COGNOS(R) Business Intelligence Series 7

Cognos Series 7 Version 4

NEW FEATURES GUIDE

THE NEXT LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE™

Product Information

This document applies to Cognos Series 7 Version 4 and may also apply to subsequent releases. To check for newer versions of this document, visit the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com).

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Introduction

What Is in This Document

This document describes the new and changed features in Cognos Series 7 Version 4, as well as some new features from the maintenance releases of 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. 13) and "Superior Visualizations" (p. 15) describe 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. 23) describes features that improve the communication of information.
- "Complete Enterprise Management" (p. 27) describes features that are of most interest to system administrators.
- "Feature Changes" (p. 33) describes features that existed previously but have changed.
- "New Features for Series 7 Version 3 MR1, MR2, and MR3" (p. 43) describes maintenance release updates you may have missed if you did not install these interim releases.

What You Need to Know to Use This Book Effectively

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

For more information about using this product, visit the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com). For information about education and training, click the **Training** link from this site.

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

Online Help

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. You can also download the online help from the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com).

Books for Printing

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 to print a document or when you want to search the whole document.

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You can also read the product readme files and the installation guides directly from Cognos product CDs.

Chapter 1: Cross Reference by Product and Component

This version of Series 7 delivers new and changed functionality into many products and components. In the following sections, you can view a list of the new features added to the products and components you are using, as well as changes to existing features.

For information about features no longer supported in this version or after this version, see the Series 7 Version 4 Readme.

PowerPlay

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

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"Adding Statistical Lines to Charts" (p. 14)

"Changes to Dynamic Custom Exception Highlighting" (p. 42) **(changed feature)**

"Changes to Enable Creating PowerPlay Agents in a New Browser Window" (p. 41) **(changed feature)**

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Transformer has the following new and changed features:

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Impromptu

Impromptu Web Reports

Impromptu Web Reports has the following new and changed features:

Impromptu

Impromptu has the following new and changed features:

Cognos Visualizer

Cognos Visualizer (Windows Authoring)

Visualizer Authoring has the following new and changed features:

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"Describing Panel Actions that Launch URLs" (p. 16)
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"Better Searching for Cognos Visualizer Data Sources" (p. 29)
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"Broader Agent Conditions" (p. 23)
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Cognos Series 7 Version 4 includes the following new additions and changes:

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Chapter 2: Superior Analysis

Report authors and administrators responsible for creating and distributing PowerPlay reports, and users performing online analysis in Windows or on the Web, can take advantage of a number of product enhancements.

Enhanced User Experience on the Web

Exporting with High-fidelity to PDF

You can export a report to PDF from PowerPlay Web with high-fidelity printable output. This means the output produced appears as it does in your HTML-based report, accurately reflecting the colors and shading, font, and title formats. This gives you more control over the presentation of your analysis, including pagination, word wrapping, and fitting columns, rows, or charts to a page. You can now also include the status line in the PDF output. This functionality is available only from the enhanced UI.

Administrators can enable or disable these additional options for a cube.

For more information, see "Export Data in PDF Format" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Moving Calculations Within a CrossTab

You can now drag calculations to any location on an axis in PowerPlay Web reports, using the enhanced UI. You can also lock the calculation at the top or very left of the crosstab. When calculations are moved, they remain fixed in the position you specified as long as you continue exploring within the same dimension in the crosstab.

For more information, see "Move Calculations" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Formatting Charts

To make charts visually easier to understand and communicate to others, you can now customize a wide variety of chart format options in the Enhanced UI of PowerPlay Web. For example, you can format colors, patterns, and gradients for bars, use a palette to format colors and markers for lines, and customize font properties on labels. You can also set scaling factors on axes, customize chart backgrounds, or change the format of a pie chart into a ring chart.

In the Generic UI of PowerPlay Web you can see charts that have been created and formatted, but you cannot modify or create them.

For more information, see "Format Data" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Suppressing Values Other than Zero

In PowerPlay Web, you can now suppress any combination of zero values, missing values, overflow values or divide-by-zero (/0) values. The settings for these options are included in the Explain text, and are saved with the report.

Administrators can enable or disable these options for a cube.

For more information, see "Suppress Values" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Excluding Null or Missing Values from Time State Rollups in PowerPlay Reports

If you need to exclude null or missing values from your PowerPlay reports, for average or weighted average time state measures, you can now do so in Transformer.

For more information about using the Transformer (Windows) interface to exclude null or missing values from your PowerPlay reports, see "Ignore Null and Missing Values in Specified Time State Rollups" in the *Step-by-Step Transformer* help.

You can also set the `IgnoreMissingValue` property using Model Definition Language (MDL) or OLE automation. For more information, see the Transformer *MDL Reference* and the Transformer *Macro Reference Guide*.

Advanced Analysis

Charting for Multiple Measures

Two new powerful chart types are available in the Enhanced UI of PowerPlay Web. Scatter charts and correlation charts enable you to perform analysis against multiple measures.

A scatter chart plots two measures to find a correlation between them. A correlation chart is a bar chart overlaid with a line chart, which allows you to show two different measures using a shared X-axis and two Y-axes. The left-hand and right-hand Y-axes can each have a different scale, enabling you to visually compare dissimilar measures.

In the Generic UI of PowerPlay Web, you can see these new charts but you cannot create or modify them.

For more information, see "Choose a Display" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Adding Statistical Lines to Charts

To further understand the distribution of your data in the PowerPlay Web Enhanced UI, you can add statistical lines to your charts. You can show the mean (average) and standard deviation as lines on the chart. You can also set your own custom threshold value to compare data against.

In the Generic UI of PowerPlay Web, you can see these formatted charts but you cannot create or modify them.

For more information, see "Show Statistical Lines" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Adding Statistical Calculations

If your use of data includes statistical analysis, you can now create these calculations in PowerPlay Web. You can add calculations for the mean, median, minimum, and maximum values. You can also use percentiles to show the percent distribution of data.

For more information, see "Add Calculations" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Chapter 3: Superior Visualizations

Visualization authors and administrators responsible for creating and distributing visualizations, and users performing online analysis in Windows or on the Web, can take advantage of a number of product enhancements.

Enhanced User Experience on the Web

Suppressing Zeros on Dimensional Data Sources

You can use Cognos Visualizer to suppress data from dimensional data sources such as PowerCubes. The suppression is maintained when users view the visualization in Cognos Visualizer Web Edition Client or Cognos Visualizer Web Edition Viewer. You can suppress any combination of zero values, missing values, overflow values or divide-by-zero (/0) values.

If charts are synchronized and share an axis while suppression is enabled, then both charts will use the suppression. If overlay charts are used, the same suppression must be enabled on the dimension axes of both charts.

You cannot suppress data from relational or spreadsheet-based data sources.

For more information, see "Suppress Zeros on Dimensional Data Sources" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Viewing and Drilling Through to Actual Values in Scatter Plot Charts with Binned Data

To help users understand the underlying data that may be driving a correlation between measures, you can use Cognos Visualizer to enable users to view or drill through to the actual data values that are summarized, or binned, into a data point on a scatter plot chart.

A scatter plot chart is a statistical chart used to plot two continuous (non-categorical) measures in an attempt to find a correlation between them. Scatter charts do not roll up values, and so each data item has a point on the chart. When the cluster of data items trend towards a line, this indicates a correlation between the measures. To reduce the number of points on a chart, binning can be used. Binning divides the area of the chart into an equal number of slots, or bins. All data items that fall into a bin are represented by a single point. If a particular bin does not have any data items in it, the bin will not contain a plotted point.

To help understand the actual data values of any point, such as an outlier, you can view or drill through to see the actual value. When viewing is enabled, if a user requests to view the actual values for a binned data point, they will be prompted to confirm the action if the request would retrieve a large volume of data. Large data volumes may cause a delay and additional processing demands on the system. To view actual data values for a binned data point, the underlying data must be retrievable using the SQL definition in the associated data source (IQD file). The **Explain** window shows the point-specific values in the data grid. When a scatter plot chart does not use bins, the sole record for the individual point is shown.

When a user drills through to actual values, filters are generated so that the data items shown in the target report are only those that contribute values to a bin.

For more information, see "View and Drill Through to Actual Values in Scatter Plot Charts with Binned Data" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Synchronizing Maps and Charts for Drilling

To help users understand the relationship between a location on a map and the same information in a chart, you can use Cognos Visualizer to synchronize the map and the chart data.

Map-chart drill synchronization works in both directions. When you drill on a map, the location dimension for the chart's data source is searched for a matching category, and the chart drills to the same category. When you drill on the location dimension of a chart, the location dimension for the map drills to the same location.

