

COGNOS^(R) ENTERPRISE BI SERIES

COGNOS SERIES 7 VERSION 3

NEW FEATURES

Product Information

This document applies to Cognos Series 7 Version 3 and may also apply to subsequent releases. To check for newer versions of this document, visit the Cognos support Web site (<http://support.cognos.com>).

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Welcome

What Is in This Document

This document describes the new features in Cognos Series 7 Version 3. The structure is as follows:

- For a listing of enhancements by Cognos products and components, see "[Cross Reference by Product and Component](#)" (p. 9).
- "[Superior Analysis](#)" (p. 17) describes features that help you analyze data more effectively.
- "[Sophisticated Reporting](#)" (p. 21) describes features that enhance the way you report information.
- "[Comprehensive Information Delivery](#)" (p. 25) describes features that improve the communication of information.
- "[Complete Enterprise Management](#)" (p. 27) describes features that are of most interest to system administrators.
- "[New Features for Series 7 Version 2 MR2 and MR3](#)" (p. 33) describes features introduced in the last two maintenance releases prior to Series 7 Version 3.

What You Need to Know to Use This Book Effectively

You should be familiar with the features and functionality of the Series 7 products.

Other Information

Our documentation includes user guides, tutorial guides, reference books, and other pieces to meet the needs of our varied audience.

All information is available in online help. Online help is available from the Help button in a Web browser, or the Help menu and Help button in Windows products.

The information in each online help system is available in online book format (PDF). However, the information from a given help system may be divided into more than one online book. Use online books when you want a printed version of a document or when you want to search the whole document. You can print selected pages, a section, or the whole book. Cognos grants you a non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use, copy, and reproduce the copyright materials, in printed or electronic format, solely for the purpose of providing internal training on, operating, and maintaining the Cognos software.

In Windows products, online books are available from the Windows Start menu (Cognos) and from the product Help menu (Books for Printing). In a Web browser, online books may be available from the Welcome section of the help system, or from within the Cognos Web portal (Upfront). All online books are available on the Cognos documentation CD. You can also read the product readme files and the installation guides directly from the Cognos product CDs.

Only the installation guides are available as printed documents.

Questions or Comments?

For additional technical information about using Cognos products, visit the Cognos support Web site (<http://support.cognos.com>).

Welcome

Chapter 1: Cross Reference by Product and Component

This version delivers new functionality into many products and components. You can view a list of the new features for the products and components you are using.

PowerPlay

PowerPlay Enterprise Server/PowerPlay Web

PowerPlay Enterprise Server/PowerPlay Web has the following new features:

- ["Adding Custom Titles" \(p. 17\)](#)
- ["Adding Measures to the Crosstab Independently and Consecutively" \(p. 18\)](#)
- ["Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Controlling Fit-to-page Chart Scaling" \(p. 19\)](#)
- ["Creating Subsets of Categories by Rule and Picklist" \(p. 18\)](#)
- ["Creating High-fidelity Formatted Excel Output" \(p. 25\)](#)
- ["Customizing the Viewer Modify Report Page" \(p. 27\)](#)
- ["Deploying PowerCubes, Pointer Files, Drill-through Targets and Published Reports" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Controlling Fit-to-page Chart Scaling" \(p. 19\)](#)
- ["Eliminating Access to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the Web Tier" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Governing Drill-through Targets by Dimension Level" \(p. 18\)](#)
- ["Improved Analysis Capabilities for Alternate Hierarchies" \(p. 17\)](#)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Including PowerPlay Reports as Email Attachments" \(p. 25\)](#)
- ["Passing Multiple Selected Categories During a Drill-through Operation" \(p. 18\)](#)
- ["Portal Integration Between PowerPlay and Cognos ReportNet" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Ranking Categories Based on Measure Values" \(p. 18\)](#)
- ["Returning to the Source from Dynamically Created PDF Reports" \(p. 17\)](#)
- ["Suppressing Zeros by Rows or Columns" \(p. 19\)](#)
- ["Switching Between Long and Short Category Names" \(p. 17\)](#)
- ["Using a Scenario Dimension" \(p. 19\)](#)
- ["Using Basic or OS Signon with Server Administration Tools" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Using Drag-and-drop Functions Within a Crosstab" \(p. 17\)](#)
- ["Using Layers to Page Through Different Pages of your PowerPlay Report" \(p. 17\)](#)
- ["Viewing the Current User Class" \(p. 18\)](#)

PowerPlay for Windows

PowerPlay for Windows has the following new features:

- ["Governing Drill-through Targets by Dimension Level" \(p. 18\)](#)
- ["Restructuring Audit Files for Easier Loading to a Database" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Using a Scenario Dimension" \(p. 19\)](#)

Transformer

Transformer has the following new features:

