

## Crystal Reports Distributor

**Features, Functionality, Maintenance, Edition  
Comparison and Prices.**



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## Number of Schedules:

A **schedule** is a set of instructions which CRD uses to run and export a **single Crystal Report**. You can set a schedule to run every half hour, once a day, twice a month, or any other frequency you wish. The schedule will execute as often as you tell it.

CRD identifies the instruction as a “**schedule**”.

This means that you can set a schedule to run every half hour, for example, and even though 48 reports will be exported in a day, CRD will count this as a single schedule.

A “**package**” is a **number of Crystal Reports** scheduled to run at the same time and export **to the same destination**.

If, for example, your weekly pack consists of 8 reports and these are to be delivered by email, it is more professional to send an email with 8 attachments as supposed to 8 emails with 1 attachment in each. To achieve the former, you would set up a “**package**”.

For licensing purposes, CRD identifies the reports in a package as schedules. So if you have 8 reports in the package, CRD will count this as 8 schedules.

CRD licenses run from 15 schedules (Bronze) to Unlimited (Enterprise and above)

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## Number of Locations:

Most users install CRD on a server in a building at a single postal address location. The number of locations you may install CRD at is determined by the Edition License.

Recipients of reports sent by CRD do not require a CRD License.

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## Number of Seats

CRD may be installed one or more PCs. Each PC can run an independent instance of CRD, or be part of a CRD Cluster. The Edition License will determine what your restrictions are.

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## Schedulers

- A powerful desktop Application Scheduler
- NT Service Scheduler

- You can also switch all schedulers off, and use CRD to export reports ad-hoc only.
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## **Schedule Single Reports**

You can set up a schedule of a single report. You may create different schedules of the same report. Each schedule can have different parameter values (to pull up different data) and may be emailed to different recipients if you wish. CRD will also export to folder, FTP or print the report.

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## **Schedule Package Reports**

You can set up a number of reports to be scheduled to a single individual in a single email, or output to a single folder (disk or FTP). Each report in the pack can be customised specifically for that pack, but the output of the entire pack will be sent in a single email or stored in a single folder.

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## **Conditional Scheduling**

These are event driven schedules. Not only can you set a schedule or package to run at a certain time every day, week, month etc, but you can instruct CRD to execute a number of schedules and packages when certain events occur:

- If a database record value exists
  - If a database record value does not exist
  - File (in a folder) exists
  - File does not exist
  - File has been modified
  - File has not been modified
  - Window is present.
- 

## **Custom Actions on Success of Schedule**

Not only will CRD execute the requested schedules, but it will also run custom actions after the schedule has been executed. You can integrate CRD seamlessly as part of your complete automation solution. Create a chain of tasks which can do one or more of the following actions (in sequence, if you wish) when a schedule has been successfully executed.

- Execute a program
  - Rename/Move a file
  - Create/Modify a file
  - Send an email message
  - Update a database record
-

## Dynamic Schedules

This powerful mechanism can only really be described with an example:

The Springfield Donut Company has 1500 stores worldwide. Ray is the Crystal Reports guru at Head Office. He has to send each store manager a report of their weekly statistics every Monday. He does not want to write 1500 static report schedules.

To make matters worse, stores which are not doing well are regularly closed off, and new stores are being brought on-line weekly.

And that's not all. It has just been announced that SDC has just acquired a rival company and 800 new stores are coming on board tomorrow morning.

It's the middle of summer, so 2 of Ray's 3 staff are on vacation. He has a meeting with the Chairman in 3 hours, and, if he can demonstrate that everything will be in place and running by 5pm today, he will get a \$25,000 bonus.

Ray is not looking forward to writing 800 new single report schedules.

"What I need", he thinks to himself, "is a single dynamic schedule which will

- reel through the database,
- populate the StoreId parameter automatically,
- run the report for that store,
- email it to the store manager using the email address in the database, and repeat the above actions for every store in the database. I need this to happen automatically every Monday at 0100 hours."