Synchronization between a map and a chart requires a correspondence between map locations and the location categories in the chart data source. All category-based charts with at least one location dimension can be synchronized with a map on the same sheet provided

- they use the same data source
- they use the same dimension for the selected axis in the chart as the point or region on the map
- the chart and map are both set to the same location level

Maps with a drill hierarchy containing the same location more than once cannot be synchronized because of the ambiguity of having duplicate locations. For the same reason, charts that use a data source in which a location category appears more than once in the primary drill path cannot be synchronized.

For more information, see "Synchronize Maps and Charts for Drilling" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Describing Panel Actions that Launch URLs

You can help users understand what will happen when they select a panel that launches a URL. In Cognos Visualizer, you can define tooltips for panel actions that explain what happens when a user selects the panel in the Web Edition Client or Web Edition Viewer. If no description is defined, the tooltip shows the URL.

For more information, see "Describe Panel Actions that Launch URLs" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Advanced Visualizations

Changing Chart Types, Dimensions and Measures

You can now use Cognos Visualizer to change from one chart type to another instantly. You can also change the dimensions or measures in an existing chart. You do not have to delete and recreate the chart to make these changes.

Some chart types will transform automatically from one type to another, while others will prompt you to supply additional information required for the new chart type. Not all chart types can be changed into all other chart types, particularly if there are multiple charts on a single panel.

When changing from one chart to another, chart and axis properties are preserved, such as names, palettes, labels, feelers, values and scroll, grid and format settings. For numeric axes, numeric precision, scales, intervals, decimals, format, location, and waterline settings are preserved.

For more information, see "Change Chart Dimensions and Measures" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Previewing Scene Layout

You can preview the layout of your scenes directly in Cognos Visualizer, without having to publish the visualization. This allows you to see how multiple scenes will be displayed in the Web Edition Viewer. You can further imitate the user’s environment by setting the dimensions of the screen area to those you expect a typical viewer to use in their browser.

For more information, see "Preview and Set Scene Layout for Web Edition Viewer" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Aligning and Resizing Multiple Panels

To improve ease of use, you can now use Cognos Visualizer to align and resize multiple panels, similar to how you align and size objects in other drawing tools. You can align panels to the top, bottom, centre, left, right, and middle, with or without panel grouping. You can also resize all selected panels to the same size.

For more information, see "Align and Resize Multiple Panels" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Defining and Applying Standards for Fonts

Cognos Visualizer also allows you to define default font settings. You can define a default size, style, color, and font face. This allows you to set a standard for text on newly created charts using Cognos Visualizer. This can be done for the following objects:

- axis labels
- axis tick labels
- table chart column headers
- row headers and cell text
- crosstab dimension headers
- dimension items and cell text
- waterline labels
- chart values
- panel legends and text
- value charts

You can apply your defaults to existing visualizations by using Apply to All, or you can restore all text to the default font settings.

For more information, see "Define and Apply Standards for Fonts" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Customizing a Statistical Control Limits Chart

A control limits chart is typically used in statistical process control, sometimes associated with Six Sigma quality initiatives. These initiatives are designed to eliminate defects in processes, such as manufacturing or logistics. A control limits chart has a time-based category and calculated upper and lower control limits. For example, a control limits chart could show the number of defects on an assembly line over time, with the upper and lower control limits indicating whether production quality is within the expected tolerance.

To more finely adapt a control limits chart to the needs of different industries and quality initiatives, Cognos Visualizer now allows you to define points in time where changes to a process were implemented to see the effects of those changes. You do this by having upper and lower control limits calculated and adding separate waterlines for the periods between those points in time. In the Web Edition Client and Web Edition Viewer, users will be able to clearly distinguish the process change points. However, Web Viewer users cannot modify the waterlines. Web Client users can control the display of waterlines.

Standard Formula

The standard formula for calculating upper and lower control limits is as follows:

- Mean + *n* standard deviations, where *n* is any number the author enters.

This formula allows the author to create control limits following Six Sigma practices, where +/- 3 sigma (or +/- 1 sigma or +/- 2 sigma) creates commonly used upper and lower limits.

Alternate Formula

You can choose to use an alternate formula for calculating upper and lower control limits. The alternate formula is considered by some experts to be approximate and therefore more suitable when the available data points are only a partial sample of all the actual data. This formula is as follows:

- Mean + '*n*' * average moving range, where

  Mean is the same value used for the calculation of other waterlines

  n is any number the author enters

  the average moving range is the average of the control limit chart's lower values.

Mathematically, this formula is as follows:

- X-bar + *n* * mR-bar, where
  - X-bar = $\sum$ Xt / k
  - mR-bar = $\sum | X_t - X_{t-1} | / (k-1)$, where

    k = number of data points

    n = user-defined constant

  The '*n*' value is specified by the author, but defaults to a value of 2.66. The default value indicates a confidence level of 99% when using this formula.

A control limit chart typically shows a pair of related charts, the upper chart being the individual values and the lower being the moving range. You can choose to hide or show either, but not both of these charts, in Cognos Visualizer. When hidden (or shown) by an author, a chart cannot be subsequently shown (or hidden) by a user of the Web Client or Web Viewer.

For more information, see "Customize a Statistical Control Limits Chart" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Default Maps With Up-to-date Geopolitical Boundaries

The default maps in Cognos Visualizer now include the latest geopolitical boundaries, such as level 1 and 2 European Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) boundaries. Some country names have been updated to reflect changes, such as in the Balkans and Africa, and a larger set of U.S. zip codes is provided.

You can create new visualizations using the new maps or recreate existing visualizations to use the new maps. You can also continue using the existing set of maps provided with earlier versions of Cognos Visualizer, as well as your existing custom maps.

For more information, see the Cognos Visualizer *Administrator's Guide*.

Using MapInfo MapX 5.0 Maps

You can include your own custom maps based on maps created with the latest version of MapInfo's MapX, version 5.0. You can also continue to use custom maps created with earlier versions of MapInfo MapX.

Specifying Default Directory Locations

For improved ease of use, you can now specify default directories for visualizations and data sources in Cognos Visualizer. If a directory entry is empty, Cognos Visualizer remembers the last visited directory.

The default directory for visualizations is used when

- opening a visualization
- saving a visualization
- importing visualization objects (sheets, scenes, panels, or filters)

The default directory for visualizations does not apply to the **File**, **Save as HTML** command.

The default directory for data sources is used when

- selecting a data source

- exporting to CSV

When specifying a default data source directory, all data sources are included, with the exception of remote cubes. You must use the Choose a Remote Cube feature when selecting a remote cube as a data source.

For more information, see "Specify Default Directory Locations"in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Chapter 4: Sophisticated Reporting

Impromptu report authors and catalog administrators, Windows and Web-based report users, and PowerPrompts developers can all benefit from the enhancements added to the query and reporting components.

Enhanced User Experience on the Web

Using Select All in Picklist Prompts

To improve the ease-of-use for report consumers, you can use Impromptu to create reports that offer consumers the option to Select All prompt values. This is easier than selecting all of the prompt values individually for a multi-select prompt, and will save users time.

For more information, see "Add the Select All Option to Picklist Prompts" in *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Entering Multiple Values in Type-in Prompts

To improve productivity of report consumers, you can use Impromptu to create reports where the consumer can enter multiple values as a response to a type-in prompt. This is especially powerful as these values can be used with an IN clause in a filter to search for multiple values.

For more information, see "Create a Type-in Prompt With the In Operator that Accepts Multiple Values" in *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Enhanced Report Presentation

Enhancing Charts

Impromptu's charting user interface has been improved to enable a vast array of new capabilities. With about 100 new formatting options, you can control the presentation of almost all chart objects, from sizes and shapes to locations, fonts, colors, depth, explosions, patterns, backgrounds, labels, legends, axes, markers, and more. When you upgrade your existing Impromptu reports with charts, you may notice that some chart properties have new names.

One of the newly-available charts is a correlation chart. This is a bar chart overlaid with a line chart, which allows you to show two different measures with a shared X-axis and two Y-axes. The left and right Y-axes can each have a different scale, enabling you to visually correlate dissimilar measures. For example, you can show products on the shared X-axis, with revenue on the right-hand Y-axis and units-sold on the left-hand Y-axis, and visually compare the relationship between revenue and units-sold for each product.

You can also display a trend line with a regression type of linear, logarithmic, polynomial, exponential, or moving average. Note that these are all trend lines, and do not provide forecasting capabilities. You can show titles, subtitles and include footnotes. You can also control grids and scales including the use of a logarithmic scale.