- ["Expanded Data Type Support" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Governing Drill-through Targets by Dimension Level" \(p. 18\)](#)
- ["Specifying Order-by-preferences when Building PowerCubes" \(p. 27\)](#)
- ["Using Basic or OS Signon with Server Administration Tools" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Using a Scenario Dimension" \(p. 19\)](#)
- ["Using Database Synonyms as Entities or Sub-types" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Using If-then-else when Building PowerCubes" \(p. 27\)](#)

PowerPlay for Excel

PowerPlay for Excel has the following new features:

- ["Using a Scenario Dimension" \(p. 19\)](#)

PowerPlay Connect

PowerPlay Connect has the following new features:

- ["Specifying MSAS Cube Connection Parameters" \(p. 31\)](#)

Impromptu

Impromptu Web Reports

Impromptu Web Reports has the following new features:

- ["Automating IWR Server Administration" \(p. 27\)](#)
- ["Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Controlling PDF Bookmarks for Navigation" \(p. 22\)](#)
- ["Controlling the Addressing of IWR Reports as Email Attachments" \(p. 25\)](#)
- ["Creating a NewsBox While Publishing" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Creating High-fidelity Formatted Excel Output" \(p. 25\)](#)
- ["Creating Hot File Only Report Output Format" \(p. 22\)](#)
- ["Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Eliminating Access to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the Web Tier" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Expanded Data Type Support" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Identifying and Logging Overlapped Objects in HTML and Excel Formats" \(p. 22\)](#)
- ["Improved Caching" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Improved HTML Rendering Performance in Impromptu Web Reports" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Improved Prompt Formatting" \(p. 21\)](#)
- ["Improved Prompt Performance" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Modifying Display Format Settings for Locales" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Retaining Prompt Values While Re-publishing to IWR" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Returning to the Original Position in the Cube" \(p. 21\)](#)
- ["Returning to the Previous Report as Well as the Source" \(p. 21\)](#)
- ["Searching for Prompts and Other Values" \(p. 21\)](#)
- ["Searching Text BLOBs" \(p. 21\)](#)
- ["Selecting from Multiple Targets in PDF Reports" \(p. 21\)](#)
- ["Sharing of Database Signon Information" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Using Basic or OS Signon with Server Administration Tools" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Using Local and Remote Synonyms" \(p. 32\)](#)
- ["Using New Features of PowerPlay and Impromptu Web Reports" \(p. 25\)](#)
- ["Viewing Your Status and Deleting Your Own Queued Reports" \(p. 21\)](#)

Impromptu

Impromptu has the following new features:

- "Controlling PDF Bookmarks for Navigation" (p. 22)
- "Creating a NewsBox While Publishing" (p. 26)
- "Creating High-fidelity Formatted Excel Output" (p. 25)
- "Eliminating Anonymous IIS Web Server Access when Publishing Impromptu Reports" (p. 27)
- "Enhanced Control over Chart Properties, Layout, and Contents" (p. 22)
- "Expanded Data Type Support" (p. 31)
- "Identifying and Logging Overlapped Objects in HTML and Excel Formats" (p. 22)
- "Searching for Prompts and Other Values" (p. 21)
- "Searching Text BLOBs" (p. 21)
- "Using Database Synonyms as Entities or Sub-types" (p. 31)
- "Using Local and Remote Synonyms" (p. 32)

Cognos Query

Cognos Query has the following new features:

- ["Additional Load Balancing Algorithm Available for Cognos Query" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Administering Cognos Query Without Being a Member of the Root User Class" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Cognos Query Administration on the Web" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Configuring Additional Cognos Query Dispatchers to Better Handle Failover" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Configuring Cognos Query Server Groups More Easily" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Controlling the Query Prompt After a Refresh Across Sessions" \(p. 23\)](#)
- ["Creating a NewsBox While Publishing" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Creating High-fidelity Formatted Excel Output" \(p. 25\)](#)
- ["Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Eliminating Access to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the Web Tier" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Expanded Data Type Support" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Keeping Row Headings and Column Labels Visible as you Scroll Through Large Reports" \(p. 22\)](#)
- ["Modifying Display Format Settings for Locales" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Monitoring the Performance of Cognos Query" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Publishing to Cognos Query Without Being a Member of the Root User Class" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Removing Obsolete Cognos Query Packages" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Saving a Query Without Running it" \(p. 22\)](#)
- ["Updating Cognos Query Governors Without Re-publishing" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Using Basic or OS Signon with Server Administration Tools" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Using Database Synonyms as Entities or Sub-types" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Using If-then-else in Cognos Query" \(p. 22\)](#)
- ["Using Microsoft Access Linked Tables" \(p. 31\)](#)

Cognos Visualizer

Cognos Visualizer has the following new features:

- ["Creating a NewsBox While Publishing" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Eliminating Access to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the Web Tier" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Expanded Data Type Support" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Modifying Display Format Settings for Locales" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Using a Scenario Dimension" \(p. 19\)](#)

Cognos NoticeCast

Cognos NoticeCast has the following new features:

