



What's New in Crystal Reports XI R2



Introduction

This section provides a high-level overview of the components, features, and benefits that are provided by the latest release of Crystal Reports:

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You can find new features and enhancements within all of the major areas.

Crystal Reports XI R2

Crosstabs

Drag and drop crosstab enhancement

Dragging fields from a crosstab now discards the field when you drop it in an area that cannot accept the field (the field is inserted when you drop it in an appropriate area).

You can also drag supported fields from the designer into a crosstab.

Note: Dragging a crosstab summary field is not supported.

Enterprise connectivity

After you log in to BusinessObjects Enterprise and navigate through the folders to the desired location, the program retains the folder that you last visited. After closing the Enterprise Open or Save As dialog boxes, the last visited folder is displayed when you reopen them.

Exporting

PDF

A new option, called “Create bookmarks from group tree,” uses the group tree from the source Crystal report to create bookmarks in the exported PDF output, making the PDF export easier to navigate.

Excel - Data Only

A new option, “Show group outlines,” includes grouping information from the source Crystal report for use with Excel outline symbols information in the exported Excel spreadsheet, making the Excel export easier to navigate.

Separated Values (CSV)

- Several important changes have been made to this feature:
 - There are new options to control how report/page/group sections appear in the CSV export.
 - The feature now respects conditional suppression in your report.
 - The output is now in UTF-8 format.
- An option, called “Legacy Mode,” has been provided to ease the migration of existing reports. All customers are encouraged to move to “Standard Mode” as soon as possible.

For more information, go to <http://support.crystaldecisions.com> and search for `boe_xi2_csv_export.pdf`.

Formatting

Custom colors

You can now save custom colors in Crystal Reports. Custom colors are automatically stored when you exit the program.

Format Painter and Status bar

Formatting multiple objects with the Format Painter has been enhanced to be more intuitive. The status bar at the bottom of the designer is now used to display a message that tells you the requirements needed to accomplish the task.

You can format multiple objects by double-clicking the Format Painter button, or by holding down the ALT key while painting objects. When you double-click the buttons for lines, boxes, and text objects, you can create multiple items.

Formulas

Add summaries for all group levels

Use this option to add summaries to all levels of a group at once.

Autocomplete in the Formula Editor

In the Formula Editor, the auto-completion list appears when you type an open brace “{” to signify a field. The auto-completion list contains the fields available in the report. This feature works for other report objects, such as parameter fields, formula fields, and SQL Expressions.

Tip: A related feature that is available in the Formula Editor is the ability to use Ctrl+Space to see a list of the available functions.

Double-clicking formulas, Running Totals, SQL Expressions, or parameter fields in the Field Explorer

Double-clicking a formula in the Field Explorer opens that formula in the Formula Editor.

- Double-clicking a Running Total opens the Running Total Field dialog box.
- Double-clicking a parameter field opens the Parameter dialog box.
- Double-clicking a SQL Expression opens the SQL Expression Editor.

Duplicate formulas, parameters, and Running Totals

An option called Duplicate is available when you right-click a formula, an SQL Expression, or a Running Total field in the Field Explorer. For formulas, you can also see this option in the Formula Editor.

“Find in Formulas” and “Find in Field Explorer”

- You can now search for fields in formulas and in the Field Explorer.
To use the “Find in Formula” option, right-click any type of field in the Field Explorer, Report Explorer, or Design area of Crystal Reports and select “Find in Formula.” The Formula Workshop displays all relevant references for this field in any formula.
- To use the “Find in Field Explorer” option on a report field, right-click any type of field in your report’s Design area and select “Find in Field Explorer.” The program highlights the selected field in the Field Explorer.

In general, the Find functionality for formulas in the Formula Workshop has been greatly enhanced to support searching across all formulas.

Formula field remains highlighted after exiting the Formula Editor

After you edit a formula and close the Formula Editor, the selected formula remains highlighted in the Field Explorer.

General report functionality

Conditional width

You can now use a formula to specify a conditional width (y position) for a report object. This functionality is similar to the current option to conditionally adjust the x position of the report object.

