



What You Need To Know About DB2 Web Query

In April 2007, IBM and Information Builders, Inc. (IBI) announced a product alliance and introduced a product known as DB2 Web Query for IBM i (QU2 for short). Because of our position as a developer of reporting and business intelligence software for the IBM i, numerous customers, business partners, and the trade press have come to us for our analysis of DB2 Web Query's capabilities. We've done the research so you can intelligently evaluate this new product.

Before we begin, we would be remiss if we didn't say that we completely agree with IBM, the Gartner Group, and others who feel the IBM i is an ideal platform for business intelligence and data warehousing.

IBM is positioning DB2 Web Query as a replacement for the software you probably know as Query/400. They are delivering a base, named user license of DB2 Web Query to customers who are current on operating system maintenance. Given the way it's often introduced, we like to refer to the base DB2 Web Query product as the "free" puppy.

DB2 Web Query requires release V5R4 or 6.1. The product is still relatively new and most people's knowledge of it is from user group presentations, Webcasts, and other similarly high-level overviews. If you've been in attendance at one of these sessions, you probably came away very excited. But remember, although IBM has shipped thousands of licenses to customers when distributing V5R4 or 6.1, very few of these customers have installed the software or tried running it in a live, production environment. Our research shows you should not assume that DB2 Web Query will satisfy your reporting and business intelligence needs. There are a number of factors for you to consider.

1. DB2 Web Query was designed and developed by IBI and IBM. It is a less functional, OEM version of IBI's WebFOCUS software product which originated on another platform and was ported to the IBM i. Although not new to the IBM i, IBI has more experience working with large enterprise customers than small to midsize companies.
2. DB2 Web Query developers are licensed by named user. You must register each developer's user profile in the QU2 application - whether they use the software frequently or only occasionally. The IBM base license covers the following number of named users.

P5	P10	P20	P30	P40	P50	P60
2	4	6	8	10	15	20

Additional named users cost \$400US each. IBM sells a runtime enablement feature for companies who want to create groups of run-only users from their named user profiles. The cost of this feature ranges from \$3,200US to \$48,000US, depending on your IBM i processor group. If you purchase the runtime enablement feature, you must still license a sufficient number of named users to support your total number of query developers and groups of run-time users. For example, if you have a P10 processor and you want two named query developers and five groups of run-only users, you need a total of seven named user licenses, plus the runtime enablement feature so you can allocate five named users to your run-only groups. This configuration would cost you \$7,600US above the base license. Run-only users in a group share the same authority.

3. Query/400 software maintenance was always included in i5/OS software maintenance. DB2 Web Query software maintenance is not. You are not obligated to pay for DB2 Web Query software maintenance.

If you're an IBM customer who's been off software maintenance, but are now looking to catch up by moving to V5R4 or 6.1, ask your IBM Business Partner what fees you will incur to retain the familiar Query/400 developer interface so you can continue to maintain your old Query/400 queries. You aren't eligible for the free, base license of DB2 Web Query and since Query/400 is no longer available as a stand-alone product, you may be told you must purchase DB2 Web Query to get Query/400. Your legacy Query/400 queries will still run whether or not you license DB2 Web Query so

we suggest you consider switching to NGS-IQ at the time of your upgrade. Our Query/400 API eases the transition by letting you run Query/400 query objects from within NGS-IQ without requiring a conversion.

4. IBM offers online analytical processing (OLAP) and “Active Reports” offline report viewing features for additional fees that are tiered by processor group. To use the OLAP feature, you must also license at least one copy of DB2 Web Query’s Windows Developer Workbench at \$995US per desktop. (Note: We didn’t say named or concurrent users here. This is a Windows product you install and license by the individual PC.) If you want to automate report scheduling and distribution, you must license the IBM DB2 Web Query Report Broker at a cost that ranges from \$3,200US on a P5 model to \$48,000US on a P60 model. If you’d like to integrate DB2 Web Query into your IBM i application software, you also need the \$10,000US Software Developer Kit (SDK). The SDK has a separate software maintenance plan and annual fees.

At NGS, we built e-mail and FTP output distribution features, the ability to schedule our jobs using IBM and third-party utilities and Web, Windows, and 5250 application integration features right into our solution. Our customers do not pay separate license and maintenance fees for these functions. In addition to queries created using our software, we even enable customers to run Query/400 queries from within our application and distribute the output as e-mail attachments in popular formats like PDF, CSV, HTML, XML, and TXT. Our Web and SmartPhone interface is available to all customers, without requiring a separately licensed SDK or maintenance agreement.

5. While you can’t get a free trial of DB2 Web Query, you may receive the base product at no cost with V5R4 or 6.1. DB2 Web Query arrives with the OLAP and Active Reports features temporarily activated. You will need the Windows-based Developer Workbench module before you can test the DB2 Web Query OLAP module. Between the Windows Developer Workbench license fee, optional modules, software maintenance fees, and other possible charges, you can easily spend several thousand dollars getting to know your new puppy.

6. IBM sells two other additional, separately priced and licensed DB2 Web Query features: the Excel Spreadsheet Client and the Microsoft SQL Server database adapter. The Spreadsheet Client feature is priced from \$400US to \$12,000US, depending on your IBM i configuration. The SQL Server database adapter is priced from \$1,600US to \$28,800US. NGS offers multiple ways to integrate query results with Excel and the much more affordable, and versatile IQ Connexion module for those who need to access local and remote DB2 databases, SQL Server, MySQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL, and other data sources.

7. So what is the real cost of the free puppy? A mid-size IBM i customer, running a P10 model, with 25 users who need to periodically run queries, five developers who need to write and run more complex queries, plus five to 10 managers and staff who want OLAP and offline report viewing capabilities, and a group that wants to work from Microsoft Excel could spend more than \$20,000US beyond the base license, excluding training, consulting, and maintenance fees. If you also want integrated report distribution, job scheduling, and the SDK, your total cost might exceed \$50,000US. Now that’s one heck of a puppy!

We hope this background shows you why you need to apply due diligence to IBM and IBI’s DB2 Web Query just as you would any new enterprise software application.

NGS has been synonymous with query, reporting, and business intelligence on the IBM Power System, System i, iSeries, and AS/400 for over 20 years. We’re an Advanced member of IBM PartnerWorld, an active member of the IBM VIP partner program, and our NGS-IQ solution is approved by IBM for potential customer rebates if licensed when upgrading to selected IBM Power System models. No other IBM i developer, including IBM, provides a more complete or better performing BI and enterprise reporting solution.

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