

Web Client Deployment Considerations

Seagate Info Technical Roadmap Series

Overview

This document describes the various Seagate Info WebAccess client desktops and viewers. It includes the benefits and considerations of each web component to help provide you with some guidance in choosing the best desktop and viewer for your environment and business needs. You should read this document if you are a Seagate Info administrator. This document applies to Seagate Info version 7.

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Introduction

Seagate Info 7 contains several WebAccess client components. They include desktops and viewers. The ideal desktop-viewer combination depends on your specific environment (network bandwidth) and business needs. The purpose of this document is to provide some guidance in making these choices.

Seagate Info WebAccess Info Desktops

Info Desktop for HTML (standard and custom)

Benefits

- Only requires a web browser that supports JavaScript 2.+ and frames.
- These desktops can be easily configured to accommodate your company's current corporate web page style standards and seamlessly integrate with your current web pages.
- Some features can be turned on and off
- Does not require the downloading of any client components.
- Provides the largest choice of Viewers.

Considerations

- Limited scheduling options (format, destination, time & date, number of retries, some recurring options). See Appendix A for Limits

Info Desktop for Java

Benefits

- Similar look and feel of the Windows desktop.

Considerations

- Must be run from a web browser that supports Java 1.02
- Requires the download of client components from the web server every time the Java Desktop is started. These components are listed as follows:

For Internet Explorer:	javadesk.cab	459 KB
For Netscape:	javadesk.jar	664 KB

Seagate Info WebAccess Report Viewers

	Info Desktop for HTML	Info Desktop for Java
Info Viewer for Html (.html)	Available	Not Available
Info Viewer for Java (.epf)	Available	Available
Info Viewer for ActiveX (.epf)	Available for Internet Explorer or Netscape with an ActiveX Plug-in.	Available for Internet Explorer or Netscape with the ActiveX Plug-in.
Info Analyzer (.rpt)	Available if Info Analyzer is installed on the browser machine.	Not Available

Info Viewer for HTML

Benefits

- Only requires a browser that supports frames and JavaScript 2.+. Does not require the use of ActiveX or Java.

Considerations

- HTML cache files can only be used by the Standard HTML Info Desktop and the Custom WebAccess HTML Info Desktop. The other two desktop options use EPF files. This means that there will be two instances of the cache file for each report if you deploy a mixed HTML/Java or Windows environment.
- HTML cache files are larger (~50 KB per page) than the EPF cache files (5-20 KB per page). In general, the HTML viewer imposes significant bandwidth requirements for reasonable response times.
- Select Expert is not available.

ActiveX Page-On-Demand Report Viewer

Benefits

- EPF Cache files are shared with the Windows Info Viewer.
- EPF Cache pages are small (5-20 KB per page).

Considerations

- Can only be hosted by a web browser that supports ActiveX controls. Although Netscape does not natively support ActiveX controls, Crystal Decisions has developed a Plug-in that allows the ActiveX Report Viewer to be used in Netscape.
- Requires the download of an ActiveX control the first time this viewer is used. This component is installed and stays resident on the client machine.

The component downloaded and installed once is:

ACTIVEXVIEWER.CAB 326 KB

In addition for Netscape the ActiveX Plug-in (downloaded and installed once):

NPVIEWER.EXE 4,270 KB

Java Page-On-Demand Report Viewer

Benefits

- EPF Cache files are shared with the Windows Info Viewer.
- EPF Cache pages are small (For a simple listing report this is 5-20 KB per page).

Considerations

- Must be run from a web browser that supports Java 1.02.
- Will only allow printing of the entire document and not a range of pages or selected pages. (Java 1.1 limitation).
- Select Expert is not available.
- Requires the download of a Java applet every time the user begins a new session. This component does not stay resident on the client machine.

The components downloaded are:

For Internet Explorer: JAVAVIEW.CAB 285 KB

For Netscape: JAVAVIEW.JAR 535 KB

Info Analyzer

Benefits

- Has access to report definition, which allows for greater options in data filtering with the Select Expert.
- Can be used to view while offline.

Considerations

- Requires whole report instance to be transferred to the client.
- Info Analyzer must be installed on the client machine.
- Does not work with Info Views.
- Does not work with the Info Server Plug-in.

Additional Client Options

There are also a number of Third Party Developers that have created COM and Java wrappers for the Info SDK. These provide a simplified interface to the SDK from environments that do not support DLL linking such as Java and Microsoft Active Server Pages (ASP). By using these tools you can custom integrate Seagate Info functionality into your current web applications. If you would like more information on these products, please visit our website at: <http://www.crystaldecisions.com/products/seagateinfo/sdk/resources.asp>.

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