



What's New in BusinessObjects Enterprise



chapter



Welcome to BusinessObjects Enterprise 11

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 is the business intelligence platform that supports the entire range of reporting, querying, and analysis. It also provides platform-level support for semantic layers, data integration, and security. BusinessObjects Enterprise provides full web-based administration and configuration of the entire system.

This release extends the robust information infrastructure provided by earlier versions of BusinessObjects Enterprise and Crystal Enterprise.

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 brings together features from across the Business Objects product line to meet the diverse needs of users, from presentation-quality reporting to in-depth data analysis. This version includes a variety of major enhancements spread across our data access methods, administration capabilities, and report design options.

This chapter provides an overview of the new features and enhancements available in this version of BusinessObjects Enterprise.

About this version

BusinessObjects Enterprise provides an industry-standard, proven architecture based largely on an enhanced version of the Crystal Enterprise architecture, supplemented by powerful query and analysis, and data integration capabilities from the Business Objects product line.

BusinessObjects Enterprise is designed to integrate seamlessly with existing data, web, and application investments without imposing a new set of standards and processes. Thanks to the extensive upgrade and content migration support provided in BusinessObjects Enterprise 11, existing customers can leverage their current investments in Business Objects and Crystal technology.

Supported products

All Business Objects products are now available under the same platform. BusinessObjects Enterprise XI provides full support for the management, security, delivery, and interaction for the following products and versions:

- Crystal Reports XI
- BusinessObjects Web Intelligence XI
- BusinessObjects OLAP Intelligence XI
- BusinessObjects Data Integrator XI

For information about these products, consult the documentation provided with each component.

BusinessObjects Enterprise XI also supports the following add-in components:

- BusinessObjects Enterprise Live Office XI

Use Live Office to embed your business intelligence data into Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations. Then you can share the resulting Office documents securely using BusinessObjects Enterprise. By taking advantage of the security and management features of BusinessObjects Enterprise, you can manage your Office documents the same way you manage your business intelligence documents.

New features

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 represents the full integration of traditional Business Objects and Crystal products, combining the best features of each product line. Whether you have an existing BusinessObjects Enterprise system or a Crystal Enterprise system, you will notice a wide range of new features in BusinessObjects Enterprise 11.

End-user experience

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 provides a significantly enhanced user experience for all customers.

Categories

If you are upgrading or migrating from an existing Crystal Enterprise deployment, you will notice the addition of categories to BusinessObjects Enterprise 11. If you're migrating from BusinessObjects Enterprise 6.5, you can import your existing categories with the Import Wizard.

Folders and categories work together to provide strong navigation capabilities. Folders are used as a location to store documents. Complimentary to folders, categories are used for classifying documents in BusinessObjects Enterprise. Categories provide an effective way of classifying documents that makes it easier for users to organize documents. The categorization of documents enables users to locate information more easily regardless of where it is stored within the system. Users can classify documents by using categories created by themselves and by others. By creating a combination of folders and categories, and setting appropriate rights for them, you can organize documents according to multiple criteria and improve both security and navigation.

For example, if you currently organize your files into departmental folders, you could use categories to create an alternate filing system that divides content according to different roles in your organization, such as managers or VPs.

You can associate documents with multiple categories, and you can create subcategories within categories.

Discussions

Discussions provide threaded notes on all documents within BusinessObjects 11, allowing users to add comments to documents in BusinessObjects Enterprise.

In BusinessObjects Enterprise 11, you can add discussions to any document in the system either by selecting it from the document list or while the user is viewing the document. By adding discussions to documents, you can share knowledge about the information in the documents. You can grant other users access to the threaded discussions to allow new users to keep track of historical comments added to the documents.

InfoView

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 introduces a new InfoView, a completely updated business intelligence portal. InfoView has been designed to allow users to do most tasks within the BI environment without the need of IT intervention. Users familiar with previous versions of InfoView or ePortfolio will see that old features have been fully updated and improved. New features allow users to be even more productive.

Through extensive testing and design, the new look and feel is designed for intuitive user interaction, combined with comprehensive support for the entire product line. From a single web environment, users can view, create, and interact with information.

