

sap business objects crystal reports

SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports: Unlocking the Power of Data Visualization and Reporting

sap business objects crystal reports is a powerful tool that has transformed the way businesses approach data reporting and visualization. In today's data-driven world, companies need reliable and flexible reporting solutions to make sense of vast amounts of information. Crystal Reports, as part of the SAP Business Objects suite, offers just that—enabling users to create detailed, interactive, and visually appealing reports from multiple data sources. Whether you're a report developer, business analyst, or IT professional, understanding how to harness the capabilities of SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports can significantly enhance your organization's decision-making process.

What Is SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports?

SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports is a leading business intelligence reporting software designed to create richly formatted, interactive reports from a wide variety of data sources. Originally developed by Crystal Services, it was acquired by Business Objects and later integrated into SAP's Business Objects BI platform. The software remains one of the most popular tools for generating pixel-perfect reports that can be embedded into web applications, exported into multiple formats, or scheduled for automated delivery.

Unlike generic reporting tools, Crystal Reports offers granular control over report design, allowing users to customize how data is presented with complex formulas, conditional formatting, charts, and subreports. This makes it a versatile choice for organizations ranging from small businesses to large enterprises that require detailed operational or financial reports.

Key Features of SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports

Crystal Reports stands out due to its rich feature set that caters to diverse reporting needs. Here are some of the most notable capabilities:

1. Multi-Source Data Connectivity

One of the strengths of SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports is its ability to connect seamlessly to a broad spectrum of databases and data sources. Whether it's SQL Server, Oracle, SAP HANA, Excel spreadsheets, or web services, users can pull data directly without needing complex ETL (Extract, Transform, Load) processes. This flexibility ensures that reports are always up-to-date and can integrate data from multiple systems.

2. Advanced Report Design and Formatting

Crystal Reports offers a highly intuitive design interface that lets users create detailed layouts. You can insert tables, charts, images, and even embed subreports within a main report. Conditional formatting allows dynamic styling based on data values, making reports easier to understand at a glance. The use of formulas and functions provides the ability to perform calculations or manipulate data directly within the report.

3. Interactive and Drill-Down Reports

Beyond static reports, Crystal Reports supports interactive features such as drill-down capabilities. Readers can click on summarized data to explore underlying details, enhancing the depth of data analysis. This interactivity is valuable for executives and analysts who want to explore data without creating multiple separate reports.

4. Export and Sharing Options

Reports created in Crystal Reports can be exported to various formats including PDF, Excel, Word, and HTML. This versatility makes it easier to share insights across departments or embed reports into other business applications.

Why Use SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports?

In a competitive market, timely and accurate reporting is crucial. Here's why many organizations rely on SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports:

Ease of Use with Powerful Capabilities

Despite its advanced features, Crystal Reports is designed to be user-friendly. Business users with minimal technical knowledge can design simple reports, while developers can dive deeper into complex reporting requirements. This balance allows organizations to empower a broad range of users to generate insights without bottlenecks.

Customizable and Scalable Reporting

Whether you need a quick sales summary or a complex multi-page financial report, Crystal Reports adapts to your needs. It supports everything from small-scale departmental reports to enterprise-wide reporting frameworks integrated with SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise or SAP Analytics Cloud.

Integration with SAP Ecosystem

For organizations using SAP ERP, SAP BW, or SAP HANA, Crystal Reports offers seamless integration. This means businesses can leverage existing investments in SAP infrastructure and deliver consistent reporting across their landscape.

Getting Started with SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports

If you're new to Crystal Reports, here are some essential tips to get up and running smoothly:

Understand Your Data Sources

Before diving into report creation, it's critical to understand where your data resides and how to access it. Familiarize yourself with database schemas, relationships, and data types. This knowledge will help you design efficient queries and avoid common pitfalls like performance bottlenecks.

Master the Report Designer Interface

Spend time exploring the Crystal Reports designer tool. Learn how to insert fields, create groups, apply filters, and use formulas. Many online tutorials and official SAP documentation provide step-by-step guidance to build foundational skills.

Leverage Built-in Functions and Formulas

Crystal Reports includes a rich library of functions for calculations, string manipulation, date/time processing, and conditional logic. Using formulas smartly can reduce reliance on external data processing and enhance report flexibility.