Find dialog box

The Find dialog box has been modified to allow it to remain in the foreground while you work on your report.

Online help

The online help dialog box has been modified to allow it to remain in the background while you work on your report.

Sort field lists in the Field Explorer

By right-clicking a table under Database Fields, you now have the option to sort the database fields alphabetically. You can also right-click "Database Fields" in the Field Explorer to sort the tables alphabetically.

Swap fields

By holding down the Shift key and dragging fields from the Field Explorer, you can now replace other fields in your document (that is, swap one for another). The size, placement, and formatting of the old object is kept, and the new object replaces it.

HTML Preview tab

The search capability of the HTML Preview tab has been enhanced. The program now returns all occurrences of the search criteria it encounters on a page—not just the first occurrence on a page. Also, when the search reaches the last page of the report, it will continue searching from the first page of the report.

Note: This enhanced search capability is also available in the DHTML viewer.

Repository Explorer

Delete/Move Enterprise objects

In the Repository Explorer, you can now move reports and folders under the Enterprise Items folder.

Categories

You can now create, move, and rename categories in the Repository Explorer. Options for reports in categories are Assign and Remove. You also have the ability to move reports to and between categories. Use drag a drop from other categories or Enterprise folders to assign categories.

Note: Reports cannot be dragged from a category to a folder because categories are, essentially, shortcuts.

Expand icon

Empty folders no longer show the expand (+) icon in the Repository Explorer.

Shortcut support

Shortcut support has been added to the Repository Explorer.

Workbench

Add Current Report

A new feature in the Workbench is “Add current report.” This feature lets you add the currently open report to the Workbench.

Application development

Report Application Server (RAS)

The Report Application Server contains several new features. For more information on these features, see the Crystal Reports Developer's Help.

- New ModifyUserPaperSize API.
- New ReplaceConnection API.
- Export format enums match new Crystal Reports options.
- Saved-report export options have been added.
- Support for sessionless RAS has been added.

Java Reporting Component (JRC)

The Java Reporting Component contains many new features. For more information on these features, see the Java Reporting Component API Reference.

- The JRC now supports dynamic locations for graphics.
- The JRC now supports exporting to editable RTF and CSV formats.
- The JRC now supports XML data sets as a run-time data source.
- The JRC now includes APIs for new server-side functionality:
 - Saving reports to the file system (using ReportClientDocument).
 - Printing and exporting (using the print output controller).
 - Setting parameters (using the parameter field controller).
 - Setting database logon (using the database controller).
- The JRC now has updated Locale support with setLocale.
- The JRC now provides a sample that demonstrates how to use Plain Old Java Objects (POJO) as a data source for reports.

Crystal Reports .NET

Crystal Reports .NET contains many new features. For more information on these features, see the Crystal Reports .NET Online Help.

- Crystal Reports fully supports the new ClickOnce deployment of Windows applications introduced in Visual Studio 2005.
- Code snippets for Crystal Reports are available when building Web Sites or Windows projects using Visual Basic.
- Several improvements have been made to the CrystalReportViewer control.
- Accessibility has been improved in Crystal Reports .NET.
- Crystal Reports .NET supports international characters through Unicode and GB18030-2000, the Chinese character encoding standard.
- In Crystal Reports .NET, the Preview tab has been added to the embedded Crystal Reports Designer to enable you to preview reports at design time.
- Project templates can be selected when creating a new web site or Windows project.

Future deprecation notices

General description

As technologies change, the use of these technologies at Business Objects also changes. Most of the time this evolution is managed transparently without impact to you. Occasionally, support for certain technologies or features must be modified in such a way that you are affected. If a feature becomes unsupported, advance notice will be provided. The goal at Business Objects is to provide notice at least two releases before that feature becomes unsupported.

Occasionally technology changes so quickly that such notice cannot be provided. In these instances, the case will be noted as an exception to our policy and notice of one release will be provided.

Sample reports and sample application code can be deprecated, unsupported, and removed from the product with no notice.

The time between announcing deprecation of a feature, and the end of support for a feature is known as the deprecation period. During the deprecation period, deprecated features are fully supported within the product, and technical support is available for these features for as long as that version of the suite is supported.

