

# Oracle® Crystal Ball

## New Features

Release 11.1.2.4.900

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## **Feature Changes, Release 11.1.2.4.900**

Subtopics

- [Support for Microsoft Office 2019](#)
- [Removal of Crystal Ball EPM](#)

The listed changes are included in release 11.1.2.4.900 of Oracle Crystal Ball products. Also see [Feature Changes, Release 11.1.2.4.850](#) and [Features Introduced in Release 11.1.2.4.600 and Earlier Releases](#).

## Support for Microsoft Office 2019

Oracle Crystal Ball has been tested and is verified to be compatible with the latest release of Microsoft Office 2019. (Previous versions of Crystal Ball 11.1.2.4 also worked successfully with Microsoft Office 2019, but were not officially supported.)

## Removal of Crystal Ball EPM

The Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) connector is removed. This connector enabled Oracle Crystal Ball to work with Oracle Hyperion Planning and Oracle Essbase applications. Currently, there are no plans to replace it.

## Feature Changes, Release 11.1.2.4.850

Subtopics

- [Removal of Extreme Speed](#)
- [Copying Linked Matrixes](#)
- [Default Naming Enhancements](#)

The listed changes are included in release 11.1.2.4.850 of Oracle Crystal Ball products. Also see [Features Introduced in Release 11.1.2.4.600 and Earlier Releases](#).

### Removal of Extreme Speed

Starting with Crystal Ball 11.1.2.4.850, The Extreme Speed feature from PSI Technology is removed. No enhancements to the Extreme Speed feature will be provided, and there are currently no plans to replace it.

All Crystal Ball simulations and optimizations will continue to run in Normal Speed, which may be slower than Extreme Speed, depending on the model.

Support for existing PSI Technology Extreme Speed functionality in Crystal Ball Professional, Crystal Ball Premium, Oracle Crystal Ball Decision Optimizer, Oracle Crystal Ball Suite, Crystal Ball Classroom Student Edition, and Crystal Ball Classroom Faculty Edition will follow the published Oracle Lifetime Support Policy.

The Compare Run Modes tool also is removed; it is no longer necessary.

### Copying Linked Matrixes

You can now copy and paste cells that are part of a linked matrix. The links are carried over to new assumptions during the copy-paste operation. This feature is useful when you want to apply

the same correlation matrix to different sets of assumptions. For details, see Appendix B of the Oracle Crystal Ball User's Guide.

## Default Naming Enhancements

Assumptions, decision variables, and forecasts are assigned an automatically-generated, default name when they are defined, either directly or by pasting. When defining these Crystal Ball data cells within tables, the default naming algorithm now includes the column and row headers of the table. For more information, see Chapter 3 of the Oracle Crystal Ball User's Guide.

## Features Introduced in Release 11.1.2.4.600 and Earlier Releases

### Subtopics

- [Support for Microsoft Excel 2016](#)
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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>

## **Support for Microsoft Excel 2016**

Beginning with release 11.1.2.4.600, Crystal Ball now supports Microsoft Excel 2016.

## **Support for Microsoft Windows 10**

Beginning with release 11.1.2.4.600, Crystal Ball now supports Microsoft Windows 10.

## **Predictor Enhancements**

The Predictor feature of Crystal Ball release 11.1.2.4.400 introduced 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, introduced in release 11.1.2.4.400, support Predictor enhancements 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.

## **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.

Note: Documentation for release 11.1.2.4.850 currently is not translated.

## **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 Oracle 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.

Scripting on this page enhances content navigation, but does not change the content in any way.