

SAP® BusinessObjects™ FOR MICROSOFT ENVIRONMENTS

MAKE BETTER DECISIONS TODAY

SAP Solution Brief

SAP BusinessObjects Business Intelligence
Solutions

SAP BusinessObjects FOR MICROSOFT ENVIRONMENTS

SAP® BusinessObjects™ business intelligence (BI) solutions interoperate with Microsoft software, enriching the end-user experience while enhancing decision making.

Enhance Decision Making with Microsoft and SAP BusinessObjects Interoperability

Several combinations of technologies enable Microsoft and SAP BusinessObjects BI solutions to work better together. Complementary technologies include:

- Microsoft SharePoint and SAP BusinessObjects XI solutions portal integration kit
- Microsoft Office and Xcelsius® software
- Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services and Xcelsius
- Microsoft SharePoint and Xcelsius
- Microsoft Office and SAP BusinessObjects Live Office software
- Microsoft Excel and SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform
- Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Server and SAP BusinessObjects Voyager software
- Microsoft Visual Studio and Crystal Reports® software
- Microsoft Dynamics and Crystal Reports Server software

Enrich Reporting with Microsoft SharePoint and SAP BusinessObjects Portal Integration Kit

Users can deliver SAP BusinessObjects and Crystal Reports interactive charts, reports, and metrics into Microsoft Office SharePoint services, tapping information from Microsoft SQL Server databases and applications such as SAP® software offerings, PeopleSoft, and Siebel.

Using Microsoft's SharePoint portal server with the SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise portal integration kit, you can manage structured reports and unstructured information from virtually any data source, and integrate data into a single portal interface. The integration kit lets you access all BI resources, including Crystal Reports, SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence® software, SAP BusinessObjects enterprise performance management solutions, and any Microsoft Office documents that are stored in the central management server.

Business users can leverage existing Crystal Reports and then export reports to Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or Adobe PDF format with a single click, using SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise Web parts. Web parts integration allows users to create customized BI dashboards. Dashboards help you to efficiently organize data, publish and update content, and share information with employees, customers, and partners.

Share Business Dashboards with Xcelsius and Microsoft Office

Xcelsius software from SAP provides everything users need to create interactive business dashboards that connect to Microsoft Excel spreadsheets or any external data source using Web services, XML, and other connectors. Users can then share these business dashboards “live” within Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, PDF, Microsoft Outlook, corporate portals, and the Web.

Xcelsius uses a point-and-click interface, designed for ease of use, to import data from any external data source. Xcelsius outputs interactive dashboards, animated charts and graphs, financial presentations, and business calculators directly to Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, PDF documents, and the Web.

Visual modeling enables forward-looking business dashboards and scorecards that let executives plan ahead, probe what-if scenarios, and peer into the company's possible future performance. Using visual sliders and dials on the screen, decision makers can alter underlying assumptions and immediately see the effect on projected performance indicators directly on the dashboard – dramatically shortening their time-to-decision.

SAP has designed Xcelsius with the end user in mind, achieving rapid development and deployment with a template-driven architecture and Microsoft Excel-based foundation. With Xcelsius, business users can serve their own needs for delivering interactive dashboards and scorecards, quickly.

Connect to Live Data with Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services and Xcelsius

With point-and-click connectivity to Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services, Xcelsius provides a new and powerful solution for Microsoft SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005 Reporting Services customers. Xcelsius gives users a competitive advantage by delivering vital business data in secure, insightful, and interactive business dashboards.

With Xcelsius, users can create live business dashboards that connect to multiple Microsoft Reporting Services reports. You can monitor business performance from one integrated dashboard with role-based security and server-side caching capabilities. The secure dashboards can be distributed in Microsoft PowerPoint or PDF documents, and still maintain the strengths and capabilities mentioned above.

Installing the Xcelsius server component on the Microsoft Reporting Services server allows you to access reports from inside the Xcelsius interface and connect report data directly to the dashboard. (Xcelsius applications also can connect to the data within SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise software.) This intuitive and flexible connectivity ensures your business dashboards are always live with up-to-the-minute information.

