

INFORMATION

What's New: Crystal Reports Designer

What's New

Crystal Reports Designer contains many new productivity enhancing features, including dynamic and cascading prompts, editable RTF export, and formula-driven graphic location.

What's New in Crystal Reports Designer

Crystal Reports® Designer has many new and exciting features including:

Dynamic and Cascading Prompts

Prompt pick lists can now be populated from dynamic data sources like report tables, command objects, and Business Views. They can be arranged in a cascade, where the value of one pick list constrains the next. This means that report designers will no longer have to maintain pick list values within the report.

This new prompting capability is supported throughout Crystal Reports components, including the Designer, BusinessObjects Enterprise Scheduling UI, and Viewers. NOTE: This functionality is not yet included with the Java Reporting Component (JRC), or the Java Applet Viewer.

When combined with Business Views, innovative new functionality is available including secured, personalized pick lists as well as scheduled and partially scheduled pick lists for improving overall system scalability. Additionally, Business Views Manager offers robust administrative capabilities like managing prompt cache time and selecting the server group for pick list processing.

Editable RTF Export

Crystal Reports now offers two types of RTF export, depending on your needs. The current 'exact' RTF export is ideal for high-fidelity uses such as forms processing where an accurate representation of the report is required. The new Editable RTF exports without text boxes and is ideal for easy editing after export.

Formula-driven Graphic Location

Graphics can now be incorporated into the report through a URL or UNC path. This means that data-driven graphics no longer have to be stored in the database as blob fields, but instead can be stored on a web server and simply referenced in the database. This makes it easier to build graphical reports and provides a more powerful way to incorporate custom graphics.

New Formula Language Functions

- New functions have been added to the already comprehensive Crystal Reports formula language:
- HierarchyLevel returns the current level in the hierarchy when Hierarchical Grouping is enabled.
- GroupingLevel returns the current group level and is used with HierarchyLevel
- URLEncode allows for the easy generation of URL links.
- MRound rounds values to the nearest multiple of another value.

- Ceiling round values up to the nearest multiple of another value.
- Floor rounds values down to the nearest multiple of another value.
- RoundUp rounds a value up to a specified number of places.
- CurrentCEUserTimeZone returns the time zone of the current BusinessObjects Enterprise user set in InfoView.
- DateTimeZone returns the time zone of the DateTime special field.
- PrintTimeZone returns the time zone of the PrintTime special field.
- ShiftDateTime adjusts a time value to appear in a different time zone.
- ContentLocale returns the locale that the reporting engine is running in.

These new formulas will make it easier to integrate with other web content, and deliver global reports where users are in different time zones from the data source.

Patch Install

Crystal Reports Designer now includes an optional update function that notifies you when a patch is available. This ensures that you always have the most up-to-date improvements. Rest assured that your privacy is protected. Business Objects requires only the version number of the software you are running in order to keep you informed.

Designer Workbench

The designer workbench allows you to group your reports according to your preferences. It accommodates reports on local drives, and reports in BusinessObjects Enterprise systems. Publishing of multiple reports to BusinessObjects Enterprise can be done either individually or as an object package. This feature makes it much easier to organize and find the reports you're working on.

Dependency Checker

The dependency checker scans reports looking for syntax errors in formulas and any missing repository objects that are used by the report. It provides a list of any issues found in the report and allows you to quickly navigate to the location of the error. Reports can be deployed with every confidence that they are error free.

Start Page

The new start page provides updated content to inform you of the latest Crystal Reports resources. This feature allows you to connect with the tools and information you need to optimize your Crystal Reports technology.

HTML Preview

You can generate an accurate HTML preview of your report from within the design environment. BusinessObjects Enterprise or the Report Application Server (part of Crystal Reports Server) can be used as the deployment environment.

Integrated Management of BusinessObjects Enterprise Documents

The repository explorer has been updated to provide easy logon/logoff to BusinessObjects Enterprise systems. It integrates with the Central Management Console for trouble-free configuration of BusinessObjects Enterprise reports. This greatly simplifies management, security, and scheduling capabilities.

Improved Charting Experience

Crystal Reports automatically chooses the most sensible type of chart, based on typical options and charting options are easier to find.

Easier-to-Use Crosstabs

Drag and drop hints have been improved to make it easier to add items to a crosstab.

Support for Wide Images

Support has been improved for images that are wider than a page.

Improved Hierarchical Grouping

The hierarchical grouping feature now renders group footers in a nested rather than a linear manner. This allows for report footers to be positioned in way that reflects the hierarchical nature of the data. This makes it easier to build reports on hierarchical data such as financial structures and organization charts.

Formula-Driven X Position

Formulas can be used to set the X position of objects. This allows for certain fields (when combined with the hierarchical grouping features) to be indented based on their position in the hierarchy – and other fields can be in the same column.

Convert Nulls to Default Values in Formula Workshop

You can now select how nulls should be handled in each formula. Backwards compatibility means that when the formula engine encounters a null it will throw an exception by default. In Crystal Reports XI, you can set a formula to use default values when a null is encountered. This can be set per formula so you can apply as appropriate.

Save Export Options with Report

Export options for Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Excel Data Only can be saved with the report. These are the default options to use when exporting from any Crystal Reports viewer or scheduling user interface. The report designer is able to select the best export options to use for the report, with the ability to persist the settings wherever the report is used.

Parameterized Group Sorting and TopN

A formula can now be used as group sort order, and for the N in a TopN group. This allows for more flexible reports and better control for the end report user.