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Microsoft Report Builder

Complimentary Module of SQL Server 2005
Reporting Services Provides Ad Hoc Query
Capabilities

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REVISION DATE: 12/18/05

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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 a point either of differentiation or of confusion

To evaluate products, I rely on vendor briefings, customer feedback, and documentation. To ensure an objective, consistent comparison of products, I also evaluate the software hands-on.

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.

Microsoft Reporting Services was initially evaluated in Q1 2005. This review includes evaluation results from beta previews in 2005 and testing of production software in Q4 2006. The focus of this review is on the Report Builder module. Some commentary is provided on Report Designer, an interface accessed through Visual Studio 2005. Additional scores for Report Designer are available in the BIScorecard™ spreadsheet.