



What's New in Crystal Reports XI



Introduction

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

The major themes for Crystal Reports XI include:

- [“Powerful report authoring”](#) on page 2.
- [“Improved usability”](#) on page 3.
- [“Expanded application-development capabilities”](#) on page 4.
- [“Integration with BusinessObjects Enterprise XI”](#) on page 8.

You can find new features within all of the major themes. Significant enhancements have also been added to the existing feature set.

Powerful report authoring

Dynamic and cascading prompts

Dynamic and cascading prompts are now available in Crystal Reports. This new feature allows you to populate prompt values from values in a database. Prompts can be arranged in a cascade, where one value in the prompt constrains values in subsequent pick lists. Report designers no longer need to maintain static prompt lists in individual reports. A single prompt definition can be stored in the repository and shared among multiple reports, improving both runtime scalability and design-time productivity.

New RTF export format

A new RTF Export format is available. This new format is optimized for ease of editing the files that it generates. This feature complements the existing RTF export that is optimized for accuracy and forms processing. The result is that you can now choose from two different RTF export formats, depending on whether you require accuracy or the ability to edit.

Dynamic graphic location

You can now place pictures and graphics in a report through a link stored in a database, so that it is no longer necessary to store images within the database. This new feature supports the common practice of storing images on a web server and storing references to those images in a database.

Parameterized sorting

Group sort order and top or bottom N reports can now have their sort values driven by a formula. This new feature means that you can now use parameters to control sort order and the N value of a top or bottom N report. The result is a single report that is more flexible and can meet the needs of more users, reducing the total number of reports for you to create and support.

Hierarchical grouping improvements

Enhanced hierarchical grouping provides increased layout control so that groups are now nested in a hierarchy, and you now have more fine-grained control over hierarchy indenting. You can now indent specific objects in a section according to their hierarchy level, instead of automatically indenting all objects in the hierarchy.

Save export configuration options

For many export formats, you can now save report export-configuration information with the report itself. This feature means that the report designer can preset the appropriate export options, and end users will use those options when exporting through the report viewers. This process results in more accurate export output with less end-user training.

Improved usability

HTML preview

Crystal Reports now offers a new HTML preview that lets you see how your reports will look when published to the web. This feature is found in the familiar Crystal Reports design environment as an additional view tab. When you use this feature, you can save time by not having to repeat the iterative task of publishing your reports to the web as you design them.

Updated Repository Explorer

The new Repository Explorer makes it easier to navigate within the BusinessObjects Enterprise system. You are better able to share reporting components with other users through the repository.

Workbench

The Workbench lets you keep projects organized and allows you to group reports in folders according to your preference.

Drag-and-drop charts and cross-tabs

New drag-and-drop charts and cross-tabs introduce intelligent charting and cross-tab design by letting Crystal Reports automatically create a chart or cross-tab that is based on the data in your report. Chart and cross-tab design is now faster and easier.

Update patch installation

This new feature is similar to Windows Update in that it allows you to stay current with the latest updates to Crystal Reports.

Enhanced report viewer

The resizable group tree improves report viewing for long group names, and the toolbar has been updated to be more consistent across viewers.

Expanded application-development capabilities

General description

Control over report formats

Developers now have the same fine-grained control over the report format as they do within the Crystal Reports designer.

Server-side printing and subreport configuration

New and improved cross-platform application programming interfaces include server-side printing, as well as the ability to configure subreports as if they were full Crystal reports.

Java User Function Libraries

Custom Java User Function Libraries let Java developers incorporate their own code within Crystal Reports.

Java Server Faces

User-Interface development is simplified with support for Java Server Faces (JSF) through a new JSF viewer Software Developer Kit.

Developer documentation

This version offers enhanced developer documentation that provides coverage for the most common reporting use cases.

Report Application Server (RAS)

Report Application Server XI contains many new features. Notable among these is dynamic prompting and cascading lists of values, an editable RTF export format, single-sign on support, complete programmatic control for subreports, and dynamic image locations. Backward compatibility continues to be a critical feature—no APIs or major features were removed from this release when compared with version 10.

New APIs

- Full programmatic control for exporting has been added.
- New cross-platform printing support from RAS SDK has been added.
- Full programmatic control to retrieve, modify, and create subreport objects—to the same level of detail as the main report—has been added.
- Images in BMP, JPG or PNG format can be added programmatically to any section of the report.
- Single Sign-On is supported for major databases with managed reports.
- New extensible URL Reporting components allow easy report viewing over the web with the ActiveX, Java Plug-in, or DHTML viewers.

