

Building Dashboards

> ****Series:**** ONBRD | ****Notebook:**** 10 of 10 | ****Created:**** December 2025

Visualizing Your Data

Dashboards provide at-a-glance visibility into your environment's health and performance. This notebook covers dashboard creation, common visualization patterns, and sharing with your team.

Table of Contents

1. Dashboards vs Notebooks
2. Creating Your First Dashboard
3. Common Tile Types
4. Dashboard Patterns
5. Useful Queries for Dashboards
6. Sharing and Permissions
7. Next Steps

Prerequisites

- Viewer access or higher
- Familiarity with DQL (ONBRD-08)
- Data in your environment to visualize

1. Dashboards vs Notebooks

Dynatrace offers two visualization tools:

Feature	Dashboard	Notebook
Purpose	Monitoring at a glance	Interactive analysis
Layout	Fixed grid tiles	Sequential document
Auto-refresh	Yes	Manual
Interactivity	Click-through links	Query editing
Sharing	Wall displays, reports	Investigation documentation
Best for	NOC screens, status pages	Troubleshooting, exploration

When to Use Each

Scenario	Use
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Team status display	Dashboard	
Incident investigation	Notebook	
Executive summary	Dashboard	
Root cause analysis	Notebook	
SLA reporting	Dashboard	
Ad-hoc queries	Notebook	

2. Creating Your First Dashboard

****Location:**** Observe and explore → Dashboards → Create dashboard

Dashboard Creation Steps

1. Click "Create dashboard"
2. Name your dashboard (e.g., "Production Overview")
3. Add tiles by clicking "+" or dragging
4. Configure each tile
5. Arrange and resize as needed
6. Save

Dashboard Settings

Setting	Description	
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Name	Dashboard title	
Time frame	Default time range	
Segment	Default filter scope	
Refresh rate	Auto-refresh interval	
Owner	Dashboard owner	
Sharing	Who can view/edit	

3. Common Tile Types

Data Tiles

Tile Type	Use Case	
-----	-----	
Single value	Key metrics (uptime, error count)	
Graph	Time series data	
Table	Lists and details	
Top list	Ranked entities	
Pie chart	Distribution	
Honeycomb	Entity health grid	

Content Tiles

Tile Type	Use Case	
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| **Markdown** | Documentation, links |
| **Problems** | Active problem list |
| **Host health** | Infrastructure status |
| **Service health** | Service status |
| **SL0** | Service level objectives |
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Visualization Types

! [Visualization Guide]

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4. Dashboard Patterns

![Dashboard Patterns]

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[illegible]

[illegible]

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```
```sql
// Total request count (Single Value tile)
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
```

```

| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize request_count = count()
...

```dql
// Error rate percentage (Single Value tile)
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize
    total = count(),
    errors = countIf(span.status_code == "error")
| fieldsAdd error_rate = round(100.0 * errors / total, decimals: 2)
...

```dql
// Top services by request count (Top List tile)
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize requests = count(), by: {service.name}
| sort requests desc
| limit 10
...

```dql
// Service error rates (Table tile)
fetch spans, from: now() - 1h
| filter span.kind == "server"
| summarize
    requests = count(),
    errors = countIf(span.status_code == "error"),
    by: {service.name}
| fieldsAdd error_rate = round(100.0 * errors / requests, decimals: 2)
| sort error_rate desc
| limit 15
...

### Infrastructure Queries

```dql
// Host count (Single Value tile)
fetch dt.entity.host
| filter state == "RUNNING"
| summarize host_count = count()
...

```dql
// Hosts by OS type (Pie Chart tile)
fetch dt.entity.host

```

```

| summarize count = count(), by: {osType}
| sort count desc
...

```dql
// Host inventory (Table tile)
fetch dt.entity.host
| fields name = entity.name, os = osType, state, cpuCores
| sort name
| limit 25
...

```

### ### Log Queries

```

```dql
// Error log count (Single Value tile)
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| filter loglevel == "error"
| summarize error_count = count()
...

```dql
// Log volume by severity (Pie Chart tile)
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| summarize count = count(), by: {loglevel}
| sort count desc
...

