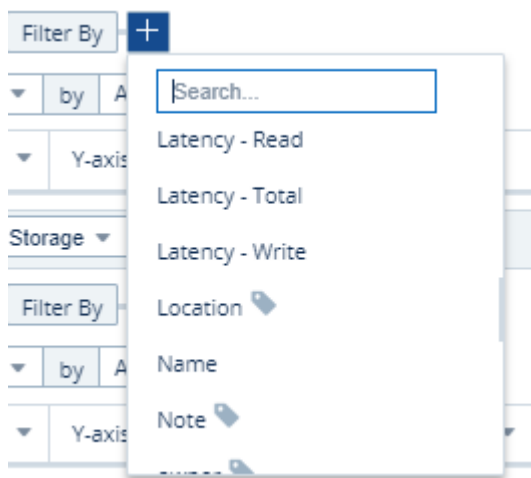
NOT *

to display fields that contain no value.

If you enclose a filter string in double quotes, Insight treats everything between the first and last quote as an exact match. Any special characters or operators inside the quotes will be treated as literals. For example, filtering for "*" will return results that are a literal asterisk; the asterisk will not be treated as a wildcard in this case. The operators AND, OR, and NOT will also be treated as literal strings when enclosed in double quotes.

Identifying objects returned by queries and filters

The objects returned by queries and filters look similar to those shown in the following illustration. Objects with 'tags' assigned to them are annotations while the objects without tags are performance counters or object attributes.



Roll up and Aggregation

Roll up

Data displayed in a widget is rolled up from the underlying data points collected during acquisition. For example, if you have a line chart widget showing Storage IOPS over time, you might want to see a separate line for each of your data centers, for a quick comparison. You can choose to roll up this data in one of several ways:

- **Avg**: displays each line as the *average* of the underlying data.
- **Max**: displays each line as the *maximum* of the underlying data.
- **Min**: displays each line as the *minimum* of the underlying data.
- **Sum**: displays each line as the *sum* of the underlying data.
- **Count**: displays a *count* of objects that have reported data within the specified time frame. You can choose the *Entire Time Window* as determined by the dashboard time range (or the widget time range, if set to override the dashboard time), or a *Custom Time Window* that you select.

Steps

To set the roll up method, do the following.

1. In your widget's query, choose an asset type (for example, *Storage*) and metric (such as *IOPS - Total*).
2. For **Roll up**, choose a roll up method (such as *Avg*) and select an attribute or annotation by which to roll up the data (for example, *Data Center*).

The widget updates automatically and shows a line for each of your data centers.

You can also choose to roll up *all* of the underlying data into the chart or table. In this case, you will get a single line for each query in the widget, which will show the average, min, max, sum, or count of the chosen metric for all of the underlying assets.

Clicking the legend for any widget whose data is rolled up by "All" opens a query page showing the results of the first query used in the widget.

If you have set a filter for the query, the data that is rolled up is based on the filtered data.

Note that when you choose to roll up a widget by any field (for example, *Model*), you will still need to Filter by that field in order to properly display the data for that field on the chart or table.

Aggregating data

You can further align your time-series charts (line, area, etc.) by aggregating data points into minute, hour, or day buckets before that data is subsequently rolled up by attribute (if chosen). You can choose to aggregate data points according to their *Avg*, *Max*, *Min*, or *Sum*, or by the *Last* data point collected during the chosen interval. To choose an aggregation method, click on **More options** in the widget's query section.

A small interval combined with a long time range may result in an "Aggregation interval resulted in too many data points." warning. You might see this if you have a small interval and increase the dashboard time frame to 7 days. In this case, Insight will temporarily increase the aggregation interval until you select a smaller time frame.

You can also aggregate data in the bar chart widget and single-value widget.

Most asset counters aggregate to *Avg* by default. Some counters aggregate to *Max*, *Min*, or *Sum* by default. For example, port errors aggregate to *Sum* by default, where storage IOPS aggregate to *Avg*.

Showing Top/Bottom Results

In a chart widget, you can show either the **Top** or **Bottom** results for rolled up data, and choose the number of results shown from the drop-down list provided. In a table widget, you can sort by any column.

Chart widget top/bottom

In a chart widget, when you choose to rollup data by a specific attribute, you have the option of viewing either the top N or bottom N results. Note that you cannot choose the top or bottom results when you choose to rollup by *all* attributes.

You can choose which results to display by choosing either **Top** or **Bottom** in the query's **Show** field, and selecting a value from the list provided.

Table widget show entries

In a table widget, you can select the number of results shown in the table results. You are not given the option to choose top or bottom results because the table allows you to sort ascending or descending by any column on demand.

You can choose the number of results to show in the table on the dashboard by selecting a value from the query's **Show entries** field.

Grouping in Table Widget

Data in a table widget can be grouped by any available attribute, allowing you to see an overview of your data, and to drill-down into it for more detail. Metrics in the table are rolled up for easy viewing in each collapsed row.

Table widgets allow you to group your data based on the attributes you set. For example, you might want your table to show total storage IOPS grouped by the data centers in which those storages live. Or you might want to display a table of virtual machines grouped according to the hypervisor that hosts them. From the list, you can expand each group to view the assets in that group.

Grouping is only available in the Table widget type.

Grouping example (with rollup explained)

Table widgets allow you to group data for easier display.

In this example, we will create a table widget showing all VMs grouped by Data Center.

Steps

1. Create or open a dashboard, and add a **Table** widget.
2. Select *Virtual Machine* as the asset type for this widget.
3. Click on the Column Selector and choose *Hypervisor name* and *IOPS - Total*.

Those columns are now displayed in the table.

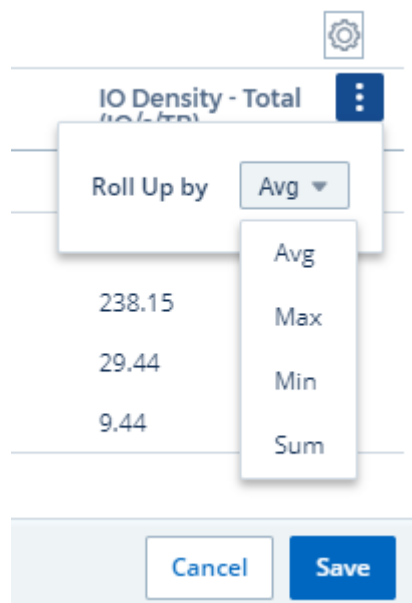
4. Let's disregard any VM's with no IOPS, and include only VMs that have total IOPS greater than 1. Click the **Filter by** [+] button and select *IOPS - Total*. Click on *Any*, and in the **from** field, type **1**. Leave the **to** field empty. Hit Enter or click off the filter field to apply the filter.

The table now shows all VMs with Total IOPS greater than or equal to 1. Notice that there is no grouping in the table. All VMs are shown.

5. Click the **Group by** [+] button.

You can group by any attribute or annotation shown. Choose *All* to display all VMs in a single group.

Any column header for a performance metric displays a "three dot" menu containing a **Roll up** option. The default roll up method is *Avg*. This means that the number shown for the group is the average of all the Total IOPS reported for each VM inside the group. You can choose to roll this column up by *Avg*, *Sum*, *Min* or *Max*. Any column that you display that contains performance metrics can be rolled up individually.



6. Click *All* and select *Hypervisor name*.

The VM list is now grouped by Hypervisor. You can expand each hypervisor to view the VMs hosted by it.

7. Click **Save** to save the table to the dashboard. You can resize or move the widget as desired.

8. Click **Save** to save the dashboard.

Performance data roll up

If you include a column for performance data (for example, *IOPS - Total*) in a table widget, when you choose to group the data you can then choose a roll up method for that column. The default roll up method is to display the average (*avg*) of the underlying data in the group row. You can also choose to display the sum, minimum, or maximum of the data.

