

Reporting Software Comparison

Business Objects' Crystal Reports

Benefits

- Widely used, so employees may have previous experience with it
- Capable of delivering in-depth reports
- Engine is easy to implement

Disadvantages

- More expensive to purchase and maintain compared to other reporting packages
- Complicated design environment comes with a steep learning curve
- Significant training and ongoing use and maintenance required by IT staff

What It Means For You

Crystal Reports is one of the lowest-rated reporting packages on the market. Despite being considered the industry standard for reporting software, extensive user complaints on public forums express frustration with its overly complicated design interface. Crystal is known for its advanced reporting features and techniques, and creative technical users have the potential to create visually impressive and informative reports. The majority of companies that invest in Crystal, however, tend to find themselves in a stranglehold after implementation.

Summary:

Crystal Reports is best for companies who need elaborate reports, have a considerable budget, and can afford to spend significant time in IT training and ongoing maintenance.