



SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius 2008 SP3 What's New

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Contents

Welcome to SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius 2008 Service Pack 3

SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius SP3

This document provides an overview of the new features and enhancements available in SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius 2008 Service Pack 3 and directs you to the available product documentation to get you started using the new features.

To learn about new features in previous releases, visit our support website at <http://help.sap.com>.

Xcelsius 2008 is a data visualization software that enables you to create dynamic and interactive models that can be used as a dashboard, included into another dashboard, or distributed in PDFs, Microsoft Outlook, webpages, and so on.

The software's visual interface or workspace includes a fully functioning Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Data and formulas can be imported or entered directly into the embedded spreadsheet and then modified, as required, without reimporting the spreadsheet. The data can also be linked to external data sources so models display the most current information.

Xcelsius 2008 is available in four editions:

- Xcelsius Present enables users to create models with Microsoft Excel data.
- Xcelsius Engage enables users to create models and connect them to a single external data source.
- Xcelsius Engage Server enables users to create models, connect them to multiple external data sources, and deploy them in a portal environment.
- Xcelsius Enterprise enables users to create models, and deploy them in an SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise or SAP NetWeaver BW environment.

Supported products

For the list of supported platforms, databases and application servers, see the *SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius 2008 Supported Platforms* document available at <https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/boc/articles> .

Developer Components

When you install Xcelsius 2008 Service Pack 3, you have the option to also install the Xcelsius 2008 Component SDK. For more information about installing the SDK, see the *SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius 2008 Install Guide*.

Supported Third-party products

A variety of model components and feature extensions are available for Xcelsius 2008. These items (called add-ons) have been created by SAP BusinessObjects partners and customers and are available for sale or free from *Information OnDemand* . For an up-to-date list of the supported third-party products, login to the SAP BusinessObjects Information OnDemand portal.

1. In your browser, navigate to <http://www.information.ondemand.com>.
2. Click the **Community** tab.
3. In the **Job Functions** list, select **Xcelsius Add-Ons**.

New components

Bullet chart components

Two new charts are available for creating bar charts similar to those designed by Stephen Few.

The new **Horizontal Bullet Chart** and **Vertical Bullet Chart** components provide a method to display information in a condensed, less-distracting format.

The Bullet Chart components have a single primary measure (for example, current year-to-date revenue) that is displayed as a vertical or horizontal bar. A marker indicates a target or performance goal and changing color hues behind the bar indicate qualitative ranges of performance (for example, , poor, satisfactory, and good).

Designers can configure the Bullet Chart to display multiple series and can configure the scale, axis, and ticks separately for each series. For example, the chart can be configured to show revenue in thousands of dollars, profit in dollars, and order size as a count.

Canvas container component

A new container component is available for creating an invisible container.

The new **Canvas** container component is similar to the **Panel** container component, but it does not have any art (for example, background, borders, heading bar, and so on.)

In design mode, the container is visible to allow the designer to work with the component, but when the model runs, the container is invisible so components in the container appear to be free floating. If the components in the **Canvas** container extend beyond the container borders, scrollbars are added.

Push Button component

A new selector component allows users to restore Single Value components to their default values without resetting the values for the entire model.

The new Push Button component can be configured to set the values of one or multiple cells to specific values when the button is pushed. The values change only when the user pushes the button, so users have more control over when the data is copied to the destination cells.

Scorecard Selector component

A new selector component is available that allows you to display visual alerts in a grid. At runtime, users can click column headings to sort the grid on the column's data.

The new **Scorecard** selector component is similar to the **List View** selector component, but includes options to enable and configure alerts in columns and to add headers that allow users to sort the columns at runtime.

Alert levels can be displayed with cell background colors, font colors, or alert icons with or without values.

Sparkline chart components

A new chart is available for creating small, data-intense graphs to show trends and variations associated with a specific measurement, such as stock market activity.

The new Sparkline chart is based on the Sparkline chart created by Edward Tufte and provides a method for displaying a one-dimensional range of numeric data in a way that is dense, takes up a small space, and can be quickly interpreted.

Designers can set key data points (start value, end value, low value, and high value) that will be displayed as markers on the Sparkline chart. They can also define a normal range that will be displayed as a colored background behind the chart.

