



Achieve More

Spec Studio™



Spec Studio™: IBM Cognos 8 Report Studio Documentation Tool

Common Challenges

- Document backlog of developed solutions quickly
- Maintain fluid development and thorough compliant documentation in parallel
- Maintain effective change control
- Set and Monitor development standards
- Create a basis for migration or harmonisation
- Create useable business library of documented solutions
- Productionise development without compliant documentation

Niche Features

- To provide documentation for reporting objects held within a Report Studio / Desktop Intelligence Document.
- Snapshot changes of a report development over time.
- Detailed analysis of variable usage, remove invalid and duplicate formulae.
- Reduce document storage requirements.
- Improve report performance.
- Provide a convenient IT support document for quick reference.
- Listing of all variables and functions in a document.
- Capture SQL to cut and paste to other applications for testing.
- Capture solution information for remote or mobile analysis.



Assimil8 Spec Studio™ extends the world leading enterprise BI solution from IBM Cognos by seamlessly documenting Report Studio development to an ISO & SOX compliant level.

Spec Studio™ is a standalone application for creating IBM Cognos Report Studio documentation. It provides a description editor for quickly editing the descriptions of business, functional and technical requirements, and can export the XML schema information and descriptions to a PDF format. Spec Studio™ is used through a straightforward and intuitive graphical interface.

Why Use Spec Studio™?

Effective documentation makes business analysts and report developers jobs easier and the information they provide more reliable. Spec Studio is an efficient solution when sharing critical report details with key business personnel or other team members.

Creating SOX/ISO compliant documentation can be tedious and is often neglected. Spec Studio™ makes creating clear, readable documentation much easier and significantly faster, so you can maintain up to date business requirements and documentation of your report development with minimal effort.

- ✓ **Spec Studio™:** A tool that fully documents IBM Cognos 8 Report Studio development.
- ✓ Eliminating tedious and resource intensive manual documentation activities.
- ✓ Comprehensively documents Business, Functional and Technical Cognos 8 BI report requirements and development.
- ✓ SOX & ISO compliant
- ✓ Version Compatible IBM Cognos 8 - Report Studio 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 & 8.4
- ✓ Structured PDF output comprising content page, bookmarks, embedded hyper links to content
- ✓ Increase developer productivity

Automated Documentation

- Documents Relational and OLAP sources
- Interactive wizard for entering business content
- Generates easy-to-read PDF documents that can be distributed throughout teams.
- Hyperlinked content for easy navigation.
- Report statistics

Reporting Standards, Quality & Compliance

- Harmonise developer standards
- Simple, intuitive, UI throughout the application.
- Obtainable overview of report schema as well as inter-object and inter-query dependencies.
- Allows users to annotate all parts of the document output.
- Facilitate multi-developer environments and reduce risk of issues with continuity between developers.
- Much, much more!



For more information on Spec Studio™ and other solutions please contact us on
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Increase Developer productivity!

Developers by nature enjoy developing and not documenting. With Spec Studio™ IBM Cognos 8 developers can reduce the days spent documenting Report Studio reports, and devote the time, more effectively, on developing solutions against your business requirements.

Who should use Spec Studio™?

Spec Studio™ has been designed for **BI/MI business analysts** and IBM Cognos 8 **BI developers** who need to produce ISO/SOX compliant documents.

Change Managers approaching harmonisation projects.

Senior Management teams needing definitions and clear repositories of KPI information.

Support Analysts as key reference information relating to live solutions under support.

System Requirements

- IBM Cognos 8.1 – 8.4
- Java v6.0
- PDF Reader

Spec Studio™ is supported on the following platforms:

- Microsoft Windows Server (2003, 2008)
- Microsoft 2000, XP, Vista & Windows 7

What can Spec Studio™ do for my business?

How does Spec Studio™ work?

Spec Studio™ uses the IBM Cognos Report Studio XML to extract the report schema information delivering you a comprehensive breakdown of the report design, content and structure. In addition Spec Studio™ report wizard provides the user the ability to enter business information and commentary about the report, such as report objective and overview, developer notes, business requirements and runtime properties. Both elements are then merged in the final output resulting in a fully comprehensive document.

Spec Studio™ obtains a complete description of each report object and uses this to calculate all dependencies and will, therefore show correct information even if the report has multiple sources.

The documentation engine automatically interrogates the entire complexities of the report and outputs this into a readable format for developers, process owners and business personnel to use

The screenshot shows a tree view on the left with categories like 'Business Requirements', 'Functional Design Summary', 'Functional Design Detail', etc. On the right, a 'Statistics' box shows counts for Pages, Lists, Crosstabs, Charts, and Queries. Below that, a 'Singleton Name' section shows details for 'Singleton51', including its query and property list. A 'VIEW DETAILS FILTER' section shows a table with columns for Expression, Usage, and Application. At the bottom, a 'Variable Name' section shows details for 'Data Type'.

When should I use Spec Studio™?

Use Spec Studio™ when you need to create SOX/ISO compliant documentation for your business, but do not have time to manually create and format the details of your IBM Cognos 8 Report Studio report.

Spec Studio™ is especially useful if you are trying to understand or explain how a report works

When approaching or embarking upon a migration or harmonisation programme.

Assimil8 Spec Studio™ eliminates development exposure by providing comprehensive documentation of development through developer annotation and narrative.

Designed for Business Analysts and Report Developers

Spec Studio™ is designed with the understanding that significant expertise resides in both the BI development and Business Analysts teams. The Spec Studio™ workflow embraces this expertise and promotes a content development workflow to enable these functions to contribute content and value together for a much better quality final solution.

.For the IBM Cognos Developer:

- Document Report Studio development in seconds
- Reduces handovers between developers & helpdesk
- Monitor report development standards
- Cut & Paste logic from documentation for use in reports.
- Annotate WIP development
- Manage version and change control

For the Business Owner:

- Document business requirements
- Document functional requirements
- Professional customer/business facing document
- Bridge the gap between the business, analysts and developers
- Produce SOX/ISO compliant documentation

About Assimil8:

Assimil8 are market leaders in Business Intelligence and Data warehousing solutions, incorporating consulting expertise in financial reporting, planning and forecasting, enabling clients to address all aspects of corporate performance management. Assimil8 have developed an extensive range of products, services, consulting methodologies, support and training services which help find new sources of revenue, identify cost cutting opportunities and improve financial visibility so that organisations can survive, even thrive, in the times of a turbulent economy.

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