



A Comparison of Ecrion & Windward

Note: We were unable to obtain a trial or any sort of hands-on experience with Ecrion’s software, so all the information reported here was found through our own investigation. (Ecrion, please reach out to us with a demo if any of the information here is inaccurate).

If you’re working with document generation, be aware of the plentitude of options out there. The Windward Solution and Ecrion are two of the most popular choices. Windward’s product team has created this comparison to help you understand the merits of both.

Throughout its lifetime, Ecrion has done one thing consistently: customer communication management and customer engagement management with a severely lacking document generation software.

Getting started with Ecrion is a struggle. They offer no free trials or demos without speaking directly to a salesman, and their brochures offer no real insight. Ecrion does offer a couple of tutorial videos on YouTube, but this gives a very limited and tailored overview of the software. However, it is apparent that their designer is a standalone software, so you will have to recreate your templates from scratch. Even after you take the time to replicate work that had already been done, you will be missing a significant amount of Microsoft Word’s functionality.

Windward simplifies this process by providing the user with Windward Designer and a much more reliable support system. With the help of Windward Designer, table and chart creation is quick and to the point, taking advantage of Microsoft Office and building upon it. Syntax errors become a thing of the past with Windward Designer doing the heavy lifting. The table below provides an overview of Ecrion and Windward, and its selection of key features.

Product Comparison Table

FEATURE	Ecrion	WINDWARD
Designer Environments	Ecrion Studio	Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
Template Formats	Custom .epr file type	DOCX, XLSX, PPTX, HTML
Output Formats	20+ output formats including PDF, HTML, Word, PowerPoint, TIFF and more	PDF, Printer, HTML, DOCX, WORDML, RTF, XLSX, XLS, PPTX, TXT, PostScript, EPS, SVG, PNG, JPG, GIF, BMP, CSV
Customization	Missing Microsoft Word functionality restricts the user’s ability to customize to their fullest extent.	Free form design allows users to intuitively make layout and formatting changes in Office a tool they know. Create modern looking reports that impress clients.
Data Selection	Wizards can help create simple things like charts and diagrams.	Drag/Drop Intuitive SQL, XPath, JPath (JSON), Salesforce, and OData wizards

		make selecting data as easy as creating an email filter.
Data Sources	XML, JSON, or XSL-FO	All SQL supported data sources plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File Based (XML, XLSX, Access) • Web Based (Salesforce, JSON, REST)
Support	Lacks a more thorough FAQ section. Little to no learning resources, support is lacking and takes a while to contact.	Windward provides the user with YouTube tutorials, free webinars, forums to discuss issues, strong internet presence, and more.
Learning Curve	Designer is similar but different from Microsoft Word, so some new functionality will have to be learned.	Easy design template in tools you know through the Microsoft Office Suite, create tags with drag and drop design/wizards.
Products		
Designer	Ecrion Studio	Windward Designer Developer System
Server	Ecrion Develop	Engine Licensing (Core or Thread) Engine 2 Core/Thread Test Systems – ½ of Production
Cloud	Cloud	N/A

Tag Creation

Windward Designer is quick and easy. By simply going to the Windward Artist tab in the Microsoft Office Ribbon, the user can select from a plentitude of tag options and edit the tag properties through simple steps thanks to the Tag Editing Wizard. Once a tag has been created, Windward provides the option to save the tag within a POD, allowing for the tag and its properties to be reused in a simple and efficient manner. With these advanced reporting tools, creating a complex document is a breeze.

Ecrion Studio has some of the same functionality, but lacks much of the rest. It has less tag options, less wizards for tag creation, and no documentation that I could find.

Coding Knowledge

If you are using a programming language other than C#, Java, or JavaScript you are out of luck with Ecrion. While the amount of programming needed to automate your document generation is similar between Ecrion and Windward, Windward's RESTful engine allows you to use any programming language to integrate right into your codebase. Windward also offers extensive documentation for its Java and .NET engines to help speed up the learning curve.

Summary

Windward offers convenience and a host of ease-of-use features unavailable to Ecrion users. With Windward you can:

- **Free your templates from formatting restrictions.**
Use Office's styles, charts, tables, shapes, and more to add life and clarity to your documents.
- **Report as you should: directly in the native Microsoft application.**
Windward produces your document to spec so you can continue working with your documents even after generation.
- **Select your data in a single step through intuitive wizards.**
Don't struggle getting data into your reports, let Windward's drag and drop wizards do the heavy lifting for you.
- **Combine tags, styles, and formatting all in reusable components.**
Windward's PODs feature allows capture of data sources, tags, text, charts or any combination of each, even entire documents.

Try Windward Today!

Visit www.windwardstudios.com and [download a free, 14-day trial](#) or [schedule a live demo](#).