Dashboard time range selector

You can select the time range for your dashboard data. Only data relevant to the selected time range will be displayed in widgets on the dashboard. You can select from the following time ranges:

- Last 3 Hours (this is the default)
- Last 24 Hours
- Last 3 Days
- Last 7 Days
- Last 30 Days
- Custom time range

The Custom time range allows you to select up to 31 consecutive days. You can also set the Start Time and End Time of day for this range. The default Start Time is 12:00 AM on the first day selected and the default End Time is 11:59 PM on the last day selected. Clicking **Apply** will apply the custom time range to the dashboard.

Overriding Dashboard Time in Individual widgets

You can override the main dashboard time range setting in individual widgets. These widgets will display data based on their set time frame, not the dashboard time frame.

To override the dashboard time and force a widget to use its own time frame, in the widget's edit mode set the **Override dashboard time** to **On** (check the box), and select a time range for the widget. **Save** the widget to the dashboard.

The widget will display its data according to the time frame set for it, regardless of the time frame you select on the dashboard itself.

The time frame you set for one widget will not affect any other widgets on the dashboard.

Primary and Secondary Axis

Different metrics use different units of measurements for the data they report in a chart. For example, when looking at IOPS, the unit of measurement is the number of I/O operations per second of time (IO/s), while Latency is purely a measure of time (milliseconds, microseconds, seconds, etc.). When charting both metrics on a single line chart using a single set of values for the Y-Axis, the latency numbers (typically a handful of milliseconds) are charted on the same scale with the IOPS (typically numbering in the thousands), and the latency line gets lost at that scale.

But it is possible to chart both sets of data on a single meaningful graph, by setting one unit of measurement on the primary (left-side) Y-axis, and the other unit of measurement on the secondary (right-side) Y-axis. Each metric is charted at its own scale.

Steps

This example illustrates the concept of Primary and Secondary axes in a chart widget.

1. Create or open a dashboard. Add a line chart, spline chart, area chart or stacked area chart widget to the dashboard.
2. Select an asset type (for example *Storage*) and choose *IOPS - Total* for your first metric. Set any filters you like, and choose a roll-up method if desired.

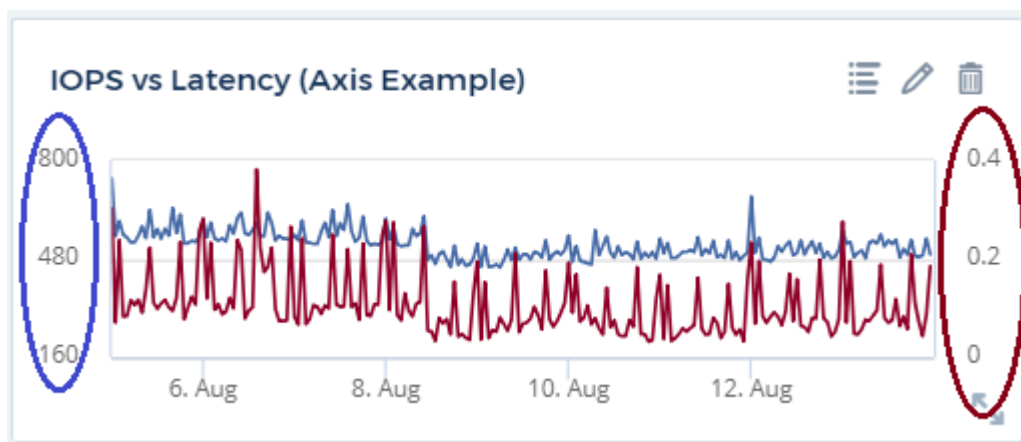
The IOPS line is displayed on the chart, with its scale shown on the left.

3. Click **[+Query]** to add a second line to the chart. For this line, choose *Latency - Total* for the metric.

Notice that the line is displayed flat at the bottom of the chart. This is because it is being drawn *at the same scale* as the IOPS line.

4. In the Latency query, select **Y-Axis: Secondary**.

The Latency line is now drawn at its own scale, which is displayed on the right side of the chart.



Expressions in widgets

In a dashboard, any time series widget (line, spline, area, stacked area) allows you to build expressions from metrics you choose, and show the result of those expressions in a single graph. The following examples use expressions to solve specific problems. In the first example, we want to show Read IOPS as a percentage of Total IOPS for all storage assets in our environment. The second example gives visibility into the "system" or "overhead" IOPS that occur in your environment—those IOPS that are not directly from reading or writing data.

Expressions Example: Read IOPS percentage

In this example, we want to show Read IOPS as a percentage of Total IOPS. You can think of this as the following formula:

$$\text{Read Percentage} = (\text{Read IOPS} / \text{Total IOPS}) \times 100$$

This data can be shown in a line graph on your dashboard. To do this, follow these steps:

Steps

1. Create a new dashboard, or open an existing dashboard in edit mode.
2. Add a widget to the dashboard. Choose **Area chart**.

The widget opens in edit mode. By default, a query is displayed showing *IOPS - Total* for *Storage* assets. If desired, select a different asset type.

3. Click the **Convert to Expression** link on the right.

The current query is converted to Expression mode. Notice that you cannot change the asset type while in Expression mode. While you are in Expression mode, the link changes to **Revert to Query**. Click this if you wish to switch back to Query mode at any time. Be aware that switching between modes will reset fields to their defaults.

For now, stay in Expression mode.

4. The **IOPS - Total** metric is now in the alphabetic variable field "**a**". In the "**b**" variable field, click **Select** and choose **IOPS - Read**.

You can add up to a total of five alphabetic variables for your expression by clicking the + button following the variable fields. For our Read Percentage example, we only need Total IOPS ("**a**") and Read IOPS ("**b**").

5. In the **Expression** field, you use the letters corresponding to each variable to build your expression. We know that Read Percentage = (Read IOPS / Total IOPS) x 100, so we would write this expression as:

$$(b / a) * 100$$

6. The **Label** field identifies the expression. Change the label to "Read Percentage", or something equally meaningful for you.
7. Change the **Units** field to "%" or "Percent".

The chart displays the IOPS Read percentage over time for the chosen storage devices. If desired, you can set a filter, or choose a different rollup method. Be aware that if you select Sum as the rollup method, all percentage values are added together, which potentially may go higher than 100%.

8. Click **Save** to save the chart to your dashboard.

You can also use expressions in Line chart, Spline chart, or Stacked Area chart widgets.

Expressions example: "System" I/O

Example 2: Among the metrics collected from data sources are read, write, and total IOPS. However, the total number of IOPS reported by a data source sometimes includes "system" IOPS, which are those IO operations that are not a direct part of data reading or writing. This system I/O can also be thought of as "overhead" I/O, necessary for proper system operation but not directly related to data operations.

To show these system I/Os, you can subtract read and write IOPS from the total IOPS reported from acquisition. The formula might look like this:

$$\text{System IOPS} = \text{Total IOPS} - (\text{Read IOPS} + \text{Write IOPS})$$

This data can then be shown in a line graph on your dashboard. To do this, follow these steps:

Steps

1. Create a new dashboard, or open an existing dashboard in edit mode.
2. Add a widget to the dashboard. Choose **Line chart**.

The widget opens in edit mode. By default, a query is displayed showing *IOPS - Total* for *Storage* assets. If desired, select a different asset type.

3. In the **Roll Up** field, choose *Sum* by *All*.

The Chart displays a line showing the sum of total IOPS.

4. Click the *Duplicate this Query* icon  to create a copy of the query.

A duplicate of the query is added below the original.

5. In the second query, click the **Convert to Expression** button.

The current query is converted to Expression mode. Click **Revert to Query** if you wish to switch back to Query mode at any time. Be aware that switching between modes will reset fields to their defaults.

