

**August 2003**

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### **FREE Business Intelligence Solutions Seminars-Charlotte & Cincinnati!!!**

Join us on Tuesday, September 16 from 9-12:00 at our Charlotte facility and Thursday October 2 at our Cincinnati facility for our business intelligence solutions breakfast seminars! Representatives from Crystal Decisions will be present as well as BridgeBuilder Crystal experts. Agenda items include:

- Crystal Reports 9 Demo & Q & A
- Crystal Enterprise 9 Demo/Q & A
- Presentation on new CR 9 Tools

Drawings will be held for BridgeBuilder and Crystal Decisions gear, *Crystal 9 Essentials* guides, and copies of Crystal Reports 9 software!!!

For more information or to sign up FREE for the seminar, please contact Samantha Ferrie at (888) 274-3432 or [Samantha.Ferrie@BridgeBuilder.com](mailto:Samantha.Ferrie@BridgeBuilder.com). We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

### **Crystal Decisions & Business Objects-A Partner Perspective**

The big news this month of course is the Business Objects acquisition of Crystal Decisions. Several of our clients have inquired about what this acquisition means for them, especially for those heavily invested in Crystal products.

As a partner, we are sometimes privy to "inside information". Regarding this merge, everyone (including Crystal employees, partners, and clients) has been privy to the same information, that being that there will be no changes in the Crystal products anytime in the near future. The partner community feels this merge will actually be a very good move as Business Objects and Crystal Decisions will be able to leverage each others' product strengths and fill in existing gaps.

Everyone at BridgeBuilder is excited about this merge and we feel this opportunity will allow us to serve you better and truly become your partner for all of your

organization's business intelligence needs. And that's the inside scoop from a partner's perspective!!!

### **Crystal Decisions Webinars!**

You are invited to attend upcoming webinars on Business Intelligence Solutions hosted by Crystal Decisions. These sessions provide a good overview of some of the new Crystal products and will be especially useful for our clients who may be unable to attend the upcoming Business Intelligence Solutions Breakfast Seminars. The webinar dates are as follows:

August 19	12 p.m.EDT
September 2	1 p.m. EDT
September 16	3 p.m.EDT
September 30	12 p.m EDT

To register for any of these sessions, email Samantha at [Samantha.Ferrie@BridgeBuilder.com](mailto:Samantha.Ferrie@BridgeBuilder.com)

### **Tips & Tricks**

#### **Tip #1 USING THE REPORT DEFINITION**

The Report Definition is a tool found in the export function of Crystal Reports. Its sole purpose is to document basic information about the Crystal report from which it was exported. The report definition file includes:

- Which version of Crystal Reports was used to build the report.
- Tables, fields and formulas on the report, listed by section.
- Record and group selection criteria.
- Formatting information for fields listed by section.
- Subreport information if the report contains 1 or more subreports, but no subreport linking information.

#### **To export a Report Definition:**

With a report open, click File, Export. The Export dialog opens, where you can select the Report Definition format. With version 9 of Crystal Reports, the report definition may

be an "install on demand" option, indicated by a different icon in the Export dialog box. If this is the case, the first time you try to export a report definition you will be asked if you want to install the option and may be prompted to insert your Crystal Reports 9 CD. Once report definition is selected click OK and the definition will be exported into a text editing program such as word or notepad if you select application as the destination.

### Report Definition "gotcha's"

Although a wonderful tool, several key pieces of information are missing from the report definition. No parameter fields are included in a report definition, so you will need to add this information by typing it in by hand. Also, only formulas that are inserted into the report are included, thus any formula referenced in another formula or within a text object will not be included in the report definition. (Get around this by temporarily inserting any formulas not already directly on the report into a report footer b section, export the report definition, then delete the fields from the report footer before saving the report). The File format listed on the definition for CR 9 is 10.2.0. This is actually correct, for this file format is a schema format, not the version of Crystal Reports. The first line/ title area of the definition lists the version of Crystal Reports, such as version 9.2. The file format of 10.2.0 is an internal file schema number that is used internally at Crystal Decisions. Lastly, if you are using Crystal Reports 8.5 the report definition is sometimes not available. You must install the export dll manually following instructions in kbase article c2013307.

Once a report definition file is exported, you are able to format a text object or picture within the report to have a hyperlink to the report definition file so the information is easy to retrieve. Remember to check the report definition to make sure it includes all your formulas, add the parameter information, and keep the report definition file saved in a location that anyone accessing the report can access, preferably the same folder.

### Trick #1 CREATING SECTIONS USING THE SECTION SPLITTING CURSOR

When needing to create sections within sections why not use the section splitting

cursor. It's a handy shortcut that allows you to split the section exactly where you want to. In versions prior to 9.0 you had to use the section expert or right click in the gray area of the section and chose "insert section below". With this method you were still required to adjust the size of the section.

With the section splitting cursor, you can split the section right on the ruler bar, therefore having the section split at the desired location.

To split a section with the section splitting cursor:

1. This functionality only works in the design tab.
2. Place the pointer over the left boundary of the section you need to split at the desired location. This is the right side of the ruler, between the ruler and the design tab.
3. The cursor will change to cross-like cursor called the section splitting cursor.
4. The cursor then becomes a horizontal line that you can drag and drop to create a new section of whatever size you want.

### MENTAL BREAK!!!!

Answers to July's Brain Teasers:

**Brian Teaser #1 Answer:**  
GRANDSTANDING

**Brain Teaser #2 Answer:** The Past

**August's Brain Teasers:**

**Brain Teaser #1**  
I'm a unit of heat generation.  
I am prone to great quantification.  
There are many aware  
Of the numbers I bear-  
Some in triumph, and some in frustration.

What am I?

**Brain Teaser #2**  
What do all six of the items in group A have in common that the items in group B do not?

Group A: Astronomical, Raze, Ape, Loom, Listening  
Group B: Lack, Portable, Rocket, Usual, Atom

We've got T-shirts!!! Send **BOTH** of your correct answers to [Samantha.Ferrie@BridgeBuilder.com](mailto:Samantha.Ferrie@BridgeBuilder.com) and get one of our BridgeBuilder extra soft T-shirts! First 5 correct answers will win an extra "surprise" gift so take a break and get those answers in! Good luck!

### Upcoming Public Training Dates

#### Charlotte, NC

#### Crystal Reports 8.5 Classes

**Level 1 October 13-14**

**Level 2 October 15-16**

**Level 3 October 17**

#### Crystal Reports 9.0 Classes

**Level 1 September 22-23**

**Level 2 September 24-25**

**Level 3 September 26**

**Level 1 November 3-4**

**Level 2 November 5-6**

**Level 3 November 7**

**Level 1 December 8-9**

**Level 2 December 10-11**

**Level 3 December 12**

#### Crystal Enterprise 9.0 Classes

**CE Installing, Configuring, & Administering Your System 9.0 August 11-13**

#### Crystal Reports for SalesLogix Classes

**August 25-28**

#### Cincinnati, OH

#### Crystal Reports 8.5 Classes

**Level 1 November 17-18**

**Level 2 November 19-20**

**Level 3 November 21**

#### Crystal Reports 9.0 Classes

**Level 1 September 15-16**

**Level 2 September 17-18**

**Level 3 September 19**

**Level 1 October 20-21**

**Level 2 October 22-23**

**Level 3 October 24**

**Level 1 December 15-16**

**Level 2 December 17-18**

**Level 3 December 19**

#### Crystal Reports for SalesLogix Classes

**August 14-15**

#### Crystal Reports for SalesLogix NY Class

**September 8-10**

Call to register

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