

The Right Reporting Solution

The explosive growth of Web technologies, and the resultant glut of new information, has fundamentally changed the way in which data is presented and delivered. Companies that have rushed to embrace new technologies now find that users expect Web applications to be vehicles for high-value, up-to-the-minute business information as well.

At the same time, many developers are still hand-coding an HTML presentation layer for Web applications. This one-off approach can be very inefficient, time-consuming, and allows for little or no code re-use.

Many different solutions to this problem exist, but there are still pitfalls present when choosing a solution for information presentation and delivery. A good tool can improve developer productivity, but the prohibitive costs of some solutions can make it difficult to quickly realize any real ROI. Other tools may have enough features to cover the initial requirements of a project, but as requirements and users grow, they may no longer be able to provide the required functionality.

It's clear that choosing the right reporting solution is an imperative. Quadbase Systems offers tools with the right balance of features, performance, and price to fit nearly every reporting requirement. Learn how Quadbase solutions EspressoReport®, and EspressoReport Enterprise Server address the key aspects/requirements for Web reporting.

Flexible Presentation

Basic reporting presentations may be as simple as a formatted HTML. Generally, most users have reporting requirements that extend far beyond this. Requirements can vary both in terms of preferred output, and report layout itself. EspressoReport can easily handle these requirements. In addition to HTML tables, EspressoReport can generate reports in highly formatted DHTML, print quality PDF, Excel spreadsheets, Rich text files, and XML and CSV data dumps. EspressoReport's flexible interface makes it easy for you to configure a variety of different layouts. Reports can be constructed using multiple tables, with built-in, interactive drill-down capabilities. The Report Designer interface provides an easy-to-use, visual tool to build reports.

Data Source Integration

The most basic level of data access for reporting solutions is to directly query a database. However, many application models separate the data access layer from business logic. Having a reporting tool make a connection to the database in these scenarios

can be redundant. In addition, legacy or application data may be returned as XML. EspressoReport can read and integrate data from all these sources. For standard applications it can handle the Database connection and queries. Data can be retrieved from Java objects, or EJBs, or using connection pools to leverage existing application infrastructure. XML data in any form can also be queried. Extensive parameterization is built into the data source features allowing you to easily secure and dynamically filter report data.

Extensive Data Visualization

One of the most important components of a data presentation layer is often overlooked. Nothing conveys information better than a well-designed chart or graph. However, many reporting solutions only offer limited charting support. EspressoReport offers a huge feature set for charts. You can plot data in over 30 different 2D and 3D chart types, plus build many different combination/composite charts. Powerful analysis features include trending, normal curves, and control lines/areas. Need to add some dynamic graphs to existing Web pages? EspressoReport can be configured to stream images directly to existing Web content.

Performance/Scalability

Most people expect a certain level of performance and scalability built in to any solution, but EspressoReport takes this further. EspressoReport can generate reports significantly faster than many other reporting tools. Powerful memory optimization features allow users to handle large amounts of data. EspressoReport also grows with your reporting requirements. You can embed EspressoReport's API classes into applications, servlets, and JSPs for dynamic report generation, and move up to EspressoReport ES which supports user/group end-to-end security, remote administration, and advanced scheduling and archiving.

Ad-Hoc Reporting and Analysis

One of the best ways to improve developer productivity is to have users create their own reports and queries. EspressoReport provides a number of features that allow you to extend ad-hoc capabilities to your users. The data view interface allows you to create local views that insulate users from database complexity when creating queries. The Report Designer interface can be loaded remotely and customized programmatically. The QuickDesigner, included in EspressoReport ES, allows users to build reports and queries using a thin-client browser interface.