This is the most basic problem which the Dynamic Single Report Schedule feature attempts to resolve. There are many other functions which the DSRS will perform, and many are related to your needs, and the level of SQL language and programming expertise you have. The instructions and examples below are written for NON advanced users and therefore constitute some of the more simple functionality.

The example above talks about email, but Dynamic schedules can be used to **output reports to specified folders** too.

- **Auto Populate Parameter from Database:** Use the wizard to construct a database query to pick up the parameter value from a database. Advanced users can write SQL queries.
- **Pick Email from the Same Table as the parameter:** The parameter values e.g. StoreID can reside in the same table as the corresponding email address.
- **Pick Email from a different Table as the parameter:** The parameter values e.g. StoreID can reside in a different table (or database) as the corresponding email address.
- **Limit Schedule Based on Email Field Selection Criteria:** For example, only send the report if email ends in ".co.uk" (emailid like '%.co.uk'); or only send email if the store manager's first name is "Tom" (managerprofile.firstname = 'tom').
- **Pick export folder path from database table.**

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## Dynamic Email Content

Link the email content to the values in a database. For example: "Dear {manager.firstname}". It's all done by simple context menus and easy to use wizards. Little or no database scripting knowledge required.

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## Output Types

CRD will output to

- Email (SMTP, MAPI and CRDMail),
  - Folder,
  - Printer and
  - FTP Folder
  - Fax print driver.
- 

## Email Output Features

- Silent integration with MAPI ensures that the application is not prompted for security permissions when using the application scheduler or NT scheduler.
  - Integrates seamlessly with Exchange Server
  - Integrates with Outlook when running with Exchange Server or Standalone
  - Cc and bcc fields are present (optional)
  - Email addresses can be dynamically populated from a database
  - CRD has its own internal address book which can be used
  - CRD integrates with MAPI (Outlook) address book
  - Set a global email text, and/or create custom email messages for each schedule
- 

## Embed Report in Email

You can embed the report (including graphics and charts) into the email body (SMTP and CRDMail only) or send it as an attachment with a custom email message.

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## Compress Output File

You can compress (zip) the output file before emailing it. Or compress it before placing it in a folder.

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## File Attachments

Select a static file to be attached – in addition to the report output – to the email.

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## Printer Output Features

- Print one or more copies to a single or multiple printers.
  - Print different reports to different printers.
  - Print one report to more than one printer.
  - Use CRD's own print engine or use Crystal's Print Engine
-

## Folder/FTP Output Features

- Export to a folder
  - Export to an FTP folder
  - Housekeeping options e.g. Keep only reports that are x days/months/weeks old
- 

## Export Formats

CRD will export reports in the following formats:

- Acrobat(PDF)
- Crystal Reports 9 (RPT)
- HTML
- Excel 7 (XLS)
- Excel 8 (XLS)
- Excel 97-2000 (XLS)
- MS Word (DOC)
- Rich Text (Exact) Format (RTF)
- Comma Separated (CSV)
- Tab Separated
- Text
- XML
- ODBC

For Excel, you get the option of Data Only, or WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get)

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## Scheduling Frequencies

- Every day
  - Every week day
  - Every Month
  - Every Year
  - Unlimited Custom Calendars (write your own frequencies e.g. 4-4-3)
  - For some of the above, you can also choose a schedule time, and to “Repeat every x minutes until.. (end time)”
-

## Exceptions

CRD deals with 3 types of exceptions:

- **A scheduler error:** Emails a designated address, writes to a log file or both
  - **Report Failure:** This can happen if, for example, the database is busy or locked. You can set CRD to **retry a number of times** before declaring a “failure”. On failure, an email will be sent to a designated recipient, an entry will be marked in the error log, or both.
  - **If the report is blank (returns no data):** You can set CRD to send an alternative email to the report recipient, or another recipient. You can choose to attach the blank report to this email. This ensures that recipients are aware that there was not data, and differentiates between a failure and a blank report.
  - **Failed Emails:** If the mail fails to send because the mail server is unavailable or busy, CRD can be set to retry automatically until successful. Mails can also be retried manually or deleted from the queue manually.
  - **If the process hangs:** Sometimes, the database connection is not severed, or there are other issues caused by the failure of the Crystal Reports dlls on your PC or server. Under these conditions, CRD will not mark the schedule as failed or successful as it believes the report is still in the process of being generated. You have the option to select **“Treat as failed after x minutes”**. This unique feature ensures that report then follows the “Report Failure” instruction. Thus ensuring that even schedules that fail through no fault of CRD are recognised and processed in the manner required.
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## Customizations