- ["Authoring SQL-based Agents on the Web"](#) (p. 25)
- ["Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments"](#) (p. 28)
- ["Controlling the Addressing of IWR Reports as Email Attachments"](#) (p. 25)
- ["Creating a NewsBox While Publishing"](#) (p. 26)
- ["Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration"](#) (p. 29)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Eliminating Access to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the Web Tier"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers"](#) (p. 28)
- ["Including PowerPlay Reports as Email Attachments"](#) (p. 25)
- ["Running Agents"](#) (p. 26)

Cognos Portal Services

Cognos Portal Services has the following new features:

- ["Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments"](#) (p. 28)
- ["Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration"](#) (p. 29)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers"](#) (p. 28)

Cognos Web Services

Cognos Web Services has the following new features:

- ["Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments"](#) (p. 28)
- ["Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration"](#) (p. 29)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers"](#) (p. 28)
- ["Navigating in Upfront"](#) (p. 26)
- ["Running Agents"](#) (p. 26)
- ["Using New Features of PowerPlay and Impromptu Web Reports"](#) (p. 25)

Shared Components

Access Manager

Access Manager has the following new features:

- ["Auditing the Changes to a Namespace"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Browsing for External Users Defined in your Directory Server"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Eliminating Access to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the Web Tier"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Namespace Content Reporting"](#) (p. 27)
- ["Sharing of Database Signon Information"](#) (p. 30)
- ["Using Trusted Services to Provide Credentials to the Directory Server"](#) (p. 31)

Architect

Architect has the following new features:

- ["Expanded Data Type Support" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Publishing to Cognos Query Without Being a Member of the Root User Class" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Using Database Synonyms as Entities or Sub-types" \(p. 31\)](#)
- ["Using Local and Remote Synonyms" \(p. 32\)](#)
- ["Using Microsoft Access Linked Tables" \(p. 31\)](#)

Configuration Manager

Configuration Manager has the following new features:

- ["Configuring Additional Cognos Query Dispatchers to Better Handle Failover" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Configuring Cognos Query Server Groups More Easily" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers" \(p. 28\)](#)

Deployment Manager

Deployment Manager has the following new features:

- ["Deploying PowerCubes, Pointer Files, Drill-through Targets and Published Reports" \(p. 31\)](#)

Upfront

Upfront has the following new features:

- ["Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Customizing Upfront Themes" \(p. 27\)](#)
- ["Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version" \(p. 30\)](#)
- ["Improved Caching" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers" \(p. 28\)](#)
- ["Improved Security Page Performance in Upfront" \(p. 29\)](#)
- ["Navigating in Upfront" \(p. 26\)](#)
- ["Sharing of Database Signon Information" \(p. 30\)](#)

Chapter 2: Superior Analysis

Enhanced User Experience on the Web

Using Drag-and-drop Functions Within a Crosstab

You can use drag-and-drop within a crosstab in PowerPlay Web to quickly change the view of your data. Drag-and-drop makes it easy to rearrange rows, columns, and nesting levels. You can also re-order measures to create a more customized view of a crosstab.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Improved Analysis Capabilities for Alternate Hierarchies

In PowerPlay Web, you can create crosstabs that have two different hierarchies from the same dimension on the rows and columns. You can then easily analyze different factors and views of your data where those factors have been modeled across multiple hierarchies within the same dimension.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Using Layers to Page Through Different Pages of your PowerPlay Report

You can use layers in PowerPlay Web to create a new perspective on your results. Layers can be used as an analysis feature from within the user interface to flip through a set of categories within a dimension. You can also export a report to pdf with layers in order to create different pages for each layer in the dimension you have selected.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Adding Custom Titles

You can create titles for your reports in PowerPlay Web. Using a simple interface, you can apply formatting to these titles using basic HTML tags.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Switching Between Long and Short Category Names

PowerPlay Web users can choose to display short category names. Short category names, such as account numbers or product identifiers, can make analysis experience easier for some user communities. Long category names can take up much needed real estate within a crosstab or chart.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Returning to the Source from Dynamically Created PDF Reports

You can return to the last view of the crosstab or chart after exporting a PDF so that you do not need to re-create your PowerPlay Web analysis view. This makes it easier to flip back and forth between PowerPlay Web and the PDF. You can then create the PDF view that you want without having to re-create your analysis multiple times.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Drill-through Improvements

Governing Drill-through Targets by Dimension Level

In Transformer, you can prevent users from drilling through at higher levels in the cube. By restricting drill-through to lower levels, you can prevent users from generating large requests for data. This eliminates large, inappropriate requests to your relational database. Restrictions on drill-through can be defined for each dimension for each drill-through target you specify for a cube.

For more information, see *Step-by-Step Transformer*.