Test and Optimize Reports

Always preview your reports with sample data before deployment. Check for correct data aggregation, formatting consistency, and performance issues. Optimizing queries and minimizing subreports can improve load times and user experience.

Common Use Cases for SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports

Crystal Reports is incredibly versatile, supporting a variety of business reporting needs across industries:

- **Financial Reporting:** Detailed income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow reports with drill-down capabilities for auditing and compliance.
- **Sales and Marketing:** Sales performance analysis, customer segmentation reports, and campaign ROI dashboards.
- **Operations Management:** Inventory tracking, production status reports, and supply chain analytics.
- **Human Resources:** Employee attendance, payroll summaries, and training compliance reports.
- **Healthcare:** Patient data analysis, billing reports, and regulatory compliance documentation.

Each of these examples benefits from Crystal Reports' ability to combine data from multiple sources and present it in a clear, actionable format.

Tips to Maximize Your Use of SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports

To get the most out of Crystal Reports, consider these practical tips:

1. Use Parameterized Reports

Incorporate parameters to allow users to customize report output dynamically—such as filtering by date range, region, or product category. This reduces the need for multiple static reports and improves usability.

2. Employ Subreports Wisely

While subreports can add depth by embedding related data, overusing them can slow down report generation. Use subreports only when necessary and explore alternatives like data joins or command objects.

3. Automate Report Distribution

Take advantage of scheduling and bursting features within the SAP BusinessObjects platform to automate report delivery via email or file shares. Automation ensures stakeholders receive timely information without manual intervention.

4. Stay Updated on Latest Versions

SAP regularly updates Business Objects Crystal Reports with new features, performance improvements, and security patches. Keeping your software current ensures you benefit from the latest enhancements.

The Future of Reporting with SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports

As businesses increasingly adopt cloud services and advanced analytics, Crystal Reports continues to evolve. Integration with SAP Analytics Cloud and hybrid BI architectures allows organizations to blend traditional pixel-perfect reporting with modern data visualization and AI-driven insights. For users invested in SAP ecosystems, Crystal Reports remains a foundational tool for operational reporting while complementing newer analytics platforms.

In the realm of enterprise reporting, SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports strikes a balance between precision, flexibility, and ease of use. Its ability to connect diverse data sources, craft customized reports, and deliver insights in compelling formats makes it a valuable asset in any data strategy. Whether you're refining current reports or building new solutions, understanding how to leverage Crystal Reports effectively can elevate your organization's data storytelling and decision-making capabilities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is SAP BusinessObjects Crystal Reports?

SAP BusinessObjects Crystal Reports is a powerful reporting tool used to design and generate formatted reports from a wide range of data sources, enabling businesses to create detailed and interactive reports for better decision-making.

How does Crystal Reports integrate with SAP BusinessObjects?

Crystal Reports integrates seamlessly with SAP BusinessObjects BI platform, allowing users to publish, manage, and distribute reports across an enterprise, leveraging centralized security and scheduling features.

What are the key features of SAP Crystal Reports?

Key features include a user-friendly report designer, support for multiple data sources, formula and conditional formatting, subreports, export options to various formats, and integration with other SAP tools.

Can SAP Crystal Reports connect to SQL databases?

Yes, SAP Crystal Reports can connect to various SQL databases such as Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, MySQL, and others, enabling users to retrieve and report on database-stored data.

What are the common challenges faced when using Crystal Reports?

Common challenges include complex report design for beginners, performance issues with large datasets, difficulties in maintaining reports, and ensuring compatibility with updated data sources or BI platforms.

How do I schedule and automate Crystal Reports in SAP BusinessObjects?

Within the SAP BusinessObjects BI platform, you can schedule and automate Crystal Reports by using the Central Management Console (CMC) to set up recurring refreshes and distribute reports via email or folders.

Is SAP Crystal Reports suitable for real-time reporting?

SAP Crystal Reports is primarily designed for formatted, batch reporting rather than real-time analytics, though it can connect to live data sources; for real-time interactive dashboards, SAP Analytics Cloud or SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence may be more suitable.

What are the system requirements for installing SAP Crystal Reports?

System requirements typically include a supported Windows operating system, adequate RAM and processor speed, and compatible database drivers; specific requirements vary by Crystal Reports version and should be verified on the SAP website.

