



Dashboard variables

OnCommand Insight

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Dashboard variables

Dashboard variables allow you to filter data across multiple widgets on a dashboard quickly and easily.

Before you begin

This example requires the **City** annotation (also called City attribute) to be set on multiple storage assets.

For best results, set different cities on different storages.

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. Log in to Insight as a user with administrative permissions
2. Click on **Dashboards** > **+New Dashboard**.
3. Before adding widgets, we want to define the variables we will use to filter the dashboard data. Click on the **Variable** button.

The list of attributes is displayed.

4. 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.

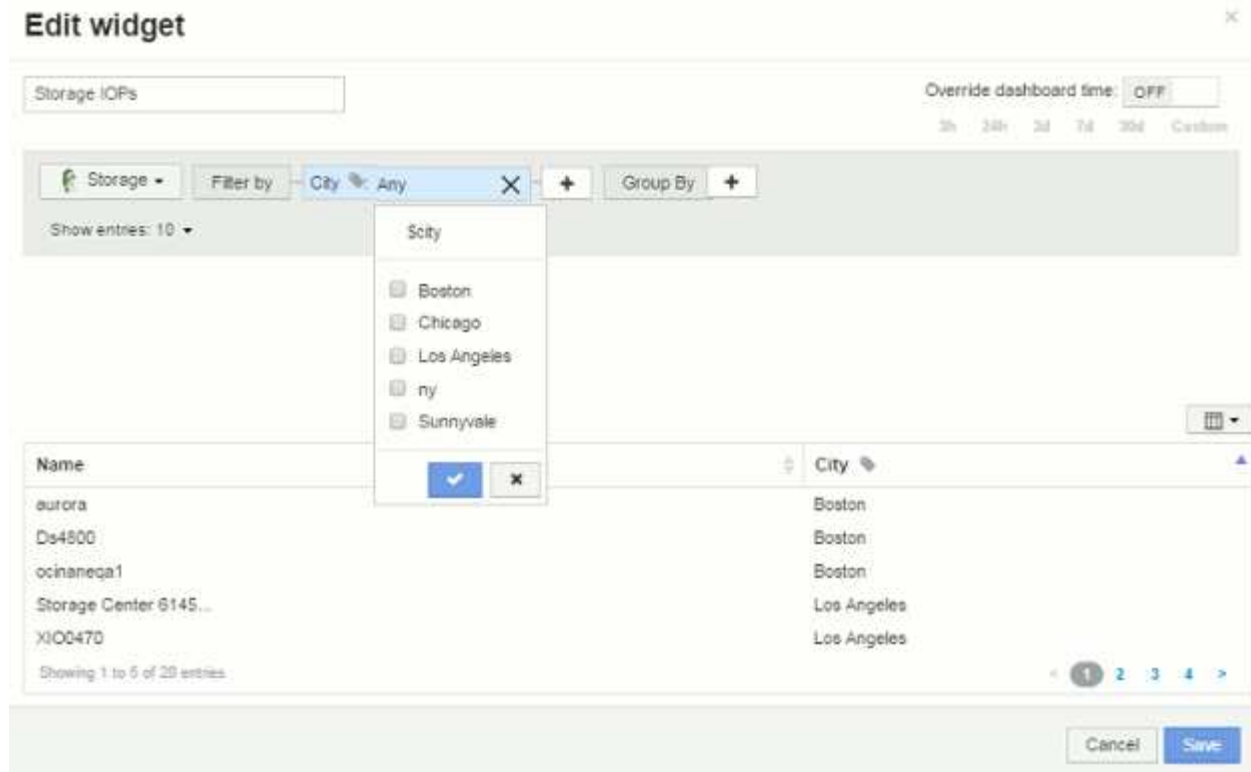
5. Next, we must tell our widgets to use this variable. The simplest way to illustrate this is to add a table widget showing the City column. Click on the **Widget** button and select the **Table** widget.

6. First, add the City field to the table by selecting it from the column picker  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.

7. Next, click the **Filter by +** button and choose **City**.
8. 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.



9. **Save** the widget.

10. 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.

11. 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 **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.



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 not case-sensitive: \$CityName and \$cityname are the same variable.
- 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

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