

xReports - Reporting Tool Is Accessed by Web Browser, SAP GUI

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xReports is a data access and reporting tool that runs on J2EE Servers. The platform itself requires an Oracle database for operation; however, it can draw data from multiple DBs including DB2 UDB, Microsoft SQL Server, Informix, Sybase, and JDBC or ODBC compliant data sources, to name a few.

The vendor touts their product primarily as a SAP data reporting platform (v4.6c or later SAP users can access the xReports tool directly from within the SAP GUI), but additionally notes the product's ability to generate reports from non-SAP data sources. Non-SAP users (or SAP users prior to v4.6c) access the reporting tool via a Java (1.4) enabled Web browser.

According to the vendor, the report creation process consists basically of writing a suitable SQL statement, then choosing a report type and look-and-feel from an existing library. The queries themselves can leverage the capabilities of the individual DBs (such as Oracle hints, views, and stored procedures). Additional performance features include caching of static information, and compressed data delivery.

Other features include:

- The ability to schedule automatic report distributions
- The ability to order reports via E-mail
- Filter, summarize, and drill down features

In addition to the Java applet-based reports, multiple other output formats are also supported; including PDF, HTML, XML, Excel, CSV, TXT, PNG, and RTF. Data can be retrieved from data sources via direct SQL queries or directly from SAP via SAP BAPI (SAP APIs), SAP remote function call, SAP OpenSQL, or by running an existing SAP report. ABAP programmers can extract data from any xReport using a defined interface and make it available within SAP.

Contact Revelation Software Concepts for further information.

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