How can I learn SAP Crystal Reports effectively?

Effective learning methods include official SAP training courses, online tutorials, hands-on practice with sample reports, community forums, and leveraging SAP's documentation and learning hub resources.

Additional Resources

SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports: A Deep Dive into Enterprise Reporting Solutions

sap business objects crystal reports has long been recognized as a cornerstone in the realm of enterprise reporting and business intelligence. As organizations increasingly demand precise, customizable, and visually compelling reports, Crystal Reports stands out as a solution tailored to meet these evolving needs. Designed to empower businesses with detailed data analysis and presentation capabilities, it is a product that continues to hold relevance even amidst a rapidly shifting BI landscape.

Understanding SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports

Crystal Reports, originally developed by Crystal Services Inc., became part of SAP's extensive Business Objects suite after SAP's acquisition of Business Objects in 2007. The software is fundamentally a reporting tool that enables users to design and generate interactive and richly formatted reports from a wide variety of data sources. Its integration with SAP's broader analytics ecosystem enhances its appeal for enterprises leveraging SAP's ERP and data management solutions.

At its core, SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports is a desktop-based report generation tool that caters to both technical and business users. It supports data connectivity from databases such as SQL Server, Oracle, MySQL, and SAP HANA, among others. The software offers an intuitive drag-and-drop interface alongside powerful formula editors, enabling complex calculations and conditional formatting. This flexibility allows companies to tailor reports precisely to their operational and strategic requirements.

Key Features and Functional Strengths

One of the primary strengths of Crystal Reports lies in its robust feature set, which includes:

- **Data Connectivity:** Supports a broad range of data sources including relational databases, OLAP cubes, XML files, and web services, making it versatile for various IT environments.
- **Report Design Flexibility:** Offers pixel-perfect report layouts with customizable sections, subreports, and a wide array of charting and visualization options.
- **Formula Language:** Enables advanced calculations and conditional logic within reports, facilitating complex data manipulation without external processing.
- **Export Options:** Allows exporting reports to multiple formats such as PDF, Excel, Word, and HTML, ensuring ease of distribution and integration into workflows.

- **Integration with SAP Ecosystem:** Seamlessly works with SAP BusinessObjects BI platform and SAP ERP systems, providing a unified analytics experience.

These features contribute to Crystal Reports' long-standing reputation as a reliable tool for operational reporting, financial statements, and regulatory compliance documents, where precision and format fidelity are crucial.

Comparative Analysis: Crystal Reports vs. Modern BI Tools

While Crystal Reports remains a robust reporting platform, the BI landscape has seen emergence of newer tools such as Tableau, Power BI, and SAP Analytics Cloud. A comparative perspective highlights both the enduring advantages and challenges faced by Crystal Reports.

Advantages Over Contemporary BI Platforms

- **Fine-Grained Control:** Crystal Reports excels in providing detailed control over report layouts, which is often unmatched by self-service BI tools focused more on exploratory data analysis.
- **Static and Pixel-Perfect Reporting:** For organizations requiring highly formatted reports for legal or compliance reasons, Crystal Reports delivers a level of precision that dynamic dashboards may not replicate.
- **Legacy System Compatibility:** Many enterprises still maintain legacy systems and databases where Crystal Reports has proven integration capabilities.

Limitations in the Modern Context

- **User Accessibility:** Crystal Reports typically requires a steeper learning curve compared to drag-and-drop dashboards in Power BI or Tableau, limiting self-service BI adoption.
- **Interactivity:** The tool focuses more on static reports rather than interactive visualizations, which can hinder exploratory data analysis.
- **Cloud and Mobile Integration:** While SAP has made strides with its cloud BI offerings, Crystal Reports is primarily a desktop solution, which may lag in cloud-

native and mobile-first environments.

This contrast illustrates why many organizations use Crystal Reports in tandem with newer BI tools, leveraging its strengths for operational reporting while adopting more agile analytics platforms for strategic insights.

Implementation Considerations and Best Practices

Deploying SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports effectively requires a strategic approach, particularly in larger enterprises where data complexity and user diversity are significant factors.

System Integration and Data Management

Ensuring seamless data integration is paramount. Organizations must establish robust ETL processes and maintain data integrity across source systems. Crystal Reports' ability to connect to multiple data sources should be leveraged to centralize reporting, but this demands vigilant data governance to prevent inconsistencies.