For now, stay in Expression mode.

6. The *IOPS - Total* metric is now in the alphabetic variable field "a". Click on *IOPS - Total* and change it to *IOPS - Read*.
7. In the "b" variable field, click **Select** and choose *IOPS - Write*.
8. In the **Expression** field, you use the letters corresponding to each variable to build your expression. We would write our expression simply as:

a + b

In the Display section, choose **Area chart** for this expression.

9. The **Label** field identifies the expression. Change the label to "System IOPS", or something equally meaningful for you.

The chart displays the total IOPS as a line chart, with an area chart showing the combination of read and write IOPS below that. The gap between the two shows the IOPS that are not directly related to data read or write operations. These are your "system" IOPS.

10. Click **Save** to save the chart to your dashboard.

Variables

Variables allow you to change the data displayed in some or all widgets on a dashboard at once. By setting one or more widgets to use a common variable, changes made in one place cause the data displayed in each widget to update automatically.

Before you begin

The example below requires the **City** annotation (also called City attribute) to be set on multiple storage assets. For best results, set different cities on different storages. See the [Annotations](#) topics for more information on using annotations.

About this task

Variables provide a quick and simple way of filtering the data shown in some or all of the widgets on a custom dashboard. The following steps will guide you to creating widgets that use variables, and show you how to use them on your dashboard.

Steps

1. Click on **Dashboards** > **+New Dashboard**.
2. Before adding widgets, you must define the variables we will use to filter the dashboard data. Click on the **Add Variable** button.

The list of attributes is displayed.

3. Let's say we want to set the dashboard to filter based on City. Select the *City* attribute from the list.

The *\$city* variable field is created and added to the dashboard. Variables used by the dashboard are displayed above any widgets.

4. Next, we must tell our widgets to use this variable. The simplest way to illustrate this is to add a table widget showing the *City* column. Click on the **Add Widget** button and select the *Table* widget.
5. First, add the *City* column to the table by selecting it from the "gear" button.

City is a list-type attribute, so it contains a list of previously-defined choices. You may also choose text, boolean, or date-type attributes.

6. Next, click the **Filter by** + button and choose *City*.
7. Click *Any* to view the possible filter choices for City. Notice that the list now includes "**\$city**" at the top, in addition to any previously-available choices. Select *\$city* to use this dashboard variable.

The *\$city* choice only appears here if it was defined previously on the main dashboard page. If the variable was not previously defined, only the existing choices for the filter will be shown. Only variables that are applicable to the selected attribute type will be displayed in the drop-down for that filter.

8. **Save** the widget.
9. On the dashboard page, click on *Any* next to the *\$city* variable, and select the city or cities you want to see.

Your table widget updates to show only the cities you selected. You can change the values in the *\$city* variable at will, and all widgets on your dashboard that are set to use the *\$city* variable will refresh automatically to show only data for the values you selected.

Be sure to **Save** your dashboard when you have it configured as you want it.

More on dashboard variables

Dashboard variables come in several types, can be used across different fields, and must follow rules for naming. These concepts are explained here.

Variable types

A variable can be one the following types:

- **Text:** Alphanumeric string. This is the default variable type.
- **Numerical:** a number or range of numbers.
- **Boolean:** Use for fields with values of True/False, Yes/No, 0/1, etc. For the boolean variable, the choices are Yes, No, None, Any.
- **Date:** A date or range of dates.

"Generic" variables

You can set a generic or universal variable by clicking the **Add Variable** button and selecting one of the types listed above. These types are always shown at the top of the drop-down list. The variable is given a default name, for example "\$var1", and is not tied to a specific annotation or attribute.

Configuring a generic variable allows you to use that variable in widgets to filter for any field of that type. For example, if you have a table widget showing Name, Alias, and Vendor (which are all text-type attributes), and "\$var1" is a text-type variable, you can set filters for each of those fields in the widget to use the \$var1 variable. You can set other widgets to use \$var1 for those or any text fields.

On your dashboard page, setting \$var1 to a value (for example "NetApp") will filter all of those fields in all widgets that are set to use that variable. In this way, you can update multiple widgets at once to highlight dashboard data you choose at will.

Because generic variables can be used for any field of that type, you can change the name of a generic variable without changing its functionality.

Note: All variables are treated as "generic" variables, even those you create for a specific attribute, because all configured variables of a type are shown when you set a filter for any attributes or annotations of that type. However, best practice is to create a generic variable when you will use it to filter for a value across multiple fields, as in the Name/Alias/Vendor example above.

Variable naming

Variables names:

- Must always be prefixed with a "\$". This is added automatically when you configure a variable.
- Cannot contain any special characters; only the letters a-z and the digits 0-9 are allowed.
- Cannot be longer than 20 characters, including the "\$" symbol.
- Are case-sensitive: \$CityName and \$cityname are different variables.
- Cannot be the same as an existing variable name.
- Cannot be only the "\$" symbol.

Widgets that use variables

Variables can be used with the following widgets:

- Area Chart
- Bar Chart
- Box Plot Chart
- Line Chart
- Scatter Plot Chart
- Single Value Widget
- Spline Chart
- Stacked Area Chart
- Table Widget
- Pie Chart

Understanding "\$this" variables

Special variables on an asset's landing page allow you to easily showcase additional information that is directly related to the current asset. These special variables have names beginning with '\$this'.

1. About this task

To use the "\$this" variables in widgets on your asset's landing page, follow the steps below. For this example, we will add a **table widget**.



"\$this" variables are only valid for an asset's landing page. They are not available for other dashboards. The available "\$this" variables varies according to asset type.

Steps

1. Navigate to the landing page for an asset of your choosing. For this example, let's choose a Virtual Machine (VM) asset page. Query or search for a VM and click on the link to go to that VM's asset page.

The asset page for the VM opens.

2. Click **Edit** to switch to edit mode, and click the **Add Widget** button. Choose the **Table** widget.

The Table widget opens for editing. By default, all storages are shown in the table.

3. We want to show all virtual machines. Click on the asset selector and change *Storage* to *Virtual Machine*.

All virtual machines are now shown in the table.

4. Click on the gear button and add the *Hypervisor Name* column to the table.

The hypervisor name is shown for each VM in the table.

5. We only care about the hypervisor that hosts the current VM. Click on the **Filter by** field's + button and select *Hypervisor Name*.
6. Click on *Any* and select the **\$this.host.name** variable. Press Enter or click off the field to apply the filter.

The table now shows all the VM's hosted by the current VM's hypervisor.

