**TIBCO Spotfire**

**Extension Research**

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**1. Introduction**

TIBCO Cloud Spotfire has multiple different versions. Each version offers a wide selection of functions, extensions, usages, and capabilities. In this documentation, I will be sharing what I have researched about the available extensions offered by TIBCO Cloud Spotfire.

As of writing this documentation, I have yet to implement any of these extra features and extensions as it does not benefit the project. This is because most of the extensions serves to improve the UI or capabilities of the TIBCO Cloud Spotfire App. It DOES NOT offer any integration options to external projects.

Only the web services and JavaScript API provided by TIBCO can be used to create an external application that can leverage TIBCO Cloud Spotfire. However, the programming language used is C# in Windows Forms.

Through research, I have managed to find an alternative solution. I will share my solution in the last topic of this documentation; Topic 5.4: Summary.

**2. Objective**

Explore how to use TIBCO framework to work with application on:

1. How to upload data to TIBCO cloud
2. How to inform subscribers on any update to data
3. How subscriber can retrieve information from TIBCO

Basically, how to create useful app that can leverage on TIBCO framework

**3. Research**

TIBCO Cloud Spotfire has numerous versions.

Variants include Analyst, Business Author, Consumer, and Library Storage.

A full list of documentation can be found [here](https://community.tibco.com/wiki/tibco-cloudtm-spotfirer-frequently-asked-questions-0) and [here](http://docs.spotfire.cloud.tibco.com/spotfire/index.html).

Subscription models can be found [here](https://www.tibco.com/products/tibco-spotfire/editions-pricing#pricing).

With a Spotfire Analyst Subscription, I have access to Analyst features.

I have access to a Web Client (Only Analyst and BA) and Desktop Client (Only Analyst).

I will be talking about the Web Client and Desktop Client.

* Web Client
  + Web client, accessed in browsers
  + Official name: TIBCO Cloud™ Spotfire®
  + Often confused as Cloud
  + Access to base features for analytics
* Desktop Client
  + Installed client, a desktop application
  + Official name: TIBCO Cloud™ Spotfire® Analyst
  + Also called as Desktop author, Cloud desktop
  + Base features + More features, allow extensions.

Both Web Client and Desktop Client uses the same login and interface.

However, Analyst has more features and allows for extensions.

A Community Forum question can be found [here](https://community.tibco.com/questions/spotfire-cloud-vs-desktop-authoring).

**4. Official Documentation**

With a Spotfire Cloud Analyst subscription, a copy of the official TIBCO Cloud Spotfire documentation will be given [here](http://docs.spotfire.cloud.tibco.com/spotfire/index.html), and a free copy of the Desktop Client.

At the bottom of the documentation [link](http://docs.spotfire.cloud.tibco.com/spotfire/index.html) will be instructions on how to download a free copy of the Desktop Client, and downloading data source drivers to use with the Desktop Client.

**4.1 Desktop Client Download Instructions**

To download a copy of Desktop Client, go to your TIBCO Cloud Spotfire Library, then to the Resources tab. There will contain the download for the installers for the Desktop Client, and data source drivers.

**5. Results**

**5.1 How To Upload Data To TIBCO Cloud**

TIBCO Cloud has two ways of uploading data. By uploading a local data source, or linking an online data source

**5.2 How To Inform Subscribers On Any Update To Data**

An alert extension exists for TIBCO Spotfire. It is called TIBCO Spotfire® Alerting Extension. This extension allows leverage for existing Spotfire analyses to Register and Monitor alerts.

It can be used to send emails to contributors/viewers on any changes to the analyses, with configurable settings. More can be found [here](https://community.tibco.com/wiki/spotfire-alerting-extension) and [here](https://community.tibco.com/questions/how-download-or-purchase-alert-monitoring-extension-spotfire).

**5.3 How Subscriber Can Retrieve Information From TIBCO**

There is a subscriber type called Consumer, and they can only view analyses. Alternatively, an HTML iframe tag can be used, or anyone with the link.

With the viewing of analyses, the option to export and download the visualisations are also available. Consumer subscribers have very limited functionalities and may be buggy at times as well.

**5.4 Summary**

The Spotfire APIs and extensions are to be served as build-ons onto the Spotfire Desktop App to make it more powerful. Only web services and Spotfire JavaScript API can leverage the visualisations externally, which cannot be utilized in this project.

The solution I have found is to use a live database. By hosting a live database used by both Spotfire and an external application, I can leverage the visualisations externally with my custom created SpotfireDemo Application.

Using a SpotfireDemo Application, I can modify the live database. The changes made in the live database will then be reflected onto the Spotfire visualisations in real time.

**6 References**

Official Documentation 1:

<https://community.tibco.com/wiki/tibco-cloudtm-spotfirer-frequently-asked-questions-0>

Official Documentation 2:

<http://docs.spotfire.cloud.tibco.com/spotfire/index.html>

Spotfire Subscriptions:

<https://www.tibco.com/products/tibco-spotfire/editions-pricing#pricing>

Spotfire Community Question:

<https://community.tibco.com/questions/spotfire-cloud-vs-desktop-authoring>

Spotfire Alert Extension:

<https://community.tibco.com/wiki/spotfire-alerting-extension>

Spotfire Alert Extension Purchase:

<https://community.tibco.com/questions/how-download-or-purchase-alert-monitoring-extension-spotfire>

More Spotfire Information:

<https://community.tibco.com/products/spotfire>

<https://community.tibco.com/wiki/extending-tibco-spotfire>