

SAP Crystal Solutions
SAP Crystal Reports and SAP Crystal Server

Step by Step guide: Upgrade from viewer With SAP Crystal Reports 2020





Upgrade from SAP Crystal Reports Viewer, SAP Crystal Reports for Visual Studio or SAP Crystal Reports for Eclipse to Crystal Reports

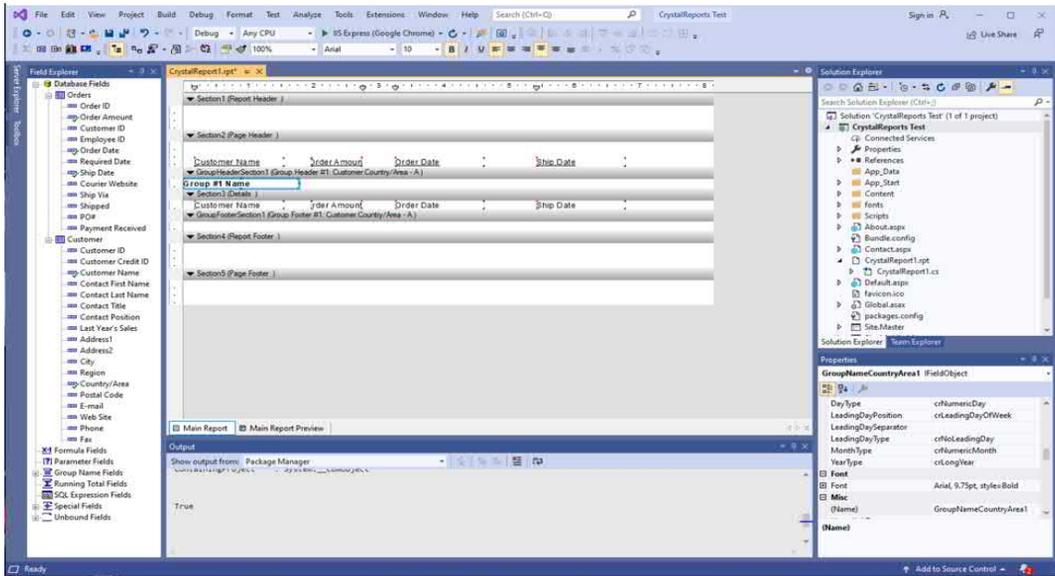
There are many ways to use and share reports designed with Crystal Reports. For years, Crystal Reports has been the de-facto standard in integrated reporting for both Windows- and web-based custom applications with custom reports appearing in thousands and thousands of programs designed with Microsoft Visual Studio and Eclipse for Java. And, the free Crystal Reports Viewer has been used by many organizations to distribute already-designed reports to end users.

However, when your viewing audience wants to start modifying or designing their own reports or when you want to move beyond the limitations of the Visual Studio or Eclipse integrated report designer, it's time to upgrade to the full version of SAP Crystal Reports 2020.

Flexibility with a Standalone Report Designer

One of the many pioneering features of early versions of Crystal Reports was integration with programming languages. Thousands of Microsoft Windows programs and custom web applications designed by programmers around the world include embedded Crystal Reports.

While there has been an evolution of approaches to integration of approaches to adding Crystal Reports to custom projects, embedding a report designer within a coding development environment is the most current approach. While this solution is free within the limitations of current licensing requirements, it presents challenges to a wider reporting audience.



Crystal Reports embedded in a development environment is primarily designed for custom programmers, not report designers:

- You must have a copy of a programming toolset, such as Microsoft Visual Studio.
- Coding and application development is the tool's primary purpose, with integrated report design only available as an add-on.
- Distributing a finished report is generally only accomplished when the final custom program is distributed.



A full copy of SAP Crystal Reports 2020 is the best solution for report consumers who find they need to modify or design reports and are not coders:

- The sole purpose is report design – there are no extraneous screens, dialog boxes, or menus that aren't directly related to analyzing and presenting data.
- The user interface is fully dedicated to report design and data analysis. You may resize and reorient the report designer within your overall desktop organization more efficiently than with an integrated report designer.
- Finished reports can still be imported into development environments for inclusion in custom applications.