The following customizations can be made:

- **The output file name** can be left as default, or changed to whatever you want it to be.
  - A **date/time stamp** can be added to the output file name. Choose from a large list of date formats e.g. ddmmyyhhmm, mmddyhhmm, mmddyyyy, and lots more.
  - The report’s **Record Selection Formula** can be modified within CRD without affecting the actual report.
    - You can insert standard functions e.g. CurrentDate, CurrentTime, MonthToDate, and lots more
    - You can insert CRD functions e.g. MondayThisWeek, TuesdayLastWeek, MonthEndLasMonth, and lots more
    - You can write your own functions (The wizard will guide you through the process) and reuse them over and over again.
  - Database Logon Credentials for both Main and Sub Reports can be stored in CRD.
-

## **Multi Threaded Execution**

If several schedules are set to execute at the same (or close to the same time), CRD will queue them up and execute them one at a time. However, should you wish, you can switch on this option and CRD will execute up to 4 reports simultaneously.

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## **Multi PC Polling (Clustering)**

If you have a large number of reports that all have to be sent in a very short time frame, then CRD clustering is a feature you definitely want to use.

CRD can be installed on a bank of PCs and servers. One instance acts as the Master and the others are set as Slaves. The master will instruct the slaves on what schedules to run and when to run them.

Combine this with multi-threaded execution and you have probably the most powerful report distribution system on the market today.

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## **Remote Administration**

Why walk to the server room every time you want to add or change a schedule? CRD comes with remote administration right from your desktop.

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## **Group Bursting**

With this feature you can specify the export of discreet report groups. Great if you want to export (or burst) just one or a number of report groups.

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## **Section Bursting**

Why stop at Group Bursting. This feature enables you to burst report headers, footers, page headers and footers, details – in fact, any section in your report that you want.

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## **Sub Report Bursting**

Burst out subreports.

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## **Single Value (Discreet) Parameter Selection**

CRD handles discreet parameter values with ease. The value you enter for a schedule is stored in the schedule, leaving you free to re-use that report in another schedule – with a different parameter value.

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## **Range of Values Parameter Selection**

If your parameters are in standard Crystal “Ranges”, then CRD will present you with the familiar Crystal parameter range interface. Again, the ranges are stored in the schedule so you can reuse the same report over and over again.

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## **Read Parameter from Database**

Why type in a static parameter value when you can extract the value dynamically from a database? That way, whenever the value changes in the database CRD will use the new value straight from the database, enter it in the parameter prompt for you, and export the report. The database query interface is simple and intuitive. Follow the prompts and build a complicated query with little or no knowledge of database language. Experts can use the advanced screen to write or paste their queries.

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## **Parameters on Main Report**

CRD will recognise and enter the values for parameters on the main report.

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## **Parameters on Sub Reports**

CRD will allow you to choose to ignore parameters on subreports, or to specify values for sub report parameters. Great for sub report bursting.

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## **Add Reports to Existing Packages**

This allows you to edit an existing package, and add or remove reports. This saves having to re-create the entire package when you wish to add or remove existing reports from the package.

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## **Add Multiple Reports Simultaneously**

Why add reports to packages one by one when you can select and add multiple reports in one click?

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## **Command Line Options**

Don't want to schedule? Rather use a batch file? Want to execute a schedule or package from another application? CRD has command line options which will help you achieve this.

