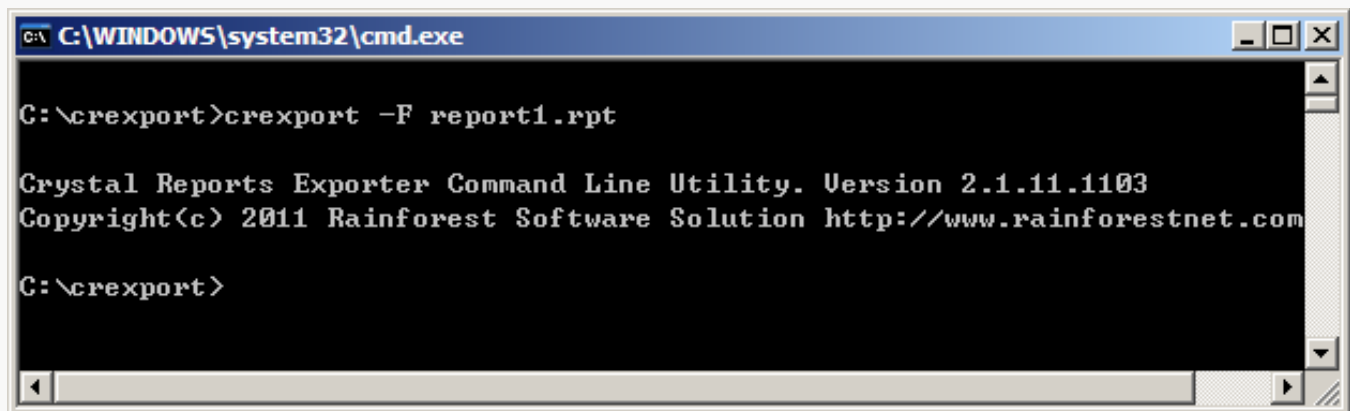# Cyrstal Reports Commandline Exporter

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## Introduction

1. Crystal Reports Exporter is a free Windows Command Line tool (a.k.a. Windows Console program) that enables user to *refresh*, *export* and *Print* Crystal Reports (.rpt) file into various formats without [SAP Crystal Reports](#) installed.

2. Crystal Reports Exporter is *free of charge* since February of 2003. It is a *freeware*.

3. Requires only .NET Framework 4 and SAP Crystal Reports runtime engine for .NET Framework 4 (please see [download](#) page) to run.

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe                                    _ □ X