Enhanced deployment options

- There is now one merge module that works for all RAS, .NET, and COM deployment scenarios to IIS Web Application Servers.
- Enhanced configurable deployment options allow full control over deployed database and exporting DLLs. As well, a configurable option for whether the `crystalreportviewers11` IIS virtual directory is created has been added.

Improved report viewers

- The ActiveX, .NET Winform and Webform, and DHTML viewers have all been enhanced to use the dynamic prompting functionality, and they all have the ability to export to the editable RTF format.
- See the *Viewer Java SDK Guide* for a complete list of enhancements to the report viewers.

Report Designer Component (RDC)

The new features in version XI of the RDC are primarily focused on format compatibility with reports created in Crystal Reports XI. This focus includes maintaining compatibility with applications created in previous versions of the RDC.

New APIs

- You can now retrieve the fully qualified database table name for a Table item in a report.

Enhanced deployment options

- The RDC merge modules are now automatically installed to Program Files\Common Files\Merge Modules.
- The merge modules have been enhanced to support recent versions of InstallShield.
- Enhanced configurable deployment options allow full control over deployed database and exporting DLLs.

Improved ActiveX viewer

- The new exporting dialog box supports the editable RTF format.
- Page drawing performance has been dramatically improved in many scenarios through caching of the rendered output.
- The visual quality of output and printing has been improved to match the Crystal Reports preview tab.
- Objects displayed in the ActiveX viewer can be highlighted individually or in groups and then copied and pasted to applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook.
- Page navigation now supports the page-up and page-down keys.
- Printing now supports multiple page ranges from the print dialog box.

Crystal Reports .NET

Crystal Reports .NET contains many new features. Notable among these is dynamic prompting and cascading lists of values, an editable RTF export format, single-sign on support, and dynamic image locations. Backward compatibility continues to be a critical feature—no APIs or major features were removed from this release when compared with version 10.

New APIs

- Full programmatic control for exporting has been added.
- For managed reports and unmanaged reports that run in-process RAS, Single Sign-On is supported for major databases.
- Significant speed improvements have been made when connecting Crystal Reports .NET view-only applications to BusinessObjects Enterprise.

Enhanced deployment options

- There is now one merge module that works for all Crystal Reports .NET deployment scenarios.
- Enhanced configurable deployment options allow full control over deployed database and exporting DLLs. As well, a configurable option for whether the `crystalreportviewers11` IIS virtual directory is created has been added.

Improved Winform viewer

- The new exporting dialog box supports the editable RTF format.
- The new dynamic prompts are supported at run time.
- Tooltips can be disabled.
- An error-event handler has been added.
- The viewer now allows developer-written dynamic-resource localization to unsupported languages.

Improved Webform viewer

- The new exporting dialog box supports the editable RTF format.
- The new dynamic prompts are supported at run time.
- Tooltips can be disabled.
- The viewer now respects the Culture attribute of the ASP.NET Page Directive.
- The viewer now allows developer-written dynamic-resource localization to unsupported languages.

Integration with BusinessObjects Enterprise XI

Integration between the Crystal Reports Designer and BusinessObjects Enterprise has been substantially enhanced in the following ways:

- The Repository Explorer has been enhanced to allow for easier logon and easier browsing of Enterprise objects and repository items.
- The Repository Explorer can open the BusinessObjects Enterprise Central Management Console (CMC).
- The Dependency Checker allows you to confirm that all repository objects in your report are valid.
- The Workbench allows you to publish a group of reports individually or combined into a single object package.

Single Sign-On

Single Sign-On is now available so that a Crystal report can be integrated into an existing security infrastructure.

URL reporting

URL-based report integration has been re-implemented as ASP, ASPX, and JSP pages that are fully backward compatible with the old `viewrpt.cwr` technology. This easy and popular method of report integration will continue to be supported on standard application-server platforms.

Business Objects universes

Crystal reports based on Business Objects Universes (the semantic layer for Business Objects query-and-analysis tools such as Web Intelligence) can now support Universe run-time security and union queries. These enhancements allow for most overloads defined in the Universe to be supported when you report off that Universe in Crystal Reports.

Contextual report linking

Contextual report linking enables you to invoke Business Objects and Web Intelligence documents from Crystal Reports and vice versa. This feature allows report designers to specify associations for documents residing in either a Crystal Reports environment (unmanaged) or a BusinessObjects Enterprise environment (managed). Once these associations are created, users follow the resulting navigational paths embedded in the linked documents.