Increase Value with Microsoft SharePoint and Xcelsius

With its Microsoft SharePoint integration capabilities, Xcelsius is a powerful solution for Microsoft's portal technology. Xcelsius provides Microsoft SharePoint end users with interactive charts, graphs, and dashboards. Xcelsius increases the value of corporate portals, allowing access to business data visually.

Xcelsius with Microsoft SharePoint provides:

- Visually stunning and interactive Web parts
- Real-time Web part customization
- Web-part-to-Web-part connectivity, where changing the data in one Web part immediately displays results in the other Web part
- Live data connectivity
- Rapid development and deployment

Visualize Xcelsius-Driven BI Content Inside Your Microsoft Office Applications

Xcelsius connects to multiple types of data sources, including Microsoft Office applications and SAP BusinessObjects BI solutions. As a visualization tool, Xcelsius is designed to display complex business information in a simple, easy to grasp presentation. You can now present intuitive displays directly inside your Microsoft Office applications.

Aside from the value in combining security with flexible distribution methods, the output of Xcelsius is a stand-alone Adobe Flash (SWF) file. You do not need Xcelsius or Microsoft Excel installed on your machine; instead, you only need the Adobe Flash Player – which is free and installed on most computers.

With just one-click, you can export Xcelsius output into Microsoft Office products. As a result, you can view secure, connected visual models inside the applications business users use everyday – Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, PDF documents, or the Web. Additionally, connectivity options leverage role-level security, so Xcelsius models only display the data that is relevant to each user's login credentials.

Allow Self-Service with Microsoft Office and SAP BusinessObjects Live Office

SAP BusinessObjects Live Office allows access to corporate data within Microsoft Office so your business users don't need to depend on IT for support. You can embed Crystal Reports documents and SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence data into Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, and Microsoft Outlook applications. Data can be refreshed on-demand, so users are always working with the most current data in the Microsoft Office application. SAP BusinessObjects Live Office interoperates with Microsoft SharePoint Server and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise, to help ensure corporate data is managed in a secure and centralized repository.

Leverage Microsoft Excel and SAP BusinessObjects Tools for Planning and Consolidation

The SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform, wraps a virtual shell around Microsoft Excel and industry-standard databases, including Microsoft SQL Server and others, preserving strengths and extending functionality. (The SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation application is also available as a version for the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform.)

Microsoft Excel is the primary user interface across the network and over the Web. The planning and consolidation application purposely leverages Microsoft Excel's ease of creating complex formulas and functions; superior and intuitive formatting options; easy to understand charting capabilities; and the ability to host other Microsoft programs and objects.

The planning and consolidation application was specifically designed to work with Excel so you can:

- Use powerful, industry-standard databases to manage and consolidate large amounts of data along unlimited hierarchical structures.
- Allow hundreds or thousands of users to simultaneously access solutions and collaborate, regardless of geographical location.
- Centralize process control, workflow management, robust data, and user security for more secure and efficient planning and budgeting.
- Enhance Microsoft Excel's already powerful reporting abilities with drill down and ad hoc analysis capabilities.
- Add a methodology library for standardized business rules that is both reusable and dynamic without being directly tied to the spreadsheet.

Make Intelligent Decisions with SAP BusinessObjects Voyager and Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services

SAP BusinessObjects Voyager software supports Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services. SAP BusinessObjects Voyager is a powerful, Web-based OLAP analysis tool that enables insight into business data for intelligent decisions that affect corporate performance. OLAP data is displayed in the SAP BusinessObjects Voyager analysis window with crosstabs and charts. A user can create a workspace, add crosstabs and chart objects to the analysis window, connect those objects to OLAP data sources, and then interactively define queries to explore the data.

With SAP BusinessObjects Voyager, you can simultaneously view data from different cubes and providers. For example, you can view sales data from a Microsoft Analysis Services cube on the same page as finance data from a Hyperion Essbase cube.

You can access SAP BusinessObjects Voyager functionality from the SAP BusinessObjects BI portal in a Web browser. All you need is a connection to an SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise system that has SAP BusinessObjects Voyager installed; the software does not need to be installed on a local machine.

