



# **What is OnCommand Insight?**

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# What is OnCommand Insight?

## OnCommand Insight overview

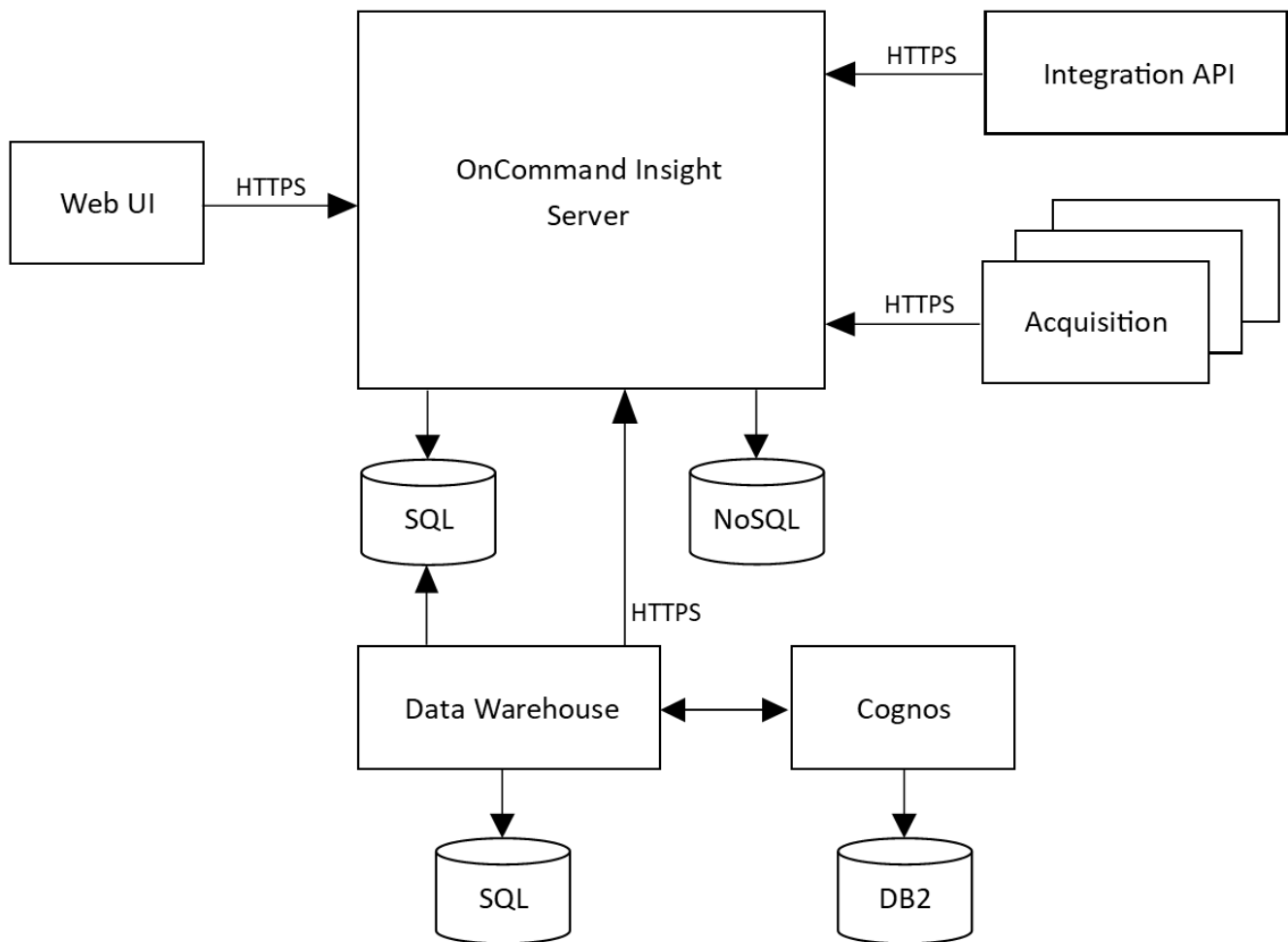
OnCommand Insight enables you to simplify operational management of complex private and hybrid cloud and virtual IT environments. Insight is a single solution to enable cross-domain, multi-vendor resource management and analysis across networks, storage, and servers in physical and virtual environments.

Insight can help you optimize your current infrastructure, allowing you to right-size operations to meet business demands. It simplifies the process of determining what and when to buy. It also reduces risk during complex technology migrations, such as moving to a hybrid cloud, by identifying which workloads are candidates for cloud migration. With Insight, you can manage the IT infrastructure as an end-to-end service by integrating the resources into the company's entire IT service delivery chain.

## Insight architecture

A typical installation of OnCommand Insight includes data acquisition and data warehousing with reports, all easily accessible from a web-based UI. For more secure environments, acquisition can be done through a remote acquisition unit.

The major components of the Insight architecture are shown in the following diagram:



- **OnCommand Insight Server**

The OnCommand Insight Server contains the main data repository and analysis components. The server is continuously building an end-to-end topology of the environment, analyzing the environment, and generating alerts when an incident or violation is detected.

- **Acquisition**

The Insight collection engine is built on one or more acquisition units. Each Insight server contains a local acquisition unit and can support remote acquisition units. Each unit is a service running on the network that accesses (through modules called *data sources*) and collects data from devices in the data center. Information collected by the acquisition units is then sent to the server for analysis.

The collection engine is designed to be highly modular and easily patched.

- **Integration API**

An API allows the collection of data from external agents. Integration data can be viewed in the web UI using queries and widgets. Dashboards can contain 'native' Insight data and integration data. You can apply filtering, roll-ups, and grouping to the data in these dashboards.

- **Web UI**

The HTML5 web-based user interface for Insight enables you to set up data sources and your monitoring

environment, including policies, thresholds and alerts. You then use the web UIAsset Dashboard and asset pages to identify and research potential problems. You can create custom dashboards with a variety of widgets, each of which provides extensive flexibility in displaying, analyzing, and charting your data.

- **Data Warehouse**

The OnCommand Insight Data Warehouse is a centralized repository that stores data from multiple Insight servers and transforms data into a common, multidimensional data model for querying and analysis.

The OnCommand Insight Data Warehouse enables access to an open database consisting of several data marts that let you generate custom capacity and performance reports such as chargeback reports, trending reports with historical data, consumption analyses, and forecasting reports.

The Data Warehouse consolidates and prepares data for reporting for one or multiple installations of Insight. The data includes history, trending, inventory, chargeback, show back and data presentations to support long-term planning of the data center's infrastructure.

- **Cognos**

Cognos is the reporting engine for Insight, an IBM business intelligence tool that enables you to view pre-defined reports or create custom reports. Insight reporting generates reports from the Data Warehouse data.

## **How Insight is used by administrators, managers, and planners**

OnCommand Insight supplies information that is vital for storage administrators, managers, and storage architects to perform troubleshooting and analysis.

Experienced storage administrators use OnCommand Insight along with their network storage knowledge to accomplish these typical tasks:

- Manage the SAN and NAS environment.
- Work with SAN engineers on network concerns.
- Evaluate, test, and integrate new storage technologies into the environment.
- Troubleshoot performance issues, alerts, policy breaches, violations, and vulnerabilities.

Managers and network planners use OnCommand Insight to perform these business tasks:

- Capacity planning
- Develop project budgets and timelines.
- Evaluate and revise project plans to meet changing project demands.
- Manage project planning and expenses.
- Purchase hardware and software.
- Provide business reports for capacity management, charge back billing, right sizing, and service level agreements.

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