Passing Multiple Selected Categories During a Drill-through Operation

In PowerPlay Web, you can select multiple categories or an individual cell and perform a drill-through. This makes it easy to create a drill-through report that includes only the specific data and filtering criteria that you are interested in.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Viewing the Current User Class

PowerPlay users that belong to multiple user classes can check to see which user class they have currently selected. This information is available from the Explain window.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Advanced Analysis

Adding Measures to the Crosstab Independently and Consecutively

In the PowerPlay Web Enhanced interface, you can drag individual measures onto the crosstab multiple times and place the measures in any order. This enables you to create a customized view of your data. It also eliminates the need to drag all measures over and then hide the measures that you don't want to view.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Creating Subsets of Categories by Rule and Picklist

In PowerPlay Web, you can easily focus your analysis on a subset of categories rather than having to view the entire dimension. You can create a subset of categories by defining a rule based on either a measure value, one or more search definitions, or a picklist of categories. You can use the resulting subset in your crosstab, chart, or view. This subset provides the same navigation experience as an alternate hierarchy. When you use subsets, totals and user-defined calculations are based on the subset of categories, not the entire dimension.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Ranking Categories Based on Measure Values

In PowerPlay Web, you can rank any row or column and easily create top x or bottom x views of your data. You can create multiple ranks per dimension and perform calculations between or on ranks. This allows you to easily create variance and other views of the data.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Suppressing Zeros by Rows or Columns

You have more flexibility when using the suppress zeroes feature in PowerPlay. You can choose to suppress zeroes only on rows, only on columns, or both.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Financial Analysis Improvements

Using a Scenario Dimension

Scenario dimensions are useful when you are analyzing financial data. Instead of calculating just one set of figures, you may want to calculate several sets of figures, or scenarios. Each scenario is based on different assumptions, such as planned, budget, and actual values or best case and worst case. Scenario dimensions do not roll up to a single root category, since that number would not be meaningful.

To define a scenario dimension in Transformer, you can define a default category for the dimension. This means that when you open a crosstab in Cognos Visualizer, PowerPlay Web, PowerPlay for Excel, or PowerPlay, the initial view presented is filtered on the default category. For example, a scenario dimension could have a default category "Actual" or a Geography dimension could have a default category "Europe".

For more information, see *Step-by-Step Transformer*.

Controlling Fit-to-page Chart Scaling

You have greater control over chart scaling in PowerPlay Web. Charts can be scaled on both the vertical and horizontal axis so that you can expand or collapse the size of the chart to suit your needs.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Chapter 3: Sophisticated Reporting

Enhanced User Experience on the Web

Viewing Your Status and Deleting Your Own Queued Reports

In IWR, you can view the status of reports you have submitted to run. You can also remove your own reports from the queue or cancel them while they are running, rather than having to ask the administrator to perform this task.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Drill-through Improvements

Selecting from Multiple Targets in PDF Reports

In IWR, drill-through from PDF output allows you to select from multiple target reports, similar to the capability previously available with IWR HTML output, and in Impromptu.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Returning to the Previous Report as Well as the Source

In IWR, after drilling through, you can return to your previous reports in the drill sequence and continue navigating or drilling from there, in addition to being able to return to the source.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Returning to the Original Position in the Cube

You can return to the last view of the crosstab or chart after drilling through to IWR so that you do not need to re-create your PowerPlay Web analysis view. This makes it easier to flip back and forth between PowerPlay Web and the IWR report. You can then drill through without having to re-create your analysis multiple times.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Searching Text BLOBs

In Impromptu, report authors can write report filters to do searching of the contents of text BLOBs.

Searching for Prompts and Other Values

In Impromptu, report authors can use various expressions and prompt values with the operators Like, Starts With, and Containing, increasing the functionality available within report filters.

For more information, see *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Improved Prompt Formatting

In IWR, you have more control over the input format for date-time type-in prompts, as well as over the format hints that are shown to the user.

For more information, see *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Creating Hot File Only Report Output Format

In IWR, you can run reports that create HotFile output only. That is, you do not have to create any user-viewable report output format.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Enhanced Report Presentation

Enhanced Control over Chart Properties, Layout, and Contents

In Impromptu, it is now easier to understand how to use sophisticated chart properties such as: format and labels for the X and Y axes; format, placement and labels for the legend; general chart properties such as line style, scatter chart shapes, display of values; and selection and placement of data to be included in the chart.

For more information, see the *Impromptu User Reference*.

Controlling PDF Bookmarks for Navigation

In Impromptu, the report author can specify whether or not a table of contents will be created for PDF output, and can control the contents of the bookmarks.

For more information, see *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Identifying and Logging Overlapped Objects in HTML and Excel Formats

In Impromptu and IWR, there is more visible notification to the report author and report administrator that there are overlapping elements in their report definitions that cannot be displayed in HTML and Excel reports.