C:\crexport>crexport -F report1.rpt

Crystal Reports Exporter Command Line Utility. Version 2.1.11.1103
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C:\crexport>
```

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## Download

In order to use Crystal Reports Exporter, you need to have Microsoft .NET framework 4 and Crystal Reports runtime engine for .NET Framework 4.
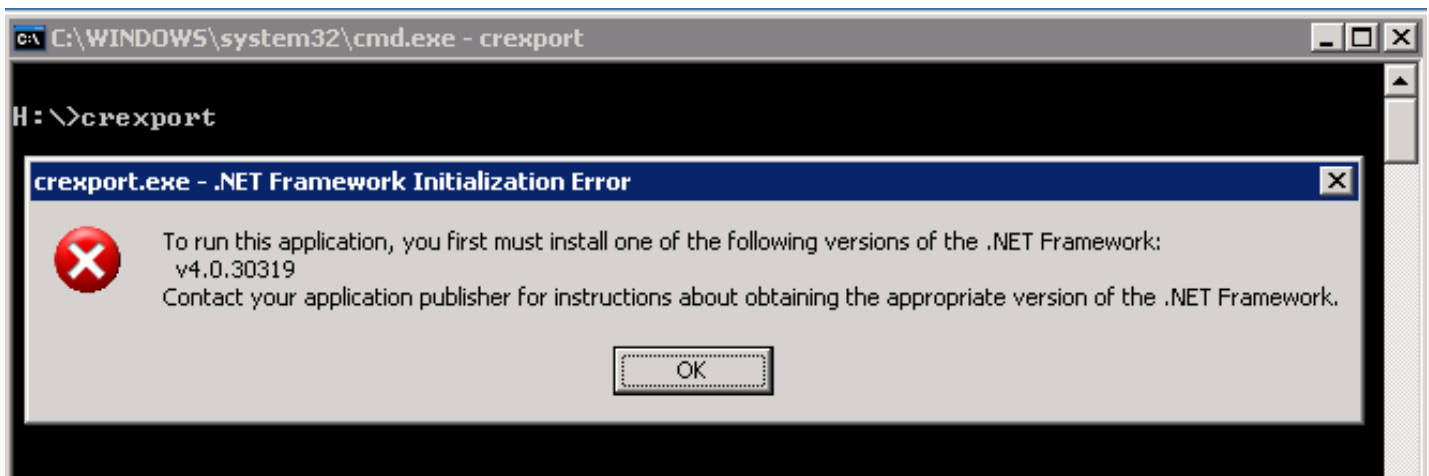
## Prerequisite Download

- [Microsoft .NET Framework 4 (Web Installer)](#)
- SAP Crystal Reports runtime engine for .NET Framework 4. [32-bit version](#) or [64-bit version](#)

## Download Crystal Reports Exporter

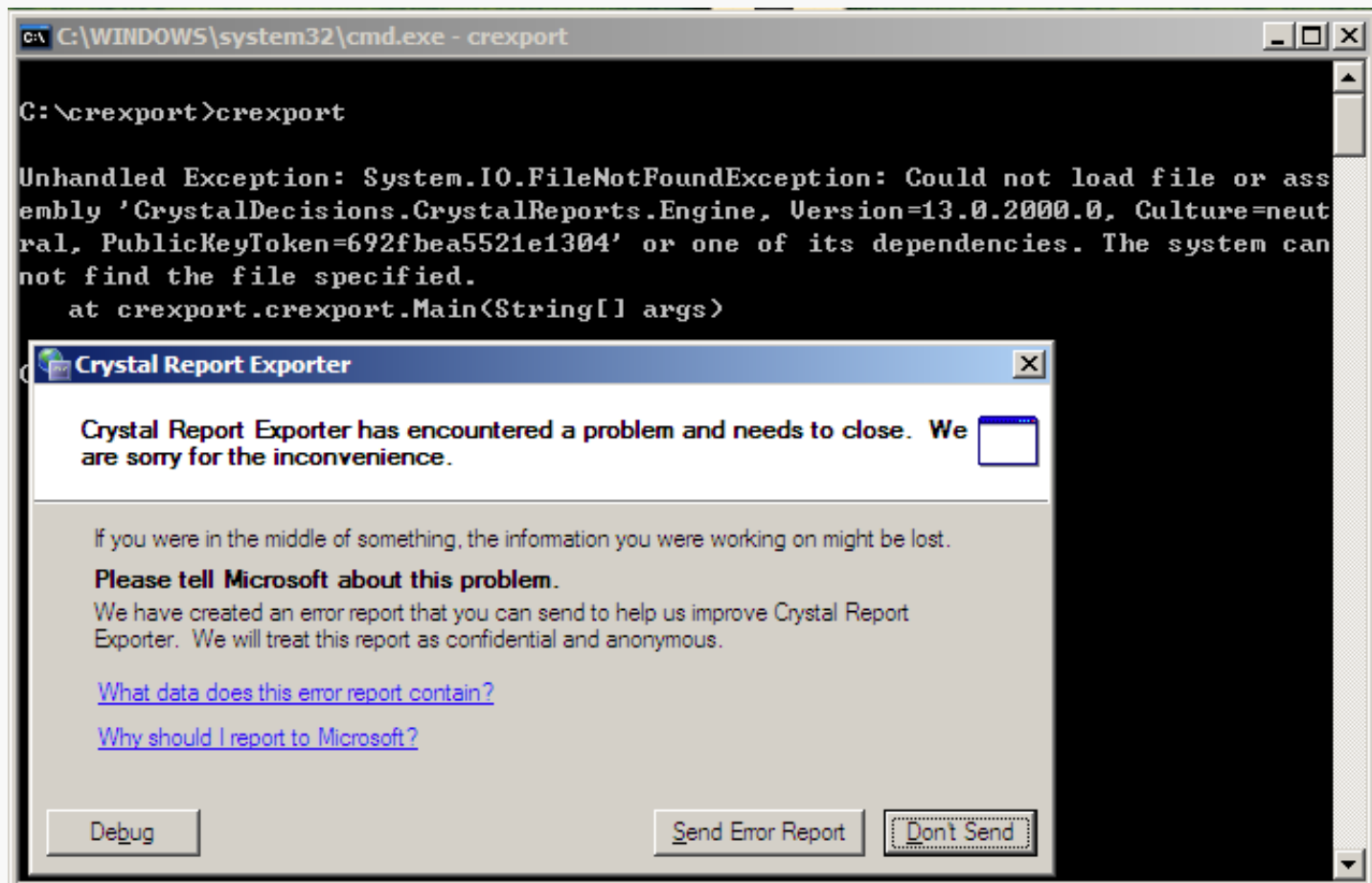[crexport.exe](#) (32kb) or Compressed version [crexport.zip](#) (9kb)

### If .NET Framework 4 is NOT installed

If you computer doesn't have the Microsoft .NET framework 4 (not any version earlier) installed, you are very likely to hit this message when you first run crexport.exe.

