

WHITEPAPER

MCP for Qlik Sense

On-Premise

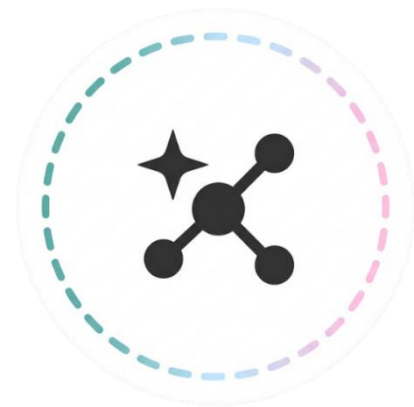


Introduction

Business questions rarely wait for a dashboard. Yet in most Qlik Sense environments, every answer still travels the same route: open the app, click through filters, build or find the right chart, and pass the result along. Meanwhile, AI assistants have become part of daily work — but they cannot see the data that actually matters, because that data lives inside Qlik, behind your governance, on your infrastructure.

MCP for Qlik Sense closes that gap. It is a self-hosted bundle that connects an AI assistant directly to your Qlik Sense on-premise environment through the Model Context Protocol (MCP), an open standard for connecting AI clients to external systems. People ask questions in plain language; the assistant queries the apps they already have access to and answers with real figures. Developers can go further and build sheets, charts, and master items, or work directly on the load script.

This whitepaper describes how the bundle works, how identity and permissions are enforced, what happens to your data, and what deployment and administration look like in practice. It is written for the people who will evaluate the product technically — BI administrators, IT security, and Qlik developers — as well as the decision-makers they report to.



Qonnect AI

What the bundle is

The bundle consists of two parts, both running on your own infrastructure:

- The MCP server — the component your AI clients connect to. It exposes a set of tools the assistant can use to read apps, query data, apply selections, build content, and work with load scripts in Qlik Sense.
- The Admin Interface — the sign-in service and administration console. This is where people authenticate, and where administrators manage users, access, and licences.

The bundle talks only to your own Qlik site. It works with any AI client that supports custom connectors — for example Claude Desktop — and each person adds the connection once in their own client. It has been tested against Qlik Sense on-premise (client-managed), November 2024 release.

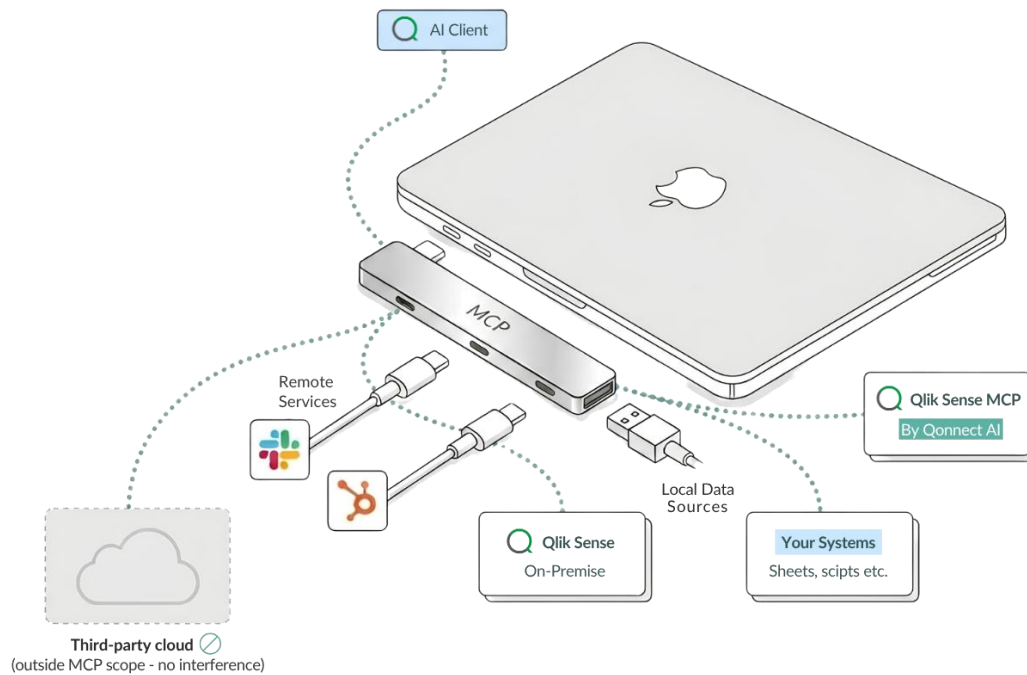


Figure 1: The AI client connects through the MCP bundle to your on-premise Qlik Sense site and the systems around it. Third-party cloud services sit outside the scope of the MCP connection.

Identity and permissions

This is the design decision everything else rests on: every request runs as the person asking, with exactly the permissions that person already has in Qlik. There is no shared service account and no back door.

How sign-in works

Everyone signs in through the bundle's own sign-in service. The recommended setup is to connect your existing company identity provider, so people use their normal work account. Local accounts are also available — useful for a trial or a small pilot group. Either way, people sign in once and their AI client stays connected.

On the Qlik side, the integration is a single JWT virtual proxy. That proxy tells Qlik Sense to trust the bundle to sign people in as themselves. It is the only change made inside your Qlik environment: existing proxies, apps, and the way colleagues normally work are untouched. People who do not use the assistant see no difference at all.