In addition, the way you define the dimension layout for charts has changed. Menu items that previously listed charts such as 2D Area, 3D pie, 3D Bar now identify the chart type such as area, pie, or bar, without specifying the dimensions. You now choose a chart first and then customize the dimensions using the properties.

For more information, see the chapter "Create and Customize a Chart" in the Impromptu *User Reference* online book and the Impromptu online help.

Chapter 5: Comprehensive Information Delivery

Administrators seeking to implement more open systems, with a broader range of publishing and notification capabilities, will welcome several enhancements added for this release.

Broader Notification Capabilities

Simplifying Delivery of Impromptu Web Reports to Multiple Users

You can send Impromptu Web Reports to many users more easily using addressing based on user class membership. The benefit of user class-based addressing is that you no longer have to add or delete individual users, although you can still do this. User class membership is always up-to-date, and reports are delivered to only the current members of the specified user classes.

For more information, see "Add A User Class to an Email List' in the Cognos *Web Portal User Guide*.

Emailing Impromptu Web Reports in HTML format

In addition to emailing attachments as PDF, Excel, delimited text, and XML, you can now send reports as email attachments in HTML Web Archive format. This feature attaches the output as a Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension HTML (MHTML) format with a .mht file extension, and is viewable only in Internet Explorer.

For more information, see "Generate a Report in Different Formats" in the Cognos *Web Portal User Guide*.

Customizing the Format of PowerPlay Agent Attachments

You can specify format settings, such as page orientation (portrait or landscape), for PDF attachments delivered by PowerPlay Agents. When creating an alert, you can override the default Print settings defined in PowerPlay Administrator to specify a format that better suits the layout of that particular report.

For more information, see "Create an Agent" in the PowerPlay Web *User Guide*.

Broader Agent Conditions

To increase the power and sophistication of your agent conditions, you can now use agents to check for data that is NULL, is not NULL, or for data that does not fall between a specified range of values.

For information, see "Create an Agent" in the PowerPlay *Web User Guide*, and "Add or Modify a Rule" in the Cognos *Web Portal User Guide* .

Extended Openness

Exporting Layers to Excel

To improve fidelity between your PowerPlay report and Microsoft Excel when you Save As Excel in PowerPlay Windows, a Microsoft Excel worksheet is now automatically created for each layer in your report. Each worksheet is named after the layer, suffixed by a sequential numeric identifier. For example, the names might look like Americas_1, Asia_Pacific_2, Europe_3, and so on. If you have no layers, only a single worksheet is created.

This feature is available with Excel 2002 or higher. Excel 2002 is now the default version used. If you want to use an older version of Excel, you can configure PowerPlay to use an older version. For information, see "Changes to Excel Export Support" (p. 41).

For more information, see "Distribute Reports" in the PowerPlay *User Guide*.

Exporting Header and Footer Images to Excel

To improve fidelity between your Impromptu report and Microsoft Excel outputs, images in Impromptu page headers or footers, such as corporate logos, are now included in the corresponding Excel page headers or footers. This occurs when you Save As Excel with Format, or create an Excel output in Impromptu Web Reports, and you specify an output format of Excel 2002 or higher.

For more information, see "Export a Report to Excel with Images in the Header and Footer" in *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Exporting a Form Frame within a List Frame to Excel

Microsoft Excel outputs from Impromptu reports also more closely resemble their source in that a list frame that exists within a form frame now displays the data from the list frame within your Excel worksheet. This occurs when you Save As Excel with Format, or create an Excel output in Impromptu Web Reports, and you specify an output format of Excel 2002 or higher.

For more information, see "Export a Form Frame within a List Frame To Excel" in *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Improved Exporting to CSV

When you Save As delimited ASCII in Impromptu or Impromptu Web Reports, you can now control whether leading zeroes in text fields are retained when saving the report as delimited ASCII text (.csv). For example, in a product number or postal code, you can use the **Mark text fields for import into Microsoft Excel** setting to ensure the leading zeroes are preserved when saving the report as Delimited ASCII (.csv). In addition, you can choose to have null or missing values in numeric fields exported as zeroes when saving the report as Delimited ASCII (.csv).

For more information, see the topics "Export a Text Field with Leading Zeroes to Excel" and "Export a Numeric Field with Null or Missing Values to Excel" in *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

New Functionality in Cognos Web Services API

CWS APIs include the latest features available in the BI servers. Therefore you can use CWS to create applications that make use of the most up-to-date functionality available in BI. For PowerPlay, this includes the new chart types, zero suppression options, and the new statistical calculations.

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

Flexible Publishing

Using a Command Line to Upload Multiple Files to Upfront

In Upfront, users can upload static files to their NewsBoxes one at a time. To upload multiple files, you can now use a command line utility. Using FMCmnd, you can script the upload of multiple files, and use wildcards and parameters. You can also upload the contents of an entire directory. Newsboxes can be automatically created for the uploaded files. The upload command script can be run interactively, or it can be scheduled.

For more information, see "Upfront Automation Interfaces" in the Upfront *Developer Guide*.

Chapter 6: Complete Enterprise Management

This release of Series 7 includes continuing improvements to further help you implement and manage a secure, scalable, easily localized business intelligence application.

Application Upgrade

Upgrading from Previous Versions of Series 7

You can upgrade to Series 7 Version 4 (7.4) from Version 3 (7.3), or directly from Version 2 (7.1). It is not necessary to upgrade from Version 2 to Version 3, and then to Version 4.

Upgrading and Migrating to Cognos 8

You can migrate or upgrade certain types of content from Series 7 Version 2 (7.1) or Version 3 (7.3) to Cognos 8. As of this Initial Release, migration or upgrade tools from Series 7 Version 4 to Cognos 8 are not yet available. For up-to-date information about availability of the migration and upgrade tools see the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com).

For more information about migrating and upgrading to Cognos 8, see the Migration and Upgrade *User Guide*.

Improved Administration and Data modeling

Using External Measures When Building Time Based Partitioned Cubes

You can now include externally rolled up measures in time-based partitioned (TBP) PowerCubes. This provides the same power and flexibility with externally rolled up measures as standard PowerCubes.

For more information about time-based partitioning, see the *Step-by-Step Transformer* online help.

Preventing Direct Execution of Reports

As an administrator, you can now prevent end-users from running Impromptu Web Reports directly. This is particularly useful for reports that are intended only to produce a picklist, dataset, or HotFile for another report. It is also useful for reports intended only to be run as a drill-through target from another report or from a cube. Such reports usually have filters limiting the query to a subset of the data. With this new feature, users are prevented from unnecessarily running reports.

For more information, see "Prevent Users from Running a Report" in the Cognos *Web Portal User Guide*.

Controlling Reports that Exceed Governor Settings

As an administrator, you can now control the behavior of reports that exceed governor settings. When a report exceeds these settings, users receive a message that the volume of data or processing time has exceeded allowable limits. You can control whether the report will be empty or contain partial data up to the point where the governor was exceeded. You can also delegate control to users by allowing them to define the data behavior for each report.

For information about enabling and disabling governors in Impromptu Web Reports - Report Administration, see "Enable and Disable Governors" in the Impromptu Web Reports *Administrator Guide*.

For information about enabling and disabling governors in Upfront, see the Cognos *Web Portal User Guide*.

Notifying When Reports Associated with an Event are Complete

You can now write a script to notify you or take an action when all the reports associated with an event have completed. This allows you to create applications that can better link actions to the completion of these events.

For more information, see "Notify when a Report Associated with an Event is Complete" in the Impromptu Web Reports *Administrator Guide*.

Assigning Dependency Based on Completion of Reports Associated with an Event

You can now define an event that depends on the completion of the reports associated with another event. This allows you to create an event that will run only when another event is complete. This new feature simplifies administration and allows more flexibility for defining dependencies.

For more information, see "Assign Dependency Based on Completion of Reports Associated with an Event" in the Impromptu Web Reports *Administrator Guide*.

Exporting Information About Scheduled Reports

In addition to reviewing scheduled report executions using Impromptu Web Reports Server Administration, you can now export a list of scheduled report executions, for printing or for further analysis.

For more information, see "Using Server Administration" in the Impromptu Web Reports *Administrator Guide*.

Improved Scalability and Performance

Setting the PowerPlay Enterprise Server Recycle Time

To maximize the stability of heavily loaded systems with long intervals between scheduled restarts, you can set the amount of time that a PowerPlay Enterprise Server process is allowed to run before it is recycled. A process is recycled after it has run for a set amount of time, unless it is currently serving a request or has remote connections.

For more information, see "Process Control" in the PowerPlay *Enterprise Server Guide*.