For more information, see *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Enhanced Ad Hoc Queries

Using If-then-else in Cognos Query

In Cognos Query, you can use If-then-else clauses in your calculation expressions.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Saving a Query Without Running it

When using design mode in Cognos Query, you can save your query without running the query first.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Keeping Row Headings and Column Labels Visible as you Scroll Through Large Reports

You can specify that row and column labels are always visible in Cognos Query. This allows you to scroll through large reports without losing sight of the row or column labels.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Controlling the Query Prompt After a Refresh Across Sessions

In Cognos Query, the prompt on refresh option in design mode is now enabled by default in design mode. This option is no longer session-specific for users and is saved with the report.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Chapter 4: Comprehensive Information Delivery

Broader Notification Capabilities

Authoring SQL-based Agents on the Web

You can create SQL-based NoticeCast agents from Upfront. The Web UI replaces the previous NoticeCast Windows client.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Including PowerPlay Reports as Email Attachments

When you set up alerts on PowerPlay reports, you can choose to attach a PDF copy of the report to the email.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*.

Controlling the Addressing of IWR Reports as Email Attachments

The NoticeCast administrator can decide if IWR reports should continue to be addressed individually to each recipient or whether they should be addressed to all the recipients. The latter option helps reduce the total amount of email traffic generated.

For more information, see the *Cognos NoticeCast Administration Guide*.

Extended Openness

Creating High-fidelity Formatted Excel Output

In Cognos Query, PowerPlay Web, IWR, and Impromptu you can save report output or query results in an enhanced formatted Excel format. The Excel output preserves many of the rich formatting properties of the original report or query.

For more information, see one of the following documents:

- the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*
- the *PowerPlay Web User's Guide*
- *Mastering Impromptu Reports*

Improved Cognos Web Services API

Using New Features of PowerPlay and Impromptu Web Reports

CWS includes APIs for new functionality in PowerPlay and IWR. For PowerPlay, this includes ranking, long/short name support and custom subsets. For IWR, this includes terminating running reports. These new APIs allow developers to create applications that make use of the most up-to-date functionality available in the BI servers.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Services SDK API Reference*.

Running Agents

A new adapter for NoticeCast allows the programmatic running of any published NoticeCast agent. When running the agent, the API also allows the supplementing of the recipient list and/or messages or overriding the message and/or recipient list altogether. There are also discovery APIs for finding out what agents have been published.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Services SDK API Reference*.

Navigating in Upfront

A new adapter opens up the complete set of attributes for a NewsItem or NewsBox and provides an efficient method of getting back only the information about an object that your application needs. This makes custom portal integrations even easier by allowing more complete navigation of the Upfront content store.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Services SDK API Reference*.

Flexible Publishing

Portal Integration Between PowerPlay and Cognos ReportNet

You can publish cubes and reports directly to Cognos ReportNet without needing to have the Upfront portal installed. For PowerPlay and ReportNet installations, this reduces the maintenance and cost of ownership of the solution as you do not need to administer the Upfront portal in addition to the Cognos ReportNet portal. For end users, this solution provides a seamless experience between PowerPlay and Cognos ReportNet. PowerPlay reports and cubes are accessible within the ReportNet portal as are any other ReportNet reports.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Enterprise Server Guide*.

Creating a NewsBox While Publishing

When publishing to Upfront, users can create a new NewsBox for storing Upfront NewsItems.

For more information, see the following documents:

- the *Architect User Guide*
- the *Cognos NoticeCast Administration Guide*
- the *IWR Administration Guide*
- the *Impromptu Administration Guide*

Publishing to Cognos Query Without Being a Member of the Root User Class

In Cognos Query, you can publish queries to any Upfront NewsBox for which your user class has write access or owner access. This allows you to publish queries without necessarily being a member of the root user class.

Retaining Prompt Values While Re-publishing to IWR

In IWR and Impromptu, when reports are updated and re-published, users' existing saved prompt answers are preserved, unless the nature of the changes to the report would invalidate the existing saved prompt values. For example, if the layout or content of the report is changed, users do not have to re-enter saved prompt values when the report is re-published. Therefore, reports can continue to run as scheduled without requiring user or administrator intervention.

For more information, see *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Chapter 5: Complete Enterprise Management

Improved Administration

Customizing Upfront Themes

In Upfront, you can modify an existing Upfront theme or create a new theme that is based on the Standard70 theme. Administrators can apply cosmetic UI changes such as corporate logos, banners, and background colors using an interactive studio.

For more information, see the *Upfront Theme Assistant User Guide*.

Customizing the Viewer Modify Report Page

You can customize the PowerPlay Web Viewer Modify Report page so that it looks the same as your Upfront theme, providing a more consistent user experience.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Enterprise Server Guide*.

Namespace Content Reporting

You can report on users and user classes in a namespace. The report output is produced in XML format.

For more information, see the *Access Manager Administrator Guide*.

Automating IWR Server Administration

In IWR, the functionality that is available through IWR Server Administration is also available using IWRCommand. This allows server administration operations to be automated or scripted, much as report administration operations can be automated or scripted. For example, administrators can describe and set server, server group, and queue properties; monitor report queues; retrieve the list of scheduled reports and events; and enable and disable servers.

