



What does SAS Information Delivery Portal do?

SAS Information Delivery Portal provides a single access point for aggregated information via an easy-to-use Web-based interface. Role-based security and authentication distributes relevant content and applications to appropriate users within and beyond an organization.

Why is SAS Information Delivery Portal important?

SAS Information Delivery Portal provides a common front end for SAS intelligence, Web-based SAS solutions and other digital content in a role-based, secure, customizable and extensible environment. Users can easily personalize their portal environments, reducing both information overload and IT workload.

Who is SAS Information Delivery Portal designed for?

SAS Information Delivery Portal is designed for information consumers and decision makers who need easy access to intelligence that is filtered for their interests and security privileges via the Web.

SAS® Information Delivery Portal

Using the power of SAS® to securely deliver information to the entire enterprise and beyond

Organizations have invested heavily to collect information with ERP systems, relational databases and legacy systems. And while it is widely recognized that competitiveness is enhanced when information is shared among decision makers around the world, disconnected information systems make it difficult to meet the needs of global businesses.

As a result, IT departments struggle to keep up with the demand for access to enterprise information as they face mounting workloads to maintain an ever-growing number of systems. Web-based portals, however, do provide a cost-effective way to combine multiple applications and distribute information to a wide range of information consumers within and beyond an organization.


SAS Information Delivery Portal uses the power of SAS to deliver consistent information in a targeted, secure way to users within an organization and to external customers, vendors and partners via a Web-based interface. By combining SAS analytics with many other information sources, the portal creates a self-sufficient information system for decision makers and information consumers. Role-based security restricts sensitive content to authorized users while enabling sharing of information outside the organization.

Built on the common SAS Business Intelligence Architecture, the portal allows shared infrastructures and definitions. Because it is integrated with the single point for administration for all SAS technologies, it reduces the number of skills required for IT, minimizes time-to-deployment and

lowers overall operational costs. Also included is an open applications development environment for creating portlets and quickly customizing out-of-the-box applications. Support for various languages ensures that it will be the preferred information delivery technology for global enterprises.

Key benefits

- **Faster, more efficient decision making.** SAS Information Delivery Portal provides role-based and personalized interaction with information, complete with metadata search and a centralized metadata repository. It reduces the amount of information that must be reviewed while ensuring that all relevant information is taken into account, enabling faster and more efficient decision making.
- **Enhanced security and reduced IT costs.** Because SAS Information Delivery Portal provides role-based security and a single point for administering all aspects of information delivery systems, IT maintenance work is reduced and consistent security is ensured. Encryption and authorization mechanisms protect information assets from unwanted exposure and users can access only information that is relevant to their needs.
- **Self-sufficiency for users and more strategic use of IT resources.** SAS Information Delivery Portal integrates metadata all the way from data sources through information dissemination. Because users can satisfy their information needs with easy-to-use search capabilities, duplicate main-



tenance efforts are eliminated and demands for IT involvement in day-to-day intelligence creation and sharing are reduced, freeing IT resources for more strategic projects.

Product overview

SAS Information Delivery Portal provides an easy way to distribute and share high-quality information, data, applications and reports across the enterprise. It provides users with personalized gateways to up-to-the-minute information with single-click access to the data, applications and documents they need, and it differs from other portals in that it has the power and flexibility of SAS behind it. While SAS Information Delivery Portal offers a rich feature set, users may customize existing applications or create new applications to be viewed in the portal as portlets. This capability is provided with SAS AppDev Studio, an application development environment.

SAS Information Delivery Portal is a J2EE N-tier Web application that is deployed on industry-leading Java application servers across various operating systems. It offers a single point for delivering information, both in intranet and extranet situations. The zero-client footprint reduces maintenance costs, even when compared to Web applications that rely on plug-ins and other client-side components. Built upon the common SAS Business Intelligence Architecture, it shares infrastructures and metadata with other SAS solutions and technologies. It also integrates with the single point for administration that supports all SAS intelligence technologies and solutions.

Reliable information delivery

Knowledge workers need quick, efficient access to information, but countless hours are often lost as they hunt for what is needed. SAS Information Delivery Portal can aggregate all

sources of information—structured and unstructured, dynamic, static, internal, external, SAS and non-SAS, to deliver a comprehensive view via a Web browser interface.

SAS Information Delivery Portal provides the flexibility to deliver digital information that users require. This includes content managed through a data warehouse, such as reports and analyses that are dynamically generated from SAS stored processes, Web applications that access and generate content dynamically through Java servlets and Java Server Pages (JSPs), documents stored in WebDAV repositories and content syndicated from a provider using technology such as Rich Site Summary (RSS). Links to any other content needed can be made available.

The portal's role-based approach organizes information in ways that people are most likely to use it and presents it to users based on their roles in the organization. Based on a desktop metaphor, SAS Information Delivery Portal gives each user a personalized virtual workplace within a Web browser window. A centralized search facility enables them to easily find the information and applications they need to do their jobs.

A portal is only as good as the information that it delivers. SAS Information Delivery Portal overcomes the limitations of many other portal solutions, which provide broad access to varied data sources but lack true analytical capabilities. By exploiting SAS technologies to provide information that is based on industry-leading analytics, the quality of the information surfaced from an integrated SAS solution results in a competitive advantage.

Customization and easy personalization

Making content available is not enough; it also must be usable. SAS Information

Delivery Portal delivers its functionality through a Web browser interface, and can be customized on an enterprise level to incorporate brand standards such as company colors and logos, which enables both internal and external users to see clearly the origin of information. The customization and personalization capabilities allow an enterprise to mold the portal to their culture and filter information so users only see what they need.

