

SAP Technical Brief
SAP Crystal Solutions

SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis,
Desktop Edition

INTUITIVE, TRUSTED AD HOC QUERY AND ANALYSIS

VIEW REPORTS, ANALYZE DATA, AND PERFORM AD HOC QUERIES

Timely access to critical business information is vital for anyone in your organization who needs to make decisions. With SAP® Crystal Interactive Analysis software, desktop edition, you can view standard reports, analyze data, perform ad hoc queries, and create new interactive reports.

Business conditions are changing rapidly, and in order for you to respond quickly and effectively, you need timely access to critical business information. The data you need is spread across different data sources, and while IT can provide access to it through standardized reports, the process can be time and resource consuming. Plus, finding business information that's not contained in standard reports can be difficult, and requests for additional views of the data often result in user frustration and report backlog.

For business professionals who not only want to view standard reports but also need to analyze the data they see, there's SAP® Crystal Interactive Analysis software, desktop edition (formerly known as SAP BusinessObjects™ Interactive Analysis, desktop edition). The software provides ad hoc query and analysis functionality in a self-service environment for data-savvy business users. An intuitive

interface allows you to combine many types of data from different sources into interactive documents and uncover trusted, shareable answers to spontaneous and iterative business questions. In addition, you can adapt reports to your current needs. Whether you are gathering details of sales transactions in a specific region or comparing quarter-to-quarter performance, your questions can be answered thanks to a feature-rich interface.

The desktop edition of SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis puts you in control of your data by providing:

- Self-service data access
- Analysis of multiple data sources
- Trusted, shareable insight

Self-Service Data Access

Accessing personal and corporate data for creating interactive reports can be as easy as dragging a few business indicators onto a blank sheet. A metadata layer replaces obscure database terms with common business terms, while maintaining data source connections and relationships. To use the desktop edition of SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis, business users do not need to know structured query language (SQL). You can quickly create interactive reports – for finance, sales, or other departments – that contain drillable tables, charts, and more. Best of all, the software offers a single interface for query, reporting, and analysis needs – minimizing training and the need to switch between different tools to find answers to your business questions (see Figure 1).





Figure 1: Interface for SAP® Crystal Interactive Analysis, Desktop Edition

One-click functions such as ranking and filtering help you better extract relevant information. Turning on the folding and unfolding option enables you to navigate across sections or tables to the details you are interested in. A table could expose only the sales at the country level and hide the lower level of details that you can always reach by simply exposing them while keeping the rest of the context. You can also add what-if types of scenarios in a document. This allows you to explore the impact of changing one business metric or a set of metrics and determine what sets of values will produce the result you are looking for.

The work environment is becoming larger than just your desk in the office. So there will be times when you need to get answers to far-reaching questions with SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis, desktop edition, as your sole source of information. Simply take advantage of the built-in interactivity of the documents to start your new analysis and adapt the

the data source. Because of this, you can continue running your analysis away from the office.

Analysis of Multiple Data Sources

Business users expect and need to be able to compare and combine data from different sources without worrying about where it comes from. With the desktop edition of SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis, you can create interactive reports and documents that combine data from multiple data sources. These can include relational databases, SAP BusinessObjects OnDemand offerings, online analytical processing servers, Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and Web services. For example, you can combine information from a costs database and an Excel spreadsheet to compare budget to actual. Plus, by simply right-clicking on the report itself, you can aggregate, sort, filter, and perform other analyses without having to hunt for those features elsewhere. Powerful analytic functions allow you to quickly drill down into your data (for example, from region to state to city). Or you can rearrange the information to obtain different views of your data (for example, sales by product or sales by region).

With the desktop edition of SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis, you can create interactive reports and documents that combine data from multiple data sources.

information to your current need. Perhaps your regional sales manager is asking for a view of the region's sales, or you need to retrieve the average discount on a specific product line. Or maybe you need to present an analysis to a customer on-site. With this software, you can continue working with the data already in the scope of the document and interact with the report objects while being disconnected from

Rather than starting from the data itself, you can modify existing reports and documents by adding new business metrics, charts, or tables using a drag-and-drop interface. The software reduces report backlog by allowing you to make your own changes instead of having to rely on IT. And for less-tech-savvy users, the software provides guided analysis with the addition of sliders, drop-downs, radio buttons, and many other control widgets. This can facilitate the first-time experience and still enable you to get some business questions answered immediately.

