

# LEVERAGING THE CRYSTAL REPORTS ECOSYSTEM

## CONSIDERING MICROSOFT REPORTING SERVICES? THINK AGAIN!

Consider these factors before committing to Reporting Services:

- 1) **It's not free.** In fact, it's only a component of SQL Server. To expand your reporting capability, you will need additional SQL Server database reporting server licenses – even if all you need to do is expand your reporting capacity.
- 2) **It encourages poor IT practices.** Separating application processing from the database server is a well-known best practice. Combining report processing and database processing on the same server degrades database server scalability and performance.
- 3) **It has a limited choice of deployment options.** Reporting Services reports can be consumed over the Web only with Microsoft SQL Server as the database, or if it's embedded into a .NET WinForm application.

## INTRODUCING THE CRYSTAL REPORTS ECOSYSTEM OF PRODUCTS

Crystal Reports<sup>®</sup> from Business Objects, an SAP company, gives you a comprehensive set of reporting solutions for integrating into .NET applications, or for use in a standalone reporting server implementation.

More than just a report design tool, the Crystal Reports ecosystem encompasses a suite of products that covers the complete spectrum of your reporting needs – from application integration to standalone reporting to large-scale business intelligence (BI) implementations.

This information sheet describes two scenarios in which you can use the Crystal Reports ecosystem to address your reporting needs:

- Reporting in a .NET application using Crystal Reports 2008
- Leveraging a standalone reporting portal using Crystal Reports Server XI

## REPORT IN A .NET APPLICATION USING CRYSTAL REPORTS 2008

You need cost-effective and powerful reporting for your .NET application. The solution? Crystal Reports 2008.

## ADVANTAGES OF CRYSTAL REPORTS 2008

### Superior Report Designer

- The Crystal Reports 2008 report designer tool allows you to make changes to the report fields and format in view mode, without having to switch between report design and preview mode – saving time in the report design cycle.
- Comprehensive formula workshop helps report designers to add conditional logic to their reports.
- The graphical database expert tool allows drag-and-drop table joins – without writing any SQL.

- Meet the formatting and readability needs of report consumers by easily creating professional-looking reports.
- Your report designers have complete control over all aspects of a report's appearance throughout the design cycle via conditional logic embedded in the report, or the comprehensive .NET application programming interface (API).

### Support for Adobe Flash and Adobe Flex

- Crystal Reports 2008 supports Adobe Flash and Flex integration, enabling powerful visualizations using industry-standard tools.
- Operational reporting workflows support report integration with back-office Web services, via embedded Adobe Flex models.
- What-if scenarios are possible using Xcelsius®-based Flash models.

### Financial Reporting

- Powerful new crosstab features enable rapid financial report creation.
- You only need one reporting tool with Crystal Reports 2008.

### Easy Deployment

- Crystal Reports 2008 is a self-contained reporting engine with no database dependency.
- The Crystal Reports 2008 runtime engine is easily deployed to your server with your choice of a 24 MB self-extracting .exe file, .MSI, or MSM file.

### Interactivity

- The Crystal Reports 2008 viewers now support a new parameter panel, sort controls, and optional parameters that deliver strong interactivity to report consumers. This new interactivity lets you solve your reporting problems with fewer reports, resulting in reduced report proliferation and lower total cost of ownership.

## STANDALONE REPORTING PORTAL USING CRYSTAL REPORTS SERVER XI

You need a standalone reporting portal. The solution? Crystal Reports Server XI, which includes Crystal Reports XI and BusinessObjects™ Live Office, for integration of reports into Microsoft Office documents, and Crystal Reports Viewer XI – a standalone interactive report viewer and free add-on.

## ADVANTAGES OF CRYSTAL REPORTS SERVER XI

### Superior Report Designer

- The Crystal Reports XI report designer tool allows report designers to make changes to the report fields and format in view mode, without having to switch between report design and preview mode – saving time in the report design cycle.
- Comprehensive formula workshop helps your users add conditional logic to their reports.
- The graphical database expert tool allows drag-and-drop table joins – without writing any SQL.
- Meet the formatting and readability needs of report consumers by easily creating professional-looking reports.
- Your report designers have complete control over all aspects of a report's appearance throughout the design cycle via conditional logic embedded in the report, or the comprehensive .NET API.

## Microsoft Office Integration

- Crystal Reports Server XI includes BusinessObjects Live Office, which integrates live, refreshable reports into Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel documents.

## Semantic Layer Support

- The powerful business views semantic layer provides data-level security – even for scheduled reports.

## Offline Report Viewing

- Crystal Reports Viewer XI is a free, standalone report viewer that enables interactive report viewing with saved data, even when you're disconnected from your server.

## Software as a Service (SaaS) Deployments

- CrystalReports.com allows you to share reports online, and we host your files for you – so there's no need to deploy anything or to depend on IT.

## Report Off Multiple Data Sources

- You can join data from multiple spreadsheets and databases with Crystal Reports Server, eliminating the overhead of migrating data into a consolidated database

## ADVANTAGES OF THE CRYSTAL REPORTS ECOSYSTEM

Whether you need to add reporting to a .NET application or to your SQL Server database, Crystal Reports is a superior choice to Microsoft Reporting Services.

### Experience

- Crystal Reports has been uniquely focused on reporting for over 15 years.

### Independence

- Crystal Reports complements typical IT environments, and is not used as a means to sell more database software.
- Crystal Reports is built to work with technologies and databases from multiple vendors including, but not limited to, Microsoft.

### Partners

- With hundreds of partners providing add-on products and services to Crystal Reports, odds are there's a solution to your problem in our comprehensive Crystal Reports ecosystem of products.

### People

- 15 years of reporting experience has created a thriving ecosystem of independent consultants and IT professionals with Crystal Reports skills.

## CONCLUSION

Crystal Reports delivers both a reporting tool *and* a complete solution that is superior to Microsoft Reporting Services. Crystal Reports from Business Objects is:

- More powerful.
- More complete.
- A more comprehensive ecosystem of partners and products.

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