And, there are additional benefits to using standalone SAP Crystal Reports 2020, beyond features in the embedded developer versions:

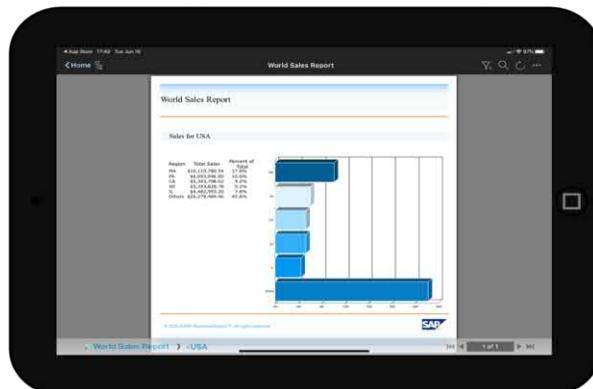
- Editable preview window
- Autosave
- Custom Templates
- Freehand SQL command object to optimize relational queries
- Save export options within the report
- Greater language support

The Next Level: SAP Crystal Server 2020

Once you've designed a report, you very probably will want to share it with others in your organization. They may wish to make modifications to it themselves, or they may prefer to just view report results. In most cases, your audience will probably wish to update the report in real time with the most current data. Custom applications designed with Visual Studio or Eclipse provide a custom integrated report to end-viewers. However, especially in web environments, these are low-volume solutions (Visual Studio web applications are limited to three threads per processor with Eclipse applications limited to five).

If you've used the free Crystal Reports Viewer to distribute finished Crystal Reports, you've probably discovered the inherent disadvantages that the solution presents. You must install a full client product on each viewer's personal computer. Web browsers aren't used to view reports. And, reports can only be sent with saved data. Viewers cannot update reports with currently-available information as of right now.

After you begin to use standalone Crystal Reports 2020, consider SAP Crystal Server 2020 for a high-volume, scalable report distribution tool. Its web-based design eliminates the need for management of full client applications on individual computers. As such, it is entirely platform-independent and also interfaces with SAP's mobile platform for report consumption using tablets and smartphones.



SAP Crystal Server is designed for flexible, scalable licensing based on your organization's needs. With both named and concurrent licensing options available at varying levels, you may start with a smaller license complement and add capacity as your needs expand. And, SAP Crystal Server includes a set of custom SDK and API options if you wish to continue to create custom web-based applications that embed pixel-perfect reporting. SAP Crystal Server technical support is available from SAP or third-party consulting organizations. Next-version upgrades are available at no cost while under software maintenance.

Perhaps most importantly, SAP Crystal Server 2020 provides a combination of real time, right-now access to data and automatic scheduling and distribution. Depending on organization needs, specific viewers may be granted permissions to view reports in real time, connecting at the moment to any corporate data source. Other viewers may benefit from interactive drill down and navigation of reports that were run during off hours to conserve database resources. And, additional viewers may prefer to receive e-mail attachments of pixel-perfect reports on a regular automatic schedule.

The screenshot displays the 'Schedule for World Sales Report' configuration window in the SAP BI Launch Pad. The window title is 'Schedule for World Sales Report' and it is part of the 'BI Launch Pad' interface. The user is logged in as 'Administrator'. The window contains several tabs: 'Instance Title', 'Recurrence', 'Database Logon', 'Filters', 'Formats', 'Destinations', 'Print Settings', 'Events', 'Scheduling Server Group', and 'Languages'. The 'Recurrence' tab is active, showing the following settings:

- Run Report: Recurring
- Repeat: Weekly
- On: S M T W T F S (with 'W' highlighted)
- Start Date: Jun 16, 2020, 5:18 PM
- End Date: May 16, 2030, 6:49 PM

A calendar and time picker are open over the End Date field. The calendar shows the month of May 2030, with the 16th selected. The time picker shows the time 6:49 PM.



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