What this means for access control

Because each request carries the individual user's identity, your existing Qlik security rules keep doing their job. If someone cannot open an app in Qlik, the assistant cannot open it for

them. Access rules stay in Qlik, where you already manage them — there is no second permission model to maintain, and no risk of the assistant becoming a way around your governance. Every action is traceable to a real, signed-in person.

What people can do

The assistant is driven by plain language: people describe what they want, and the assistant picks the right action and performs it as them. The toolset is licensed in three additive tiers.

Tier	What it unlocks
Analytics	Ask questions, explore apps, apply selections
Developer	Everything in Analytics + build sheets, charts, master items, and work on load scripts
Full	Everything in Developer + administrative tools

Figure 2: The three licence tiers. Each tier includes everything in the tier below it; moving up is a licence change, not a reinstallation.

Analytics

The foundation tier covers finding and understanding apps, answering data questions, and exploring with selections. People can ask what apps they have access to, what fields and tables an app contains, and how its data model fits together. They can ask for a number, a breakdown, or a comparison — “what was revenue by region last quarter?” — and get the answer directly, without building a chart or writing an expression. They can also narrow the data the way they would by clicking in Qlik: apply a filter, check what is selected, clear a selection.

Developer

The Developer tier adds content creation and load-script work. The assistant can create sheets, charts, filters, and reusable master dimensions and measures, and apply your styling. For script work, it can read, search, and edit the data load script, then reload the app and report the result. Renaming a field consistently across a script, or locating where a table is loaded, becomes a one-sentence request.

Full

The Full tier adds administrative tools on top of everything in Developer. Moving between tiers is a licence change, not a reinstallation — contact Stretch for a new licence to move up.

Guardrails on changes

Reading and answering questions works across any app a person has access to. Changes are deliberately narrower: the assistant only modifies a person's own unpublished apps. It will not edit a published app, and it will not touch an app that belongs to someone else — if asked, it says so and makes no change. Within a working copy, script edits are saved as versions that can be rolled back, and anything the assistant added can be deleted. In short: the assistant cannot break a production app.

Data flows: what leaves your network, and what does not

An honest answer here matters more than a reassuring one, so it is worth being precise.

The bundle itself runs on your infrastructure and communicates only with your own Qlik site. Nothing about the tools sends your data anywhere. The assistant, however, is driven by a large language model, and whatever your AI client sends to that model in order to answer a question does leave your network. The same as any other use of that client.

If the model is a cloud service, your questions and the data the assistant retrieves to answer them are transmitted to that provider. That is how cloud AI works, and it is true of any tool built on one.

The fully self-hosted option

For organisations whose data cannot leave the network at all — under strict regulatory or public-sector rules, for example — the answer is to run the model itself on your own hardware. Stretch offers exactly this: MCP for Qlik Sense can be paired with Qconnect AI's local LLM stack, where the models run on a machine inside your own network. In that configuration nothing is sent to any outside party: the question, the retrieved data, and the generated answer all stay inside your walls. For European organisations this also simplifies the GDPR picture considerably, since there is no third-party processor and no international data transfer to justify.

Deployment and operations

Installation

Setting up the bundle takes about an hour for someone comfortable with server administration. Getting started looks like this:

1. **Deploy the stack:** two ready-built images plus a front door that terminates TLS, running on your own infrastructure.
2. **Connect it to Qlik:** create the JWT virtual proxy that tells Qlik Sense to trust the bundle to sign your people in, then connect the MCP server to your Qlik site and activate your licence.
3. **Add your identity provider:** let people sign in with their normal company account, or create local accounts for a trial.
4. **Connect an AI client:** each person adds the bundle once in their own client, for example Claude Desktop. Then you ask your first question.

Administration

Day-to-day administration happens in the Admin Interface console: managing people, access, and licences. When someone leaves the organisation, disable their account in the console — or simply remove them from your company login if you use one, and their access to the tools stops shortly after, on their next request.

Support

The documentation at docs.stretchqconnect.com covers installation, sign-in and access, the toolset, troubleshooting, and upgrades. For issues beyond the common fixes, contact support with a short description of the problem, the exact message you saw, and the version numbers shown in the admin console.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Does our data leave our network?

The bundle itself runs on your infrastructure and talks only to your own Qlik site. What your AI client sends to its language model follows that client's normal behaviour — if the model is a cloud service, questions and retrieved data go to that provider, like any other use of that

client. If your data cannot leave your network at all, run the model yourself with the fully self-hosted setup described earlier.

Can someone see data they shouldn't?

No. Every request runs as the person asking, with exactly their Qlik permissions.

Can the assistant break one of our apps?

No. Changes only happen in a person's own unpublished apps, and script edits are versioned and reversible.

Do people need a separate login?

They can use their normal company account once you connect it. Local accounts are available for trials or small groups.

Which Qlik version do we need?

Qlik Sense on-premise (client-managed). Tested against the November 2024 release.

Which AI clients work?

Any client that supports custom connectors — for example Claude Desktop.

Does it change how Qlik works for everyone else?

No. One virtual proxy is added; nothing else in your environment changes.

Summary

MCP for Qlik Sense puts an AI assistant in front of the Qlik environment you already run — without changing your governance model. Access is enforced per person through your existing Qlik permissions, changes are confined to each person's own unpublished apps with versioned rollback, and the bundle itself runs entirely on your infrastructure. From asking a question in plain language to editing and reloading a script, the work happens where your data already lives, under the rules you already set.

To see it on your own kind of data, or to discuss licensing and the fully self-hosted setup, contact Stretch Qonnect at www.stretchqonnect.com.

From Data to Action