Trusted, Shareable Insight

One-click drill-down functionalities in this edition of SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis let you manipulate your data in an almost unlimited number of ways based on your skill level to gain deeper insights. And once you find the answer to your question, you can format the information to the expectation of your audience. Whether you share the document with peers or with your manager,

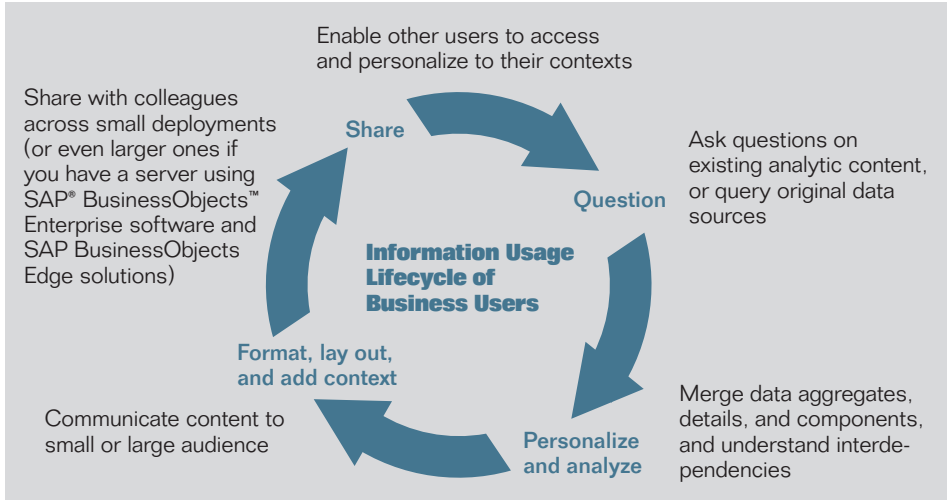


Figure 2: The Lifecycle of Information Usage for Business Professionals

you can format it accordingly without switching tools or environments; analysis and formatting functionalities are completely intertwined (see Figure 2).

The desktop edition of SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis enables at-a-glance, on-the-fly exploration of your organizational data. It also supports the sharing

A metadata layer replaces obscure database terms with common business terms, while maintaining data source connections and relationships.

of information views for personalization by colleagues so they too can gain deep insight into the business. Business users can review report metadata, such as the definition of measures used (for example, the formula to calculate reve-

nue). You can even determine which data filters have been applied, where the data originated, and when it was last updated, helping ensure better information familiarity, context, and trust. The feature for tracking data changes helps improve user productivity by allowing you to quickly see all such changes in your reports after a refresh. Changes such as increases, decreases, or new or removed objects are highlighted with different colors, which you can customize.

Benefits for Your Business

With SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis, desktop edition, you can respond more quickly to a changing business environment because you gain timely access to key business information. You can improve efficiency with self-service data access, streamline business processes with the ability to analyze multiple data sources, and support collaborative decision making with trusted, shareable insight.

With the desktop edition of SAP® Crystal Interactive Analysis software, you can:

- Access and analyze information in a single interface
- Drill down from summary to detail, and then compare data across different areas of the business
- Personalize, explore, and share documents via SAP BusinessObjects OnDemand offerings
- Start from a blank query or simply adjust existing reports
- Access company data using your own business terms
- Track data changes and see them at a quick glance
- Navigate to the details directly from the report
- Format and resize tables and charts, and insert powerful calculations
- Turn a grid into a chart or a chart into a grid
- Merge data coming from multiple sources into a single document

Find Out More

For more information about how the desktop edition of SAP Crystal Interactive Analysis can improve your query and analysis processes, call your SAP representative or visit us online at www.sap.com/sapcrystal.

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Summary

The desktop edition of SAP® Crystal Interactive Analysis software puts you in control of your data. You gain ad hoc query and analysis software that delivers a self-service environment for data-savvy business users and supports the lifecycle of information usage for business professionals.

Business Challenges

- Gain timely access to critical business information
- View data spread across different data sources
- Avoid report backlog

Key Features

- **Self-service data access** – Use a single interface and drag-and-drop functionality for query, reporting, and analysis needs
- **Analysis of multiple data sources** – Create interactive reports and documents that combine data from multiple data sources, including the SAP BusinessObjects™ BI OnDemand solution, relational databases, online analytical processing servers, Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, and Web services
- **Trusted, shareable insight** – Gain insight into the business by analyzing data and sharing information views

Business Benefits

- **Improve efficiency** through timely, self-service access to key business information
- **Streamline business processes** due to the ability to analyze multiple data sources
- **Support collaborative decision making** with at-a-glance, on-the-fly exploration of your organizational data that you can share with coworkers

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