

CRYSTAL REPORTS 2008

WHAT'S NEW

New in Crystal Reports 2008

Empower end users to explore reports interactively

Create compelling reports with stunning visualizations

Develop powerful data mashups

Save valuable report design time

Enjoy comprehensive report deployment options and an improved report designer

CRYSTAL REPORTS

Crystal Reports® from Business Objects, an SAP company, is an intuitive reporting solution that helps you create flexible, feature-rich, and dependable reports – tightly integrating them into both thick-client and thin-client applications. Crystal Reports provides you with:

- **Powerful report designer.** Report authors benefit from a complete set of layout and design controls to create highly formatted, interactive, and professional-looking reports. Use the standalone designer or the design tool integrated within Microsoft Visual Studio 2008, 2005, or 2003 without leaving the development environment.
- **Flexible application development.** Developers can easily leverage the full support for .NET. Crystal Reports generates HTML directly, allowing developers to focus on application business logic rather than tedious, time-intensive hand coding. Separating the application development and report design tasks allows your developers to focus on application development, while report authors can focus exclusively on report design.
- **Report management and delivery.** Reports are previewed in HTML and published to the Web for easy and controlled sharing – allowing for better business decisions at all levels of the organization. Reports can also be exported and repurposed in the most popular formats, such as PDF, Excel, and RTF. Your IT group can centralize the management of operational reporting while distributing the report authoring function to the lines of business.

CRYSTAL REPORTS 2008

Crystal Reports 2008 is a powerful, dynamic, actionable reporting solution that helps you design, explore, visualize, and deliver reports via the Web or embedded in enterprise applications. It enables end users to consume reports with stunning visualizations, conduct on-report business modeling, and execute decisions instantly from the report itself – reducing dependency on IT and developer resources.

The following is an overview of the key benefits provided by Crystal Reports 2008:

- Empower end users to explore reports interactively.
- Create compelling reports with stunning visualizations.
- Develop powerful data mashups.
- Save valuable report design time.
- Enjoy comprehensive report deployment options and an improved report designer.

INTERACT: Empower Your End Users to Explore Reports Interactively

- **Xcelsius integration.** Import Xcelsius®-generated SWF files into your report and benefit from improved design-time integration and stunning visualizations. Enhance your reports with what-if scenario models that enable users to make important decisions dynamically, without leaving the report file.

- **Adobe Flex integration.** Integrate your reports with operational workflows by embedding Adobe Flex (SWF) applications into your reports. Using Adobe Flex Builder, you can create any business-user user interface to access report data and integrate with external Web services. Data in your report can be passed to the Flex application via FlashVars, making it easy to create a flexible user interface even when you don't have access to your data via Web services. The Flex applications can do tasks like database write-back – invoking operational workflows directly within Crystal Reports.
- **Parameter panel.** The report designer and the .NET Winform and .NET Webform viewers have a parameter panel so that parameter values can be set without refreshing data. Parameters used are displayed on the panel so that report consumers can easily see them, make changes, and have the new values applied directly to the saved data. Report designers build the parameter panels into their reports prior to publishing them for the end user's consumption.
- **Interactive report viewing.** On-report sorting, filtering, and report reformatting with the .NET Winform and NET Webform viewers allows users to explore information interactively without re-querying the database. New optional parameters provide for complex, user-driven filtering scenarios. Users can answer more business questions with fewer, more flexible reports – significantly reducing developer and IT support dependency. The filtering panels and sorting buttons are prebuilt into the report based on the requirements set upfront by the report consumers.

VISUALIZE: Create Compelling Reports with Stunning Visualizations

- **Adobe Flash integration:** A wide variety of flexible data presentation options are now available through Flash. Flash (SWF) files can be integrated into your report and report data can be shared with SWF via FlashVars for compelling, interactive, and information-rich reports. The SWF files can be embedded in the report or linked via a Web site.
- **Powerful cross-tabs:** Summary, variance, and any other customer calculations can be inserted into a cross-tab row or a column – especially useful for reports that benefit from a table structure such as financial reports. The cross-tab table structure makes reports much faster to build and maintain. This feature also provides powerful benefits to cross-tab-based charts since custom formulas in the cross-tab can be visualized within the charts.
- **Flexible pagination:** Report designers can customize page size and easily control page breaking after N records/groups. A single report can combine portrait and landscaped pages, and the white space at the end of groups can be removed by compressing page footers. Online report consumption is improved because reports are easier to read.

