

INFORMATION

Crystal Reports RDC Statement of Direction

Report Design Component (RDC):

- Will not be available in future releases of Crystal Reports
- Is currently available as a supported component in Crystal Reports XI and earlier
- Has several migration options and resources available today

Overview

Introduced in Crystal Reports® 6, the report design component (RDC) is a component-based technology used mainly by Visual Basic developers to integrate reporting into Windows desktop and client-server applications. With the evolution of the application development market toward .NET and Java, Business Objects is announcing the deprecation of the RDC. This means that the RDC SDK, API's, and documentation will no longer be enhanced and delivered in any future Crystal Reports products released after December 31, 2005. Customers are strongly encouraged to migrate RDC applications to use the .NET or Java components and servers available today in Crystal Reports, Crystal Reports Server, and BusinessObjects™ Enterprise.

The purpose of this document is to help RDC customers understand key facts about RDC deprecation and learn about the migration options available today.

The Facts

Business Objects is announcing the deprecation of the RDC.

With the evolution of the application development market toward .NET and Java, Business Objects is announcing the deprecation of the RDC. This means that the RDC SDK, APIs, and documentation will no longer be enhanced and delivered in any future Crystal Reports products released after December 31, 2005. This announcement does not affect the availability of, or support for, any versions of the RDC currently available in the market.

The RDC deprecation timeline aligns with Microsoft's COM deprecation policy.

The introduction of .NET in Microsoft Visual Studio 2002 brought about major changes to the way developers write applications for the Windows platform – particularly for web applications. .NET and Java have quickly become the dominant preferred development platforms for building applications. As a result of this trend, Microsoft announced plans in 2005 to stop supporting their COM-based development tools, with Visual C++ 6 support ending in September 2005 and Visual Basic (VB) 6 support ending in March 2008.

The RDC is a COM component based on craxdrt.dll, an ActiveX designer object originally designed for Microsoft Visual Basic 5 and 6 developers. Business Objects RDC deprecation plan is in alignment with Microsoft's COM-based development tools support lifecycle.

The RDC is still available today in current versions of Crystal Reports.

It is important to note that the RDC continues to be available in current versions including Crystal Reports XI (Release 1 and 2). However, as noted above, future Crystal Reports releases developed after December 31, 2005 will no longer include the RDC SDK, APIs, and documentation.

RDC technical support availability is based on the support lifecycle for the version of Crystal Reports you are using.

Technical support for the RDC is based on the version of Crystal Reports you are currently using and will continue to be supported according to the timelines posted on the Business Objects [Support Lifecycle website](#). As an example, for developers using the RDC in Crystal Reports 9, patch support will end on April 1, 2006 and interactive technical support assistance will end on April 1, 2007.

Migration Options

Although the RDC continues to be available in Crystal Reports XI (Release 1 and 2) and will continue to be supported according to the Business Objects Support Lifecycle, several migration options are already available today. Business Objects offers developers a choice of reporting components and reporting servers. Choosing the best option will depend on your application requirements and deployment plans.

Reporting Components

A component is a set of jars or dlls that live entirely in the context of the host application. The host or desktop application instantiates an instance of the component when it is launched. Components are ideal for simple web and desktop reporting solutions.

Figure 1: A Business Objects reporting component opens, creates, changes, and runs the report.



Two modern Business Objects components are available for integrating into your applications. These components can meet virtually any development requirement you are currently addressing using the RDC. Plus you can benefit from many new capabilities that result from using a more modern .NET or Java development platform.

- **.NET reporting component**

The .NET reporting component provides developers with a fast, productive way to create and integrate presentation-quality reports right from within the Visual Studio .NET environment. Reports can connect to almost any database, as well as to proxy data, such as an ADO.NET data set. The .NET reporting component was designed to take advantage of the .NET framework and includes one-click deployment, IDataReader support, and SQL Server 2005 user-defined type support. Note that Visual Studio 2005 is supported by [Crystal Reports XI Release 2](#) only.

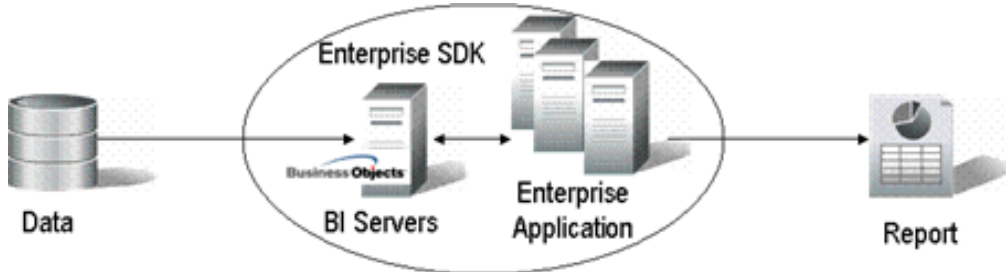
- **Java reporting component**

The Java reporting component is a 100% Java embedded reporting solution that enables developers to embed reporting functionality, such as report viewing and exporting, into their Java web applications. It also supports connectivity to data sources via JDBC or JNDI. Using viewer tags, developers can easily embed a Crystal Reports viewer into a JSP page to render dynamic data from within a J2EE application server.

