

NRG

Technical Data Sheet

Software Integration

An extensive and powerful command line programming interface allows an NRG report to be embedded quickly and simply into software applications. This feature is available to both the Client and Server implementations of NRG enabling reports to be run in either Client/Server or Server only mode from within the application.

- Run reports direct from the Client Desktop.
- Use task Scheduling, to run reports at pre-determined times.
- Embed reports into 3rd party applications.
- Software Developers embed reports as standard reporting tool.

System Environment Variables and Parameter File

Access to operating system (Windows or UNIX) environment variables, for use in report output and/or validation of report criteria.

Access to parameter files containing values for inclusion in report output and/or validation of report criteria.

For software developers the ability to set these values (Environment Variables and Parameter files) at the time of running a report, enables seamless integration between an application and NRG, whereby values are requested through the underlying application (benefiting from the applications inbuilt validation and checking routines) prior to being passed as input to the final report.

SQL Performance

Through NRG Admin and NRG Design, the facility is provided to apply SQL statements (native SQL syntax) directly to the underlying tables; this offers the opportunity to apply fine-tuning for improved table access and report performance.

Central Dictionary Administration

The NRG Dictionary can be maintained from a shared central location, which affords greater control for IT in determining what can be run and when in addition to removing any distribution concerns. Centralised reports mean that IT can push reports to the users or the users in turn can pull reports as required.

Reusable Report Objects

Implement custom functions (Composites) that combine business logic to create functions that can be stored and re-used across multiple reports.

Make use of Constants for variable values. Set up a Constant for a variable value such as VAT rate and then use that across all reports where required. If the value then changes, just change the Constant value and this is then reflected in every report immediately.

Report Templates

Provide for faster design and deployment through the use of report templates. Standardise on design layout and data access, to ensure consistency across multiple reports.

Sub-Reports

The Sub-report feature enables users to see related but different data within the same report. Creating such multi-pass reports can be a painful process, requiring complex coding and formatting. Using this feature it is possible to create these more complex reports simply and efficiently, with the final output providing a unified view of the information gathered through potentially multiple Sub-Reports into one overall reporting document.

Link-Reports

It is often the case that information found in one report frequently leads to questions that can only be answered in other, related reports. The Link-Reports feature provides the ability to include information from other reports, (similar to Sub-Reports described above), but, providing access to the related information on an as needs basis. This linked information can then be reviewed by using the NRG Viewer.

NRG Server
NRG Server Runtime
Data General – Motorola
Data General – x86
DEC Alpha
Dynix/PTX
HP UNIX Release 9 – 11
IBM AIX 4.2
IBM AIX 4.3 and above
Red Hat Linux 7 and above
SCO Open Server
SCO UNIX
Solaris SPARC
Solaris x86 2.6 and above
SNI RM400
UNIX SVR4
UnixWare 2.1.2
Windows NT Server
Windows 2000 Server
Windows 2003 Server

NRG Client
NRG Admin, Designer, User
NRG Viewer
Windows 98
Windows NT
Windows 2000
Windows XP
Windows Vista
Databases/Data Types
ACU COBOL (Vision 3)
BBX
Btrieve
C-Isam
Informix C-ISAM
Micro Focus COBOL
MySQL
ODBC Compliant Databases
Oracle
Powerflex
RM COBOL
SQL Server
UniData
X-Isam
Support for others quoted for on request

System Requirements

Client

The following are recommended MINIMUM specifications.

Operating System	Memory
Windows 98	32Mb
Windows NT/2000	64Mb
Windows XP	128Mb
Windows Vista	128Mb

The NRG Client will require 7Mb of disk space on installation.

Client Considerations

The following considerations need to be made on deciding whether a machine is capable of running the NRG Client. NRG will run on any machine capable of running Windows 98. However, as with any Windows application, how well it will run depends on three things.

The machine specification

The higher the machine specification the better!

The purpose for which NRG is being used

Of the three basic functions performed by the NRG Client, namely, maintaining the dictionary, designing and running reports. It is the running of reports that is likely to make the biggest demands on your machines' processing power.

Where reports are run Client/Server, the demand on the processor and memory on the Client machine will be less, as it is only handling the output returned from the Server. The hard disk requirements are also probably less, if for instance most reports produce only a few pages of output.

Where the reports are run on the Client machine the processor power and memory will become more critical. The hard disk requirements are also then related to the volumes of data being processed, particularly if the data is held in remote databases accessed via ODBC, as the required data will be extracted from the database onto the Client PC for processing.

Any other tasks being undertaken whilst NRG is running

An important point to remember is that running a report is unlike most other tasks that you perform. When you are using a word processor, spreadsheet, accounting package, database, etc., most of the time spent on that application by the processor is effectively idle time, i.e. waiting for input. Only occasionally is there a short burst of processor activity, e.g. when a file is saved or a transaction updated. When running a report, however, the processor will be working hard continuously for the entire duration of the report run, doing the equivalent of perhaps thousands of the above activities at once.

In summary the heavier the PCs workload, the higher you would need to raise the specification.

Servers

The NRG Server will require 2.5Mb of disk space on installation.

The main consideration is likely to be the number of simultaneous NRG report requests that the Server is likely to have to process along with the volume of temporary hard disk space required.

Unless the Server is one dedicated to running NRG reports, the recommended minimum specification is likely to be determined by the sum of all its other uses and we would recommend seeking the advice of your IT department or supplier.

Output Formats

Screen, Client Printer, Server Printer, HTML, Excel, Fixed or Variable Length Disk Files and Delimited Disk Files. In addition, creation of .nrg files allows viewing of output through the NRG Viewer.

Product Hierarchy Client Side

NRG ADMIN

- Dictionary Maintenance.
- Define the data by maintaining tables, table includes, columns, composites, constants and joins.
- Design Creation and Amendment.
- Include Creation and Amendment.
- Invoke Reports.

NRG ADMIN includes a DESIGN, USER and VIEWER licence.

NRG DESIGN

- Design Creation and Amendment.
- Include Creation and Amendment.
- Invoke Reports.

NRG DESIGN includes a USER and VIEWER licence.

NRG USER

- Invoke Reports.

NRG USER includes a VIEWER licence.

NRG VIEWER

- Review previous report output.

Product Hierarchy Server Side

NRG SERVER

- Process report requests from Client (in Client/Server mode)
- Process report requests from **NRG USER** (Server Version)

NRG USER (Server Version)

- Invoke Reports.

The NRG USER on the Server is a fully menu driven interface that allows access to pre-written reports.

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