

# Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services

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# SQL Server Product Suite

- Database Engine
- Integration Services
- Analysis Services
- Reporting Services

# SQL Server Reporting Services

- ✓ Provides a complete server-based platform designed to support the entire reporting life cycle
- ✓ Develop, manage, and deliver reports
- ✓ Initial rollout with SQL Server 2000, subsequent enhancements with SQL Server 2005 and 2008

# Report Development Overview

- ✓ Reports are developed in Visual Studio or Business Intelligence Development Studio (BIDS)
- ✓ Variety of options for representing information including tables, matrices, and charts
- ✓ Define data sources, then design queries which produce datasets (most time-intensive aspect of report development)
- ✓ Dataset is linked to report object (eg – table, chart)

# Report Development Overview

- ✓ Customize report as required, eg – create groupings and drilldowns, drillthroughs (links to detail reports), and summary totals
- ✓ Create run-time parameters (data driven or hard-coded) to allow users to provide filtering criteria for the report results
- ✓ Create expressions to implement inline data formatting (eg – “if appointment expires in less than 6 months then set font to **red/bold**”)
- ✓ Customize, test, and then deploy

# Report Management Overview

- ✓ Reports are deployed to a Reporting Services website where they are typically accessed via the Report Manager application (bundled with RS)
- ✓ Access via Report Manager is optional, integration with MS Sharepoint is another option
- ✓ Role-based security model to secure access to reports, folders, etc.
- ✓ uses Windows Authentication tied to your Active Directory
- ✓ Big benefit of Report Manager: one-stop shop for reports

# Report Delivery Overview

- ✓ Reports can be accessed a variety of ways:
  - ✓ dynamically via web-based Report Manager
  - ✓ snapshots (static, point in time report, also via Report Manager)
  - ✓ scheduled report subscription via email (attachment and/or hyperlink)
  - ✓ static report on a folder share of a local network (push report out as a scheduled job)

# Report Delivery Overview

- ✓ Reports can be rendered (exported) in a variety of formats including HTML, PDF, CSV, XML, Microsoft Excel
- ✓ Goal is to code once, render many different ways
- ✓ Good goal to have, but not easy to achieve with consistency

# Report Delivery Overview

- ✓ Browser issues with Report Manager: in a nutshell, use MS Internet Explorer
- ✓ FF, Netscape, Safari: can be used in a pinch, but display quirks abound, as well as lack of support for many features
- ✓ Workarounds for non-IE browsers: offer up straight HTML versions of reports, or push reports out via subscription

# The User's View

- What do the reports actually look like and how does the end-user interact with them?

# The Developer's View

- How do I create a report?

# Questions/Resources

- UW Reporting Services SIG:
- <https://wiki.admin.washington.edu/display/MSRSSIG/>
- Microsoft:
- <http://www.microsoft.com/sqlserver/2008/en/us/reporting.aspx>
- Denis Brasfield (db1@u.washington.edu)