Reporting Servers

A server is a series of operating system-level services or daemons that operate in parallel. Each service is independently scalable from the rest. Servers are ideal for robust, scalable, secure, or high performance enterprise applications.

Figure 2: Business Objects services open, process, deliver, schedule, create, or modify, secure, and manage the content that is request by the enterprise application.



The Report Application Server is available for integrating into your application:

- **Report Application Server**
(Part of Crystal Reports Server and BusinessObjects Enterprise)

The Report Application Server allows developers to offload report processing from the application server to increase application performance. It includes report viewing and creation SDKs for COM, Java and .NET development, a stand-alone report processing engine, and a set of server-side viewer controls developers can embed into an application presentation layer.

Choosing the Right Migration Option

The following chart outlines a variety of migration options, their ideal use cases, and which products they are available in.

Technology	Recommended for...	Products available in...
.NET Reporting Component	Desktop and web applications Basic report viewing, printing and exporting at runtime Small workgroup deployments (scaling is done manually via code) Light report volumes/processing	Crystal Reports Developer edition and Crystal Reports Server
Java Reporting Component	Desktop and web applications Basic report viewing, printing and exporting at runtime Small workgroup deployments (scaling is done manually via code) Light report volumes/processing	Crystal Reports Developer edition and Crystal Reports Server
Report Application Server	Web applications Advanced report interactivity via runtime report creation/modification Workgroup single server deployments Medium report volumes/processing	Crystal Reports Server
	Web applications Advanced report interactivity via runtime report creation/modification	BusinessObjects Enterprise

	Scalable multi-tier deployments Heavier report volumes/processing	
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Important Note: Business Objects does not recommend using the RDC in .NET as an alternative to the .NET reporting component. We strongly recommend using the components that have been designed and tested for .NET, the .NET reporting component or the Report Application Server, as they are designed to embed directly into the .NET development environment and to take advantage of newer .NET features. If you are currently using the RDC in your .NET application you will need to start planning your migration to the .NET components.

Migration Considerations

As with any major platform shift, older applications will require changes to work in the new .NET or Java architecture. Moving from the RDC to the .NET or Java Reporting Components is no exception.

The Crystal Reports .rpt file format is independent from the technology used to access it. As such, reports created in Visual Basic 6 or Crystal Reports will import easily for use within the .NET reporting component, the Java reporting component, and the Report Application Server., although data sources and repository links may need to be refreshed. When you import your report into the latest version of Crystal Reports, you will be prompted if there any obsolete objects used in your report.

Because COM is significantly different than .NET and Java, your code will be different when working with the .NET or Java Reporting Components. Some RDC methods and events, such as section formatting events do not exist in these more modern components and your scenario will need to be accomplished with a different method or object. To help you successfully migrate your application, a variety of documentation is included with the .NET and Java Reporting Components and posted on the migration site in the Business Objects Developer Zone.

Note: Business Objects recommends that .NET developers use the Winform viewer (instead of the ActiveX viewer) in updated or new Windows applications.

Migration Resources

To help you migrate your RDC applications, a variety of white papers, knowledge base articles, and code samples are available on the [Business Objects Developer Zone](#). These include:

[Updating version 8.5, 9 and 10 Crystal reports to XI](#) - White Paper

[Upgrading from the RDC API to the Report Application Server SDK](#) - White Paper

Upgrading from the RDC to the .NET Reporting Component

- [White Paper](#)
- [Migration Project](#)

Upgrading from the RDC to the Java Reporting Component

- [White Paper](#)
- [Migration Project](#)

[How to upgrade an RDC ASP application to Crystal Reports XI](#) - Kbase C2017518

Licensing

The RDC is licensed in the same manner as the .NET and Java reporting components. All three components offer unlimited free runtime for internal applications. For developers who wish to redistribute their applications to 3rd parties, a copy of Crystal Reports Developer edition must be purchased for every company that purchases the

application. This licensing also applies consistently to the RDC as well as the .NET and Java reporting components.

As Crystal Reports Server contains a broader feature set and greater scalability, it uses a different licensing model based on concurrent user connections. For complete details on the licensing models for these components and servers, please visit:

www.businessobjects.com/products/reporting/crystalreports/licensing/details.asp

Additional Resources

[.NET Merge Modules](#)

[Developer Zone](#)

[What's New in Crystal Reports XI for .NET Developers](#)

[What's New in Crystal Reports XI for Java Developers](#)

[Online Technical Support Site](#) - Knowledge Base Articles, Whitepapers, Updates

[Monthly Hotfixes](#)

Notice:

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