

Crystal Intranet Kiosk

The most effective way to organise and deliver management information today

Web based Enquiries and Reports – using Crystal Enterprise Express



What is a Crystal Intranet Kiosk?

It is a central enquiry centre for everyone in your company to access the information they need to make well informed decisions. It offers high speed and flexibility with low cost. Users do not need to have any training or software on their PC, instead they use a viewer such as MS Internet Explorer. Information is delivered instantly to your users in the office, at branch offices, at home or mobile... on the road.

What are the benefits?

Crystal Enterprises' web based reporting delivers much faster performance (up to 50 times faster) and achieves this at a lower cost than Windows reporting/enquiry methods. Information is delivered from your server so all your staff access a common information source. You can set up enquiries and reports so that they are emailed to your users automatically on a daily, weekly or monthly schedule. Or, reports can be emailed based on triggers and "traffic lights" such as variations on stock, profit, sales, or other KPIs.

Crystal Enterprise is the leading reporting tool in the world today. It works for hundreds of thousands of businesses. It uses a world standard web interface. Microsoft business packages also now deliver information via Web Portals and Kiosks. Crystal Enterprise extends the power of your accounting package. You can achieve these benefits without changing your accounting package or other software. For maximum speed and performance we recommend running basing your system on MS SQL database.

Costs are reduced because the CE software is free with purchase of one Crystal Reports Professional licence. Provided you already have a modern server then you can run it on your existing equipment.

What is wrong with your existing reporting system?

Your Accounting Software is provides standard reports for those people who key data into the system every day. The benefits of Crystal show in it's ability to tailor your reports. It also benefits you where there are users who don't key in data; they need fast access to online enquiries and reports. A Crystal Kiosk will deliver information faster, more flexibly and at reduced cost.

Typically, your Accounts, Payroll, Purchasing, Despatch, Sales Order processing and Warehousing Departments may find the standard reports from your Accounting package are adequate since they are already logged in to key data into the system. For them, it makes sense to use standard reports. For other users such as management, sales and customer service, a Crystal Intranet Kiosk is a better method.

What is the difference between Crystal Reports and Crystal Enterprise Kiosk?

Currently you may be providing sales and management staff with information from a Crystal Windows Reporting package or from MS Excel, MS Access or other similar Windows reporting tools. The difference is that CE is a Web server solution. Crystal Enterprise provides the benefits of Crystal Windows plus more. A Crystal Intranet Kiosk is faster and more cost effective.



Compare the benefits... Crystal Intranet Kiosk v. your existing system

	Features	Accounting system reports and enquiries	Windows Reporting/Enquiry including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crystal Windows • MS Access • MS Excel (Visual Dataflex database)	Crystal Kiosk Crystal Enterprise MS SQL db
1	Enquiries and reports can be tailored to your needs including graphs, traffic lights, drill downs, etc.	No – there are options and parameters but you cannot tailor the enquiries and reports.	Yes, however the limitations of database will restrict the type of reports you can design.	Yes
2	Able to access the full power of relational database reporting, link information from your accounting package to other databases.	No	Yes, however there can be problems if your Accounting data needs to be linked with non-Accounting data	Yes – using the Intranet Server and MS SQL unlocks the full power of relational database reporting
3	Zero PC / workstation installation	No – software must be installed on the PC or communications server	No – software must be installed on the PC or communications server	Yes – users simply use their Intranet Browser such as Internet Explorer to access information
4	Fastest possible report delivery (using client-server processing)	No – users the processing power of the PC	No – users the processing power of the PC	Yes – up to 50 times faster
5	Approximate software cost per user	\$1,400	\$1,000	Free up to five concurrent users. (with Crystal Pro), then \$1,000 each extra user.
6	Built in communications (eliminate the cost and maintenance of Terminal Services or Citrix)	No – requires a communication server	No – requires a communication server	Yes – Use your free Internet Explorer to access information.
7	Effective mobile solution for sales people or other people working away from the office	No – requires a communication server, extra cost and speed is not optimised	No – requires a communication server, extra cost and speed is not optimised	Yes – Low communication overhead makes it ideal for mobile computing
8	Built in scheduling tool, to run reports automatically and email them to your users, clients, etc.	No	No	Yes
9	Triggers and traffic lights – automatically send alerts	No	No	Yes
10	Central location for management reports	Varies depending on the package	No – each PC has it's own reports	Yes – easier support and management
11	Harnesses the power of your server	Varies, but generally No	No – processing takes place on the PC	Yes – users achieve fast client-server processing
12	Is user access simple? Zero training required?	No – Users need to learn the software pkg	No – Need to learn the software and menus	Yes – Point/click kiosk, zero training required Simple web interface.

The most effective way for you to see the advantages of a Crystal Intranet Kiosk to is to ask us for a free demonstration. Please contact us today on (03) 9329 0766 or online@communicat.com.au