DESIGN: Develop Powerful Data Mashups

- **Integration with Xcelsius, Adobe Flex, and Adobe Flash.** Developers now have the ability to produce powerful mashups (that is, hybrid Web applications), pulling data from various sources. They can easily integrate components designed in Flash and Flex without any coding, and significantly expand the scope of their application deployment.
- **Web services data driver.** Integrating with various Web services is difficult and complex due to a variety of implementation types. The new data driver offers additional Web access to Web services by providing support for RPC encoding of SOAP messages, SSL-secured Web servers, as well as a working compatibility with the WS-Security standards. It adapts to custom logon requirements such as email addresses or user/password. Developers combine the flexibility of XML and Web services with report formatting and visualization to deliver reports that link report data to sophisticated interactive data mashups such as integration with third-party mapping systems.

DESIGN: Save Valuable Report Design Time

- **Built-in barcode support.** Generate barcodes with only a few clicks of the mouse by using the new “turn to barcode” function in the context menu. Easily convert fields to Code39 barcodes without any coding or extra steps. Additional barcode fonts are available from third-party vendors.
- **Enhanced designer features.** Report designer will be more productive with features like global formula search, duplicate formula, duplicate running total, auto complete field names, and the Find in Field Explorer feature.
- **Single edition.** Crystal Reports 2008 comes in a single edition that is the feature equivalent of the old Developer Edition. This single offering provides customers with quick access to the features they need to meet any application and user requirement. Report samples and developer documentation are now a free, optional download.
- **Multilingual reporting.** Choose the working language you prefer by simply selecting the language packs you wish to use during product installation. Then switch the report designer user interface to use any of the installed language packs. The report content locale can also be explicitly set for each report file. This setting controls sorting, grouping, and formatting that matches the local language customs and conventions.
- **Reduced install footprint.** The download size has been reduced to 250MB to provide fast access via the download site. The runtime files included in developer applications are also significantly smaller.

DEPLOY: Enjoy Comprehensive Deployment Options

- **Save reports directly to crystalreports.com.** Expand your deployment options with on-demand reporting capabilities when you open and save reports directly to crystalreports.com. This new integration allows you to manage and share your reports securely without dependency on IT.
- **Integrated salesforce.com driver.** The salesforce.com driver included with Crystal Reports 2008 allows for easy access to complete customer data – turning it into actionable business information. Reports that use a salesforce.com driver will refresh when deployed to crystalreports.com.
- **Improved XML exporting.** Render reports in almost any format and enjoy faster and easier integration with your industry-specific business processes – without any custom coding. The XSL transformations (XSLT) are embedded into the report file and will be triggered by users from within the viewer when exporting to XML. This provides a powerful, flexible hook for transforming Crystal Reports data and integrating it into other applications.
- **Crystal Reports .NET report modification software development kit (SDK).** The Crystal report application server (RAS) SDK is now available for users of Crystal Reports .NET API without the use of a RAS server. Report modification such as changing, adding, or removing database providers, or adding, removing, or creating report objects, parameters, formulas, and sections can be achieved by accessing the RAS SDK through the Crystal Reports .NET SDK.

WHAT'S CHANGED

In an effort to improve the Crystal Reports experience, we've made some changes to certain components of Crystal Reports 2008:

- **Reports samples and sample database.** To reduce download time, report samples and the Xtreme sample database are now accessed through separate downloads on the Start Page of Crystal Reports 2008.

- **.NET developer SDK documentation, merge modules, and MSI files.** .NET developer documentation, merge modules, and MSI files are now accessed through separate downloads on the Start Page of Crystal Reports 2008.
- **Report developer component (RDC).** The RDC is unsupported in Crystal Reports 2008. Developers wishing to use Crystal Reports in a COM application should use Crystal Reports XI Release 2. The ActiveX viewer remains a fully supported component of Crystal Reports 2008.
- **Advanced DHTML viewers.** The Advanced DHTML viewers have been removed from Crystal Reports 2008 because the improvements to the DHTML viewers make these additional viewers unnecessary.
- **Java reporting component (JRC) availability and Java SDK documentation.** Java developers now receive the JRC and Java SDK documentation through the free Crystal Reports for Eclipse download. This product will be updated on a separate schedule from Crystal Reports. Visit the start page in Crystal Reports 2008 for more information on updates to Crystal Reports for Eclipse.

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