Due to rapid changes in third-party platforms, modifications to the supported platforms list will occur shortly before each released version of the product. These changes are not subject to the release-notice policy because Business Objects does not control them.

Note: Deprecation announcements within this document are subject to change based on customer feedback and other factors.

Crystal Reports

- COM DHTML Page Viewer, COM DHTML Advanced Viewer, COM DHTML Parts Viewer, COM DHTML Grid Viewer, Java Grid Viewer, and Java Advanced Viewer.

The Page and Parts viewers have equivalent replacements in .NET in XI currently, and the Advanced Viewer and Grid Viewer features will be considered for addition to the .NET Webform viewer in the Future Release. The ActiveX viewer is not being deprecated.

- RDC (Report Design Component).

This deprecation includes both the RDC SDK and the embedded Visual Basic designer.

- The .NET, Java, and COM Mobile Parts Viewers.

Trends in mobile technology indicate that more mobile devices are able to consume plain HTML, making mobile specific viewers unnecessary. In BusinessObjects XI Release 2, support will be added for the Blackberry Enterprise Server as a supported consumer of PDF files generated by Crystal Reports.

Report Application Server

- RAS COM SDK.
- Connection Directory Manager.

The capability provided by this feature will be replaced with repository-based connection objects.

COM SDKs

This document announces the deprecation of most public COM (Component Object Model) SDKs in Crystal Reports and BusinessObjects Enterprise.

COM is a Microsoft technology and Business Objects will follow the trends set by Microsoft for support of this technology. At the time of writing, Microsoft has announced that COM-based development tools, such as Visual Basic 6 and Visual C++ 6, will become unsupported over the next few years. Visual Basic 6 will be unsupported in March 2008 and Visual C++ 6 will be unsupported in September 2005.

COM SDKs from Business Objects will be supported in BusinessObjects XI Release 2 for a period of 3-5 years after the release of that version. This means that a supported COM SDK solution will be available until support for BusinessObjects XI Release 2 is retracted in the 2008-2010 time frame.

The migration path for these technologies is described below.

XI COM Based Technology	Replacement Technology available in BusinessObjects XI
BusinessObjects Enterprise CSP pages BusinessObjects Enterprise ASP pages	JSP ASPX
BusinessObjects Enterprise COM SDK	BusinessObjects Enterprise Java SDK BusinessObjects Enterprise.NET SDK BusinessObjects Enterprise Server Controls BusinessObjects web services JSF Control
Viewrpt.cwr for URL reporting	Viewrpt (Java servlet) Viewrpt.aspx Opendocument (Java servlet) Opendocument.aspx
Crystal Reports Report Application Server (RAS) COM SDK	Crystal Reports Java SDK Crystal Reports .NET SDK RAS Java SDK RAS .NET SDK
Crystal Reports Report Design Component (RDC)	Crystal Reports Java SDK Crystal Reports.NET SDK
Crystal Reports COM DHTML Viewer	Crystal Reports Java DHTML Viewer Crystal Reports.NET DHTML Viewer

OLAP Intelligence

- Saved views.
This feature will be replaced with Save As functionality.
- Reporting experts.
- Pivot control within the Dimension Explorer.
- Hyperion Essbase Legacy driver.
This driver will be replaced with a new, enhanced driver.
- IBM DB2 OLAP Legacy driver.
This driver will be replaced with a new, enhanced driver.

Data Integrator

- MQ Series Technology Interface.
This functionality will be replaced by the JMS Technology Interface.

BusinessObjects Enterprise

- Crystal Server Pages (CSP) and Web Component Adapter (WCA).
With BusinessObjects XI, JAVA and .NET are the primary application server technologies supported.
- Enterprise COM SDK.
- Processing extensions on both the Windows and UNIX platforms.
In the Future Release Business Objects plans to introduce a public semantic layer SDK that will support current processing extension use cases.
- SOCKS proxy servers.
If you are using SOCKS proxy servers now, it is recommended that you switch to a different firewall method. See the *BusinessObjects Enterprise Administrator's Guide* for more information on firewall support.