

Course Outline: IBM Cognos Active Report

Interactivity unlocks a whole new level of potential in a report. Suddenly, instead of just a static output users have access to a dynamic analysis that lets them view data from different perspectives and delve deeper for added insights. The IBM Cognos BI Active Report module provides a vehicle for constructing dynamic, visually stunning reports that respond instantly to users' viewing needs.

Ironside's one-day Active Report course enables report authors to capitalize on the powerful capabilities of this tool to pull versatile, portable, and visually attractive results from their data sources. By the time this course concludes, participants will be fully prepared to design high-impact report structures that facilitate a multifaceted understanding of an analysis question from a single, highly usable location.

Course Content

The main topics covered in Ironside's Active Report course are listed below:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction to Active Report**
 - Defines and describes active reports
 - Discusses the basics of active report authoring, including which controls are available and what the difference is between data containers and non-query objects
 - Shows the steps required to add interactivity to active reports
 - Demonstrates active report preview, sort, and summarize functionality
 - Details best practices for keeping reports understandable on the back end/tracking objects used in reports
- **Chapter 2: Data Controls and Standard Controls**
 - Gives a clear picture of the differences between data and standard controls
 - Explores the cases in which these different control types are appropriate
 - Goes over the interface and connection process for each control type
 - Uncovers methods for creating ID columns in data controls to more easily pass information
- **Chapter 3: Filter and Select**
 - Explains the purpose of and differences between the filter and select options in controls
 - Reveals the different situations in which select behavior changes
 - Demonstrates decks and data decks being put in action to show different data views
 - Explores working with multiple data containers and master detail relationships
- **Chapter 4: Managing Active Report File Sizes**
 - Provides insight into how best to control the size of active reports
 - Establishes guidelines for putting benchmarks and targets in place to measure report effectiveness
 - Shows how to effectively examine the size of active reports
 - Lists best practices to control sizing and performance

- **Chapter 5: Extensible Visualizations**
 - Introduces RAVE and visualizations into the active report mix
 - Outlines the differences between visualizations and traditional charts
 - Shows how visualizations can further optimize active report size
 - Demonstrates visualizations in action in an active report
- **Chapter 6: Sizing for Mobile Formats**
 - Explains what you need to do to make reports ready for mobile viewing
 - Describes the process for active report email delivery
 - Discusses compatibility considerations for mobile options
 - Demonstrates a report viewed in multiple formats
- **Chapter 7: Prompting in Active Reports**
 - Shows the difference between traditional report prompting and prompting in active reports
 - Gives tips for mimicking traditional prompt functionality in an active report
 - Explores options for adding cascading prompts as part of an active report
 - Lays out best practices for avoiding oversized reports when emulating prompt functionality
- **Chapter 8: Troubleshooting Active Reports**
 - Goes over common rough patches in active report development
 - Details viewing options that can help find issues, like Page Structure view
 - Provides naming conventions for active report variables to prevent confusion
 - Shows methods for controlling how your active report resets and for leaving breadcrumbs to follow through different pieces of complex reports
- **Chapter 9: Drill-Through Reports**
 - Explores how to effectively set up drill-through access for an active report
 - Provides tips on specifying the values passed in parameters
 - Goes over differences in active report drill-through behavior
 - Demonstrates setting up an active report drill-through
- **Chapter 10: Understanding Advanced Reports and Final Workshops**
 - Explains what goes into a sophisticated active report
 - Provides a final master-class session on reverse engineering an advanced report
 - Goes through final workshops testing your knowledge and bringing together concepts from the rest of the course