Load Balancing for Request Processing

To better distribute requests across a larger number of Impromptu Web Reports servers, administrators can now specify a weighting factor proportionate to the power and capacity of the computer. This load distribution can optimize requests such as view operations and administrative commands.

Users who view previously saved reports may particularly benefit. For example, on heavily loaded systems, where two or more servers are configured for request processing but each has a different processing capacity, users should see an improvement in performance.

This feature does not distribute report processing. This is already managed by configuring queues on different servers.

For more information, see "Set Load Balancing Weights for Servers" in the Impromptu Web Reports *Administrator Guide*, and the topic "Specify Weighting Factors for Distributing Requests Across Servers" in the Cognos Server Group Settings section of the Configuration Manager *User Guide*.

Automatic Cleanup of Report Data

Administrators have a new cleanup tool for managing transient data from reports that have run. The new cleanup procedure deletes all data more than a day old from the Impromptu Web Reports dispatcher. This data is transient in nature, and is no longer needed once it has been used. The data includes the following:

- URLs used to view reports that have just been run
- Drill through filter information, no longer required after the drill through is run.
- URLs stored while the user logs on again after a session has ended.

This cleanup utility runs separately from the cleanup that administrators can set using the Server Administration tool, to ensure that it runs regularly. The cleanup routine runs every hour, and report data is deleted when it is more than 24 hours old.

The cleanup routine frequency is set through Configuration Manager. Changing the cleanup routine frequency to run more often may be desirable if you run a large number of reports on a regular basis. This ensures that irrelevant data is cleared from memory and frees up more of the system resources for the dispatcher process.

Note that negative intervals and intervals longer than one month are not valid and will cause an error message when validating or applying the configuration settings. You can still apply such an interval, but the out-of-range value will cause Impromptu Web Reports to use the default.

For more information, see "Cognos Impromptu Web Reports Settings" in the Configuration Manager *User Guide*.

Improved Deployment

Better Searching for Cognos Visualizer Data Sources

You can now set up a more flexible directory structure for your data sources, independent of your environment. There is a new fourth run-time method that searches and locates data sources, in addition to the three existing methods.

The methods now search:

1. in the path specified in the visualization file (.viz)
2. in the directory containing the visualization file (.viz)
3. in the directories specified by the VIZ_DATA_SOURCES environment variable
4. in the path specified in the visualization, pre-pended with the directory location specified by the VIZ_DATA_SOURCES value

   This method uses a combination of the 1st and 3rd methods.

For example, consider the following scenario:

A visualization uses C:/Test/Cognos/Viz/Cubes/cube.mdc and C:/Test/Cognos/Viz/IQDs/table.iqd as data sources. In the visualization data source properties, Cubes/cube.mdc and IQDs/table.iqd are specified. In addition, the author sets the VIZ_DATA_SOURCES variable to C:/Test/Cognos/Viz/.

In this scenario, search methods 1, 2 and 3 fail to find the data sources (assuming the visualization is in neither of those data source directories), but method 4 successfully finds the data sources. This is because VIZ_DATA_SOURCES was pre-pended to the data source values in the visualization, creating the full paths C:/Test/Cognos/Viz/Cubes/cube.mdc and C:/Test/Cognos/Viz/IQDs/table.iqd.

For more information, see "Search for Cognos Visualizer Data Sources" in the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Logging Impromptu Web Reports Cleanup Actions

To give you the most up-to-date picture of the status of your application, actions taken by the cleanup job are now logged automatically. These cleanups include such actions as deleting obsolete or orphaned report outputs. Administrators can use the log to easily see which objects were affected by any cleanup.

For more information, see "Log Cleanup Actions" in the Impromptu Web Reports *Administrator Guide*.

Improved Security

Stricter Basic Signon Password Management

To meet stricter governance requirements in your IT environment, Access Manager administrators can now enforce Basic Signon password rules. For example, you can force the inclusion of upper case and lower case characters, numerals, and special characters. Administrators can also enable password history enforcement, to ensure that old passwords are not reused.

For more information, see "Set Password Properties for Users in a Namespace" in the Access Manager *Administrator Guide*.

Improved Catalog Security

You can now lock a catalog to further restrict its access to the catalog Creator user class. This added security will prevent all members of the Creator User Class in the Access Manager namespace from accessing this catalog. This security is important where you have multiple catalogs, each with different users who are Creators, and all users are members of the Creator User Class in the same Access Manager namespace.

For more information, see the topics about locked catalogs in *Mastering Impromptu Reports* or the Impromptu *Administration Guide*. Information is also available from within the product using the Help buttons.

Improved Auditing

Auditing the Use of Visualizations

You can enable richer auditing on each Cognos Visualizer Web Edition server to capture more information about the visualizations that run on that server. The information captured includes the visualization accessed, the name of the user and their user class, as well as the timestamp, server name, and any actions performed. The auditing settings also now apply to all visualizations published to a Visualizer server. If you have multiple Cognos Visualizer Web Edition servers in a group, you can enable auditing on all servers in the group and concatenate the audit files together to get a complete picture of your visualization usage in one file.

In previous releases, the audit log file was only created in the bin directory on Unix, and sent to the Event Viewer in Windows. Now a tab-delimited audit log file called vizwebaudit.log is created in the <*installation_location*>\cer*n*\logs location.

For more information, see "Audit a Visualization" in the Cognos Visualizer Web Edition *Administrator's Guide*.

SQL Logging for Individual Impromptu Web Reports

In Upfront, you can now specify that the SQL executed by an individual Impromptu Web report is captured in a separate log file. These report-specific logs are independent of the general auditing information gathered because their purpose is to assist in meeting IT governance requirements, such as tracking who reported on which columns from which tables. An alternate use might be to temporarily use such logs to aid in problem resolution for reports.

For more information, see "Log SQL for a Report" in the Cognos *Web Portal User Guide*.

Controlling Audit File Size for PowerPlay Web

PowerPlay Enterprise Server administrators now have better control of audit file sizes. Administrators can control the maximum size that an audit file can grow to before a new audit file is created. There is also a default value for the file size. This means you do not have to wait until the server is stopped and re-started for a new file to be created. It also means smaller files for the AuditFileProcessor to handle, so that loading the auditing data into a database is done in smaller chunks, which should make the load time shorter.

When you upgrade an enterprise server application, the value for audit file continues to be unlimited, so that existing large files are not affected and new files are only created when the server is stopped and re-started. If you re-enable auditing, the file size value is set to the new default size for future files. This size can then be changed by the administrator.

Previously, a new audit file was created only when the PPES server was stopped and re-started.

For more information, see "Enable Auditing" in the PowerPlay *Enterprise Server Guide*.

Leverage Existing Infrastructure

The following updates to supported environments are available in Series 7 Version 4.

For more information about supported software environments, see the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com).

Support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005

Support has been added in Series 7 Version 4 for Microsoft SQL Server 2005.

Support for Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise 15

Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise 15 is supported in Series 7 Version 4.

Support for Firefox 1.5

Firefox version 1.5 is supported in Series 7 Version 4.

Appendix A: Feature Changes

This chapter contains information about changes you will see in the behavior of existing Series 7 features. The changes outlined have been added based on product feedback.

Installation Changes

Change to cmplst.txt Build Identifiers for Initial Release of 7.4

In previous versions of Series 7, build identifiers for products and components used the qualifier 'RTM' for builds associated with the initial release of a new version. Maintenance Releases are identified by an MR*n* qualifier, where *n* is the maintenance release number. These build identifiers can be found in the cmplst.txt file, which exists in the *installation_location*/cer*n* folder. You may need to refer to them when speaking with customer support or otherwise verifying a build number.

For example, the following text identifies a build of the initial release of Series 7 Version 3 (7.3):

`Access Manager Administration=AM-win32-en-RTM-7.3.700.0.0`

This text,

`Access Manager Administration=AM-win32-en-MR1-7.3.808.0.0`

identifies a build of Maintenance Release 1 (MR1) of Series 7 Version 3 (7.3).

Starting with Series 7 Version 4, the build identifier for the initial release is now INR.

For example, the following text identifies a build of the initial release of Series 7 Version 4 (7.4):

`Access Manager Administration=AM-win32-en-INR-7.4.700.0.0`

As in previous versions, Maintenance Releases will continue to be identified by an MR*n* designation.

This change applies only to the Series 7 line of products.

Changes to Build Numbering for Easier Identification of Releases

As of Series 7 Version 4, it will be easier to identify which release of a version you have installed, using only the build number.

The Initial Release will have build numbers in the range 0-999. For example, in an About box, you will see a version number such as 7.4.700.0, or in the cmplst.txt file in the *installation_location*/cer*n* folder you will see an entry such as,

`Access Manager Administration=AM-win32-en-INR-7.4.700.0.0.`

Build 7.4.700 indicates that this is Series 7 Version 4, and since 700 is in the range 0-999, it is the Initial Release, as opposed to a Maintenance Release.

