

What's New?

Crystal Reports XI

Most Requested User Enhancements – Included in Crystal Reports XI:

- Dynamic and Cascading Prompts
- HTML Preview
- Dynamic Image Location
- Editable RTF Format
- Intelligent Charting

Design, Manage, and Deliver Reports for Extreme Insight

A world standard for enterprise reporting, Crystal Reports is an intuitive reporting solution that helps customers rapidly create flexible, feature-rich, high-fidelity reports and tightly integrate them into web and windows applications.

The Crystal Reports enterprise reporting solution consists of:

- **Powerful report design:** Report authors can use the visual report designer (with a complete set of layout and design controls), to design highly formatted, interactive, and professional looking reports. And they can design within the leading .NET and java development tools without having to step out of their chosen development environment.
- **Flexible application development:** Developers can leverage cross-platform support for Java, .NET, and COM development technologies. HTML is generated directly by Crystal Reports, allowing developers to focus on application business logic, rather than tedious, time-intensive hand coding. Separation of application development and report design tasks allow developers to focus on application development, while the report authors can focus on report design.
- **Report management and delivery:** Reports are easily published to the web, for better business decisions at all levels of the organization. Reports can be exported and repurposed to the electronic formats used by most end users (e.g. PDF and Excel). IT can centralize the management of operational reporting while distributing the report authoring function out to the lines of business.

New to Crystal Reports XI are improved productivity features allowing you and your end users to experience high quality viewing, printing and exporting with less effort. This release also includes a new edition, Crystal Reports Server, designed for departmental enterprise reporting.

The following themes are an overview of what's new in Crystal Reports XI:

- Powerful Data Access and Report Design
- Enhanced Productivity and Maintenance
- Report Management and Delivery

Significant enhancements have also occurred within the existing feature set. New feature and enhancement highlights are provided in this document.

Crystal Reports XI

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Powerful Data Access and Report Design

Business Views

Access to Business Views eliminates the hassles associated with manually moving reports from development to production.

BusinessObjects Universes

Connect to BusinessObjects™ Enterprise universes, a powerful semantic layer that masks the complexity of the data, so that new or less experienced users can still understand the data.

Updated Drivers

Crystal Reports XML, JDBC, IBM DB2 and Exchange data drivers have been updated to give you an incredible range of data access options.

Dynamic Image Location

Pictures and graphics can now be placed in a report through a link in the database so that it is no longer necessary to store images within the database. This supports the common practice of storing images on the web server and storing references to those images in the database.

Updated Visual Report Designer

Use the updated point-and-click designer to create reports and alleviate intensive coding.

Intelligent Charting

New drag and drop charting and cross-tabs allow for intelligent charting. Variables are approximated when a chart is dropped into a section. Chart design is now faster and easier because charts will be updated automatically when new variables are added.

Hierarchical Grouping

Layout control is enhanced so that users can create their reports in a hierarchical, rather than just a relational manner. This provides a better fit for organizational charts and summary reports.

Enhanced Productivity and Maintenance

Dynamic and Cascading Prompts

Report prompts can be based on dynamic values. This means that report designers no longer have to maintain static prompt value lists within individual reports. Instead, they can reuse existing prompts stored in the repository.

HTML Preview

The iterative report design/view process is streamlined, with a new HTML preview that allows report authors to see how reports will look when published to the web.

Editable RTF Format

This new feature is ideal for report export editing. It delivers reports to end users in a new RTF format, so they can easily make their own document modifications.

Report Export Configuration

The report designer can save report export configuration information within the report itself so that the end user forgoes the time and trouble of reconfiguring the export each time a report is run.

Repository Explorer

Navigation within the BusinessObjects Enterprise system is easier. The user can to share reporting components with other users within the Crystal Reports Designer.

Workbench

The workbench keeps projects organized allowing report designers to group reports according to preference.

Dependency Checker

With the new dependency checker, report authors can quickly find broken links, formula errors, and dependency issues. This greatly reduces the time spent on QA.

Flexible Application Integration

Free Runtime Licensing

Crystal Reports Developer Edition includes a royalty-free runtime license that allows for unlimited internal corporate deployment of the Crystal Reports .NET, Java and COM (RDC) report engine components without the need to pay additional licensing fees for multiple servers or CPUs.

New and improved APIs

New and improved cross-platform APIs include server-side printing as well as the ability to configure sub reports as if they were full-blown reports.

Custom Java function Libraries

Developers can incorporate their own code within Crystal reports.

Data Binding

Java and .NET developers can take advantage of data binding by using unbound fields in the Crystal Reports Designer and binding application data to those fields at runtime.

Crystal Reports XI

Design, Manage, and Deliver Reports for Extreme Insight

Crystal Reports Server Lets You:

- Access and present data any way you want
- Deliver the right information to the right people at the right time
- Provides universal integration with applications and portals
- Drives your business with proven technology

Crystal Reports Server - Report Management and Delivery

New to the Crystal Reports product suite, Crystal Reports® Server is an enterprise reporting solution that helps companies create, manage, and deliver reports over the web or embedded in enterprise applications. Crystal Reports Server is designed to support departmental or workgroup requirements and is ideal for small- and medium-sized businesses. With Crystal Reports Server, you can design Crystal reports and then publish them to the web in a single server environment. To further support this new release, all Crystal Reports Server customers will receive one free year of technical support and maintenance.

Security

Take advantage of granular object, user, and data-level security by specifying user access and actions within a particular report.

Scheduling

Flexible scheduling capabilities allow you to ensure that information can be processed efficiently when and where you need it. Schedule reports based on events or at specific times and in the formats you require.

Scalable Central Architecture

To support high volume reporting, Crystal Reports Server uses a scalable, central architecture. It includes a set of report processing services for speed-of-thought information access. Innovative page-on-demand technology helps expedite processing by serving up only those pages requested by end users. On-demand caching helps maintain fast performance levels by reusing common content requests to service multiple users.

Get Help When You Need It

To help you overcome roadblocks as quickly as possible, the Business Objects online communities (Business Objects Developer and Report Design Zones) offer the latest sample applications, code snippets, troubleshooting tips, and white papers.

With Crystal Reports XI, you will be automatically alerted to the latest hot fixes and service packs.

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