7. Click **Save** to save the widget.
8. Click **Save** to save the asset page.

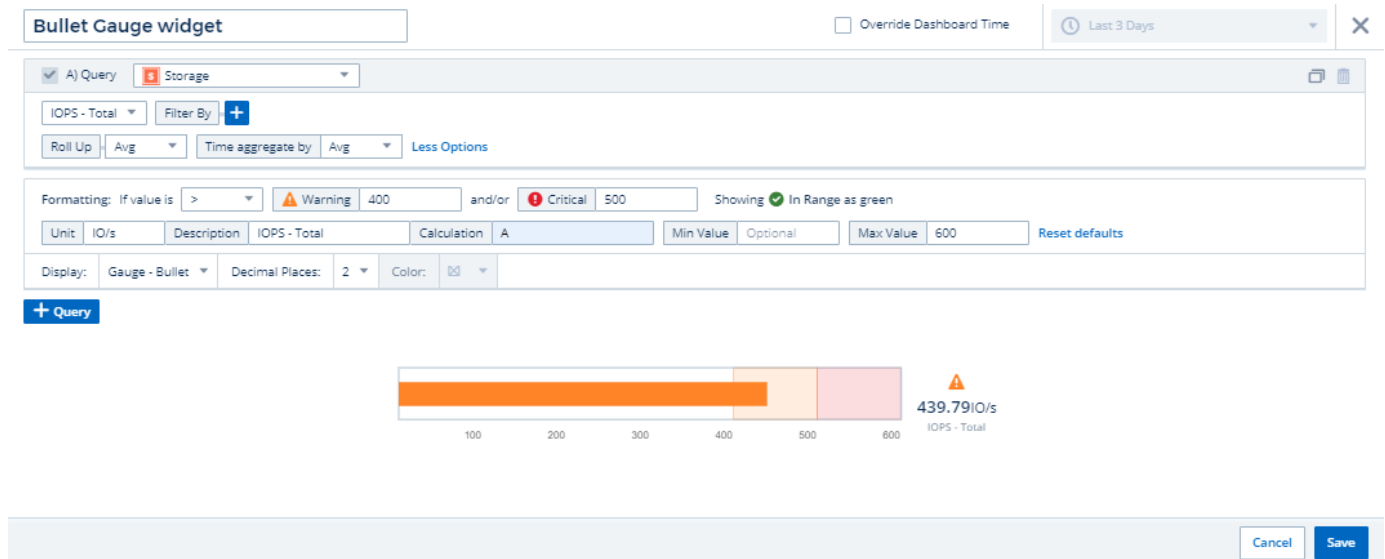
Result

The table that you created for this VM asset page will be displayed for any VM asset page you display. The use of the *\$this.host.name* variable in the widget means that only the VM's owned by the *current assets's* hypervisor will be displayed in the table.

You can also apply [in-context filters](#) to asset page widgets to accomplish a similar result.

Formatting Gauge Widgets

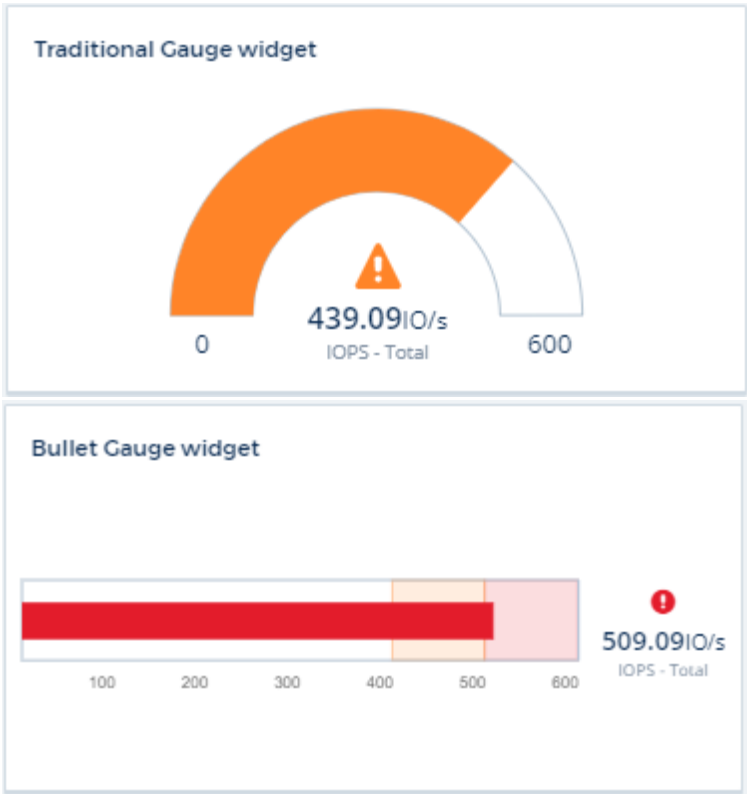
The Solid and Bullet Gauge widgets allow you to set thresholds for *Warning* and/or *Critical* levels, providing clear representation of the data you specify.



To set formatting for these widgets, follow these steps:

1. Choose whether you want to highlight values greater than (>) or less than (<) your thresholds. In this example, we will highlight values greater than (>) the threshold levels.
2. Choose a value for the "Warning" threshold. When the widget displays values greater than this level, it displays the gauge in orange.
3. Choose a value for the "Critical" threshold. Values greater than this level will cause the gauge to display in red.

You can optionally choose a minimum and maximum value for the gauge. Values below minimum will not display the gauge. Values above maximum will display a full gauge. If you do not choose minimum or maximum values, the widget selects optimal min and max based on the widget's value.



Formatting Single-Value Widget

in the Single-Value widget, in addition to setting Warning (orange) and Critical (red) thresholds, you can choose to have "In Range" values (those below Warning level) shown with either green or white background.

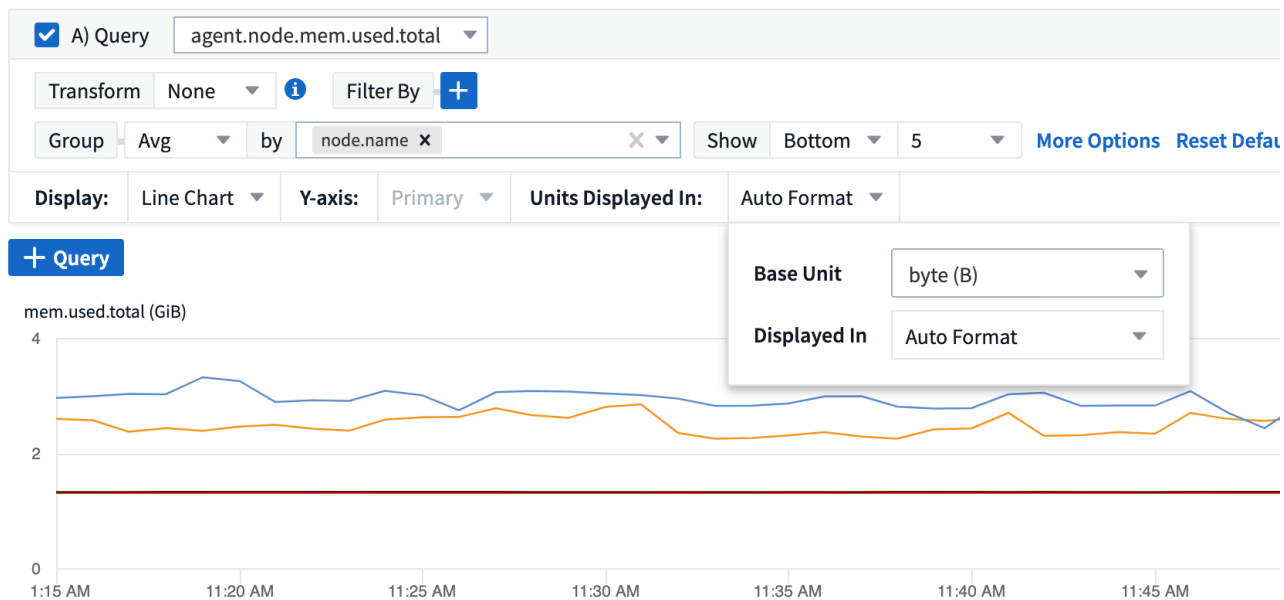


Clicking the link in either a single-value widget or a gauge widget will display a query page corresponding to the first query in the widget.