Report Development and Maintenance

Given the report complexity Crystal Reports allows, professional report developers often spearhead report creation. However, enabling business analysts with sufficient training can reduce dependency on IT, accelerating report iteration cycles. Additionally, establishing version control and documentation standards helps in maintaining report accuracy over time.

Performance Optimization

Large datasets can impact report generation time. Best practices include:

- Using stored procedures or database views to pre-aggregate data.
- Limiting the use of resource-intensive formulas.
- Implementing report caching when feasible.

These practices ensure that reports remain responsive and scalable as organizational data grows.

Future Outlook for SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports

The evolution of enterprise analytics continues to pose questions about the future positioning of Crystal Reports. SAP's ongoing investments in its BusinessObjects suite and integration with cloud platforms like SAP Analytics Cloud suggest a hybrid future where Crystal Reports serves specific reporting niches while newer tools handle dynamic analytics.

Enterprises with entrenched reporting requirements and compliance needs are likely to maintain Crystal Reports as a vital tool. However, the rising demand for real-time analytics, self-service capabilities, and mobile accessibility will encourage many to adopt complementary solutions alongside it.

In this context, Crystal Reports remains a critical component of the broader SAP analytics ecosystem, providing unmatched precision and control in operational reporting scenarios. Its role is less about replacing modern BI tools and more about augmenting them, ensuring businesses can meet a comprehensive range of reporting and analytical requirements.

SAP Business Objects Crystal Reports continues to be a compelling choice for organizations that prioritize detailed, formatted reporting and integration with SAP's ERP and data management platforms. Its longevity in the market underscores its ability to adapt and remain relevant, even as the BI industry undergoes rapid transformation.

Sap Business Objects Crystal Reports

sap business objects crystal reports: 100 Things You Should Know about Reporting with SAP Crystal Reports Coy W. Yonce, 2011 Have you ever spent hours on a report only to discover that you could have saved time with a simple tip? If so, you'll be delighted with this book, which unlocks the secrets of reporting with SAP Crystal Reports. You'll find 100 tips and workarounds you can use to increase productivity, save time, and improve the overall ease-of-use of SAP Crystal Reports. The tips have been carefully selected to provide a collection of the best, most useful, and rarest information. With this book, you will accomplish your reporting needs more quickly, easily, and effectively.

sap business objects crystal reports: Business Objects Crystal Reports XI Neil Fitzgerald, 2006 Complete reference for Crystal Reports XI users and the suite of Enterprise Reporting products from Business Objects.; Authors are Business Objects insiders with unique perspectives on implementations; 16 million+ licenses of Crystal Reports shipped and Business Objects owns the largest footprint of Business Intelligence products; Product enhancements including dynamic and cascading parameters and advanced Microsoft Office integration, will drive purchases from users seeking a migration reference Special Edition Using Business Objects Crystal Reports XI is a reference guide designed to provide hands-on experience with the latest release of the product suite.

The latest version of Crystal Reports and the Business Objects' enterprise reporting suite delivers vast product enhancements that will drive upgrades from licensees seeking a reference to help them migrate. Brand new features (e.g. Dynamic and Cascading Parameter Generation) will also appeal to entire new audiences. Crystal Enterprise Reporting platform, as this is the first release of the software with the existing Business Objects (BO) products being integrated into the Crystal infrastructure. As Business Objects insiders, the authors bring unique and valuable real-world perspectives on implementations and uses of the Crystal Reports product. The book also includes content, tutorials and samples for reporting within the Microsoft Visual Studio.NET and J2EE development environments and also on top of the SAP Business Information Warehouse (BW) and the Peoplesoft platform. Advanced content on report distribution and integration into the secured managed reporting solution known as Business Objects Enterprise XI, is also now included in this definitive user guide with coverage on the new Web Services SDK. www.quepublishing.com and www.usingcrystal.com will include all sample reporting content, web interfaces and code along with bonus chapters.

sap business objects crystal reports: Using Crystal Reports with SAP Mike Garrett, 2010 This book offers a solid functional overview of the primary features within SAP Crystal Reports, while paying special attention to integrating with other BusinessObjects and SAP applications and data sources.

