

# Glossary of terms for the desktop-based scheduling tools comparison

<http://kenhamady.com/cru/comparisons/desktop-scheduling-engines>

Copyright 2018 by Ken Hamady, LLC

Copies of this document may be distributed freely as long as it is not modified.

For Crystal Reports training and consulting please contact:

[www.kenhamady.com](http://www.kenhamady.com)

ken@kenhamady.com

(540)338-0194

## **Runs as a Service::**

Runs as a Windows service which means it is independent of your login so the scheduler can run while you are logged out. (WTS means it can be run from Windows Task Scheduler which runs as a service)

## **Built-in Proprietary Scheduler:**

Has its own internal scheduler as opposed to using an external scheduler like the Windows Task Scheduler.

## **Add date/time to file name:**

Provides a method for automatically incorporating the current date and time into exported file name.

## **Specify parameters in the schedule:**

You are allowed to schedule a report that has parameter fields, and specify (in advance) the parameter values to be used by the report at runtime

## **Specify data connection in schedule:**

When scheduling the job you can override the name of the original data connection used in the report with a new connection.

## **Encrypt database password:**

Stores the database passwords for jobs in an encrypted field.

## **Jobs can run from command line:**

**Job only** - User can create a batch file. Running that batch file will launch the job.

**Job/options** - Optional arguments allow the batch file to change parameters, destination, etc.

## **Can run reports on demand:**

Provides the user with a way to run the report on demand without creating an schedule for that report.

## **Relative date parameters (today - 2):**

Provides an option at the time the report is scheduled to incorporate a date rule that is automatically adjusted relative to today's date. Selection

## **Email content from report formulas:**

**Body** - The user can incorporate formulas from the report into the body of the Email message sent with the exported file.

**ALL** - The user can also incorporate formulas into the form, to, cc, bcc of the Email.

## **Path/filename from report formulas:**

The user can incorporate formulas from the report into the filename and or path of the exported file

## **Event based scheduling:**

Job can run a SQL query or check for the existence of a file and then run a job based on the result

## **Process incoming Emails:**

Can respond to incoming messages as trigger events, or retrieve incoming messages and add them to a table.

**Process task on file creation:**

System automatically monitors a folder for new files and can run tasks when new files are found.

**Bursting:**

Take a single grouped report and automatically turn it into multiple exported files, one file for each group. These individual exported files can then be Emailed to the specific Email address associated with that group or saved in specific folders.

**Multi-run** - The report is refreshed repeatedly and filtered to one group each time

**One-pass** - Only one pass through the database and can burst a report with saved data

**Encrypts exported files:**

User has the option to store the exported file in encrypted format.

**Exception handling options:**

If the report doesn't complete for some reason, the application will retry up to x attempts every y minutes.

**App** - the number of attempts and the frequency are fixed numbers set within the app and can't be changed

**Admin** - the number of attempts and frequency are both determined by the administrator and are the same for all reports

**User** - the number of attempts and frequency are both determined by the user and can be set specifically for any report

**Empty report handling options:**

If the report returns no data the system gives the user the following options:

**A** - Send the empty report the same as a report with data.

**B** - Do NOT send the empty report

**C** - Notify the user that the report is empty with a message and no attachment

**Package delivery**

If a job runs multiple reports for the same user, how many Email messages are needed to deliver them?

**Multiple** - Each attachment is sent with a separate message

**Single** - One Email with multiple attachments

**Multiple reports in one schedule job:**

Lets you create a job with multiple related reports. You can change the time of the job in one place and all reports in the job are affected.

**History Logging:**

Stores details of completed activities including task run times, parameters used, files exported and Emails sent.

**Test mode or Test Environment**

Switches all scheduled tasks to be processed locally with all emails being sent to the tester.

**Visual representation of scheduled tasks**

Provides a calendar or grid view of all scheduled tasks and when they will run.

**Run SQL updates before/after job:**

User can enter a SQL Query into the application (including INSERT and UPDATE queries), or point to a text file that has a SQL query, and then specify that this query should be run either before or after a scheduled job.

**Schedule other (non-RPT) actions:**

User can use the application to schedule an EXE or BAT file to be run at a specific time.

**Run other actions before/after report:**

A single scheduled job can combine reports with EXE or BAT file tasks to be run as part of the same job.

**Phone support generally available 9-5**

Offers the option of receiving support by phone.

**Support available 24 x 7 x 365**

Offers the option of receiving critical support, with a response time of less than 60 minutes, at any time on any day of they year.