```
C:\ C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - crexport

H:\>crexport

crexport.exe - .NET Framework Initialization Error                    X
    To run this application, you first must install one of the following versions of the .NET Framework:
       v4.0.30319
    Contact your application publisher for instructions about obtaining the appropriate version of the .NET Framework.

                         OK
```

# If Crystal Reports runtime engine for .NET framework 4 is NOT installed

Crystal Reports Exporter making use of the rich Crystal Reports libraries to produce report output. If the right Crystal Reports runtime engine isn't installed in your computer, you will hit by miserable message as below picture.

```
C:\ C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - crexport

C:\crexport>crexport

Unhandled Exception: System.IO.FileNotFoundException: Could not load file or ass
embly 'CrystalDecisions.CrystalReports.Engine, Version=13.0.2000.0, Culture=neut
ral, PublicKeyToken=692fbea5521e1304' or one of its dependencies. The system can
not find the file specified.
    at crexport.crexport.Main(String[] args)

Crystal Report Exporter                                              X

  Crystal Report Exporter has encountered a problem and needs to close.  We
  are sorry for the inconvenience.

  If you were in the middle of something, the information you were working on might be lost.

  Please tell Microsoft about this problem.
  We have created an error report that you can send to help us improve Crystal Report
  Exporter.  We will treat this report as confidential and anonymous.

  What data does this error report contain?

  Why should I report to Microsoft?