For more information, see the *IWRCommand Developer Guide*.

Eliminating Anonymous IIS Web Server Access when Publishing Impromptu Reports

When you publish a report from Impromptu client to Upfront you do not need your IIS Web Server configured for anonymous access.

Specifying Order-by-preferences when Building PowerCubes

In Transformer, you can specify that all categories in a Transformer model are sorted automatically. The label text of each category is used as the sort value.

For more information, see *Step-by-Step Transformer*.

Using If-then-else when Building PowerCubes

In Transformer, you can use If-then-else clauses in your measure calculations.

For more information, see *Step-by-Step Transformer*.

Using Basic or OS Signon with Server Administration Tools

You can use a basic signon or an OS signon when you use any Cognos server administration tool.

Administering Cognos Query Without Being a Member of the Root User Class

You can specify, using an Access Control List, which user classes have access to use Cognos Query Server Administration. The root user class remains as the only default user class which can initially run Cognos Query Server Administration.

For more information, see the *Cognos Query Server Administration Guide*.

Updating Cognos Query Governors Without Re-publishing

You can edit governor settings, for an individual package or for all packages in a server group, to override the Architect model defaults. Examples of these settings include Default Rows to Display per page, Maximum Data Retrieval Limit, and Maximum Query Timeout.

For more information, see the *Cognos Query Server Administration Guide*.

Removing Obsolete Cognos Query Packages

Using Cognos Query Server Administration, you can see what packages have been published. You can then delete whole packages or a subset of the packages, for example foundation queries or NewsItems.

For more information, see the *Cognos Query Server Administration Guide*.

Cognos Query Administration on the Web

Cognos Query Server Administration is now an in-browser applet. It no longer creates a separate window.

Improved Scalability and Performance

Improved Scalability for IBM and Apache Web Servers

To improve scalability and reduce resource consumption on your IBM and Apache Web servers, you can configure the gateways for all Cognos Series 7 products to use the Apache Module API, instead of the CGI API.

For more information, see the *Configuration Manager User Guide*.

Compression for Lower Bandwidth Environments

You can use HTTP-compatible compression to achieve significant performance benefits if you are using text-based files, such as HTML, javascript, CSV, and XML files. Such compression technology is available with IIS and Apache servers, as well as with other third party products.

Improved HTML Rendering Performance in Impromptu Web Reports

In IWR, you can expect a significant reduction in the size of HTML report output files and a corresponding reduction in the time required to render HTML output.

Improved Caching

HTTP caching has been improved for viewing IWR reports and navigating Upfront.

Improved Prompt Performance

In IWR, performance improvements have been made in the handling of type-in prompts. Also, administrators can use caching to improve the performance of picklist report prompts.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*, the *Cognos Upfront Developer Guide*, and the *Impromptu Web Reports Administrator Guide*.

Improved Security Page Performance in Upfront

Security page performance in Upfront is improved when your environment has several thousand user classes. It is also now easier to navigate and select user classes when you change access privileges.

Additional Load Balancing Algorithm Available for Cognos Query

In addition to the existing overflow-based load balancing algorithm that you can control in Cognos Query Server Administration, you can now replace this with round-robin load balancing, similar to other Series 7 products.

Both load balancing choices continue to consider whether it is more efficient to direct a subsequent request from the same user session to the user's current query server, before redirecting the request to an alternate query server. You may need to test both algorithms within your environment to see which one best suits your application.

For more information, see the *Configuration Manager User Guide*.

Monitoring the Performance of Cognos Query

You can monitor query server usage and performance. Statistics monitored include the number of times executed, the total execution time and the average execution time.

For more information, see the *Cognos Query Server Administration Guide*.

Improved Installation and Advanced Configurations

Detecting Port Conflicts During Configuration

In distributed installations, it is often necessary to configure your products and components to use ports other than the defaults. You can ensure that the ports you choose for your products are unique and do not conflict with those used by other Series 7 Version 3 products within your installation.

Configuring Cognos Query Server Groups More Easily

Cognos Query server groups are now simpler to configure.

Configuring Additional Cognos Query Dispatchers to Better Handle Failover

You can configure Cognos Query with multiple dispatchers. The primary dispatcher fails over to an alternate dispatcher, which then becomes the primary dispatcher. As in previous releases, failover of the last dispatcher is to a single query server.

For more information, see the *Configuration Manager User Guide*.

Simplified Application Upgrade

Upgrading Directly to Series 7 Version 3

You can upgrade to Series 7 Version 3 directly from any previous Series 7 release without needing to upgrade to intermediate versions.

Improved Auditing

Auditing the Changes to a Namespace

You can enable auditing of user class membership changes. This helps you to track access changes independent of the Access Manager Administration interface that made the changes.

For more information, see the *Access Manager Administrator Guide*.