Maintenance Releases will us the following build numbers:

- Maintenance Release 1 (MR1) will have build numbers in the range 1000-1999.
- Maintenance Release 2 (MR2) will have build numbers in the range 2000-2999.
- Maintenance Release 3 (MR3) will have build numbers in the range 3000-3999.

All products and most components will follow this convention, but there are some exceptions, for components such as PPDS and UDA, which have no user interfaces. These low-level components will not follow the new numbering system.

This change applies only to the Series 7 line of products.

Change to Enable Installing ObjectStore As a Non-Root User

Installing and configuring ObjectStore on UNIX using root privileges is the recommended option, however installing ObjectStore as a non-root user is also possible. The following conditions apply when you install ObjectStore as a non-root user:

- You limit the number of allowed permissions the ObjectStore server can use to access ObjectStore databases.
- You must manually start the ObjectStore cache manager process because it cannot start automatically.

For more information, see "Install ObjectStore" in the *Solution Installation Guide*.

Impromptu

Changes to Default Date-Time Formats

In Impromptu Series 7 Version 3, users received a list of suggested formats when formatting date, date-time, time and interval data. These were compatible with the en-us locale, but not always with locales in other countries. In Series 7 Version 4, the list of suggested formats more closely reflects the locale settings of the user, based on information obtained from cerlocale.xml.

The format changes include the following:

- Date-time formats that had shown `tt-mmm` now suggest `tt.mmm`, using the separator read from the configuration file cerlocale.xml.
- Date formats that had shown `dd-mmm` now suggest `dd/mmm`, using the separator from cerlocale.xml.
- Time formats that had shown `hh:mm` now suggest `h:mm`, dropping the leading zero in the format for single digit numbers.

For example German users (`de-de` locale) will now see suggested Date formats that use dots to separate the components of dates, so `tt/mm/jj` becomes `tt.mm.jj`.

Users in the United States (`en-us` locale) will now see suggested Time formats that omit the leading zero in front of single-digit hours, so that `hh:mm am/pm` becomes `h:mm am/pm`. In this case, half past eight in the evening changes from `08:30 pm` to `8:30 pm`. In addition, where Impromptu used to suggest the following date-time format,

`M/d/yyyy hh:mm:ss am/pm`, and `dd-mmm`

it now suggests:

`M/d/yyyy hh:mm am/pm (if cerlocale.xml uses a 12-hour clock),`

or

`M/d/yyyy hh:mm` (if cerlocale.xml uses a 24-hour clock.

The new suggested formats appear in the Format and the Options dialog boxes in Impromptu User and Impromptu Administrator.

Notes:

- This change only affects the list of *suggested* formats that are presented to report authors when they create or edit an Impromptu report. Existing reports will continue to show the same date-time formats that were used in earlier versions of Impromptu.
- Report authors can specify any arbitrary date-time format by typing in the format string directly. This functionality was present in previous versions of Impromptu, and remains unchanged in this version.
- Customers can change the list of suggested formats by editing the cerlocale.xml file.
  For information, see Appendix A of the Configuration Manager *User Guide*.

For more information, see the definition for General Format in the Impromptu glossary. The new defaults also appear in the product when you set data formatting.

Changes to Text and Marker Styles After Upgrading

When you upgrade your reports from Impromptu Series 7 Version 3 to Series 7 Version 4, you will notice some changes to Impromptu charts.

The word Wrap and Truncate options, available with previous versions of Impromptu, have been removed from the x-axis of a chart. Users can now modify the properties on the x-axis by changing the font style, size, and staggering labels, instead of using word wrapping and truncation. After the chart formatting is modified as part of an upgrade, the chart will show all the data. Consumers of Impromptu Web Reports will also notice this change.

If you used the Variant style marker in charts, you may notice changes to the markers following an upgrade from Series 7 Version 3 to Series 7 Version 4. To change the style markers back to a particular marker style, you can edit the report and use the Customize per data item dialog box to select the marker style you want.

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

Changes to Impromptu Chart Formatting

Formatting charts in the Impromptu Series 7 Version 4 release has changed significantly from the last release. Powerful new dialogs have been introduced that offer more functionality. So, moving to the latest version of Impromptu means that you will not lose any functionality that you had in previous versions. However, it does mean that you will do certain tasks differently in the new environment. To identify the changes related to formatting charting, see the following topics:

- chart types
- chart properties
- titles
- legends
- data properties
- grids, scales and axis labels

Chart Types

See the following table to compare how you add and change the chart type in Impromptu Series 7 Version 3 and Series 7 Version 4.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Add a 2D bar chart	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **2D Bar**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Bar**. On the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and then on the **General** tab, un-check the **Depth** check box (no Depth).
Add a 3D bar chart. **Note:** This 3D bar chart is not a true three-dimensional chart. It is a 2D bar chart with depth.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **3D Bar**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Bar**. On the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and then on the **General** tab, specify **Depth**.
Add a pie chart.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click either **2D Pie** or **3D Pie**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Pie**.
Add a 2D pie chart.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **2D Pie**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Pie**. On the **Layout** tab, click **2D Circular Pie**.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Add a 3D pie chart.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **3D Pie**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Pie**. On the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and then on the **General** tab, specify **Depth**.
Add a 2D area chart.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **2D Area**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Area**. Click the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and on the **General** tab, un-check the **Depth** check box (no Depth).
Add a 3D area chart. **Note:** This 3D area chart is not a true three-dimensional chart. It is a 2D area chart with depth.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **3D Area**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Area**. Click the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and on the **General** tab, specify **Depth**.
Add a line chart.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **Line**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Line**. Click the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and on the **General** tab, un-check the **Depth** check box.
Add a 2D line.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **Tape**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Line**. Click the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and on the **General** tab, specify **Depth**.
Add a log chart.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **Log**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Line**. Click the **Format** tab, click **Grids and Scales**, and then on the **Scales** tab, click **Make Logarithmic**.
Add a tape chart.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog, in the **Chart type** list, click **Tape**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, in the **Chart type** list, click **Line**. Click the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and on the **General** tab, specify **Depth**.

Other Chart Properties

See the following table to compare how you change certain other chart properties in Impromptu Series 7 Version 3 and Series 7 Version 4.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Change chart background, plot and legend color.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the chart. Under the **Background color** option, click **Customize**. The color you specify applies to the chart, plot and legend areas.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Chart background** box, click the area of the chart to format: chart, plot or legend. Click **Edit** and use the **Formatting** dialog box to format the color.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Show chart values as a percent.	On the **Format** tab, click **Percent**.	On the **Format** tab, click **Properties**. On the **Layout** tab, click **Percent**.
Swap the chart axes.	On the **Format** tab, click **Swap**.	On the **Format** tab, click **Properties**. On the **Layout** tab, select the **Horizontal** check box.
For pie chart, specify a pullout slice.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the chart. Click **Show pullout slice**. Use the dropdown list to specify the data item to pull out.	On the **Format** tab, click **Properties**, and on the **General** tab, specify an **Explode** value. This value is applied to each piece of the pie. To customize the **Explode** value for a particular slice, on the **Format** tab, click **Customize per Data Item**.

Titles

See the following table to compare how you change chart titles in Impromptu Series 7 Version 3 and Series 7 Version 4.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Add a chart title.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, click **Chart Title**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, click the **Format** tab, and then click **Titles**. Click the **Title** check box and type a title.
Add a primary or x-axis title.	On the **Format** tab, click the primary or x-axis **Title**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, click the **Format** tab, and then click **Titles**. Click the **Category Title** check box and type a x-axis title.
Add a secondary or y-axis title.	On the **Format** tab, click the secondary or y-axis **Title**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, click the **Format** tab, and then click **Titles**. Click the **Value Title (Y1)** check box and type a y-axis title.
Format a title.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the chart or axis title, then click **Font**. Use the **Chart Font** dialog box to format the title.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, use the **Font formatting** list box to select the title, then click **Edit**.

Legends

See the following table to compare how you add and format a legend in Impromptu Series 7 Version 3 and Series 7 Version 4.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Add a legend.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, click **Legend**, and then click **Show the legend**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, click **Properties**. Click the **Look** tab, and select **Show Legend**.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Change legend and legend marker location.	On the **Format** tab, click **Legend**, with **Show the legend** selected, specify the legend location and the location of markers and legend text.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, click **Properties**. Click the **Look** tab, select **Show Legend**, and specify the legend options.
Format legend text.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, click **Legend**, then click **Font**. Use the **Chart Font** dialog box to format the legend text.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, use the **Font formatting** list box to select the title, then click **Edit**.

