# Classic Dashboard in Splunk – End-to-End Notes

## 1. Introduction to Classic Dashboard

Definition: A Classic Dashboard in Splunk is a user interface that displays search results using visualizations (charts, tables, maps, etc.) in a structured layout.

Format: XML-based structure; uses Simple XML (not HTML or JSON by default).

Use Case: Ideal for static visualizations with minimal interactive capabilities.

## 2. Accessing and Creating Classic Dashboards

Steps to Create:

1. Navigate to Search & Reporting App.

2. Go to Dashboards > Create New Dashboard.

3. Choose Classic Dashboard type.

4. Fill in Title, ID (auto-generated), Permissions (private/shared), and choose Classic instead of Dashboard Studio.

File Location: Dashboards are saved in $SPLUNK\_HOME/etc/apps/<your\_app>/local/data/ui/views/

## 3. Structure of Classic Dashboard (Simple XML)

Example XML structure:  
  
<dashboard>  
 <label>My Dashboard</label>  
 <row>  
 <panel>  
 <chart>  
 <search>  
 <query>index=\_internal | timechart count by sourcetype</query>  
 <earliest>-1h</earliest>  
 <latest>now</latest>  
 </search>  
 <title>Events by Sourcetype</title>  
 </chart>  
 </panel>  
 </row>  
</dashboard>

Components:  
- <dashboard>: Root tag.  
- <label>: Title of the dashboard.  
- <row>: Container for horizontally-aligned panels.  
- <panel>: Holds a visualization.  
- <search>: Defines the SPL query.  
- <chart>, <table>, <event>: Type of visualization.  
- <title>: Optional title of a panel.

## 4. Types of Panels and Visualizations

Chart (bar, line, pie, area): Visualize trends or category breakdown.

Table: Display raw search result data.

Single Value: Highlight key KPIs (e.g., count, avg response).

Event Viewer: Show unformatted raw logs.

Map: Display geographical data (requires geostats).

## 5. Dashboard Search Types

Search Type and Description:

Inline Search: Written directly inside XML under <search>.

Saved Search (Report): References a scheduled report; better for performance.

Post-process Search: Reuses base search for multiple panels; avoids repetition.

Example:  
<search id="baseSearch">  
 <query>index=web | stats count by status</query>  
</search>  
<chart>  
 <search base="baseSearch">  
 <query>search status=200</query>  
 </search>  
</chart>

## 6. Time Range Pickers and Inputs

Example Time Picker XML:  
<input type="time" token="timeRange">  
 <label>Select Time Range</label>  
</input>

Reference in search:  
<earliest>$timeRange.earliest$</earliest>  
<latest>$timeRange.latest$</latest>

Other Input Types: Text box, Dropdown, Radio buttons, Multiselect

## 7. Tokens in Dashboards

Tokens are variables used for interaction.

Syntax: $token\_name$

Source: Input elements or search outputs

Example:  
<input type="dropdown" token="selectedStatus">  
 <label>Select HTTP Status</label>  
 <choice value="200">200</choice>  
 <choice value="404">404</choice>  
</input>  
<search>  
 <query>index=web status=$selectedStatus$</query>  
</search>

## 8. Drilldown and Interactivity

Enables users to click on elements and drill down into detailed data.

Example:  
<drilldown>  
 <set token="clicked\_value">$click.value$</set>  
</drilldown>

Use Cases:  
- Clicking a table row filters another panel.  
- Passing tokens to search queries dynamically.

## 9. Layout Customization

Layout Options:  
- Rows and panels (default layout engine)  
- Use <row><panel> structure

Customizing Panel Size:  
<style> .panel-element-row { width: 50%; } </style>

Note: For more customization, consider migrating to Dashboard Studio.

## 10. Exporting and Sharing Dashboards

Permissions: Set read/write access at user/role level.

Export Options: PDF, PNG, or export underlying data.

Scheduled Emails: Use saved reports + email action for automation.

## 11. Best Practices

Search Optimization: Use tstats with accelerated data models where possible.

Token Naming: Use intuitive and unique token names.

Performance: Use base + post-process for large dashboards.

Modularity: Use saved searches for reuse and better performance.

Security: Avoid exposing internal indexes to public dashboards.

## 12. Migration to Dashboard Studio (Optional)

Classic Dashboards are limited in layout and interactivity.

For advanced visuals and custom layout → consider Dashboard Studio.

You can migrate using “Convert to Dashboard Studio” from UI.