Restructuring Audit Files for Easier Loading to a Database

You can specify post-processing of your PowerPlay audit files to restructure them so they can be loaded into a database more easily.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Enterprise Server Guide*.

Improved Security

Browsing for External Users Defined in your Directory Server

If you are using externally defined users, you can browse a user list in the directory server and link to them more easily.

Note: The ability to define users externally was introduced in Series 7 Version 2 Maintenance Release 2. For more information, see the *Access Manager Administrator Guide*.

Disabling the Identification of the Server Software Version

By default, product version and build numbers are no longer accessible via the browser. This helps you to inhibit vulnerability exploitation.

Eliminating Access to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the Web Tier

When configuring ports across firewalls, you can configure Access Manager such that you need only open the ports to the Directory Server and Ticket Server from the applications server computers running your BI products. There is no need to open these ports from your Web Servers.

Sharing of Database Signon Information

In IWR, if you do not have a database signon associated with your Access Manager user, you are prompted for your database credentials. You then can optionally store this information in the namespace so that you are not prompted in future sessions. In previous releases, if the database signon existed, but was not associated with your user, you could not store the database signon in the namespace. The existing database signon stored in the namespace is now associated with your user if all credentials entered match those stored in the namespace.

For more information, see the *Cognos Web Portal User Guide*.

Using Trusted Services to Provide Credentials to the Directory Server

You can use the Access Manager Trusted Services SDK to implement functions to establish bind credentials to the Directory Server at runtime as opposed to storing these in the Directory Server. For more information, see the *Access Manager Trusted Services Plug-in Software Development Kit Guide*.

Improved Internationalization

Modifying Display Format Settings for Locales

You can consistently control the display formatting setting for different locales used in PowerPlay, IWR, Cognos Query, and Cognos Visualizer.

For more information, see the *Configuration Manager User Guide*.

Improved Deployment

Deploying PowerCubes, Pointer Files, Drill-through Targets and Published Reports

Using Deployment Manager, you can deploy PowerCubes, pointer files, drill-through targets and reports that are published to PowerPlay Enterprise Server.

For more information, see the *Deployment Manager User Guide*.

Leverage Existing Infrastructure

Specifying MSAS Cube Connection Parameters

You can use PowerPlay Connect to add additional connection parameters that are used when opening Microsoft Analysis Services cubes. You can specify logging levels and timeout parameters.

For more information, see the *PowerPlay Connect Help*.

Expanded Data Type Support

The CLOB data type is supported for the Oracle database.

Using Microsoft Access Linked Tables

In Architect, you can define a Microsoft Access data source that contains references to linked tables which exist outside of the Access database. This enables Cognos Query to query these tables.

For more information, see the *Architect User Guide*.

Using Database Synonyms as Entities or Sub-types

In Architect, you can choose to treat synonyms of tables or views such that they become entities in the business layer. You can also choose to have them become sub-types of entities, as you could previously.

For more information, see the *Architect User Guide*.

Using Local and Remote Synonyms

In Architect, you can import synonyms for a table or view in the local database or in a database accessed using a separate connection. The latter kind of synonym is described as a remote synonym. Local and remote synonym definitions can exist in the imported database or be referenced using an Impromptu catalog.

For more information, see the *Architect User Guide*.

Appendix A: New Features for Series 7 Version 2 MR2 and MR3

Depending on which release of Series 7 Version 2 you may have installed, you may not be aware of features introduced in the following maintenance releases:

- Series 7 Version 2 MR2
- Series 7 Version 2 MR3

These features are also included in Series 7 Version 3.

Series 7 Version 2 MR2 New Features

Use an easier, more powerful PowerPlay Web User Interface

PowerPlay Web can now adapt to your user interface preferences. If you hide the dimension viewer, it remains hidden the next time you open a report. This provides you with greater flexibility to determine how you would like to use the dimension viewer.

Drill Through to Cognos ReportNet in PowerPlay

Customers using both PowerPlay and Cognos ReportNet can easily define a ReportNet report as a drill-through target from PowerPlay. In Transformer, you can select a ReportNet report as a drill-through target for your cube.

Filter Criteria in Cognos Web Services Passed to Cognos Visualizer

The Cognos Web Services adapter for Cognos Visualizer now allows the setting of filter criteria so that the charts that Visualizer renders have just the information you specify in your Cognos Web Services application.

For more information, see the Cognos Web Services *SDK API Reference*.

New API to Get Access Manager User Class Membership in Cognos Web Services

Cognos Web Services developers now have an API call that returns a list of all user classes a given user belongs to. This information can then be used to allow running of IWR reports as a particular user class.

For more information, see the Cognos Web Services *SDK API Reference*.

Support for Transaction Isolation Levels in Cognos Query

Cognos Query supports database transaction isolation levels through Configuration Manager.

Support for IBM WebSphere Portal and Plumtree Corporate Portal in Cognos Portal Services

Using Cognos Portal Services, you can now add Cognos portlets to your IBM WebSphere Portal or Plumtree Corporate Portal. These portlets help you to rapidly deploy and show Cognos content in your working environment.