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## System Monitor

CRD's system monitor provides you with the ability to view and interact with a range of processes:

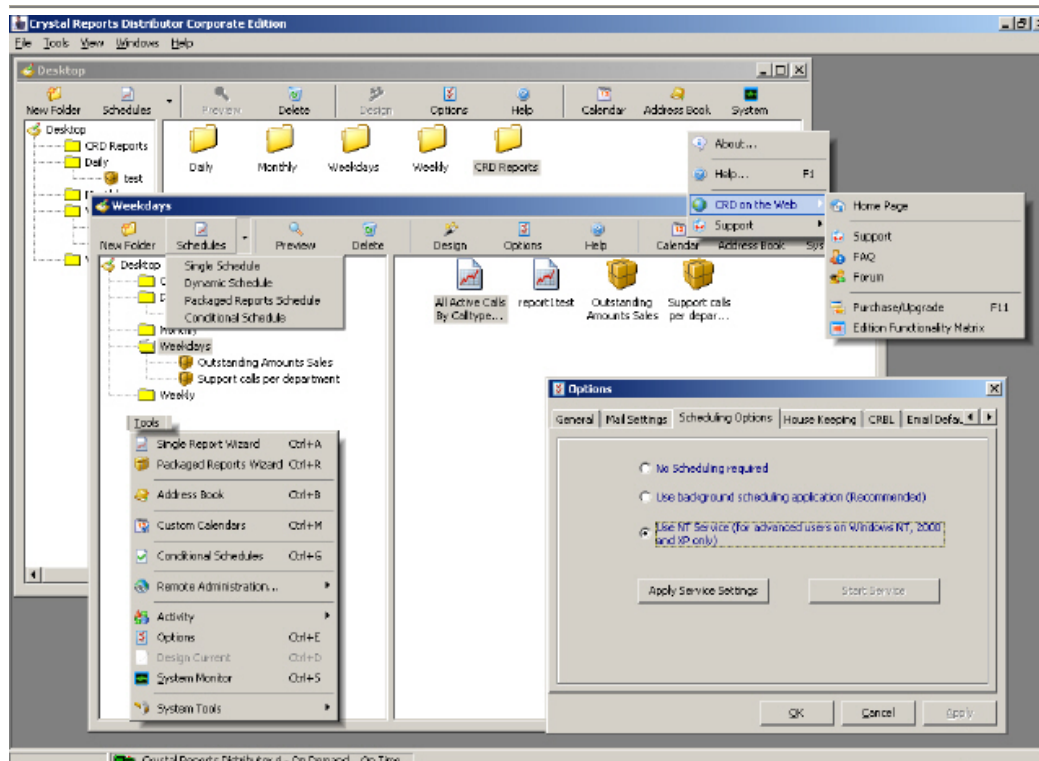
- Report History for single report schedules
- Report History for Packages
- Report History for conditional schedules
- Email Log shows you a list of all emails which have been successfully sent
- Email Queue shows you emails which are waiting to be sent.
- Schedule monitor shows you which schedules are running and on which machine