sap business objects crystal reports: Mastering SAP Crystal Reports 2011 David McAmis, 2011-08-01 With the release of the SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.0 platform comes a new version of SAP Crystal Reports, the world's most widely used reporting tool and a new version of SAP Crystal Server, a powerful web-based, secure platform for distributing reports to a wide range of users. In this updated edition of Mastering Crystal Reports, you'll learn how to take raw data and create presentation-quality reports using SAP Crystal Reports 2011 as well as the new features this version has to offer. You'll also learn how to connect to virtually any data source and create formatted reports which leverage the power and sophistication that the platform has to offer. As a Crystal Reports designer, you have the ability to create any report you can imagine. Mastering SAP Crystal Reports 2011 features step-by-step instructions and over 50 sample reports and projects to help you master the tips, tricks and techniques involved in creating presentation-quality reports. The focus of this book is learning the tools through hands-on learning. From basic reporting techniques to advanced reports and analysis, this book breaks it all down in a format you can use to master Crystal Reports 2011 and distribute your reports using SAP Crystal Server 2011. Table of Contents

----- Chapter 1: What is SAP Crystal Reports? Chapter 2: Report Design Overview Chapter 3: Your First Report Chapter 4: Working with the Report Designer Chapter 5: Report Formatting Chapter 6: Working with Sections Chapter 7: Working with Groups Chapter 8: Summarizing Report Data Chapter 9: Record Selection Chapter 10: Working with Parameter Fields Chapter 11: Formulas, Functions and SQL Expressions Chapter 12: Using Subreports Chapter 13: Working with Cross-Tabs Chapter 14: Charting and Graphing Chapter 15: Exporting Reports Chapter 16: Working with Data Sources Chapter 17: Reporting from UNV Universes Chapter 18: Getting Started With SAP Crystal Server Chapter 19: Working with BI Launch Pad Chapter 20: Publishing, Viewing and Scheduling Chapter 21: Crystal Server Security Chapter 22: Crystal Server Administration Appendix A: Developer Resources

sap business objects crystal reports: First Steps in Crystal Reports for Business Users Anurag Barua, When SAP acquired Business Objects in 2008 Crystal Reports became a standard part of SAP's software and menu of reporting tools. This book written specifically for business users provides an introduction to SAP Crystal Reports using a real-world business reporting scenario and will enable you to create your first report. We'll cover: • Overview, history and evolution of Crystal Reports • Basic end-user navigation • Creating a basic report from scratch • Formatting to meet individual user's presentation needs • Analysis techniques such as using formulas, sorting/filtering, grouping, summarising, and creating alerts • Best practices for report distribution Detailed screenshots and explanations paired with a business reporting scenario will prepare you step by step

to work efficiently with SAP Crystal Report version 2011.

sap business objects crystal reports: Crystal Reports XI Official Guide Neil FitzGerald, et al., 2006-11-01 The authorized guide to the latest edition of the #1 business intelligence software product - Crystal Reports. More than 16 million licenses of Crystal Reports have been shipped to date. This book is a reference designed to provide hands-on guidance for the latest release of the product suite. The latest version of Crystal Reports and the Business Objects enterprise reporting suite delivers vast product enhancements and a tighter integration that will drive upgrades from licensees. Brand new features (e.g. Dynamic and Cascading Parameter Generation) will also appeal to new audiences. Over 1 million new Business Intelligence licensees will be migrating to the Crystal Enterprise Reporting platform, as this is the first release of the software with the existing Business Objects (BO) products being integrated into the Crystal infrastructure. As Business Objects insiders, the authors bring unique and valuable real-world perspectives on implementations and uses of the Crystal Reports product. The book also includes content, tutorials and samples for reporting within the Microsoft Visual Studio.NET and J2EE development environments and also on top of the SAP Business Information Warehouse (BW) and the Peoplesoft platform. Advanced content on report distribution and integration into the secured managed reporting solution known as Business Objects Enterprise XI, is also now included in this definitive user guide with coverage on the new Web Services SDK.

