

Integrating Reporting Services with SAP Crystal Reports Server

We have many customers that get started with Microsoft Reporting Services then discover that SAP Crystal Reports Server is a better value and better supports their long-term BI strategy.

So we wanted to create a tool that would make it easier for customers like this to adopt Crystal Reports Server, without forcing a rewrite of all their reports overnight.

Today, we're making this tool available as a [free download](#).

The "SAP Crystal Reports Server, integration for Microsoft Reporting Services" tool is very simple. It is designed to be run by the administrator. It will:

- Scan specified folders in your Microsoft Reporting Services repository.
- Create hyperlinks to these reports in SAP Crystal Reports Server.

After running the tool, end users can click on hyperlink objects within SAP Crystal Reports Server to view Reporting Services reports.

These reports are not converted or imported. They reports themselves stay in Reporting Services, and are rendered by Reporting Services. Security is enforced by Reporting Services.

Why Should You Care?

This tool is intended for use by customers that choose to do new report development with SAP Crystal Reports Server, but their existing reports on Microsoft Reports Services have business value.

This enables all your reports and dashboards to be federated into one system - SAP Crystal Reports Server - to make it easier for end users to access.

New customers of SAP Crystal Reports Server can adopt it faster because there's no need to migrate or rewrite reports. You can move reports over to the new system as time permits.

Why is SAP Crystal Reports Server better?

There's a number of advantages to using SAP Crystal Reports Server as a dedicated reporting & dashboarding server:

- Separating report processing from database processing enables faster performance of both systems.
- A single server for both reporting and dashboarding lowers TCO and enables tighter integration between reports and dashboards. Microsoft splits reporting and dashboarding across 2 products - Sharepoint and SQL Server.
- No processor licensing in SAP Crystal Reports Server means that it's less complicated and easier to administer in virtualized data centers. You can add/remove CPUs as required without triggering licensing events.
- Full support for Firefox and Safari browsers makes it ideal for extranet deployments.
- SAP Crystal Reports provides editable preview, which makes it faster to design reports and reduces the reporting backlog.
- Data-driven publications are available in all CAL license sizes of SAP Crystal Reports Server, but the similar feature on the Reporting Services side requires upgrading your database to Enterprise edition or higher.
- We now offer a publishing add-on so our NUL customers can add data-driven publishing.