Data Properties

See the following table to compare how you change data properties in Impromptu Series 7 Version 3 and Series 7 Version 4.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Plot null data.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Null data** box, click **Plot as zero** or **Exclude from chart**. Available only for line charts.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Data** tab, select the **Plot null data** check box. Available only for line and correlation charts.
For bar charts only, change the location of data labels.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the chart. In the **Display options** box, in the **Show Values** box, click where you want the data labels to appear.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, click **Properties**. Click the **Data Labels** tab, select **Show Data Labels**, and then specify **Labels Location** and **Label Format**.
Per data item, customize data item color marker style marker size line style	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the chart. Click **Customize per Data Item**.	In the **Chart Properties** dialog box, on the **Format** tab, click **Customize per Data Item**.
For the entire chart or series, specify line style, marker style and size. This applies to line, bubble and scatter charts.	On the **Format** tab, click the chart. In the **Display options** box, specify line style, marker style and size.	To format marker shape and size: On the **Format** tab, click **Properties** and use the **General** tab. To format the line style: On the **Format** tab, click **Customize per Data Item** and specify the line style for each data item.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Show data items with color.	On the **Format** tab, click the chart. In the **Display options** box, in the **Data item colors** box, click **Show as colors**. Data items automatically appear in different colors. After you specify color to show, to customize the color of each data item, click **Customize per Data Item**.	On the **Format** tab, click **Customize per Data Item** and the color of a data item. In the **Formatting** dialog, specify a color from the color palette.
Show data items with pattern.	On the **Format** tab, click the chart. In the **Display options** box, in the **Data item colors** box, click **Show as patterns**. After you specify pattern, to customize the pattern for each data item, click **Customize per Data Item**.	On the **Format** tab, click **Customize per Data Item** and in the **Color** column, click the color for a data item. In the **Formatting** dialog box, in the **Fill Options**, click **Pattern**. In the **Choose a Pattern** dialog box, specify the fill pattern, foreground and background color.

Grids, Scales and Axis Labels

See the following table to compare how you add and format grids and scales in Impromptu Series 7 Version 3 and Series 7 Version 4.

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Add gridlines.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the chart. Select the **Primary gridline** check box to gridlines to the x-axis. Select the **Secondary gridline** check box to add gridlines to the y-axis.	On the **Format** tab, click **Grids and Scales**. Click the axis tab, and then click the **Grids** tab. You can specify gridlines, grid style and grid spacing for major and minor gridlines.
Add and format x-axis labels.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the **Labels** button for the x-axis. Select **Show the labels** check box to add the axis labels. Click **Font** to format the labels.	To add labels: On the **Format** tab, click **Grids and Scales**. Click the **Category Axis**, and use the **Labels** tab and **General** tab to add labels and specify how they display. To format labels: On the **Format** tab, in the **Font formatting** list, click the axis you want to format, for example, **Category** axis, and then click **Edit**.
Wrap x-axis labels.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the **Labels** button for the x-axis. Select **Show the labels** check box to add the axis labels. Click **Word wrap** to wrap labels.	Word wrap text: You cannot specify word wrap explicitly. Text is wrapped automatically. For information on formatting x-axis labels, see "Add and format x-axis labels".

Goal	Series 7 Version 3	Series 7 Version 4
Truncated x-axis labels.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the **Labels** button for the x-axis. Select **Show the labels** check box to add the axis labels. Click **Truncate** to truncate labels.	Truncate text: You cannot specify that text be truncated explicitly. It is truncated automatically. For information on formatting x-axis labels, see "Add and format x-axis labels".
Add and format y-axis labels.	On the **Format** tab, in the **Select** box, click the **Labels** button for the y-axis. Select the **Show labels** check box to add the axis labels. Select **Customize the scale** and then edit the **Minimum**, **Maximum** and **Number of steps** boxes to customize the labels.	To add labels: On the **Format** tab, click **Grids and Scales**. Click the a y-axis tab, and use the **Labels** tab and **General** tab to add labels and specify how they display.

For more information, see the section "Impromptu Chart Changes" in the Impromptu Administration Guide and Impromptu User Reference.

Impromptu Web Reports

Changes to Behavior of Browser Back Button When Viewing Reports

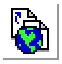
When you click the Back button, you now return to the page from which the report was launched. Depending on the type of report, such as a prompt or a drill-through report, the launch page can be any of the following:

- the Upfront NewsBox that contains the report
- the Actions page from which the report was run
- the Run Options page
- the last prompt page
- the last drill-through selection page

Previously, the Back button returned you to the running report page.

In addition to the Back button, you can still use the following Cognos navigation buttons from the report output page:

- previous report button - after a drill through, this button returns you to the previous report output, regardless of whether there were intermediate prompts or multiple drill links choices



- return to source button - from all report output pages, this button returns you to the NewsBox for the report.

Changes to start-iwr Script

On UNIX, when you use the start-iwr script to start the Impromptu Web Reports services, control is now returned to the calling process only after all Impromptu Web Reports services have started.

PowerPlay

Changes to Enable Creating PowerPlay Agents in a New Browser Window

To improve the ease of use for creating alerts, you can now choose to open the Agent wizard in a new browser window. This enables you to more easily refer back to the original PowerPlay report as you are entering agent details such as conditions or the description.

Changes to Formatting When Exporting to Excel

When you export reports to Excel with PowerPlay for Series 7 Version 4, some numeric formatting is changed that was previously preserved when exporting using PowerPlay for Series 7 Version 3. If you have data that uses the K or M notation to denote numbers in the thousands and millions, respectively, that notation is stripped out during the export using PowerPlay for Series 7 Version 4. Also, if you have other display formatting, such as one that makes values appear to be rounded, this will also be removed. However, currency notation is maintained.

For example, a value of $23K is exported as $23,225.00.

This is consistent with the behavior for exporting to Excel using PowerPlay Web in Series 7 Version 4.

Changes to Excel Export Support

PowerPlay for Series 7 Version 4 now supports exporting to Excel so that layers in a report can be exported to separate worksheets in Excel (p. 24). This means that Excel 2002 or higher is the supported version of Excel, by default.

You can change this default using Configuration Manager if you need to use an older version of Excel. Note that you will not be able to export layers to separate worksheets if you configure PowerPlay to use a version earlier than 2002.

Alternatively, you can configure the export feature to always export all layers to a single sheet. Use the **Excel Export for Layered Report** setting in Configuration Manager.

For more information, see the General Properties section of the topic "PowerPlay Settings" in the Configuration Manager *User Guide*.

Changes to Configuration Manager Setting to Control Memory

The PowerPlay Client displays this message when you request a report whose results exceed the available memory.

```
"This action will exceed your available system resources. This action has been cancelled."
```

If this occurs, PowerPlay will cancel the operation and the data is rolled back to the last state before the limit was exceeded.

The PowerPlay limit for the number of categories is approximately 4,000,000, but this depends also on the memory capacity of your computer. Particularly in reporter reports, multiple actions are saved for the Undo function, and therefore less memory is available for categories and nesting.

You can use Configuration Manager to increase the Maximum Axis Size setting, and request the report again. The Maximum Axis Size setting limits the number of elements, such as rows, columns, and layers, that can exist on the axis. It is set to 2,000,000 by default.

If the Maximum Axis Size value is set to zero, the product will not check the memory limit prior to the task and therefore will show the following error message and exit if sufficient memory is not available to complete the task:

```
"PowerPlay resource limit reached. The application must close."
```

If this situation occurs often, we recommend that you redesign your models or cubes to avoid such large categories.

For more information, see "General Properties" in the "Cognos PowerPlay Settings" section of the Configuration Manager *User Guide*, or contact your administrator.

Changes to Dynamic Custom Exception Highlighting

When a cube is rebuilt with new data, the custom exception highlighting you defined in PowerPlay Windows and PowerPlay Web Viewer will highlight exceptions found in the new data, as well as those already highlighted in the previous data. Reports published to Upfront with custom exceptions are also updated with the new data the next time they are run.

Cognos Visualizer

Changes to Scene Control in the Web Viewer

You can now maximize scenes on a sheet in the Web Viewer. This is the same capability available in the Java Web Client.

Changes to Drilling On Alternate Drill Paths

You can drill up and down on both primary and alternate drill paths.

Previously, you could only drill up through the primary path, even if you drilled down on an alternate path.