For more information, see the Cognos Portal Services *Administration Guide*.

Expanded Data Type Support

Support has been added for the following data types

- NCHAR and NVARCHAR2 for Oracle 8.1.7, Oracle 9iR1 and 9iR2
- UNIVARCHAR for Sybase 12.5 Adaptive Server

In addition to existing Cognos Series 7 data type support, these newly supported data types can also represent Unicode character data.

Cognos Series 7 can correctly process the data if

- the database client can successfully translate the data to the single code page of the operating system where the Cognos products are installed

Cognos Series 7 cannot correctly process the data if

- the data contains characters from more than one code page, such as a Latin-1 and a Japanese code-page. In this case, the database client cannot correctly translate the data.

API Access to PowerPlay Enterprise Server Charts in Cognos Web Services

Cognos Web Services now provides interfaces to allow your programs to access chart images from PowerPlay Enterprise Server. These images are exactly the same as you would get in PowerPlay Enterprise Server through a Web browser using the PowerPlay Web Explorer user interface. This ability opens up the charting capability of PowerPlay Enterprise Server to the Cognos Web Services developer.

Change Access Privileges in Upfront More Easily

If your environment has several thousand user classes, you can configure Upfront to show a dynamic user class tree. A dynamic user class tree helps you to navigate and select multiple user classes more easily when you change access privileges.

Cognos Application Firewall

Cognos Series 7 now ships with Cognos Application Firewall. Cognos Application Firewall provides heightened protection for Web deployments of Cognos Series 7 Version 2 products.

Cognos Application Firewall controls all input and output flowing between the products and the Web gateways. All HTTP requests are analyzed before being processed. Requests may be re-formed, if necessary, and malicious requests are rejected. Such malicious requests may include attempts at buffer overflows, cross site scripting attacks, SQL injection techniques, forceful navigation, and escalation of privileges. As data is delivered back to the user, it is analyzed and protected.

Features of Cognos Application Firewall include logging at the gateway and parameter signing. Cognos Application Firewall can also be implemented in environments that are already performing third-party cross-site scripting vulnerabilities checking such as Netegrity SiteMinder®.

Cognos Application Firewall is enabled by default. You can disable it using Configuration Manager. For more information, see the Configuration Manager *User Guide*.

For more information about Cognos Application Firewall, see the Cognos Application Firewall *Secure Deployment Guide*.

External User Support in Access Manager

You can use Access Manager administration to link a list of users that exists in your directory server to a Cognos namespace. Users defined in SunONE and Active Directory servers are supported.

Enable external user support if all the users that will be accessing the Cognos namespace are already defined and maintained in your directory server. After the users are linked to one or more of your namespaces, the changes made to these users in your directory server are automatically reflected in Access Manager.

This feature is not backward compatible. Therefore, you should enable this feature only if all applications accessing the Cognos Namespace are Series 7 Version 2 MR2 and above.

Unattended Uninstall

You can now uninstall Series 7 components from your computer without requiring input from the user. This will enable you to script the removal of Cognos software from your machines in the same manner in which you can script their installation and configuration. This feature will make it easier to manage multiple computer installations, particularly of client components.

Access Manager Performance Enhancement to OLE Automation

Performance enhancements have been made to the Access Manager OLE automation Authenticate method.

Support for Thai Data in PowerPlay

PowerPlay can be used on all supported Windows platforms with Thai data. PowerPlay's industry leading OLAP capabilities are now available for users who wish to interact with their Thai data. All third party data sources that contain Thai data can also be used with PowerPlay.

Support for Access Manager OS Signons in Cognos Web Services

CWS now supports Access Manager logons when configured for Integrated Windows Authentication OS signons.

For more information, see the Cognos Web Services *SDK API Reference*.

Support for Network Address Translation Firewalls in NoticeCast

You can now run NoticeCast Client or NoticeCast Administration on a computer outside a firewall and communicate with a NoticeCast Server behind a firewall that uses Network Address Translation (NAT).

Series 7 Version 2 MR3 New Features

Enhancement to word wrapping in Impromptu reports

If you set the word wrap property for a report column and the data in the column does not include any break characters, the data will flow based on the width of the column in the report.

Sorting When Using Time-based Partitioned Cubes

This release implements a solution for retaining the original sort order when merging categories in time-based partitioned cubes.

Transformer supports minor changes in the categories from one cube update to the next, with or without a Unique Move and, in most cases, the sort order of the categories appears as expected when the child member cubes are viewed.

During updates and merges of time-based partitioned cubes there are several assumptions and constraints to bear in mind:

- The changes to categories must be relatively slow and orderly.
- There must be no significant changes to the category metadata in the overall model.
- An understanding of parent-child and sibling relationships must be available so that Transformer can use that to help build the member cubes.
- Under certain circumstances, Unique Move is no longer supported.