

Reporting Software Comparison

Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services

Benefits

- Included with Microsoft Enterprise Servers and available for download as a standalone application
- Strong charting and dashboarding capabilities as well as simplified table and matrix design
- Features automatic report scheduling and deployment to a variety of output formats

Disadvantages

- Very steep learning curve, meant for use by IT Professionals or Network Administrators
- Little to no training or support available
- Slow report generation and long report turnaround time

What It Means For You

SSRS may initially seem like a simple solution, but as your company grows, your reports will inevitably evolve alongside your increased demands. With more data and more complex reports coming in your company's future, SSRS can quickly change from a simple solution into a high maintenance and high cost headache. Additionally, the vast majority of business users will not feel comfortable inside SSRS's elaborate interface and thus will have to rely on their IT team to create and deliver reports. This complication and the complex interface contribute to a long turnaround time, which means getting your hands on modified reports could take several days.

Summary

SSRS is best for companies with light reporting needs and an IT staff that is willing to work in its complex interface.