



FAQ# 26-02040201  
Modified 02/04/02

## Should I use a Dictionary file or Query files with my reports?

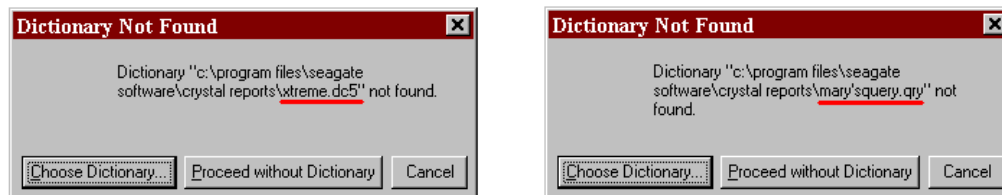
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Dynamalivery recommends that its customers not use the Crystal Dictionaries feature. This feature is the rough equivalent of an SQL "view", but implemented outside of a database and outside of any dynamic/persistent objects on a middle-tier server. It appears that it is in Crystal Reports for the benefit of desktop/power users who do not have the authority or personal preference to go into a database schema and who are not professional programmers.

Dynamalivery further recommends that its customer not use the Crystal SQL Designer feature. The SQL Designer has been designed to meet the needs of individuals with little or no background using the Structured Query Language (SQL).

Dynamalivery does not inhibit the use of report templates based on a dictionary or query file. In theory it should work if the report template (.rpt), dictionary (.dc5) or Query (.qry) file are in the same directory.

When these files are **not** in the same directory, as the report file the user will likely experience these dialogues when attempting to open the report file:



Notice that both Dialogues are titled **Dictionary Not Found**. However if examined more closely each is asking for a different file. The first dialogue box is asking for a dictionary file called "xtreme.dc5" and the second dialogue box is asking for a query file called "mary'squery.qry".

If you encounter either of these messages when opening a report file you should choose the "Choose Dictionary" button and browse to the file it is asking for. This file must be in the same directory as the report file.

For more information on Crystal Dictionaries, see Chapter 24 of the Crystal Reports User Guide, pp. 487-505.

For more information on the SQL Designer, see Chapter 23 of the Crystal Reports User Guide, pp. 465-485.