JReport Mobile for iOS

JReport Mobile is an extension of JReport's dashboard system. It is relatively simplistic and does not allow dashboards to be edited within its own interface, meaning that it is just a display tool for dashboards from JReport. JReport Mobile is only available for iOS devices.

Interface/Appearance

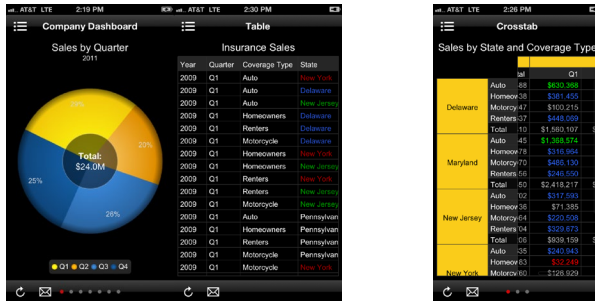 Left: JReport Mobile home screen

JReport mobile looks good and is easy to navigate. Dashboard created through JReport Server are displayed and labeled in a 4x3 grid on the home screen for selection. When a dashboard is selected, it will take about ten seconds to load, and each chart will load onto the dashboard with a brief animation. The charts combined with the animation are very stylish and contrast with the black background. Because the background cannot be changed, dashboards will often look very similar and lack customization other than the color of the sections of charts themselves. Users that create dashboards on the server can only choose from dashboards that divide the screen into one, two, three, and four even slots (as opposed to Dash's many interface layouts) as well as create multiple pages of a dashboard, so the layout isn't particularly advanced.

 Left: Up to four even slots are supported.

Text is uniform and optimized for Retina resolutions but charts themselves can look a bit pixelated. There is no true "full screen" mode (without title/footer bars) and tables do not fit inside individual dashboard spaces without needing scrolling, so it is clear that the iPad implementation is not intended for stationary/presentation purposes but only viewing on the go (in which case the flashy features included aren't necessary). Individual charts cannot be expanded to full screen within a

dashboard (as they can in Dash). Charts and tables look particularly good on the iPhone because they fit well within the screen parameters, but some tables do not as their header columns take up far too much space. It is possible to zoom in by double tapping on tables, but it is not possible to zoom back out without reloading the entire dashboard.

Above: Charts and tables look good on iPhone (left) unless the headers are too big and there isn't enough room for the content rows and columns (right).

Capabilities

JReport Mobile can display tables, crosstabs, line charts, pie charts (both 2D and 3D), area charts, and bar/bench charts. This is a decent start, but these options are very limited in comparison to charting capabilities of most desktop reporting software. Pie charts have limited interactivity as they can be rotated by touch like a wheel, but do not offer any drilldown capabilities other than slices displaying their label and associated value when being clicked on. Bar charts can display multiple sections on individual bars and multiple series and line charts are marked at intervals. Bar chart formats can be changed with a dynamic selection tool that appears when the charts are clicked and held for a few seconds. Crosstabs and tables can be scrolled through with a finger, but this is because often they do not fit within the dashboard space, which makes scrolling more of a chore than a feature. They are not interactive but can highlight certain values in different colors if selected on the server. There's no option to display numbers individually within a dashboard without displaying a full table.

Support

JReport Mobile is free for JReport Server owners. The app includes a link to a live chat window and an e-mail contact. There is a quick start video that is approximately five minutes long, but it is likely unnecessary for anyone using the app.

Takeaways

-JReport Mobile is a display extension rather than a fully functional dashboard interface

-It is as good as mobile offerings are for reporting services, but does not come near taking full advantage of what tablets are capable of.
-Charts and tables look good but most tables do not fit within dashboard slots.
-Tables must be scrolled through as they are too big
-Long load times and bugs like not being able to zoom out after zooming in make the experience feel less professional.
-Gimmicky features such as loading animations and rotating pi charts take the place of useful functions such as drill down and interactivity.
-JReport Mobile is best for viewing on the go rather than presenting due to lack of true full screen and required scrolling.
-The background is black and not customizable.
-Not many chart types are available.