sap business objects crystal reports: Reporting and Analysis with SAP BusinessObjects Ingo Hilgefort, 2011-12 * Learn about the capabilities of the different reporting and analysis tools from SAP BusinessObjects * Determine which tool is the right choice for your business intelligence needs * Build your first report with each of the SAP BusinessObjects products This book tells you everything you always wanted to know about getting started with the SAP BusinessObjects business intelligence (BI) tools. What are the different capabilities of each tool? How should you choose one over another? How do you build your first report in each tool? If you want to understand what the SAP BusinessObjects BI platform can do for you, look no further. This book is your first step. Reporting and Analysis Business Requirements Explore the basic business requirements for financial, sales, HR, and management analysis, and learn how each SAP BusinessObjects tool meets, or doesn't meet, these requirements. Building Your First Report Dive into the details: Get step-by-step instructions and detailed screenshots for building your first report with each of the SAP BusinessObjects BI tools. Best Practices Ensure that you get the most for your time and money by learning the best practices for working with SAP BusinessObjects BI tools. Changes in SAP BusinessObjects 4.0 FP3 Stay up to date on the latest changes in SAP BusinessObjects 4.0, including feature pack 3, such as the introduction of the BI launch pad and BI workspaces. Future Outlook Get a sneak peek at what SAP is working on for future releases of the SAP BusinessObjects BI platform. Highlights * SAP Crystal Reports * SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence * SAP BusinessObjects Dashboards * SAP BusinessObjects Analysis * SAP BusinessObjects Explorer * SAP BusinessObjects Live Office * BI workspaces * BI launch pad

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"Size" and "Align" Commands 5. Creating Text Objects 6. Saving a Report 7. Previewing a Report 8. Refreshing the Report Data Linking Tables in a Report 1. Basic Table Structures and Terms 2. Linking Multiple Tables 3. Table Joins 4. Enforcing Table Joins and Changing Link Types Basic Formatting Techniques 1. Formatting Report Objects 2. The "Common" Tab of the Format Editor 3. The "Number" Tab of the Format Editor 4. The "Font" Tab of the Format Editor 5. The "Border" Tab of the Format Editor 6. The "Date and Time" Tab of the Format Editor 7. The "Paragraph" Tab of the Format Editor 8. The "Picture" Tab of the Format Editor 9. The "Boolean" Tab of the Format Editor 10. The "Hyperlink" Tab of the Format Editor 11. The "Subreport" Tab of the Format Editor 12. Drawing Lines 13. Drawing Boxes 14. Format Painter 15. Formatting Part of a Text Object 16. The Template Expert 17. Inserting Pictures Record Selection 1. The Select Expert 2. Setting Multiple Filters 3. Editing the Selection Formula Sorting and Grouping Records 1. The Record Sort Expert 2. The Group Expert 3. Managing Groups 4. Summarizing Groups 5. Hierarchical Groupings 6. The Group Sort Expert Printing Reports 1. Inserting Special Fields 2. Page Setup 3. Printing Reports Using Formulas 1. Crystal Reports Formula Syntax 2. The Formula Workshop- Formula Editor Window 3. Creating Formula Fields 4. Crystal Syntax 5. Basic Syntax 6. Finding Function and Operator Assistance Advanced Formatting 1. The Highlighting Expert 2. The Section Expert 3. Conditionally Formatting a Section 4. Conditionally Formatting a Field 5. Manipulating Multiple Sections Summary Reports 1. Summarizing Report Data 2. Using the DrillDownGroupLevel Feature Charting 1. The Chart Expert 2. Editing Charts 3. Setting General Chart Options 4. Formatting Selected Chart Items 5. Formatting a Data Series 6. Formatting Chart Gridlines 7. Setting Chart Axes Options 8. Adding Chart Trendlines 9. Modifying a 3D Chart View 10. Using Chart Templates 11. Auto-Arranging Charts Advanced Reporting Tools 1. Using Running Totals 2. Creating Parameter Fields 3. Parameterized Record Selection 4. Creating Subreports 5. Report Alerts 6. Report Alert Functions Advanced Formula Creation 1. Evaluation Time Functions 2. Declaring Variables 3. Using and Displaying Variables 4. Using Array Values 5. Using "If... Then... Else..." Statements 6. Using the "Select/Case" Statement 7. Using "For" Loops 8. Using "Do... While" Loops 9. The IIF Function Advanced Reporting 1. Creating a Report Template 2. Exporting Report Results 3. Exporting as HTML 4. Setting Default Options 5. Setting Report Options Using Report Wizards 1. Using the Report Wizards 2. Report Wizard Types 3. Creating a Cross-Tab Report Advanced Database Concepts 1. Viewing the SQL Code 2. Using Table Aliases 3. Verifying the Database 4. Setting the Datasource Location 5. Mapping Fields