SWF Loader component

A new web connectivity component is available for loading SWF files at run-time. The SWF Loader component is similar to the Slide Show component, but it is simpler and has better memory management.

The new SWF Loader enables you to load both Xcelsius and non-Xcelsius SWF files at run-time. Unlike the Slide Show component, it does not provide transition effects when moving from one file to another and it does not allow you to block user interaction.

New features

Chart data labels

A new option is available to overlay data labels on or around chart markers.

The Properties panel for chart components now includes a **Data Labels** option on the **Appearance > Text** tab. When selected, data labels are visible for the chart markers. If designers don't want labels to display for some series, they can expand the Data Labels list and deselect the series.

Designers can specify the values used for the labels, the label position, and, if applicable, add leader lines. The options available for configuring the labels depends on the type of chart.

Chart range slider

For many chart components, you can now add a range slider to allow users to focus on a particular data set rather than viewing the entire chart at once.

On the chart properties panel, on the **Behavior > Common** tab, a new **Enable Range Slider** option is available for the following charts:

- Line
- Bar
- Stacked bar
- Column
- Stacked column
- Candlestick
- Combination
- OHLC
- Area
- Stacked Area

When the **Enable Range Slider** option is selected, designers can specify the beginning and end range for the slider and set the range labels.

At runtime, the range slider appears below or to the left (for bar charts) of the chart and allows users to select the data range that is shown in the chart. Users can change the size of the range by adjusting control handles on either side of the range slider.

Chart sorting

A new **Enable Sorting** option on the chart properties panels (**Behavior > Common**) allows designers to sort the chart data by data values or category labels and for a single series or multiple series.

The **Enable Sorting** option is available for the following charts:

- Line
- Pie
- Column
- Stacked column
- Bar
- Stacked bar
- Combination
- Area
- Stacked area
- Radar
- Filled radar

When designers select the **Enable Sorting** option on the chart "Properties" panel, they can choose to sort the chart by data or by category labels. If the chart contains multiple series of data and sort by data is selected, the designer can also specify which series the data will sort on.

Show/hide series at runtime

A new chart property, **Enable Hide/Show Chart Series at Run-Time**, is available when legends are enabled. When the property is selected, users can select which series are shown in the chart.


The **Enable Hide/Show Chart Series at Run-Time** option is available for the following charts:

- Line
- Column
- Stacked column
- Bar
- Stacked bar
- Combination
- Area
- Stacked area
- Radar
- Filled radar
- Bubble
- XY
- Tree Map

On the **Appearance > Layout** tab, when Enable Legend is selected, designers can select the **Enable Hide/Show Chart Series at Run-Time** option. If selected, at run-time, users can deselect checkboxes or click the series name in the legend to remove the series from the chart display.

Dynamically set color

You can now bind color values to cells in the spreadsheet to dynamically control colors of component elements.

For all component elements, the "Color" selector dialog box includes a new **Bind to a Color** option. This option allows you to select a cell in the spreadsheet as the color value. The color for that element will reflect the value in the selected cell. The cell could then be linked to another component or external data source to dynamically set the color value at run-time. When a color is bound to the spreadsheet, the Color Selector icon on the **Color** tab is replaced by a new Bind icon ().

The following color formats are supported:

- Hexadecimal (For example, FFFFFFFF, #FFFFFF, 0xFFFFFFFF (not case sensitive))
- RGB (For example, (255,255,255))

- VGA color names (For example, aqua, blue, black, fuchsia, and so on (not case sensitive))
- Decimal color equivalent (For example, FF00FF becomes 16711935)

Note:

If the specified cell is blank or contains an invalid value, the element color is set to black.

Load default scenario

The Local Scenario button component now allows users to create and load a default scenario.

The new default scenario option allows users to set the model to a specific state when the SWF loads.

When designers include the **Local Scenario button** component in models, at runtime, users can click the button to define and save a scenario. They can then click the **Set Default** option to load that scenario by default. The next time the model is opened, it automatically loads the specified scenario.

Note:

Default scenarios are valid only for the local scenarios on the computer where they are defined (that is, the local computer).

Gauges support multiple indicators

Designers can now configure gauges to display multiple indicators, as well as set the indicator type to be a needle, outside marker, or inside marker.

When designers bind a gauge to multiple spreadsheet cells, the gauge displays an indicator for each cell. The designer can then configure the indicator type, label, and label position for each indicator.