InfoView is available as a .NET (ASPX) version or a J2EE version (JSP). The delivery of both .NET and J2EE versions gives the customer the flexibility of deploying InfoView in their established environment.

Publishing

In BusinessObjects Enterprise 6 systems, the term *publishing* is related to sending a document to multiple users containing different information depending on the user rights. This functionality, traditionally provided by the Broadcast Agent Publisher and is now part of BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 itself. The important features provided by the Broadcast Agent Publisher are provided in BusinessObjects Enterprise 11, including scheduling to different formats, and scheduling directly to email or printers. For more information on migrating documents, see the *BusinessObjects Enterprise Installation Guide*.

Scheduling

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 provides scheduling capabilities for both Crystal reports and Web Intelligence documents.

If you are migrating from an existing BusinessObjects Enterprise 6.x deployment, note that the Broadcast Agent Scheduler is no longer required. You will also notice that scheduling is more integrated in Business Objects 11 and includes new features such as business calendars.

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 also provides the ability to schedule documents on behalf of others. This secure mechanism allows a single report to serve the needs of multiple users by delivering only the specific subsets of information to each user according to their security profile. Unlike other techniques that require special programming efforts, this solution is more manageable and can be applied to all documents designed from secured Universes or Business Views.

Report design

BusinessObjects 11 includes Crystal Reports, the leading report design tool in the market. Crystal Reports 11 provides improved report design, usability, and processing, including significant enhancements to parameters to allow for the dynamic generation of lists of values.

Semantic Layer

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 includes both Universes and Business Views, to help make the report design process even simpler.

Universes

Universes are patented Business Objects technology. They act as a semantic layer between the user and a database.

All universe objects and their associated connections are stored and secured in the repository of BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 itself.

If you're migrating from an existing BusinessObjects Enterprise deployment, you can use Import Wizard to import your existing universes and their connection objects.

Business Views

Business Views is a flexible and reliable multi-tier system that enables companies to build detailed and specific Business Views objects that help report designers and end users access the information they require.

Note: Business Views can be used only by Crystal Reports, while Universes are accessible by both Crystal Reports as well as Web Intelligence.

Dynamic prompts and cascading lists of values

Dynamic prompts and cascading lists are now available in Crystal Reports, allowing prompt values to be populated from values in a database. Prompts can be arranged in a cascade, where one value in a prompt constrains values in subsequent picklists. Report designers no longer need to maintain static prompt lists in individual reports. A single prompt definition can be stored in the repository and shared among multiple reports, improving both runtime scalability and design time productivity.

Developer flexibility

BusinessObjects Enterprise development tools

BusinessObjects Enterprise provides SDKs for enterprise application developers to build application and portal integration on top of the platform. Recognizing the need for comprehensive support for different development environments, BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 provides extensive .NET and Java SDKs.

Note: BusinessObjects Enterprise also continues to support existing development in COM, although we recommend migrating to .NET or Java.

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 includes an enhanced version of the Unified Web Services provided with the BusinessObjects Crystal Integration Pack. Unified Web Services includes server components (the providers) and both .NET and Java APIs that are used to write applications that consume the provided web services. The consumers simplify application development.

Web Services

The integration pack Web Services have been updated to support the new BusinessObjects 11 platform features:

- The Web Intelligence documents are served by the BusinessObjects 11 Web Intelligence report engine.
- The LDAP authentication is natively supported.
- Web Farm is support.

As in the integration pack, the BusinessObjects 11 Web Services deliver a Session service (Session management, authentication, and so on), a BICatalog service (InfoObject list, category management, and so on), and a ReportEngine service (Crystal Reports and Web Intelligence document viewing including prompt and drill management).

BusinessObjects Enterprise SDK

BusinessObjects Enterprise SDK has been enhanced to include:

- JavaServer Faces for BusinessObjects Enterprise XI.
- Support for Web Intelligence, Inbox, Categories, Universes.
- Java and Web Farms support.
- Improved query language.

System administration

BusinessObjects Enterprise provides an efficient and scalable architecture for processing, managing, and delivering information to your users.