Changes to Filter Settings on Chart Axes, Legends and Maps

When you exclude a category using the radio, check, range or animation filter, Visualizer chart axes and legends will no longer include these categories. This is consistent with the new behavior of zero suppression on dimensional sources, in which categories that are suppressed by the visualization author do not appear on chart axes or legends. Calculated items, such as a maximum, will also exclude values that are filtered out or suppressed.

When you use a filter to exclude a category for a location on a map, the behavior of the filtered map location depends on the setting called **Display Locations with No Data**. If this option is not selected, the map location will disappear. If the option is selected, the map location appears, using the associated **No Data** color.

This change applies to Visualizer authoring, the Web Client, and the Viewer.

Previously, legends and charts showed entries for categories that were filtered out. If you were not aware that a filter was enabled you might have concluded that the data value was zero for filtered out categories.

Changes to Error Logging

You can enable improved error logging on each Cognos Visualizer Web Edition server to capture error information in the vizweberror.log file. Error information is also sent to the Event Viewer in Windows. The error settings now apply to all visualizations published to a Visualizer server.

In previous releases, error information was sent to the vizweb.log file along with audit and system information, which meant that you had to review all of the logged information to find error messages. Now a tab-delimited error log file called vizweberror.log is created in the <*installation_location*>\cer*n*\logs location.

For more information, see the Cognos Visualizer *Administrator's Guide*.

Appendix B: New Features for Series 7 Version 3 MR1, MR2, and MR3

Depending on which release of Series 7 Version 3 you may have installed, you may not be aware of features introduced in the following maintenance releases:

- Series 7 Version 3 MR1 (p. 43)
- Series 7 Version 3 MR2 (p. 47)
- Series 7 Version 2 MR3 (p. 50)

These features are also included in Series 7 Version 4.

Series 7 Version 3 MR1 New Features

Installation and Configuration

Using an Alternate Logon Gateway

To improve Web server performance, you can configure Access Manager logon to use an alternate gateway that replaces the default CGI program.

The alternate gateways available are native server extensions for ISAPI to support Microsoft Internet Information Server on Windows, for NSAPI to support Sun Java System Web servers on both Windows and UNIX, and for the Apache module.

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

Implementing Faster Visualizer Failover

To improve performance, and provide dispatcher failover support in a single gateway and multiple dispatcher environment, new properties were added to the Cognos Visualizer Web Server Gateway. You can configure them using Configuration Manager.

Specifically, you can now set **Gateway Timeout**, **Connect Retry**, and **Connect Timeout** values in a new **Tuning** properties section.

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

Supported Environments

For information about supported software environments, see the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com).

Complying with New IE6 SP2 Browser Security Measures

HTML-based online help for Cognos Series 7 Version 3 MR1 products now complies with security measures that Microsoft implemented for Internet Explorer (IE6 SP2) and Windows XP SP2.

Help buttons that previously linked to an HTML file through a local file path now link to the same file through a Web alias, such as http://*computer_name*/cognos/help. Because of this change, the warning message from Microsoft Internet Explorer about active content being blocked no longer appears.

Support for AIX 5.3

AIX 5.3 is a supported operating system for Cognos Series 7 Version 3 MR1.

If you are upgrading from Cognos Series 7 Version 2 or earlier to Cognos Series 7 Version 3 MR1, follow the upgrade instructions in the Cognos Series 7 Version 3 for UNIX *Installation Guide*.

If you have an existing Impromptu Web Reports 7.3 installation and are upgrading to AIX 5.3, you must also upgrade to Impromptu Web Reports 7.3 MR1, including an upgrade to the new version of ObjectStore, version 6.1 SP2.

Support for IBM Tivoli Directory Server

IBM Tivoli Directory Server is now supported.

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

Support for Netscape 7.2 Browser

Netscape Version 7.2 is now supported.

Improved Scalability and Performance

Reducing Browser Requests When Viewing PDF-based Reports

In previous releases, viewing PDF-based reports in Microsoft Internet Explorer generated excess data traffic when opened from PowerPlay Enterprise Server or Impromptu Web Reports. The problem was related to unnecessary GET requests generated by Microsoft Internet Explorer, by default, when processing PDFs.

Now only one GET request is used to retrieve the contents of each PDF report. Users may see an improvement in performance.

Access Manager

Support for External Users Defined in a Remote Directory Server

In previous releases, external user support was limited to linking to users defined outside the Cognos namespace but within the same local directory server as the Cognos namespace.

You can now use Access Manager administration to link to a list of users that are defined in a remote (secondary) directory server, such as your corporate directory server. The local directory server that contains the Cognos namespace must be one of the directory servers listed on the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com). However, your secondary directory server can be any LDAP v3-compliant directory server.

After your users are linked to one or more namespaces, changes made to these users in the secondary directory server are automatically reflected in Access Manager. This eliminates the need to duplicate or synchronize user attributes between the Cognos namespace and your corporate directory server.

Enable external user support if all the users who will access the Cognos namespace are already defined and maintained in another directory server. Because external user support is not backwards compatible, enable this feature only if all applications accessing the Cognos namespace use Series 7 Version 3 MR1 or later.

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

Impromptu

Handling Locale-Specific Date Formatting in Impromptu

The way Impromptu handles **General** formatting and pick list prompts for **Date**, **DateTime**, and **Time** data types is improved. Localized short and long names for days and months are also improved. Both improvements are based on retrieving information from the cerlocale.xml file.

These two changes are designed to ensure consistency regardless of the implementation scenario. They do not require intervention by the user, or an upgrade of existing reports.

For information about using the cerlocale.xml file to customize data formats for a particular locale, see the data formats and locale setting section of the Impromptu online help.

For general information about locale-related formatting in the other components, see the Configuration Manager *User Guide*.

Use Database Stored Procedures in PowerPrompts

Prompt pages created for PowerPrompts applications can call stored procedures in a supported database using JavaScript or dynamos.

For more information, see "Use Database Stored Procedures" in *PowerPrompts Reference*.

Default to the Current Date in Type-in Impromptu Prompts

The default date for type-in prompts can be set at run-time to the current date and time in the user's locale.

For more information, see "Creating Prompts Using the Prompt Manager" in *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Sort Returned Values in Impromptu Selection Lists

When selecting values in a report filter or catalog condition, Impromptu users can specify either an ascending or descending sort. This is an alternative to viewing the values in the default sort order set by the database.

For more information, see "Sort Returned Values in Impromptu Selection Lists" in *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Impromptu Web Reports

Sort Impromptu Report Versions by Date and Time

Users can now sort report versions in Impromptu Web Reports by their creation date and time. Descending (most recent report versions appear first) is the default sort order. However, users can change this to ascending order on both the **Select Versions** and **Delete Versions** pages.

For more information, see "Maintain Report Versions" in the Cognos *Web Portal User Guide*.

PowerPlay

Improved Integration of PowerPlay and Cognos ReportNet

You can use the PowerPlay Enterprise Server Administration tool to:

- select the Publish-to-ReportNet cube and report folders using a tree view
- set up drill-through access to targets in a selected ReportNet folder

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

Moving PowerPlay NewsItems from Upfront to Cognos ReportNet

To improve the integration of Cognos Series 7 and ReportNet, you can use a command-line tool to move PowerPlay cube and report NewsItems from Upfront to ReportNet.

This makes it easier to deliver existing PowerPlay cubes and reports using ReportNet. You do not have to republish cubes and reports to deliver the content through Cognos Connection.

After you move the PowerPlay NewsItems, you can reduce report administration requirements by configuring your environment to make Cognos Connection the default portal for both PowerPlay and ReportNet.

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

Controlling Read Cache Size on a Cube-by-Cube Basis

Using the PowerPlay Enterprise Server Administration tool, you can specify read cache size on a cube-by-cube basis. This means that you can improve the performance and overall scalability of PowerPlay implementations.

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

Counting Categories When Using Time-based Partitioned Cubes

Category count was added to the list of measures supported for time-based partitioned cubes. This means that analysts can see these counts in their PowerPlay reports, whether or not the cubes are time-based partitioned cubes.

However, some limitations still apply, whether you are using category count in regular or time-based partitioned cubes. The **Activity Measure** for a category count rollup cannot be one of the following:

- a category count measure
- an externally rolled-up measure
- a calculated after-rollup measure
- an allocated measure. An exception is when the measure is allocated only in dimensions other than the category count dimension or is allocated at or below the counted level of the category count dimension.

As with previous releases, the counted level must appear in the primary drill-down path of the category count dimension, and must be unique. If the Transformer model is set up to use one of the measure types not supported for category count, an error message appears.

Cube modelers must explicitly set a supported **Activity Measure** on the **Rollup** tab of the **Measure** property sheet. If this setting is left at its default (**All Measures in the cube**), at run-time, some measures are disregarded and the count does not accurately reflect all categories with non-zero values.

