

# Reporting Software Comparison

## Pentaho Reporting

### Benefits

- Free introductory open source reporting software package
- Intuitive dashboarding and drilldown capabilities
- Easy to integrate reports and dashboards into web applications

### Disadvantages

- Reporting package is one of the weakest and least developed components of their Business Intelligence package
- Professional support and software only available for Enterprise customers
- Lacks advanced reporting tools and techniques

### What It Means For You

Pentaho's open-source reporting software is typical of most open-source software packages. The interface looks like a cheap knock-off of more popular packages, the software is buggy and consistently produces errors, and in the long run Pentaho requires more time and energy than its competitors. Companies that choose Pentaho due to its seemingly low cost quickly realize the cost of internal support and maintenance far surpasses the initial investment. Additionally, the only professional support Pentaho offers is to customers who purchase their full Enterprise Edition Business Intelligence Suite. Pentaho also is not as powerful as some of the older and better-established reporting packages.

### Summary

Pentaho is best for companies who have a small budget for reporting investment but can absorb high costs of internal support and maintenance.