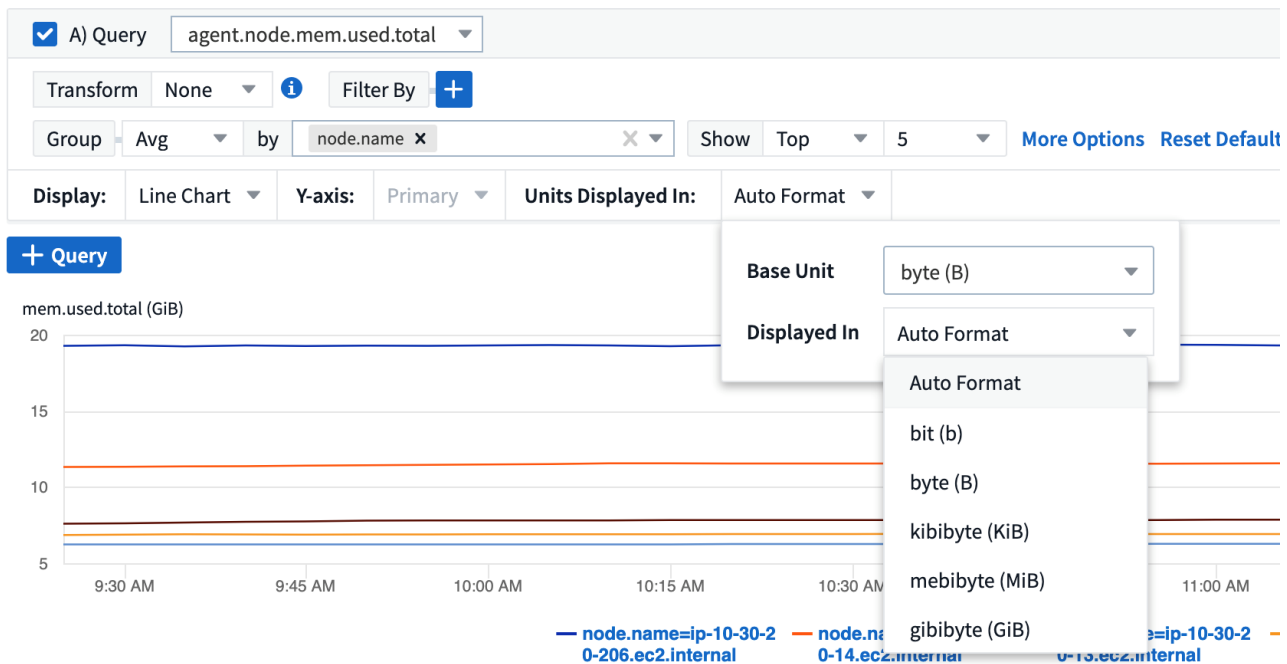
Choosing the Unit for Displaying Data

Most widgets on a dashboard allow you to specify the Units in which to display values, for example *Megabytes*, *Thousands*, *Percentage*, *Milliseconds (ms)*, etc. In many cases, Cloud Insights knows the best format for the data being acquired. In cases where the best format is not known, you can set the format you want.

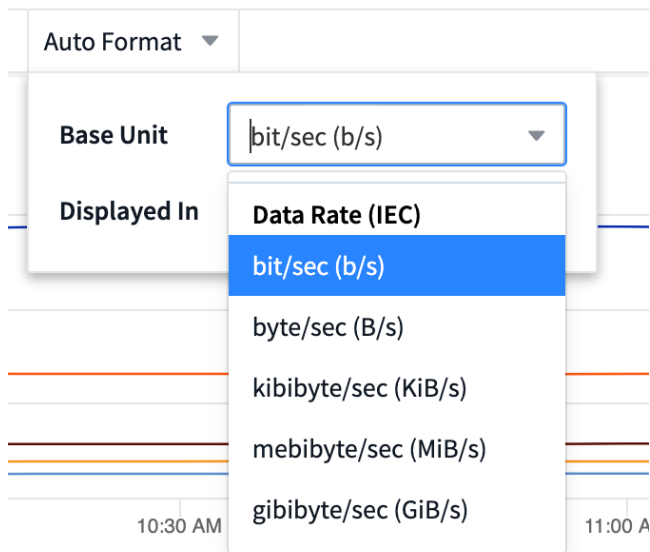
In the line chart example below, the data selected for the widget is known to be in *bytes* (the base IEC Data unit: see the table below), so the Base Unit is automatically selected as 'byte (B)'. However, the data values are large enough to be presented as gibibytes (GiB), so Cloud Insights by default auto-formats the values as GiB. The Y-axis on the graph shows 'GiB' as the display unit, and all values are displayed in terms of that unit.



If you want to display the graph in a different unit, you can choose another format in which to display the values. Since the base unit in this example is *byte*, you can choose from among the supported "byte-based" formats: bit (b), byte (B), kibibyte (KiB), mebibyte (MiB), gibibyte (GiB). The Y-Axis label and values change according to the format you choose.



In cases where the base unit is not known, you can assign a unit from among the [available units](#), or type in your own. Once you assign a base unit, you can then select to display the data in one of the appropriate supported formats.



To clear out your settings and start again, click on **Reset Defaults**.

A word about Auto-Format

Most metrics are reported by data collectors in the smallest unit, for example as a whole number such as 1,234,567,890 bytes. By default, Cloud Insights will automatically format the value for the most readable display, e.g. 1.23bn (billion) bytes. If you choose instead to display this as millions (m), the value will show as 1,234m. If you choose to display as trillion, it will show .001t.



Cloud Insights uses American English number naming standards. American "billion" is equivalent to "thousand million".

Widgets with multiple queries

If you have a time-series widget (i.e. line, spline, area, stacked area) that has two queries where both are plotted the primary Y-Axis, the base unit is not shown at the top of the Y-Axis. However, if your widget has a query on the primary Y-Axis and a query on the secondary Y-Axis, the base units for each are shown.



If your widget has three or more queries, base units are not shown on the Y-Axis.

Available Units

The following table shows all the available units by category.

Category	Units
Currency	cent dollar
Data(IEC)	bit byte kibibyte mebibyte gibibyte tebibyte pebibyte exbibyte
DataRate(IEC)	bit/sec byte/sec kibibyte/sec mebibyte/sec gibibyte/sec tebibyte/sec pebibyte/sec

Data(Metric)	kilobyte megabyte gigabyte terabyte petabyte exabyte
DataRate(Metric)	kilobyte/sec megabyte/sec gigabyte/sec terabyte/sec petabyte/sec exabyte/sec
IEC	kibi mebi gibi tebi pebi exbi
Decimal	whole number thousand million billion trillion
Percentage	percentage
Time	nanosecond microsecond millisecond second minute hour
Temperature	celsius fahrenheit
Frequency	hertz kilohertz megahertz gigahertz

CPU	nanocores microcores millicores cores kilocores megacores gigacores teracores petacores exacores
Throughput	I/O ops/sec ops/sec requests/sec reads/sec writes/sec ops/min reads/min writes/min

Sample Dashboards

Dashboard Example: Virtual Machine Performance

There are many challenges facing IT operations today. Administrators are being asked to do more with less, and having full visibility into your dynamic data centers is a must. In this example, we will show you how to create a dashboard with widgets that give you operational insights into the virtual machine (VM) performance in your environment. By following this example, and creating widgets to target your own specific needs, you can do things like visualizing backend storage performance compared to frontend virtual machine performance, or viewing VM latency versus I/O demand.

About this task

Here we will create a Virtual Machine Performance dashboard containing the following:

- a table listing VM names and performance data
- a chart comparing VM Latency to Storage Latency
- a chart showing Read, Write and Total IOPS for VMs
- a chart showing Max Throughput for your VMs

This is just a basic example. You can customize your dashboard to highlight and compare any

performance data you choose, in order to target for your own operational best practices.

Steps

- 1. Log in to Insight as a user with administrative permissions.
- 2. From the **Dashboards** menu, select **[+New dashboard]**.

The **New dashboard** page opens.

- 3. At the top of the page, enter a unique name for the dashboard, for example "VM Performance by Application".
- 4. Click **Save** to save the dashboard with the new name.
- 5. Let's start adding our widgets. If necessary, click the **Edit** icon to enable Edit mode.
- 6. Click the **Add Widget** icon and select **Table** to add a new table widget to the dashboard.

The Edit Widget dialog opens. The default name is "Widget 1" and the default data displayed is for all storages in your environment.