  Debug                              Send Error Report      Don't Send
```

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## How to Use

### Step 1 - Prerequisite

Please make sure you have *Microsoft .NET Framework 4* and *SAP Crystal Reports Runtime engine for .NET Framework 4* installed.

If not, please go to the download page to download them and get them installed

### Step 2 - Download Crystal Reports Exporter

Download crexport.zip (9kb) or crexport.exe (32kb), then place it into a folder of your choice.

For the ease of explanation, we created a folder named "crexport" under C root directory. We also copy a Crystal Reports file "report1.rpt" and place it in the same folder.

There isn't any installation wizard at all.
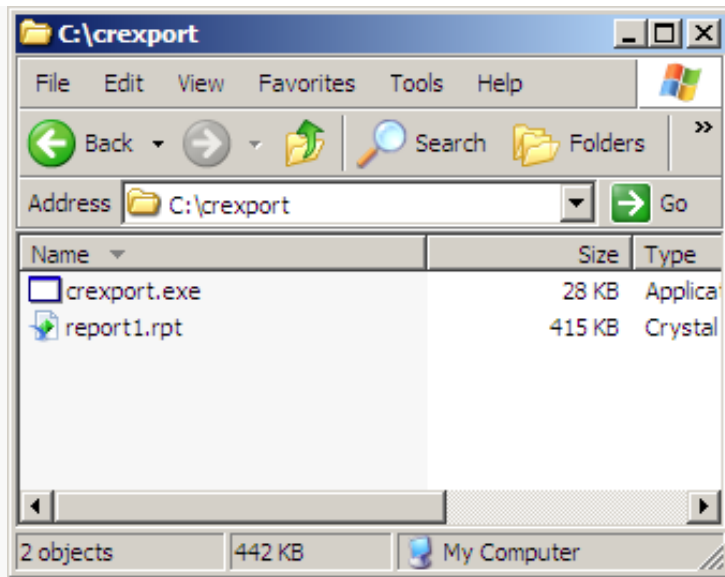
