



Cindi Howson
ASK LLC
email: cindihowson@biscorecard.com
Phone 973-726-3754

BusinessObjects XI Release 2 Query, Reporting, and Analysis Capabilities

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Evaluation Methodology

BIScorecard evaluates vendor products with the view of a customer who wishes to buy a full BI suite or integrated toolset. Products are evaluated according to major functional areas ranging from query and reporting to architecture and administration. Within each functional area, I score vendors on various features. This list of criteria is based on:

- Features that customers often look for in evaluations
- Unique capabilities identified while evaluating products
- Vendor marketing claims that are either a point of differentiation or confusion

To evaluate products, I rely on vendor briefings, customer feedback, and newsgroup postings. To ensure an objective, consistent comparison of products, I also evaluate the software hands-on. When a task is not apparent via the menus or online help, I rely on vendor documentation. Poor documentation for complex products can hurt a vendor's evaluation.

Each feature is assigned a score of 0 to 3:

Score	Explanation
3	Exceptional capabilities
2	Very good capabilities
1	Limited capabilities, difficult to do, or may require a work around
0	Minimal capabilities out of the box. The software may require customization or coding to accomplish.

This evaluation represents findings from BusinessObjects XI Release 2, released November 2005. The primary focus of this evaluation is Web Intelligence Release 2 which contained significant changes over XI Release 1. Crystal Reports XI has not been re-evaluated as the differences in Release 1 and 2 are minor. Customers should access Crystal Reports XI Release 1 review for additional information.