Widget 1

☐ Override dashboard time

Last 24 hours

X

Virtual Machine

Filter by + Group by Hypervisor name X

723 items found in 4 groups

Hypervisor name	Name ↑	Datastore	Hypervisor name	IOPS - Total (IO/s)	Latency - Total (ms)
+ us-east-1c (282)			us-east-1c	47.93	3.11
+ us-east-1d (228)			us-east-1d	67.56	2.93
+ us-east-1a (210)			us-east-1a	32.42	2.85
+ us-east-1b (3)			us-east-1b	32.70	0.70

Cancel

Save

- 1. We can customize this widget. In the Name field at the top, delete "Widget 1" and enter "Virtual Machine Performance table".
- 2. Click the asset type drop-down and change *Storage* to *Virtual Machine*.

The table data changes to show all virtual machines in your environment. For now, the table only shows the VM names.

- 3. Let's add a few columns to the table. Click the Gear icon on the right and select *Hypervisor name*, *IOPS - Total*, and *Latency - Total*. You can also try typing the name into the search to quickly display the desired field.

These columns are now displayed in the table. You can sort the table by any of these columns. Note that the columns are displayed in the order in which they were added to the widget.

- For this exercise we will exclude VMs that are not actively in use, so let's filter out anything with less than 10 total IOPS. Click the **[+]** button next to **Filter by** and select *IOPS - Total*. Click on **Any** and enter "10" in the **from** field. Leave the **to** field empty. Click outside the filter field or press Enter to set the filter.

The table now shows only VMs with 10 or more total IOPS.

- We can further collapse the table by grouping results. Click the **[+]** button next to **Group by** and select a field to group by, such as *Application* or *Hypervisor name*. Grouping is automatically applied.

The table rows are now grouped according to your setting. You can expand and collapse the groups as needed. Grouped rows show rolled up data for each of the columns. Some columns allow you to choose the roll up method for that column.

Virtual Machine Performance Table

☐ Override dashboard time

Last 24 hours

X

Virtual Machine

Filter by IOPS - Total (IO/s) >= 10 + Group by Hypervisor name

181 items found in 4 groups

Hypervisor name	Name	Hypervisor name	IOPS - Total	Latency - Total (ms)
us-east-1d (62)		us-east-1d		1.94
us-east-1c (80)		us-east-1c		0.80
us-east-1b (1)	TBDemoEnv	us-east-1b	32.66	0.70
us-east-1a (38)		us-east-1a	121.22	0.81

Roll Up by Avg

Cancel Save

- When you have customized the table widget to your satisfaction, click the **[Save]** button.

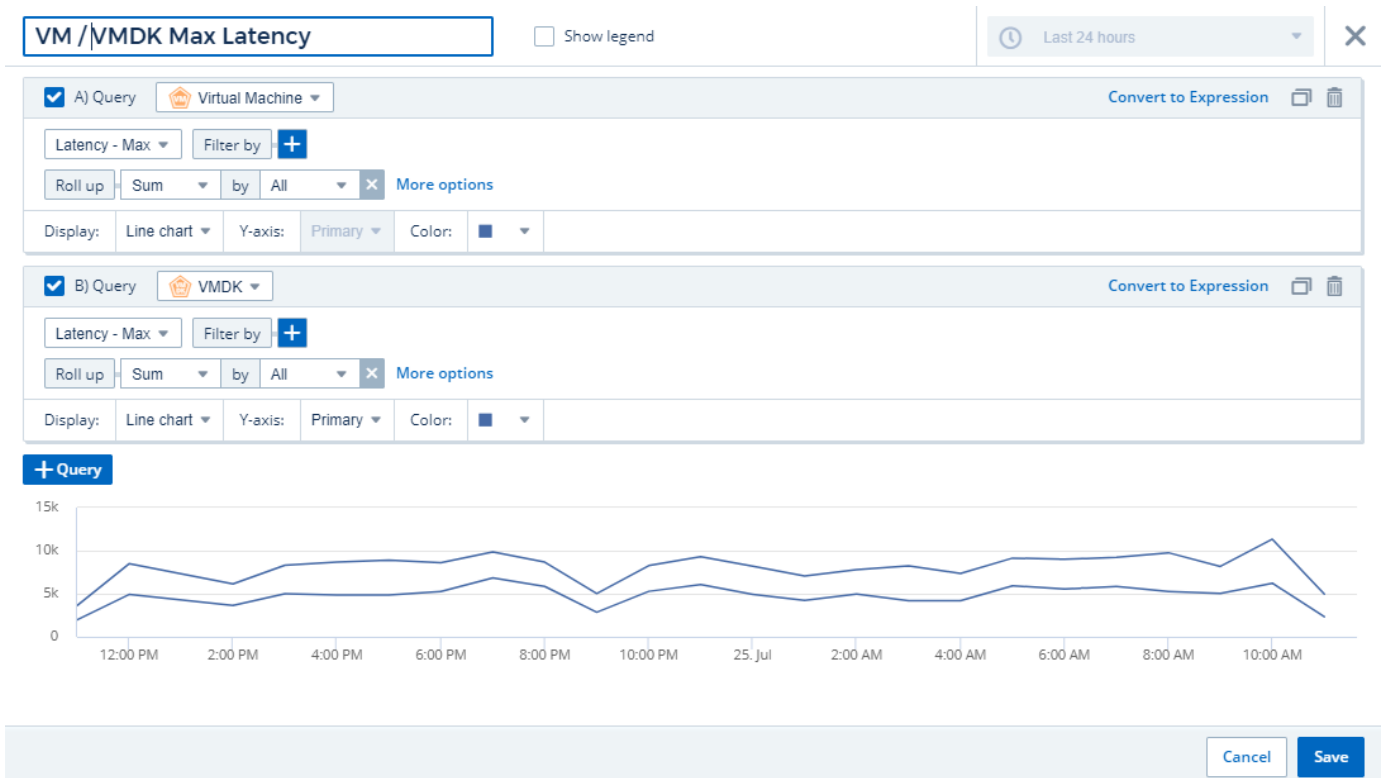
The table widget is saved to the dashboard.

You can resize the widget on the dashboard by dragging the lower-right corner. Make the widget wider to show all the columns clearly. Click **Save** to save the current dashboard.

Next we will add some charts to show our VM Performance. Let's create a line chart comparing VM latency with VMDK latency.

- If necessary, click the **Edit** icon on the dashboard to enable Edit mode.
- Click the **[Add widget]** icon and select *Line Chart* to add a new line chart widget to the dashboard.

3. The **Edit Widget** dialog opens. Name this widget "VM / VMDK Max Latency"
4. Select **Virtual Machine** and choose *Latency - Max*. Set any filters you wish, or leave **Filter by** empty. For **Roll up**, choose *Sum* by *All*. Display this data as a *Line Chart*, and leave Y-Axis as *Primary*.
5. Click the **[+Query]** button to add a second data line. For this line, select *VMDK* and *Latency - Max*. Set any filters you wish, or leave **Filter by** empty. For **Roll up**, choose *Sum* by *All*. Display this data as a *Line Chart*, and leave Y-Axis as *Primary*.
6. Click **[Save]** to add this widget to the dashboard.



Next we will add a chart showing VM Read, Write and Total IOPS in a single chart.

1. Click the **[Add widget]** icon and select *Area Chart* to add a new area chart widget to the dashboard.
2. The Edit Widget dialog opens. Name this widget "VM IOPS"
3. Select **Virtual Machine** and choose *IOPS - Total*. Set any filters you wish, or leave **Filter by** empty. For **Roll up**, choose *Sum* by *All*. Display this data as an *Area Chart*, and leave Y-Axis as *Primary*.
4. Click the **[+Query]** button to add a second data line. For this line, select **Virtual Machine** and choose *IOPS - Read*.
5. Click the **[+Query]** button to add a third data line. For this line, select **Virtual Machine** and choose *IOPS - Write*.
6. Click **Show legend** to display a legend for this widget on the dashboard.