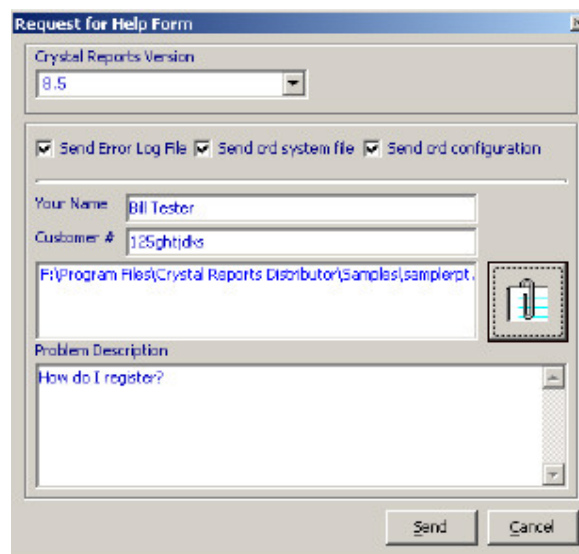
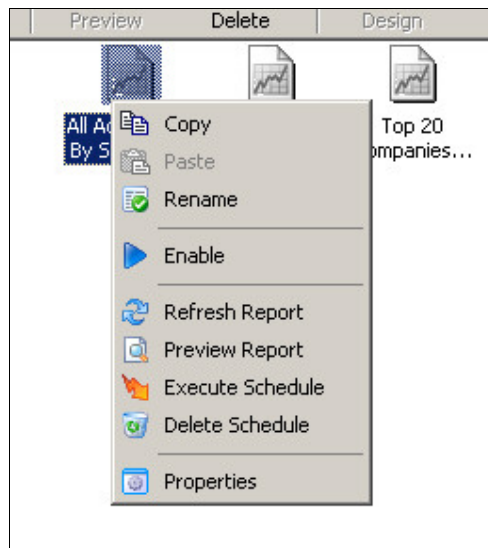
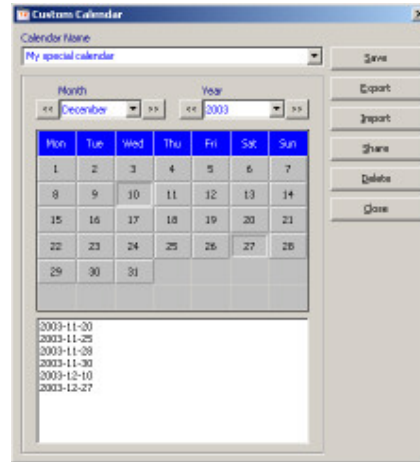
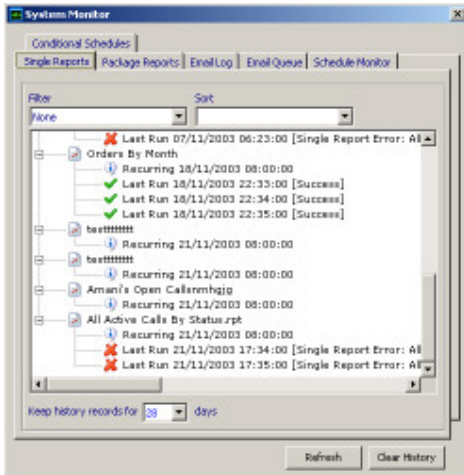
## Activity Reports

Want to know how many of today's reports failed? CRD comes with a number of canned reports to help you monitor the system.

## Intuitive Interface

CRD's intuitive interface helps you to organise your schedules and packages for easy viewing. The familiar explorer-like interface is packed with rich context-sensitive (right-click) menus. New users have a range of wizards to help them through the process.







## Editions and Functionality Matrix

Below is a functionality grid which should tell you which Editions have which functionality. If the functionality you are looking for is not listed here, but is in your evaluation or demo version, then assume that it will be in every Edition.

At the bottom of the Grid is a description of your FREE 12 month maintenance entitlement, what it will cost for subsequent years, an Edition price list. Maintenance is not obligatory. You may choose not to buy subsequent year's maintenance. You can continue to use the version you have forever, but there will be no support or upgrades. This list is correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to change the prices without prior notice.

Whilst CRD will schedule reports written in other versions, the application requires Crystal Reports Distributable Runtime Modules which can be found in Crystal Reports 8.5, 9 or 10 Developer or Advanced.

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	Enterprise	EnterprisePro	Ent Pro Plus	Corporate
<b>General</b>								
Number of Schedules	Up to 15	Up to 30	Up to 50	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Number of Locations	1	1	1	1	1	Up to 3	Up to 6	Unlimited
Number of Pcs/Servers (Seats)	1	1	1	1	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
<b>Schedules</b>								
Schedule Single Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Schedule Packages of reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Add reports to existing packages					✓	✓	✓	✓
Add multiple reports simultaneously					✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Parameters</b>								
Single value parameter selection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Range of values			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Read parameter from database					✓	✓	✓	✓
Parameters on main report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Parameters on subreports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Custom Parameter Functions</b>								
Sunday, Monday etc last week					✓	✓	✓	✓
Sunday, Monday etc this week					✓	✓	✓	✓
Month Start Last Month					✓	✓	✓	✓
Month End Last Month					✓	✓	✓	✓
Year Start Last Year					✓	✓	✓	✓
Year Start This Year					✓	✓	✓	✓
Year End Last Year					✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Dynamic Scheduling</b>								
Autopopulate parameter from database						✓	✓	✓