## Step 3 - Get into Command environment

Crystal Reports Exporter is a command line utility, it doesn't have a sexy graphical user interface. Simply run it under Command environment of Windows.

Go to "Start" -> "Run" --> Type Cmd and Press enter, get yourself into Command environment and type "cd\crexport"
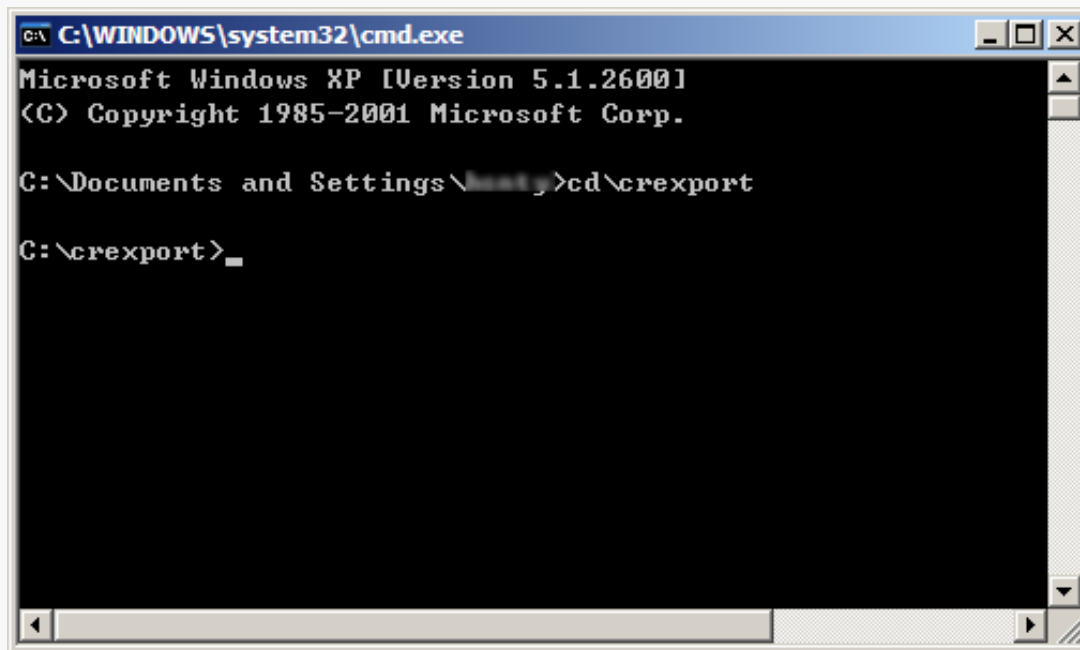


In Windows Vista/7, Windows hide "Run" by default, you may want to unhide it. If you are not sure how to do it, check out How to Enable Run Command in Start Menu in Windows 7.

## Step 4 - Export a Report
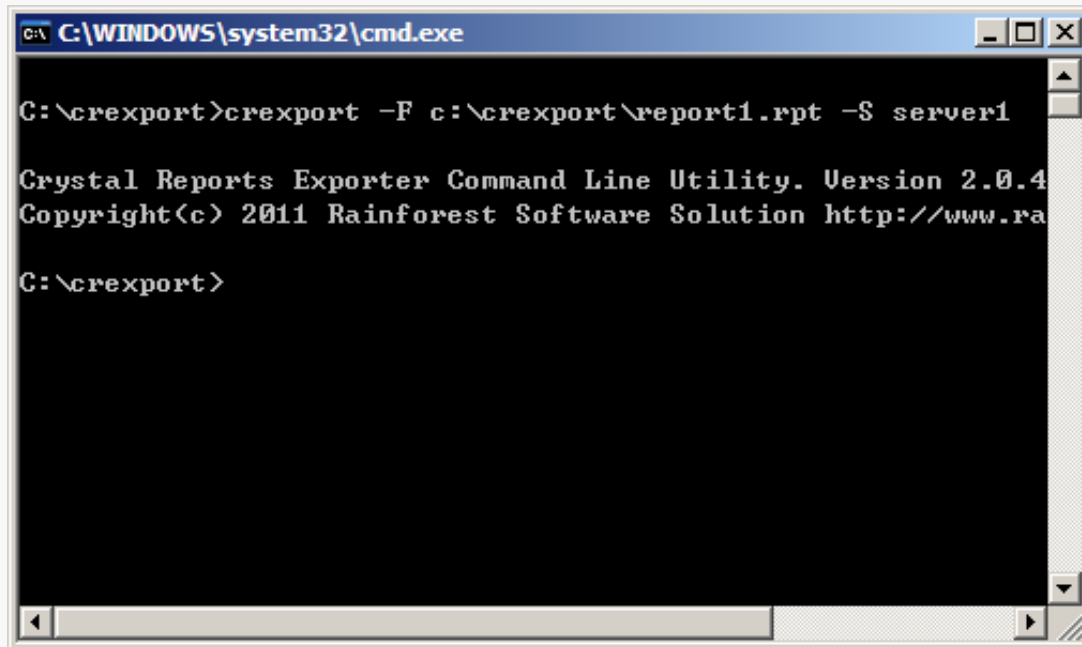
In this example, we are using a simple Crystal Reports that connected to Access Database through ODBC. Crystal Reports Exporter refreshes the data of a Crystal Reports before it prints or exports into desired file format.

Our command to export the Crystal Report is simply:

```
crexport -F c:\crexport\report1.rpt
```

or

```
crexport -F report1.rpt
```



You only need to specify Server Name -S when you need Crystal Reports to retrieve data from another data source that is different from the data source that is saved in your Crystal Reports file.

If Crystal Reports file is in the same folder of crexport.exe, you do not need to specify absolute path.

If the data source requires username and password logon, you will then need to specify the username and password in order to refresh data.

If you wish to connect to your data source with Integrated Security, simply do not specify Username and Password.

```
crexport -F report1.rpt -S server1 -U user1 -P password
```
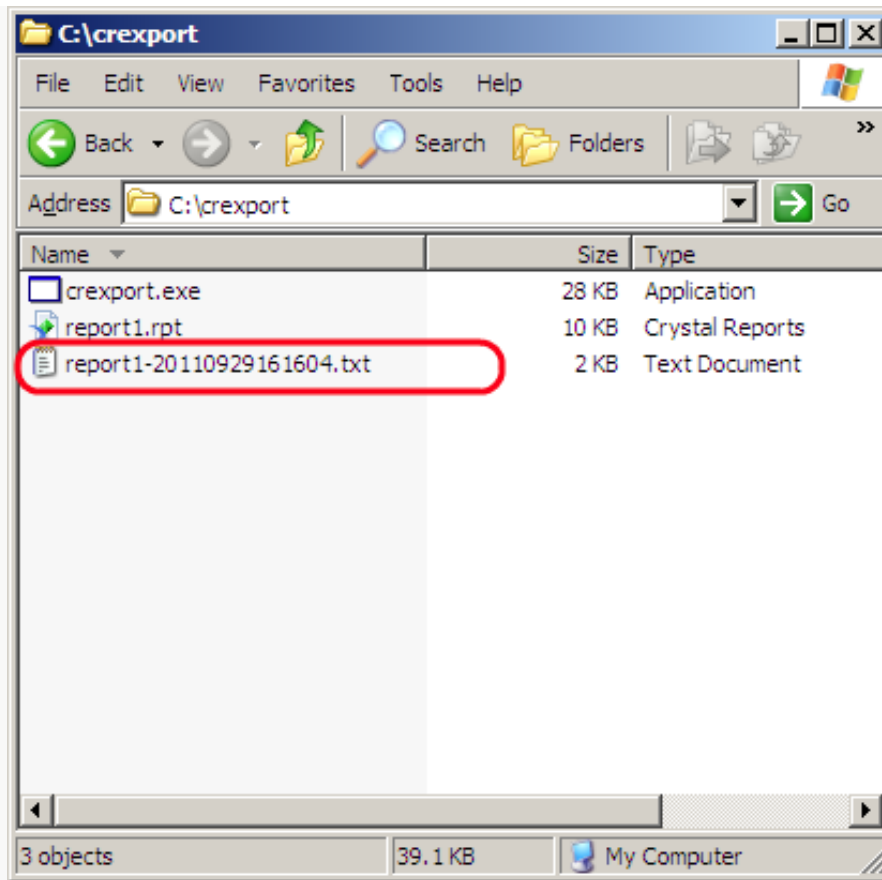
If you do not specify any file types of output file location, Crystal Reports Exporter will just export it into the same directory as your Crystal Reports source file with the same filename and ends with yyyyMMddHHmmss in plain text format.

Please go the next topic to learn about other arguments of Crexport.exe

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## List of Arguments

Type crexport -? and you will be able to find out what other arguments that we can possibly use it in Crystal Reports Exporter.

`crexport -?`

- *-F* Crystal Reports filename (i.e. "C:\Report Source\Report1.rpt")
- *-O* Crystal Reports Output filename (i.e. "C:\Reports Output\Report1.pdf" )
- *-E* Specific the intended export file format.(i.e. pdf, doc, xls .. and etc). If you wish to print Crystal Reports to a printer, simply "*-E print*" instead of specifying file format.
- *-N* Printer Name. If printer name is not specified, it looks for default printer in the computer. If network printer, *-N \\computer01\printer1*
- *-C* Number of copy to be printed (any integer value i.e. 1,2,3..)
- *-S* Server Name. Specify a Server Name if you wish crexport to retrieve data from default Data source that is saved in Crystal Reports.
- *-D* Database Name. Specify a Database Name if you wish crexport to retrieve data from default Data source that is saved in Crystal Reports.
- *-U* Data source/ server login username. Do not specify username and password for Integrated Security connection.
- *-P* Data source/ server login password. Do not specify username and password for Integrated Security connection.
- *-a* Pass Crystal Reports file parameter set on run time
- *-l* Create a log file into crexport.exe directory

## -F, Crystal Reports source file

This is the only mandatory (must specify) argument, it allows your to specify the Crystal Reports filename to be exported.

## -O, Crystal Reports output file

If -O is not specified, Crystal Reports Exporter will just export the Crystal Reports into the same directory when Crystal Reports source file is resided.

The filename of the exported file is the same as Crystal Report source file and ending with timestamp (yyyyMMddHHmmss).

# -E, Crystal Reports Export File Type

There are 13 file formats that you can export a Crystal Reports file.

Use -*E* to specify desired file format. If -E argument is not supplied, crexport will look into the output file extension, if output file is report1.pdf, it will then set to be Adobe PDF format. If file extension cannot be mapped into supported file format, crexport will export your Crystal Reports into plain text file.

| File type | Descriptions |
| --- | --- |
| txt | Plain text file |
| pdf | Adobe Portable Document format (pdf) |
| doc | Microsoft Word |
| xls | Microsoft Excel |
| xlsdata | Microsoft Excel with Data Only |
| rtf | Rich Text format |
| ertf | Editable Rich Text format |
| tab | Tab delimited text file |
| csv | Comma delimited text file |
| csv | Comma delimited text file |
| xml | xml file |
| htm | HTML file |
| rpt | Crystal Reports file |
| print | Print Crystal Report to a printer |

# -S, Server name or Data Source name

Most of the time, you *need not* specify the server name or data source name of your Crystal Reports file as every Crystal Reports file saves data source information during design time.

Therefore, you only specify a server name when you want Crystal Reports to retrieve data from another data source that is different from what it is saved in Crystal Reports file during design time.

If your crystal Reports data source is one of the ODBC DSN (regardless of User DSN or System DSN), the DSN will be your Server Name (-S).

# -D, Database name

Similarly to Server Name. Database Name is completely optional. You only specify a Database Name when you intend to retrieve data from another database that is different from default database name that is saved in Crystal Reports file.

# -U and - P, Username and Password to login to Data source

If you are using database like Microsoft SQL server, MySQL or Oracle, you are most likely required to supply a username and password to login to database.

If you are using trusted connection to your SQL server, you wouldn't need to supply username and password when you run crexport.

If you are using a password protected Microsoft Access database, you need only to specify password and not username.

# -a, Pass parameter value to Crystal Reports Exporter

We can have as many Parameters as we want in one Crystal Reports file. When we refresh a Crystal Reports file, it prompts user to input the value of parameter in runtime in order to produce the result that user wants.

You can pass parameter value to crexport.exe when it is executed.

## Example 1

Let's take an example of a Crystal Reports file test.rpt located in C: root directory. The Crystal Reports file has two parameters, namely *Supplier* and *Date Range*.