1. Click **[Save]** to add this widget to the dashboard.

Next we will add a chart showing VM Throughput for each Application associated with the VM. We will use the Roll Up feature for this.

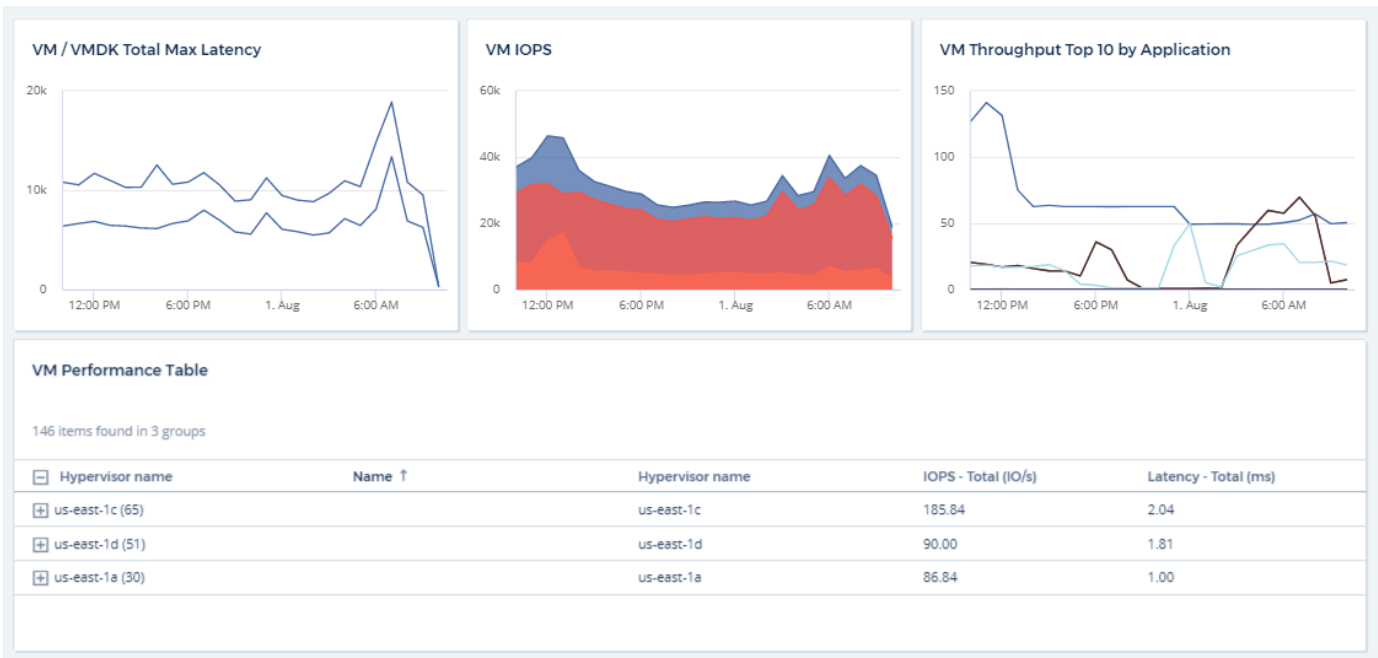
1. Click the **[Add widget]** icon and select *Line Chart* to add a new line chart widget to the dashboard.
2. The Edit Widget dialog opens. Name this widget "VM Throughput by Application"
3. Select Virtual Machine and choose Throughput - Total. Set any filters you wish, or leave Filter by empty. For Roll up, choose "Max" and select by "Application" or "Name". Show the Top 10 applications. Display this data as a Line Chart, and leave Y-Axis as Primary.
4. Click **[Save]** to add this widget to the dashboard.

You can move widgets on the dashboard by holding down the mouse button anywhere in the top of the widget and dragging it to a new location.

You can resize widgets by dragging the lower-right corner.

Be sure to **[Save]** the dashboard after you make your changes.

Your final VM Performance Dashboard will look something like this:



Best Practices for Dashboards and Widgets

Tips and tricks to help you get the most out of the powerful features of dashboards and widgets.

Finding the Right Metric

Cloud Insights acquires counters and metrics using names that sometimes differ from data collector to data collector.

When searching for the right metric or counter for your dashboard widget, keep in mind that the metric you want could be under a different name from the one you are thinking of. While drop-down lists in Cloud Insights are usually alphabetical, sometimes a term may not show up in the list where you think it should. For example, terms like "raw capacity" and "used capacity" do not appear together in most lists.

Best practice: Use the search feature in fields such as Filter by or places like the column selector to find what you are looking for. For example, searching for "cap" will show all metrics with "capacity" in their names, no matter where they occur in the list. You can then easily select the metrics you want from that shorter list.

Here are a few alternative phrases you can try when searching for metrics:

When you want to find:	Try also searching for:
CPU	Processor

Capacity	Used capacity Raw capacity Provisioned capacity Storage pools capacity <other asset type> capacity Written capacity
Disk Speed	Lowest disk speed Least performing disk type
Host	Hypervisor Hosts
Hypervisor	Host Is hypervisor
Microcode	Firmware
Name	Alias Hypervisor name Storage name <other asset type> name Simple name Resource name Fabric Alias
Read / Write	Partial R/W Pending writes IOPS - Write Written capacity Latency - Read Cache utilization - read
Virtual Machine	VM Is virtual

This is not a comprehensive list. These are examples of possible search terms only.

Finding the Right Assets

The assets you can reference in widget filters and searches vary from asset type to asset type.

In dashboards and asset pages, the asset type around which you are building your widget determines the other asset type counters for which you can filter or add a column. Keep the following in mind when building your widget:

This asset type / counter:	Can be filtered for under these assets:
Virtual Machine	VMDK

Datastore(s)	Internal Volume VMDK Virtual Machine Volume
Hypervisor	Virtual Machine Is hypervisor Host
Host(s)	Internal Volume Volume Cluster Host Virtual Machine
Fabric	Port

This is not a comprehensive list.

Best practice: If you are filtering for a particular asset type that does not appear in the list, try building your query around an alternate asset type.

Scatter Plot Example: Knowing your Axis

Changing the order of counters in a scatter plot widget changes the axes on which the data is displayed.

About this task

This example will create a scatter plot that will allow you to see under-performing VMs that have high latency compared to low IOPS.

