



Reporting & Analysis



Crystal 8.5

- Available on idu Concept 3.3.2
- Suitable for standard reports which are used business wide and run frequently
- Suitable for reports including percentages and ratios
- Will always be up to date with any changes made right up to the time the report is run
- Generally reports are set up to allow for changes on account and cost centre structures, thus reports adjust with the structure changes.

Crystal 10

- Updated version of Crystal 8.5 with the same advantages.
- Allows for more concurrent users of the report than 8.5 (if a report is open in 8.5 it uses one license, whereas in version 10, a license is only used when the report is physically calculating)
- Available on idu Concept 3.3.2 and idu Concept 4.

MS SQL reports

- MS SQL Reports offers similar advantages to Crystal, but report processing time is generally faster and additional licenses are not currently required as it forms part of the Microsoft SQL suite.

Cube pivot tables

- Allows user to use pivot table functionality in Excel using external data (per the analysis cube) i.e. allows for analysis of data on a multi-dimensional basis, easily adjusting and manipulating information.
- Only available if an Analysis cube has been set up.
- User may need an Excel add in to access external data, but this is freely available.
- Available on all versions of idu Concept and idu Sales.
- Will not be real time as per Crystal and SQL reports. How up to date the data is will depend on how often the cube is updated (usually overnight).

OLAP reporting in Excel

- User has access to data via Excel in a similar fashion to pivot tables, but with the added benefit of being able to format and move data on the report thus creating more customized reports.
- It is useful for ad-hoc reports or reports using idu data and data from other sources. It is also useful where the format of the report is likely to change on a regular basis.
- User has access to all the standard Excel functionality together with access to idu data which can be adjusted and refreshed as and when required.
- Only available if an Analysis cube has been set up.
- User may need an Excel add in to access external data, but this is freely available.
- Available on all versions of idu Concept and idu Sales.
- Will not be real time as per Crystal and SQL reports. How up to date the data is will depend on how often the cube is updated (usually overnight).
- Can only be made available to other users by sending via e-mail or per html below.
- As with any Excel report, once the report has been converted to 'free-form' (allowing the ability to format and adjust the report), balancing to original data will always need to be checked.

OLAP reporting in Excel converted to HTML

- OLAP reports created in Excel can be converted into HTML documents and saved within the idu environment. This allows the relevant users access to the report. The report loses it's interactivity however and will need to be updated on Excel and resaved as required.