sap business objects crystal reports: Cognition-Driven Decision Support for Business Intelligence Li Niu, Jie Lu, Guangquan Zhang, 2009-09-14 Cognition-driven decision support system (DSS) has been recognized as a paradigm in the research and development of business intelligence (BI). Cognitive decision support aims to help managers in their decision making from human cognitive aspects, such as thinking, sensing, understanding and predicting, and fully reuse their experience. Among these cognitive aspects, decision makers' situation awareness (SA) and mental models are considered to be two important prerequisites for decision making, particularly in ill-structured and dynamic decision situations with uncertainties, time pressure and high personal stake. In today's business domain, decision making is becoming increasingly complex. To make a successful decision, managers' SA about their business environments becomes a critical factor. This book presents theoretical models as well practical techniques of cognition-driven DSS. It first introduces some important concepts of cognition orientation in decision making process and some techniques in related research areas including DSS, data warehouse and BI, offering readers a preliminary for moving forward in this book. It then proposes a cognition-driven decision process (CDDP) model which incorporates SA and experience (mental models) as its central components. The goal of the CDDP model is to facilitate cognitive decision support to managers on the basis of BI systems. It also presents relevant techniques developed to support the implementation of the CDDP model in a BI environment. Key issues addressed of a typical business decision cycle in the CDDP model include: natural language interface for a manager's SA input, extraction of SA semantics, construction of data warehouse queries based on the manager's SA and experience, situation

information retrieval from data warehouse, how the manager perceives situation information and update SA, how the manager's SA leads to a final decision. Finally, a cognition-driven DSS, FACETS, and two illustrative applications of this system are discussed.

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sap business objects crystal reports: *Integrating SAP BusinessObjects BI with SAP NetWeaver* Ingo Hilgefort, 2013-11-01 Learn how to run SAP BusinessObjects BI tools on top of SAP data Understand your data connectivity options for integration Get up to speed on SAP BusinessObjects Design Studio and SAP Lumira 3rd edition updated and expanded You know what SAP BusinessObjects BI can do for a business now make it happen. With this detailed, click-by-click guide, learn how to connect SAP to the SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.1 platform. From data connectivity to server-side and client-side configuration to creating reports, you ll find the information you need to get your systems talking. Installation and Configuration Begin at the beginning get SAP BusinessObjects BI set up quickly and in the right way. With detailed instructions and screenshots, you ll get started on the right foot. Data Connectivity Universes, BI Consumer Services, and more: Find out what you need to know about data connectivity for SAP BusinessObjects BI and SAP NetWeaver. Report Building Consider this your crash course in report development. From SAP Crystal Reports to SAP Lumira, get hands-on experience with every tool. Troubleshooting and Tips Learn from an expert who knows all the tricks of the trade. Find what you need to know to get everything working together. Updated and Expanded 3rd Edition Discover new features of SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.1, as well as new SAP business intelligence solutions like SAP BusinessObjects Design Studio and SAP Lumira.

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from sales figures and shipping expenses, to other key performance indicators and metrics. By using the SAP BusinessObjects suite of business intelligence (BI) tools, companies have the power to transform their data into a powerful strategic and tactical tool to manage and grow their businesses. This book provides a comprehensive overview of the reporting, analysis, and visualization tools available from SAP BusinessObjects. Introduction to all the SAP BusinessObjects Reporting and Analytics Tools Learn about the various tools, the different users of each tool, and the major functions for each of the tools. Enterprise Reporting with Crystal Reports Explore pixel perfect reporting with Crystal Reports and understand who this powerful tool is for and what it can do. Ad Hoc Reporting and Queries with Web Intelligence Discover how to enable users to create queries from scratch, format retrieved information, and easily analyze underlying trends and root causes. Integrating into Microsoft with Live Office Find out how to leverage content from your BusinessObjects Enterprise system in Microsoft(r) Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook. Creating Dashboards and Visualizations with Xcelsius Discover how to present complex business data clearly and provide decision makers the ability to interact with the information and manage their businesses proactively.

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