Note:

When a gauge has multiple indicators, it is an output component only. The **Enable Interaction** option is not available on **Behavior > Common** tab, and users cannot manipulate the gauge values at runtime.

Forecasting

The **Trend Analyzer** component can now be configured to forecast data for a specific time period based on the trend found in existing data.

Designers can bind the **Trend Analyzer** component to a range that includes the historical data plus empty cells for the forecast data. At runtime, the Trend Analyzer inserts the trend data and forecast data into the specified cells.

Designers can also specify the number of forecast periods the Trend Analyzer will forecast. To set the number of forecast periods dynamically, designers can bind the **Number of Forecast Periods** box to a spreadsheet cell and, then bind a dial to the same cell. At runtime, users can manipulate the dial to set the number of forecast periods.

Selectors allow multiple insertions

Many selectors can now be configured to insert multiple chunks of data from different sources into multiple destinations at once.

On the selector "Properties" panel, in the **General** view, a new **Data Insertion** list box is available. By default, the list box contains one insertion behavior. Designers can click the Plus icon to add more insertion behaviors. The designer then selects each insertion behavior and specifies its **Name**, **Insertion Type**, **Source Data**, and **Destination**. At runtime, when users use the selector, the source data values for all the defined insertion behaviors are written to their specified destinations.,

The following selectors do not support multiple insertions: Play Selector, Toggle Button, Push Button, Icon, or Accordion Menu components.

Note:

The **Filtered Row** insertion type is not supported when a selector is configured to insert multiple pieces of data. If **Filtered Row** is selected as the **Insertion Type**, you cannot add more than one insertion behavior and, if more than one insertion behavior is defined, you cannot select **Filtered Row** as the **Insertion Type**.

More Information

Information Resource	Location
SAP BusinessObjects product information	http://www.sap.com
SAP Help Portal	<p>Select http://help.sap.com > SAP BusinessObjects.</p> <p>You can access the most up-to-date documentation covering all SAP BusinessObjects products and their deployment at the SAP Help Portal. You can download PDF versions or installable HTML libraries.</p> <p>Certain guides are stored on the SAP Service Marketplace and are not available from the SAP Help Portal. These guides are listed on the Help Portal accompanied by a link to the SAP Service Marketplace. Customers with a maintenance agreement have an authorized user ID to access this site. To obtain an ID, contact your customer support representative.</p>

Information Resource	Location
SAP Service Marketplace	<p>http://service.sap.com/bosap-support > Documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation guides: https://service.sap.com/bosap-instguides • Release notes: http://service.sap.com/releasenotes <p>The SAP Service Marketplace stores certain installation guides, upgrade and migration guides, deployment guides, release notes and Supported Platforms documents. Customers with a maintenance agreement have an authorized user ID to access this site. Contact your customer support representative to obtain an ID. If you are redirected to the SAP Service Marketplace from the SAP Help Portal, use the menu in the navigation pane on the left to locate the category containing the documentation you want to access.</p>
Developer resources	<p>https://boc.sdn.sap.com/</p> <p>https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/businessobjects-sdklibrary</p>
SAP BusinessObjects articles on the SAP Community Network	<p>https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/boc/businessobjects-articles</p> <p>These articles were formerly known as technical papers.</p>
Notes	<p>https://service.sap.com/notes</p> <p>These notes were formerly known as Knowledge Base articles.</p>
Forums on the SAP Community Network	<p>https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/scn/forums</p>

Information Resource	Location
<p>Training</p>	<p>http://www.sap.com/services/education</p> <p>From traditional classroom learning to targeted e-learning seminars, we can offer a training package to suit your learning needs and preferred learning style.</p>
<p>Online customer support</p>	<p>http://service.sap.com/bosap-support</p> <p>The SAP Support Portal contains information about Customer Support programs and services. It also has links to a wide range of technical information and downloads. Customers with a maintenance agreement have an authorized user ID to access this site. To obtain an ID, contact your customer support representative.</p>
<p>Consulting</p>	<p>http://www.sap.com/services/bysubject/businessobjectscounseling</p> <p>Consultants can accompany you from the initial analysis stage to the delivery of your deployment project. Expertise is available in topics such as relational and multidimensional databases, connectivity, database design tools, and customized embedding technology.</p>