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

Creating Custom Subsets with Top and Bottom Categories

Use the Custom Subset wizard in PowerPlay Web Explorer to create custom subsets that include categories having either the highest or lowest values of a specific measure.

Users can dynamically select the number of categories to include in the subset, such as the top ten or the bottom 25.

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

Description of Custom Subset Definitions

If a dimension filter or a crosstab row or column contains a custom subset, the **Explain** window in PowerPlay Web Explorer shows a concise description of the custom subset definition, next to an identifiable icon.

For example, instead of just the subset name, subset categories are listed in the form of searchable strings, ranges, or contains expressions. Starting points and scope may also be shown.

The detailed text can be viewed and modified in the Custom Subset wizard.

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

Visualizer

Representing Missing Values Consistently in Visualizer

Visualizations and charts now show missing measure values as defined for each cube in Transformer, the modeling component of PowerPlay. This means that they now appear as zeros or as N/A (Not Applicable).

Authors can prevent zeros from unintentionally skewing their statistical calculations by asking PowerCube modelers to explicitly choose the N/A option. By default, Transformer replaces missing values with zero.

In the case of CSV data sources imported directly into Visualizer without passing through a Transformer PowerCube, there is no change to the previous behavior: Visualizer respects the CSV treatment of the missing values.

Affected outputs include pie, line, multi-line, map, gauge, parallel, swatch, value, table, and crosstab charts. Waterline calculations, which can be based on means with or without standard deviations, are also affected.

Trend charts are unaffected because they use measures for comparison purposes, not display. Statistical charts such as **Control Limits**, **Histogram**, **Normal Curve**, or **Box and Whisker** are not affected because they are not based on PowerCubes.

For more information, see the Cognos Visualizer *User Guide*.

Series 7 Version 3 MR2 New Features

Supported Environments

For information about supported software environments, see the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com).

Support for Windows 2003 Active Directory Application Mode

Microsoft Active Directory Application Mode (ADAM) is now supported.

Support for Apache Mod 2.0 With SSL

Apache Mod 2.0 with SSL is now supported.

Support for Firefox 1.0 Browser

Firefox 1.0 is now supported.

Access Manager

Improved Flexibility for Web Single Signon

In previous releases, operating system signons in Web deployments were validated against the contents of a CGI environment variable named REMOTE_USER. You can now use other variables or cookies to obtain signon information.

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

Checking Namespace Integrity

In certain cases, such as an unexpected hardware failure, a namespace can become corrupted. If this occurs, unexpected behavior can result.

You can test your namespaces to determine whether they have become corrupted by using a command line tool. If your namespace has become corrupted, you should contact customer support to correct the problem.

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

Namespace Reporting for User Passwords

New reporting options have been added that list users with expired passwords and to indicate when a user's password was changed.

You use the AM_NamespaceReport command line utility to create an XML report that lists all users or user classes in a namespace. New output options have been added to show expired passwords and when a user last changed their password.

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

Improved Namespace Auditing

The Audit Logging function included with the Access Manager Trusted Services Plug-in Software Development Kit has been enhanced to generate log entries for changes to access to data source connections and changes to data source signons.

For more information, see the Access Manager *Trusted Services Plug-in SDK Guide*.

Impromptu

Controlling the Size of Impromptu Reports Definitions

A Report Defrag Threshold option has been added to let you manage the size of Impromptu report definitions.

For more information, see "Manage the Size of Impromptu Reports" in the Impromptu *Administration Guide* and *Mastering Impromptu Reports*.

Impromptu Web Reports

Automating Audit and Clean Up Tasks for Impromptu Web Reports

Auditing and cleanup operations have been added for Impromptu Web Reports. SetAuditSchedule lets you modify the schedule for audit data collections. SetCleanupSchedule lets you modify the schedule for system cleanup tasks.

For more information, see "Schedules" in the Impromptu Web Reports *Administrator Guide*.

Tuning Properties for Impromptu Web Reports Systems

Three properties have been added to let you better manage Impromptu Web Reports systems that service a large number of users. The properties are:

- Keep Alive After Request Manager Requests
- Maximum Request Manager Read Timeout
- Maximum Client Wait Timeout

For more information, see the "Cognos Impromptu Web Reports Settings" chapter in the Configuration Manager *User Guide*.

PowerPlay

Republishing PowerPlay Reports to Upfront

The RepublishToUpfront macro has been enhanced so that you can republish reports without being required to have the reports open in PowerPlay for Windows, and to republish more than one report at a time.

For more information, see the PowerPlay *Macro Reference Guide*.

PowerPlay Web

Changes to Percent of Base Calculation in PowerPlay Web

The Percent of Base calculation in PowerPlay Web has been enhanced to allow you to select a category to be used as the base value. You can also specify whether subtotals are to be used as base values.

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

Copying Charts from PowerPlay Web

Charts displayed in PowerPlay Web views can be copied and pasted into other applications, such as Microsoft PowerPoint presentations or Microsoft Word documents.

You can only copy charts if you are using PowerPlay Web in Microsoft Internet Explorer.

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

Copying and Modifying Custom Subsets

With this release you have more features available to manipulate your custom subsets, including the ability to:

- copy subsets to make additional subsets
- reorder categories in the create custom subset wizard
- add, remove, and reorder categories in a subset by using drag and drop if you use Microsoft Internet Explorer

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

PowerPlay Web Integration with Microsoft Excel

Cognos Office Connection enables integration between PowerPlay Web content and Microsoft Excel. Cognos Office Connection works with PowerPlay cubes and reports that have been published to the Cognos Connection portal.

Cognos Office Connection is a new product available online from the Cognos Web site (http://www.cognos.com) or the Cognos Global Customer Services Web site (http://support.cognos.com).

Transformer

Controlling Whether Constantly Allocated Values are Rolled Up

You can control whether constantly allocated values are rolled up for queries that are based on rollup groups, custom subsets, custom filters in Visualizer, and alternate or special drill-down paths.

Some constantly allocated values are rolled up in PowerPlay and Visualizer. For example, in PowerPlay Web, the total of the values in a custom subset of constantly allocated values is the sum of the constantly allocated values. You can change this so that the total is the same constantly allocated value as is shown for each individual member of the subset.

For more information, see note and the Related Topics linked in the topic "Allocate Measures: Overview" in *Step-by-Step Transformer.*

Using Large Numbers of User Classes in Transformer Modeling

Transformer includes a new User Class Browser that lets you select the user classes that you want to include in your model.

In previous releases, Transformer loaded all user classes at once. In this release, you can select the user classes that you want to include in the model before they are loaded using the User Class Browser.

For more information, see the topic "Enable User Security for a Model" in *Step-by-Step Transformer.*

Series 7 Version 3 MR3 New Features

Impromptu

Additional Excel Export Settings in Impromptu

Just like the inclusion of images, static charts, text frames and summary expressions can be controlled when exporting to Excel 2002 or higher, users can now also control grouped data and summary rows from list frames. This makes it easier to use Excel features such as PivotTables and AutoFilters, because you can select to suppress summary rows and not suppress detail rows within grouped data. This also makes it easier to export to other formats, such as Microsoft Access.

These Impromptu settings do not affect how the report appears in a PDF, allowing the PDF to conserve its group summary rows and to suppress grouped data items to make it easier to read. These settings also control the export when it is done from Impromptu Web Reports.

For more information, see the Impromptu *User Reference* online help. To view the help topic, click the Help button in the Report Properties dialog box, Excel tab.

More Secure PowerPrompts JavaScript Client Variable Input Methods

Two new methods have been added to PowerPrompts in order to increase security when using prompts for users to input variables. When these methods are used, prompt inputs are verified to ensure that they contain a valid number or string. These two methods are:

```
GetUserVarAsSafeNum
GetUserVarAsSafeString
```

For more information, see "JavaScript Client Methods" in the *PowerPrompts Reference* Help.

PowerPlay

Integration of PowerPlay and Cognos 8

All the integration points that are supported between PowerPlay and Cognos ReportNet are now also supported for Cognos 8. You can publish PowerPlay reports to the Cognos 8 portal, and set up drill-through access to targets in Cognos 8.

To use these integration points, follow the same instructions to publish or drill-through to Cognos ReportNet. The server properties in the PowerPlay Enterprise Server Administration tool are valid for Cognos ReportNet as well as for Cognos 8.

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

Note: If you are upgrading from Cognos ReportNet to Cognos 8, you must either restructure your virtual directories so that the Series 7 and Cognos 8 gateways are within the same structure, or change the default cookie path in Cognos 8.

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