```

```

```dql
// Recent errors (Table tile)
fetch logs, from: now() - 1h
| filter loglevel == "error"
| fields timestamp, log.source, content
| sort timestamp desc
| limit 10
...

```

Problem Queries

```

```dql
// Active problem count (Single Value tile)
fetch dt.davis.problems, from: now() - 30d
| filter status == "OPEN"
| summarize active_problems = count()
...

```

```

```dql
// Problems by status (Pie Chart tile)

```

```

fetch dt.davis.problems, from: now() - 7d
| summarize count = count(), by: {status}
```

```dql
// Recent problem list (Table tile)
fetch dt.davis.problems, from: now() - 24h
| fields timestamp, display_id, title, status
| sort timestamp desc
| limit 10
```

```

## ## 6. Sharing and Permissions

### ### Sharing Options

| Sharing Level                         | Who Can Access                 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ----- -----                           | -----                          |
| <b>**Private**</b>                    | Only you                       |
| <b>**Shared with specific users**</b> | Named users                    |
| <b>**Shared with groups**</b>         | User groups                    |
| <b>**Public**</b>                     | Anyone with environment access |

### ### Segment Filtering

Dashboards can be filtered using segments:

- Set a default segment in dashboard settings
- Viewers can switch segments if they have access
- Data respects viewer's permissions

### ### Dashboard Presets

Create presets for common views:

1. Set segment filter
2. Set time range
3. Save as preset with descriptive name

### ### Exporting Dashboards

| Format          | Use Case                       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| ----- -----     | -----                          |
| <b>**PDF**</b>  | Reporting, documentation       |
| <b>**JSON**</b> | Backup, migration              |
| <b>**Link**</b> | Sharing (respects permissions) |

## ## 7. Next Steps

Congratulations! You've completed the onboarding series.



### ### What You've Learned

| Notebook     | Key Topics                         |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| -----        | -----                              |
| **ONBRD-01** | Tenant access, navigation          |
| **ONBRD-02** | IAM, SAML, permissions             |
| **ONBRD-03** | ActiveGate deployment              |
| **ONBRD-04** | Cloud & SaaS integrations          |
| **ONBRD-05** | OneAgent deployment                |
| **ONBRD-06** | Tags, segments, naming conventions |
| **ONBRD-07** | Data model, topology               |
| **ONBRD-08** | DQL fundamentals                   |
| **ONBRD-09** | Workflows alerting                 |
| **ONBRD-10** | Dashboard creation                 |

### ### Where to Go Next

| Goal                         | Resources                             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| -----                        | -----                                 |
| **Deepen DQL skills**        | SPANS series, OPLOGS series           |
| **Log management**           | OPMIG series (OpenPipeline migration) |
| **Synthetic monitoring**     | SYNTH series                          |
| **Access control migration** | MZ2POL series                         |
| **Platform migration**       | USFOODS series (NR to Dynatrace)      |
| **Official training**        | Dynatrace University                  |
| **Community**                | community.dynatrace.com               |

### ### Dashboard Checklist

- [ ] First dashboard created
- [ ] Key metrics visualized
- [ ] Problem overview included
- [ ] Dashboard shared with team
- [ ] Segment filter set

---

## ## Summary

In this notebook, you learned:

- Difference between dashboards and notebooks
- How to create and configure dashboards
- Common tile types and when to use them
- Dashboard patterns for different use cases
- DQL queries that work well in dashboards
- How to share dashboards with your team

---

## ## References

- [Dashboards](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/observe-and-explore/dashboards>)
- [Notebooks](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/observe-and-explore/dashboards-and-notebooks/notebooks>)
- [DQL Examples](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/platform/grail/dynatrace-query-language/dql-examples>)
- [Dashboard Sharing](<https://docs.dynatrace.com/docs/observe-and-explore/dashboards/dashboard-sharing>)
- [Dynatrace Community](<https://community.dynatrace.com/>)