Integrated Reporting with Microsoft Visual Studio and Crystal Reports

SAP BusinessObjects provides leading support for the Microsoft Visual Studio developer at every stage of the development cycle. Part of Microsoft Visual Studio since 1993, Crystal Reports integrates directly into the development environment. A special edition of Crystal Reports, designed for Microsoft Visual Studio 2008, continues to be included as part of the Microsoft Visual Studio default install. Built to provide an integrated reporting experience within the Microsoft Visual Studio development environment, Crystal Reports, version for Visual Studio 2008, leverages Microsoft Visual Studio advancements in data, usability, and ease of use.

To get the most out of Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 with Crystal Reports, we recommend using Crystal Reports 2008. Crystal Reports 2008 is updated software that is geared for developers who are upgrading from the bundled Crystal Reports software in Microsoft Visual Studio 2008.

Manage and Distribute Reports with Microsoft Dynamics and Crystal Reports Server

Crystal Reports from SAP is included with Microsoft Dynamics GP and Microsoft Dynamics SL software. Many Microsoft Dynamics customers are familiar with Crystal Reports today but when it comes to report distribution, they still convert reports to PDF and email them. Crystal Reports Server software offers an alternative, secure, self-service, Web-based solution for managing and distributing reports.

Crystal Reports Server is a reporting solution that helps small to mid-sized businesses create, manage, and deliver reports via the Web or embedded in enterprise applications. The software addresses all steps in the reporting process, from data access and report design, to report management and delivery, to report integration with Microsoft SharePoint portal. It includes Crystal Reports XI, for report creation.

Xcelsius allows for the creation of interactive business dashboards that connect to Microsoft Dynamics GP and SL data from Crystal Reports Server. Sliders, gauges, filters, numerical input tools and other visual components let decision makers quickly evaluate multiple what-if scenarios – real-time, with the click of a mouse. Custom graphics and interactivity allow development and presentation of compelling yet easy-to-understand financial dashboards and business summaries for the Web, intranets, and portals.

The out-of-the box integration with Microsoft SharePoint enables companies to provide their end-users with interactive animated charts, graphs and dashboards that work with Microsoft SharePoint Portal Server.

Why Wait? Take the Next Step Today

You can't afford to wait to make better business decisions – so don't wait to unlock the information stored in your Microsoft family of applications and databases. Find out what industry-leading BI solutions from SAP can do for your users and your business today.

Quick Facts

Summary

SAP® BusinessObjects™ business intelligence (BI) solutions interoperate with Microsoft software, enriching the end-user experience while enhancing decision making.

Business Challenges

- Simplify reporting for end users while ensuring data is secure, accurate, and current
- Efficiently organize data, publish and update content, and share information with employees, customers, and partners
- Monitor business performance
- Accelerate decision making

Key Features

- **Integration kits** – Access all BI resources, including Crystal Reports® documents, SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence® software, SAP BusinessObjects enterprise performance management solutions, and Microsoft Office documents
- **Connectivity** – Connect to Microsoft Excel spreadsheets or any external data source using Web services, XML, and other connectors
- **Single portal interface** – Manage structured and unstructured information from virtually any data source
- **Interactive charts, graphs, reports, dashboards, and metrics** – Gain instant insight to information

Business Benefits

- **Create interactive business dashboards** – Visual displays and access to live data feeds dramatically accelerates decision making
- **Share business dashboards with employees, customers, and partners** – Export Crystal Reports and BI data to Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel, PDF documents, corporate portals, and the Web with a single click
- **Leverage what-if functionality** – Alter underlying assumptions and immediately see the effect on projected performance indicators directly on the dashboard, shortening time-to-decision
- **Empower end users** – Self-service reporting, access to live data, and monitoring of business performance from one integrated dashboard with role-based security and server-side caching capabilities

For More Information

To learn more about SAP BusinessObjects business intelligence (BI) solutions from SAP, visit our Web site at www.sap.com/sapbusinessobjects.

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