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III.2 Database Reporting Accuracy

This document is designed for information purposes only serving as a general guideline to users when deciding which reporting method to use out of any database. There are no policies or procedures contained within.

No database report will ever be 100% perfect. There will always be oddball records that will throw totals/counts/information off in any given report. There are also different methods of reporting information with various levels of accuracy. Currently the UA Foundation has three of these methods available to us including *Raisers Edge query and export*, *Crystal Reports*, and *T-SQL scripts run out of query analyzer*. This document is intended to give a general description of each method and the accuracy of the reports produced therein.

Raisers Edge query and export – Least Accurate

Raisers Edge query and export are the least accurate of the available reporting methods. This is partially due to the fact that we (as the end user of the program) have no control over the code and how things are interpreted, and partially because a front end query mechanism such as RE query can only be made so accurate with thousands of customers all using RE in different fashions. For the record, the only difference between Query Export and the Export module is that Query Export puts the information in rows, and the Export Module puts information in columns. One advantage of this method is that anyone can create and run query and export from within RE.

Crystal Reports – Mid Accuracy

Crystal Reports' accuracy is 'middle of the road'. While it has more power to sort information out, it has limited data processing abilities and uses a pretty generic across the board style of placing data in a report. At this time Allison, Brad, and I are the only ones with the ability to create these reports. However, the Infoview program which is part of this package allows anyone with access to citrix to view the reports.

T-SQL (Query Analyzer) – Most Accurate

T-SQL (Query Analyzer) is the most accurate of the available reporting methods. It has the ability to look line by line at data and do advanced processing on that data. The only downside to this reporting style is that the Database Administrator (Doug) is the only person who can write the scripts for the reports, and only the Database Administrator and Database Managers (Allison, Brad) can run them.