Pick email from same table as parameter						✓	✓	✓
Pick email from different table to parameter						✓	✓	✓
Limit schedule based on email field selection criteria						✓	✓	✓
Dynamic email content						✓	✓	✓
<b>Static Scheduling</b>								
Autopopulate parameter from database					✓	✓	✓	✓
Pick email from same table as parameter					✓	✓	✓	✓
Pick email from different table to parameter						✓	✓	✓
Limit schedule based on email field selection criteria						✓	✓	✓
Dynamic email content						✓	✓	✓
<b>Output</b>								
Output to email	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
cc and bcc fields					✓	✓	✓	✓
Read email address from the database					✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal email address book					✓	✓	✓	✓
Set global email text					✓	✓	✓	✓

Set global email signature					✓	✓	✓	✓
Add another file as attachment to email		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Output to single printer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Multiple copies to a single printer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Output to multiple printers (Bulk Printing)					✓	✓	✓	✓
Multiple copies to multiple printers					✓	✓	✓	✓
Output to folder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Output to FTP folder				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Output to fax driver	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Formats</b>								
Acrobat (PDF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crystal Reports (RPT)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comma Separated (CSV)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HTML	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Excel 7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Excel 8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Excel 97-2000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MS Word	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rich Text (Exact Format) (RTF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tab Separated	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Text	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ODBC							✓	✓

XML	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Frequencies</b>								
Every day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Every week day	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Every Month	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Every Quarter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Every Year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Custom Frequency Calendar e.g 4-4-3			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Repeat every x hours until...	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>DB Logon</b>								
db logon for main report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
db logon for subreports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Logon credentials include server name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Exceptions</b>								
On failure retry scheduling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
If report is blank do some action	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
If report is blank, send alternative email	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Output File Name</b>								
Custom naming of output file	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Selection of date/time stamp format	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Custom date/time stamp for single	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

reports									
Global custom date/time stamp for package	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Custom date/time stamp for reports in packages	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Custom Actions on success of schedule</b>									
Run a program					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Send an email					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Move a file					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Delete a file					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Copy a folder					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create a text file					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Update a text file					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Update database field (e.g. sent date)						✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Mail Types</b>									
MAPI Integration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SMTP Integration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internal mail engine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Schedulers</b>									
Application Scheduler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NT service scheduler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Others</b>									
Run packages by command line	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Run Schedules by command line	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Multiple client polling									✓
Remote						✓	✓	✓	✓

Administration									
Group Bursting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Section Bursting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subreport Bursting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Folder Housekeeping						✓	✓	✓	✓
Multi-threading							✓	✓	✓
Output Compression					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Embed report into email body	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
System Monitor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conditional Schedules							✓	✓	✓
<b>Yearly Maintenance - 1st Year</b>									
FREE support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FREE upgrades - minor and major	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FREE CRDMail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Yearly Maintenance - Subsequent Years</b>									
% of Edition price at time of renewal	25%	25%	25%	25%	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Price</b>									
US\$	695	950	1650	2800	*	*	*	*	*
* = please visit <a href="http://www.christiansteven.com/purchase.htm">www.christiansteven.com/purchase.htm</a> for more details									

**To purchase**, visit <http://www.christiansteven.com/purchase.htm>. We accept all major credit cards, checks, purchase orders (we will invoice) and wire transfer.

Phone and FAX orders are also accepted. Details are on the <http://www.christiansteven.com/purchase.htm>.

### **Pre-Sales Enquiries**

For toll free numbers from 31 countries and to speak to someone in French, German, Italian, Spanish or Japanese go to: <http://www.christiansteven.com/purchase.htm>.