Management

The Central Management Console provides users with a centralized point for administering a variety of details including scheduling, security, and auditing.

Architecture

If you are upgrading from an existing BusinessObjects Enterprise 6.5 system, you will notice key differences in the architecture of BusinessObjects Enterprise 11.

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 is built on a component- or services-based architecture. As a services-oriented architecture, it provides better flexibility, scalability, fault tolerance, and extensibility.

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 inherits most of the new platform services from the proven Crystal Enterprise architecture, widely recognized as a highly scalable, reliable, and powerful platform by customers and industry experts alike. The service-oriented platform allows current Business Objects products such as Web Intelligence to plug directly into the framework without requiring extensive configuration.

Enhanced PageServer

One of the many improvements in BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 is the enhanced PageServer. The PageServer has the ability to grow and create sub processes as required, offering dynamic growth, improved reliability, and the smart use of resources. This leads to an increase in efficiency and performance.

Auditing

Instead of using a separate auditing component, BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 features built-in auditing features.

The auditing functionality of BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 focuses on enabling administrators to gain a better understanding of the users accessing the system and the documents they are interacting with.

The auditing functionality within BusinessObjects Enterprise has been implemented with the concept of a central auditor and individual server auditees. The auditor role is fulfilled by the Central Management Server (CMS), while individual services with auditing functionality are considered the auditees. This means that the overall system, as well as the individual services, can be audited depending on the level of detail required.

The CMS collects and collates the auditing data from the system interactions and writes the information into the auditing database. You can then create reports based on this auditing data.

There is no migration or integration of the BusinessObjects Auditor product. For more information on auditing, see the auditing chapter of the *BusinessObjects Enterprise Administrator's Guide*.

Fault tolerance

BusinessObjects Enterprise provides fail-over at the system management level (for scheduling, security, and authentication, for example). The system also provides full support for replication of all server components. Redundant components automatically take over the load if the system encounters a hardware failure or excessive wait times.

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 includes enhanced support for session-level failover. If a processing service fails, another service identifies the failure and continues the processing. The enhanced fault tolerance ensures seamless reporting and query analysis for your users.

Load balancing

Intelligent load balancing algorithms eliminate bottlenecks and maximize hardware efficiency. In a multi-server environment, you need to balance the load across multiple machines, in order to enhance scalability and maintain efficient server performance. BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 includes built-in load balancing across all system management and report processing functions. It applies a mixture of active and passive approaches to maximize server availability and minimize response time for your users.

Security

BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 provides all of the existing security features currently supported in Crystal Enterprise. User, group, and object level security is controlled using Access Control Lists (ACL), an industry standard method for controlling cascading security access. Security can be applied at the object level to all documents, categories, connections, universes, and universe restriction sets.

The Central Management Console is a centralized management tool that can be used to administer security.

For details on how rights are mapped, please see the BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 Installation Guide.

Business Objects 11 now provides single sign-on with Active Directory authentication using the Kerberos protocol. By combining single sign-on and report viewing, you can provide end-to-end single sign-on, which allows a user's security context to be retrieved from the host operating system and be used to access BusinessObjects Enterprise and the underlying databases for the reports and documents in the system.

These capabilities require the system to run all components on the Windows operating system and for the users to use Internet Explorer with Active Directory authentication. Please see `platforms.txt` for more information on supported platforms.

Business Objects 11 has introduced single sign-on for LDAP authentication. When LDAP authentication is enabled, the administrator has the option to use Siteminder as an external system for authentication providing single sign-on capabilities to BusinessObjects Enterprise.

Also, you can now configure your deployment to use the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol for all network communication between your BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 servers.

Migration

An administrator will be able to create users and groups, and import users and groups from existing BusinessObjects Enterprise and Crystal Enterprise deployments into BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 using the Import Wizard. The Import Wizard maps most security rights from current systems directly to new users and groups in BusinessObjects Enterprise 11.

For details on how rights are mapped or for more information on the Import Wizard, please see the *BusinessObjects Enterprise 11 Installation Guide*.

