Differences between IE Plugin and AJAX Client in QV in a nutshell

Performance

AJAX Client always communicates to a Web Server (either QVWS or IIS). Communication in this case is always between Client and WebServer on one side and WebServer and Server on the other. This will degrade performance, because security packets are transferred and the network traffic and the use of bandwidth increases

IE-Plugin accepts qvp:// pseudo URLs, so the communication is done directly between the QVS and the Client. This method is considerably faster, but requires ports 4747 and 4774 opened in both client and server both inbound and outbound. If the ports are not open communication will automatically be redirected over https:// (same performance as AJAX).

Deployment

IE-Plugin needs the latest Internet Explorer version and the plugin installed for each user. Mobile access or using a different browser is therefore not possible.

The AJAX Client does not require installation, it simply needs a browser which is able to display AJAX pages (allows rendering HTML/CSS/JavaScript), e.g. safari, firefox, chrome, IE.

Design

Limitations using IE-Plugin:

- Session collaboration not available
- No integration of extensions possible (!)

Limitations using AJAX:

- Simplified developer environment for server objects with less modification options compared to the IE-Plugin
- Rendering causes design-deviations compared to the client version.
- Microsoft office drag & drop not available
- Some macros & alerts will not work
- No zoom functionality, however browser zoom can be used.

Outlook:

The trend goes in the direction of browser based approach for QlikView. With HTML5 and other technologies, browsers have matured to the point where applications can be delivered with the same rich user functionality as desktop applications. It is expected that the IE Plugin will not be supported in the future by QlikView and the Ajax Client will replace it in the long run.

Conclusion:

At the moment, where possible, the IE-Plugin is the preferred solution because it is much faster in calculations and the design of the application resembles the one developed with the Windows client. In addition to that, creating server objects with the IE-Plugin works the same way like in the client, which makes it very user friendly.
The great disadvantages of the IE-Plugin are the lack of support of extensions and the deployment: each user has to have an up-to-date IE version including the plugin installed. Moreover, with each QlikView SR, a possible update of the plugin/browser has to be considered which requires high maintenance when many users are using QlikView.

With regards to the future (Ref. Outlook), e.g. in long-term projects, it is recommended to always keep the option open to be able to switch to a browser based approach.

References:

➢ QlikView community, http://community.qlikview.com/welcome
➢ Technical Brief: "QlikView Development and deployment architecture",
   http://www.qlikview.com/us/explore/resources
➢ White Paper: "The Vision for QlikView.next",
   http://www.qlikview.com/us/explore/resources

Appendix – Detailed AJAX limitations

General	- AJAX is able to send links to the document with selections/bookmarks in the URL - Ignores opacity in colours - When exporting to Excel, AJAX creates a .xls file for download instead of opening Excel and copying the values directly - When printing, AJAX exports charts as a .jpg file to the web browser. The actual printing task is done by using the Browser options
Listbox	No advanced search option available
Pivottable	- Expansion icon is centered vertically instead at the top "Collapse Dimension Rows" option not available - No "Fit columns to Data" option available – manual resizing is however possible - No "Equal Column Width" option available
Bar Chart	No limitations
Pie Chart	No limitations
Line Chart	"Set reference" option not available
Slider	Numbers on scale disappear sometimes
Search Object	No Dropdown list available
Input Boxes	In AJAX the user needs to explicitly hit "Enter" for the App to take the value
Custom Objects	Not supported in AJAX
Bookmark Object	Dropdown list on right click sometimes does not work.
Current Selections Box	No limitations
Container	No limitations