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New Features, Release 11.1.2.4.400

Subtopics
- Predictor Enhancements
- Cell Preferences Enhancements

The listed new features were introduced in release 11.1.2.4.400 of Oracle Crystal Ball products. They are only available in release 11.1.2.4.400 and later. Also see “Features Introduced in Release 11.1.2.4.000 and Earlier Releases” on page 3.

Predictor Enhancements

The Predictor feature of Crystal Ball includes the following enhancements:

- You can choose to paste predicted values as “random walk” formulas that refer to assumption cells on a separate support sheet. When you run a Crystal Ball simulation, the formulas generate random walks of the future values within the specified confidence intervals.
- After you run a prediction, you can view random walks of the predicted values for each series for analytic, training, and demonstration purposes. The random walks are shown as animations in the future values section of the chart.
- By default, predicted data values are enclosed by lines that show the upper and lower predictions intervals. The space in between is shaded, similar to a fan chart.
- The Predictor Results chart has new Chart Preferences settings that enable you to set line size as well as line color and type. The Simulation series is added to customize prediction animations described previously.

Cell Preferences Enhancements

The following enhancements to the Crystal Ball Cell Preferences dialog support Predictor enhancements in this release and further customize Crystal Ball performance:

- A new Functions tab is added to determine whether spreadsheet functions calculate only during simulations or every time the spreadsheet recalculates. When not running simulations, values can be set to the distribution mean, median, or a specified percentile, or they can vary randomly.
- Assumption values can also be set to the distribution mean, median, or a percentile.
Features Introduced in Release 11.1.2.4.000 and Earlier Releases

Subtopics

- Localization in Additional Languages
- Multithreaded Processing for Extreme Speed
- OptQuest Optimization Enhancements
- Damped Trend Exponential Smoothing Techniques for Forecasting
- Crystal Ball EPM Integration with Strategic Finance
- Crystal Ball Decision Optimizer Integration with Strategic Finance
- Sorting Objects for Selection

The listed topics describe features introduced in release 11.1.2.4.000 of Crystal Ball products.

You can use the Cumulative Feature Overview tool to create reports of new features added in prior releases. This tool enables you to identify your current products, your current release version, and your target implementation release version. With a single click, the tool quickly produces a customized set of high-level descriptions of the product features developed between your current and target releases. This tool is available here:

https://support.oracle.com/oip/faces/secure/km/DocumentDisplay.jspx?id=1092114.1

Localization in Additional Languages

Crystal Ball was previously available in French, English, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. It is now available in thirteen additional languages: Arabic, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Swedish, and Turkish.

Multithreaded Processing for Extreme Speed

Multithreading is now enabled to significantly speed up Extreme Speed simulations running in Oracle Crystal Ball Decision Optimizer on computers with multiple processors. Extreme Speed is powered by PSI Technology from Frontline Systems, Inc.

OptQuest Optimization Enhancements

The OptQuest Linear Programming (LP) and Mixed Integer Programming (MIP) components are improved to increase their accuracy, efficiency, and robustness when used within Crystal Ball products. Effective LP and MIP solvers play an important role within OptQuest by providing the capacity to handle constraints consisting of systems of linear equations as well as inequalities that often accompany practical simulation applications.
Damped Trend Exponential Smoothing Techniques for Forecasting

The Predictor component of Crystal Ball includes three new forecasting techniques: Damped Trend Smoothing Nonseasonal, Damped Trend Additive Seasonal, and Damped Trend Multiplicative Seasonal. Compared to smoothing models based on a linear trend, the damped trend techniques improve forecast accuracy, particularly with long lead times. Each technique includes standard, simple lead, weighted lead, and holdout methods.

Crystal Ball EPM Integration with Strategic Finance

Support for the Oracle Smart View for Office interface for Oracle Hyperion Strategic Finance is now included in Oracle Crystal Ball Enterprise Performance Management. Direct connection through Smart View to Strategic Finance data providers replaces the previous wizard-based integration and enables you to define Crystal Ball variables and run simulations directly on Strategic Finance workbooks within Smart View.

Crystal Ball Decision Optimizer Integration with Strategic Finance

If you have Crystal Ball Decision Optimizer and Oracle Crystal Ball Enterprise Performance Management, you can now perform OptQuest optimizations on Oracle Hyperion Strategic Finance workbooks within Oracle Smart View for Office. Oracle Crystal Ball Decision Optimizer enables you to automatically search for optimal solutions while accounting for uncertainty, constraints, and requirements.

Sorting Objects for Selection

When selecting Oracle Crystal Ball variables or other objects for charts, data extraction, and similar operations, you can now sort items in order by name, by cell row, or by cell column.