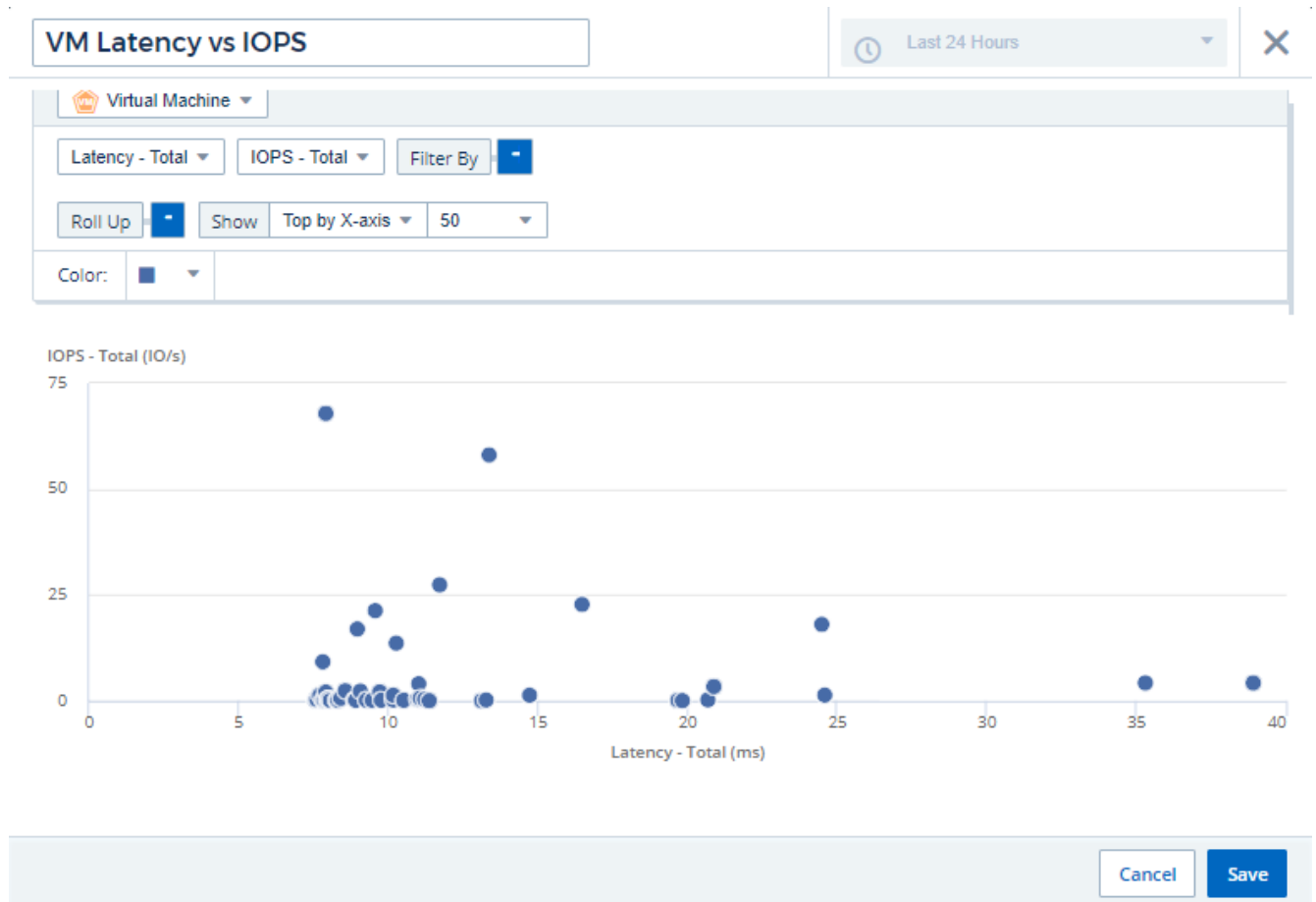
Steps

1. Create or open a dashboard in edit mode and add a **Scatter Plot Chart** widget.
2. Select an asset type, for example, *Virtual Machine*.
3. Select the first counter you wish to plot. For this example, select *Latency - Total*.

Latency - Total is charted along the X-axis of the chart.

4. Select the second counter you wish to plot. For this example, select *IOPS - Total*.

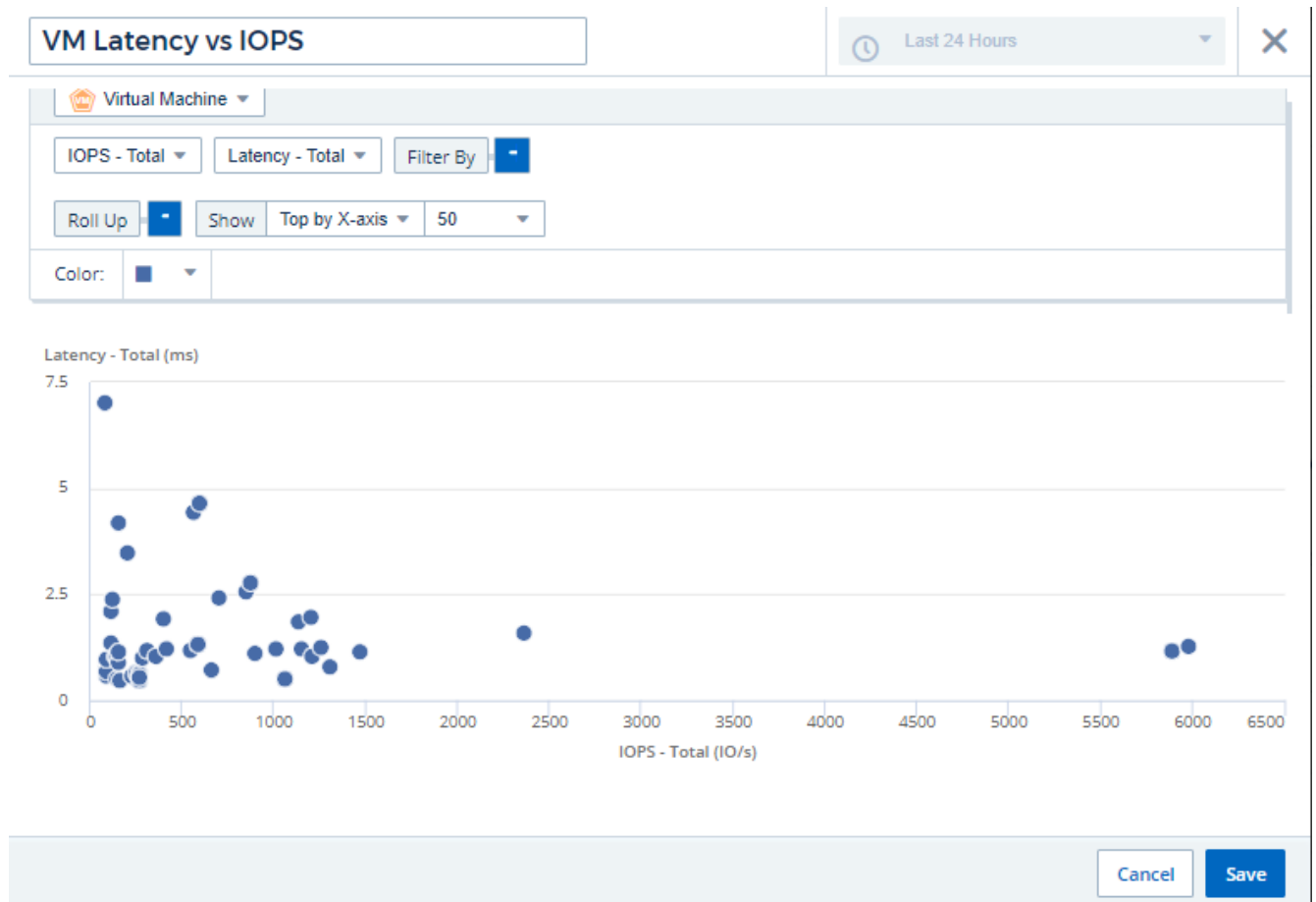
IOPS - Total is charted along the Y-axis in the chart. VMs with higher latency display on the right side of the chart. Only the top 100 highest-latency VMs are displayed, because the **Top by X-axis** setting is current.



5. Now reverse the order of the counters by setting the first counter to *IOPS - Total* and the second to *Latency - Total*.

Latency - Total is now charted along the Y-axis in the chart, and *IOPS - Total* along the X-axis. VMs with higher IOPS now display on the right side of the chart.

Note that because we haven't changed the **Top by X-Axis** setting, the widget now displays the top 100 highest-IOPS VMs, since this is what is currently plotted along the X-axis.



You can choose for the chart to display the Top N by X-axis, Top N by Y-axis, Bottom N by X-axis, or Bottom N by Y-axis. In our final example, the chart is displaying the Top 100 VMs that have the highest total IOPS. If we change it to **Top by Y-axis**, the chart will once again display the top 100 VMs that have the highest total latency.

Note that in a scatter plot chart, you can click on a point to drill down to the asset page for that resource.

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