

# BIRT Fast Start Package

Fact Sheet

## Up and Running in Two Weeks

The BIRT Fast Start Package is a two week services engagement that provides an implemented BIRT reporting environment. This will include a BIRT component and template library; key developed reports; and documentation regarding the environment, report development process and recommended deployment approach.

### Let the Experts Show You How

The BIRT Fast Start Package is for the project that knows its application and deployment strategy, but needs to get started developing BIRT reports rapidly, with minimal trial and error. This is a project team that may be new to BIRT or just have other development priorities.

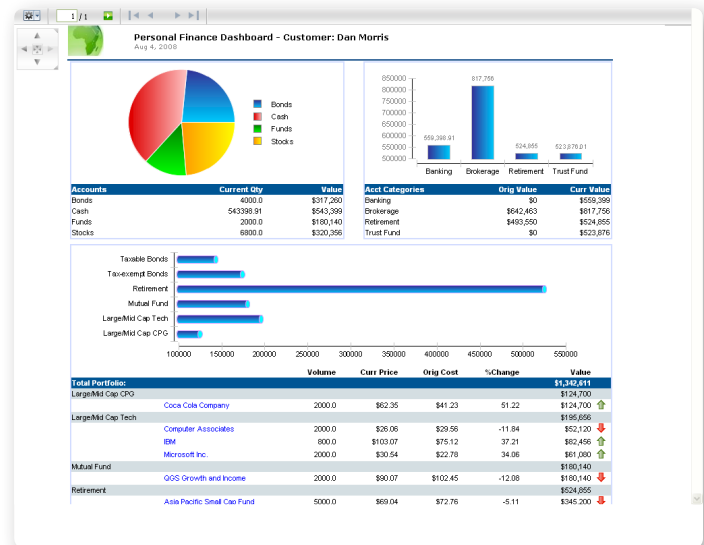
A certified BIRT consultant with access to the original developers of BIRT and other successful implementations will work onsite and create a BIRT installation and library with an initial set of reporting components, templates and reports to kick-start the report development process. The consultant will leave behind professional documentation regarding the new reporting environment that can be used by internal resources in the future.

### It is All about Rich Report Design

BIRT (Business Intelligence and Reporting Technology) changes the definition of reports, from their design and development to their final user experience. The key to ensuring success moving from traditional banded reports to highly interactive, rich content, and navigable reports, is to get started from day one using the best design and development approaches to assure reuse, developer productivity and the most compelling user experience.

#### Take Key Advantage of Component Reuse

The BIRT Fast Start Package will leave behind a working development framework to take advantage of one of the key contributors to the power of BIRT, reuse. The consultant will develop a library of reusable components and templates. Going forward, changes made to these components can be automatically propagated to report designs that use them. This isolates complexity so that roles and responsibilities can be distributed based on skill level for efficient development and maintenance, while maintaining design consistency. These components will encapsulate presentation, business logic, and data access so that one can be changed without affecting the others to make the reports easier to enhance and maintain.



The consultant will also assist allocating and mentoring internal resources for most effective utilization of these features during project development and deployment phases.

#### Completed Rich Information Reports

This engagement will provide the project team with reports assembled from the reusable components so that the team can create reports that are highly graphical and interactive and whose behavior changes based on content. These reports can be navigable from page to page and report to report.

After the engagement, these reports can be used by in-house developers as examples of how to design reports and compound reports; how to integrate images, graphics, and charts; and how to influence report behavior and display with parameters, conditional formatting, and formulas.

#### Deployment Architecture

The BIRT reporting technology was designed to live in a world of other systems; it is extensible, programmable and integrates well into existing applications and infrastructures. This engagement will leave you with a reporting environment that is right for you, implemented as a stand-alone service, embedded in web applications, or deployed as an end-user reporting portal.

## The Process

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### Getting Started

Prior to the engagement, a Professional Services Manager will work with you to gather any project requirements in order to assign the appropriate resources and tailor the agenda for the engagement. The Manager will need:

- Application requirements that pertain to any area of content creation, management and distribution
- Infrastructure requirements such as hardware platforms, operating systems, database servers, application servers, information technology standards and methodologies
- Project resources that will be involved in the engagement such as Developers; Business Analysts; or System, Database, or Application Administrators.

The actual day-by-day task schedule may be adjusted based on specific requirements, availability of customer resources and related factors.

### Day 1: Requirements Review and Installation

- Requirements Review
  - Review all defined objectives and requirements and verify and refine mutual understanding of the requirements
  - Set goals for the Fast Start delivery
  - Document any changes to the requirements and update engagement schedule
- Software Installation and Configuration
  - Install and configure all products to be used during the Fast Start engagement
  - Verifying network connectivity
  - Verify ability to connect to and extract data from the data source(s) being used during the engagement

### Day 2-4: Build the Development Framework

- Define the Reusable template and component library
  - Review project reporting needs and requirements
  - Define reusable reporting framework of components and templates
  - Define a standardized report style, layout and basic functionality
- Build reusable template and component library
  - Reusable framework
  - Reporting components
  - Report library
- Document framework

### Day 5-8: Develop Core Reports

- Develop selected BIRT reports using Development Framework
- Implement report navigation, searching, extraction, and hyperlinks as dictated by requirements
- Document report designs for future in-house use

### Day 9: Initial Report Deployment and Integration

- Deploy initial reports according to the application architectural strategy: embedded, report server and web deployment
- Document resulting approach for report deployment

### Day 10: Project Wrap-Up, Knowledge Transfer and Documentation

- Final review of the deliverables: reporting component and template library, reports, deployment and documentation
- Review requirements addressed during the engagement and discussion of recommended next steps
- Completion of any outstanding knowledge transfer activities

## BIRT Exchange and Actuate

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All services and training offered on BIRT Exchange are provided by Actuate Corporation, the sponsor for BIRT Exchange, and the BIRT Exchange team.

Actuate initiated and co-leads Eclipse BIRT (Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools), an Eclipse Foundation open source project. Actuate delivers value-add products, services, support, and training for BIRT.

### About Actuate Corporation

Actuate Corporation is dedicated to increasing the richness, interactivity and effectiveness of enterprise data, for everyone, everywhere. The company has over 4,200 customers globally in a diverse range of business areas including financial services and the public sector, many of which have a long history of deploying Actuate-based solutions for dozens, or even hundreds of their mission-critical applications. Founded in 1993, Actuate has headquarters in San Mateo, California, with offices worldwide. For more information on Actuate, visit the company's web site at [www.actuate.com](http://www.actuate.com).

### BIRT Exchange Community Site

Visit [www.birt-exchange.com](http://www.birt-exchange.com) for free trial software, forums, documentation and other resources.

### About Actuate Corporation

Actuate initiated and co-leads Eclipse BIRT (Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools), an Eclipse Foundation open source project. Actuate delivers support and training for BIRT, a product line that builds on BIRT, and products that support spreadsheets in Java.