

# Custom REST Connector

The Sisense Custom REST Connector allows you to programmatically connect to open RESTful connectors and import data into your ElastiCube Manager. Using the Custom REST Connector, you can create custom connectors to popular data sources accessible over HTTP.

The Sisense Custom REST Connector acts like a generic connector providing flexibility when connecting to various RESTful data sources. As each data source has their own unique requirements, you must review your data source's documentation to understand the requirements for each data source you want to connect to.

## Prerequisites

If you do not have Sisense installed, you must meet the following requirements:

- .Net version 4.5.2 or above.
- [MongoDB 2.0.0.64](#). If you are upgrading to this version of MongoDB, This upgrade contains breaking changes. For more information, click [here](#).

## How the Custom REST Connector Works

The Custom REST Connector enables you to connect to RESTful data sources by providing Sisense the end points of the data source and authentication information that allows Sisense to return the requested data.

To connect to a data source, you create a connector configuration file in JSON for each unique source. This file contains all the necessary information to connect, authenticate, fetch and transform data from a REST provider.

For example, if you want to connect to Facebook's REST API, you create a config.json file that contains the endpoints that Facebook provides you, has authentication credentials, and defines how you want to import the data into your ElastiCube. Once the data is in your ElastiCube, the process to build it and create dashboards remains the same as native data sources.

There are two steps to connecting to RESTful data sources through the Sisense Custom REST Connection:

1. [Retrieving RESTful Credentials](#): Each data source has their own requirements and end points, this section describes what information you need to provide Sisense to import the data into an ElastiCube.
2. [Creating Configuration Files](#): Sisense uses the config.json file to connect to the data source and determine how the information is to be imported into the ElastiCube. This section describes how to build the config.json file and where to store it.

## Custom REST Connector Plugin

The process of creating a custom REST connector can be difficult given how each data source has its own requirements. To simplify the process and ensure your configuration files are created correctly, Sisense has created a plugin that displays an easy-to-use interface for creating the necessary configuration files.

For more information, see [REST Connectors GUI](#) in the Sisense Community.