Administrators first set up desktops for groups of users based on access needs. Personalization features let administrators create role-based pages containing content that is suitable for a given community. Individual users in each group can further personalize their desktops to meet their own needs and preferences.

User personalization features include theme, book marking and arrangement of portlets and pages. Point-and-click wizards are available for setting language and navigation preferences; adding, changing and deleting pages; or modifying content and layout. Users' changes to their desktops can be made at any time and will affect only their personalized views.

A publish and subscribe framework allows portal users to control the information arriving into their personal workspace, reducing information overload and increasing efficiency. For example, users can subscribe to channels that deliver content to their portal or create links to frequently visited Internet sites. SAS Information Delivery Portal also provides a centralized search mechanism that enables users to find content based on keywords.

Security

The security capabilities of the portal allow applications and information to be surfaced only to those who should

see them. Because the authentication and authorization systems are founded on the use of centrally managed metadata, IT managers can quickly add new portal users, remove existing users, or update the applications, information and data that is available to users. This provides IT with a single point of security and eliminates the need to update users' information in multiple systems – an often difficult, time-consuming task. The publish and subscribe framework enables IT managers to centrally set channels of interest and specify access based on user roles or identity. IT managers can control who sees what information without being involved in the information distribution, and information producers and consumers can operate without the need for direct IT involvement for more timely information delivery.

A single sign-on mechanism enables user authentication and session information to be shared among Web applications as well as third-party portal products. Users only need to sign in once, and information is delivered to those with appropriate security rights.

Scalability and support for standards

SAS Information Delivery Portal uses a multitiered, distributed application model built around open standards so that it can evolve while maintaining the ability to interact with current and legacy systems. Support for standards such as WebDAV ensures that SAS Information Delivery Portal can collaborate with front and back office platforms. It also supports emerging RSS (Rich Site Summary) standards. By leveraging content, the Web's most valuable asset, the IT manager's job of displaying high-quality, relevant information according to the roles of users is a simple task.

Key Features

Information delivery

- Provides an intuitive zero-client, browser-based user interface.
- Allows browsing of repositories to locate SAS applications and SAS Stored Processes.
- Renders RSS content sources. Users choose live feeds from lists provided by the administrators.

Search

- Search through information and applications in the portal by titles, keywords and descriptions.
- Combine various search results into portlets, publish to a channel or bookmark them for later viewing (which places them into a bookmarks portlet) so search results are surfaced in personal workspaces.

Customization and personalization

- Customize the interface on an enterprise level to incorporate company colors and logos.
- Point-and-click wizards enable users to create, delete and reorder pages, add and remove content, and modify page layout to self-sufficiently organize content in their personal workspace.
- Expand and collapse capabilities let users consume and act on information with fewer clicks.
- Multiple themes can be offered in a single implementation. Users choose what best suits their needs.

Internationalization

- Interface is translated into many languages, including English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Polish, Swedish, Russian, Korean, Japanese, Chinese (Simplified) and Chinese (Traditional).

Notification

- Portal pages contain portlets that are updated upon page refresh, including KPIs going out of range and other items of interest that become available.
- Users can point and click to generate e-mail containing password-protected links to portal content.
- Alert Notification portlet surfaces personal alerts of completed stored processes.

Security

- Fully integrated with the security model of SAS 9.1. Set security and group membership using SAS Management Console.
- Assign content and application access based on roles. SAS programs can add content for specific roles and individual users. Users providing information can easily choose the correct role, which minimizes the risk of sharing sensitive information with unauthorized people.
- Allows utilizing 128-bit encryption (SSL) for securely sending information.

Integration

- Single sign-on capabilities integrate the portal with other Web applications and third-party products.

Extensibility

- SAS AppDev Studio enables rapid portlet development and easy customization of applications.

Manageability

- Leverage the common SAS Metadata Architecture to reduce administration work.

Support for open standards

- J2EE compliant Web application for zero-footprint clients (only JavaScript and Cookie enabled).
- WebDAV used for storing and sharing documents as well as for publish and subscribe.
- RSS (Rich Site Summary) content sources can be integrated and rendered.

SAS® Information Delivery Portal Technical Requirements

Client environment

- Windows (x86-32): Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP Professional, Windows NT 4 Server, Windows Server 2003
- Internet Explorer 5.5+

Server environment

- SAS Information Delivery Portal must connect to an environment running Base SAS and SAS Metadata Server.
- Please refer to the SAS Enterprise BI Server Fact Sheet for a complete list of supported hardware systems, including Windows, UNIX, Linux and mainframe.

Web tier

- BEA WebLogic (AIX, HP/UX Itanium, Solaris, Windows 2000 Server, Windows Server 2003).
- IBM WebSphere (AIX, Windows 2000 Server, Windows Server 2003).
- Apache Jakarta Tomcat (AIX, HP/UX Itanium, Solaris, Windows 2000 Server, Windows Server 2003).

Required/optional software

- Base SAS, which includes SAS Metadata Server and SAS Management Console, must be licensed separately.
- The SAS Information Delivery Portal offering includes additional required SAS components.
- The Apache Jakarta Tomcat Servlet/JSP container is included with the portal. Other supported application servers must be licensed directly from the vendor.

Notes: Supported Web and Java standards Include J2SDK 1.4.2, J2EE 1.3, Java Servlets 2.3, JSP 1.2, Struts 1.1, HTTP/HTTPS 1.1.



SAS Information Delivery Portal provides secure and targeted delivery of customized information to users within and beyond the enterprise.



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TO KNOW.

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