```
c:\>crexport -U user1 -P mypass -S server1 -D Demo
-F c:\test.rpt -O d:\test.pdf -E pdf -a "Supplier:Active Outdoors"
-a "Date Range:(12-01-2001,12-04-2002)"
```

## Rule to pass parameters

- Use double quote (") to enclose the parameter string (parameter name and parameter value)
- A colon (:) must be placed between parameter name and parameter value.
- Use comma (,) to separate start value and end value of a Range parameter.
- Use pipe (|) to pass multiple values into the same parameter.
- Parameter name is case sensitive

## Example 2

The following crystal Reports "testTraining.rpt" has 5 discrete parameters and 2 range parameters. Discrete parameters are:

1. company
2. customer

3. branch

Range parameters are:

1. Daterange
2. Product

Example of Single value parameters :

```
c:\>crexport -U user1 -P secret -F C:\Creport\Statement.rpt
-O D:\Output\Statement.pdf -E pdf -S"AnySystem DB"
-a "company:The One Computer,Inc" -a "customer:"MyBooks Store"
-a "branch:Malaysia" -a "daterange:(12-01-2001,12-04-2002)"
-a "product:(AFD001,AFD005)"
```

Example of Multiple values parameters :

```
c:\>crexport -F testreport.rpt -O testOutput.xls
-E xlsdata -S order.mdb -a "date:(01-01-2001,28-02-2001)|(02-01-2002,31-10-2002)|(02-08-2002,31-12-2002)"
-a "Client:(Ace Soft Inc,Best Computer Inc)|(Xtreme Bike Inc,Zebra Design Inc)"
```

Example to print Crystal Reports output to printer

```
c:\>crexport -F report101.rpt -E print -N "HP LaserJet 1200" -C 3
```

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## Release History

| Date | Version | Descriptions |
|---|---|---|
| 26 Feb 2003 | 1.1.1152.38285 | First release |
| 08 Apr 2003 | 1.1.1190.40252 | Bug fixed - Crystal Reports Exporter does not refresh Crystal Reports that without parameters. |
| 03 May 2003 | 1.2.1217.18398 | New feature - Allow user to pass multiple discrete or range value parameter into crexport.exe. Multiple values parameter with both discrete and range value is still not supported by this version. |
| 01 Jun 2003 | 1.2.1247.16937 | New feature - Allow user to pass null value discrete parameter. |
| 26 Jun 2003 | 1.2.1271.40511 | New feature - Allow user to specify export into separated or single HTML page. |
| 28 Nov 2003 | 1.2.1419.21168 | Executable compiled by Microsoft Visual Studio.net 2003 |
| 27 Sep 2011 | 2.0 | Completely rewritten to make it easier to use. Compiled with Visual Studio 2010 on .NET framework 4. |
| 02 Oct 2011 | 2.0.11.1002 | Added argument to crexport (-l) to enable log file creation for technical troubleshooting. |

| 04 Oct 2011 | 2.0.11.1004 | make server name parameter -S optional |
| 22 Oct 2011 | 2.1.11.1022 | Added option to print to printer option. -E print |
| 03 Nov 2011 | 2.1.11.1103 | Support Integrated Security Logon |

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