

BIRT Strategy Workshop

Fact Sheet

Give Your Reporting Project the Right Start

The BIRT Strategy Workshop is a one day services engagement that results in a *Project Recommendations Document*, consisting of best practice recommendations based on project-specific needs in the areas of reporting application architecture; report design; data provisioning; report performance optimization; security and access control; and production migration.

Know Your Options

BIRT (Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools) redefines reporting, offering a wealth of options to development and reporting teams moving from traditional banded reports to interactive, rich-content BIRT reports. But with those options come decisions that need to be made. To ensure you make the right ones for your project, the BIRT Strategy Workshop provides a certified BIRT consultant who will spend the day leading the project team through a series of exercises to make the right decisions for your project. The consultant will then formally document those decisions and recommendations for the project team.

Reporting Architecture

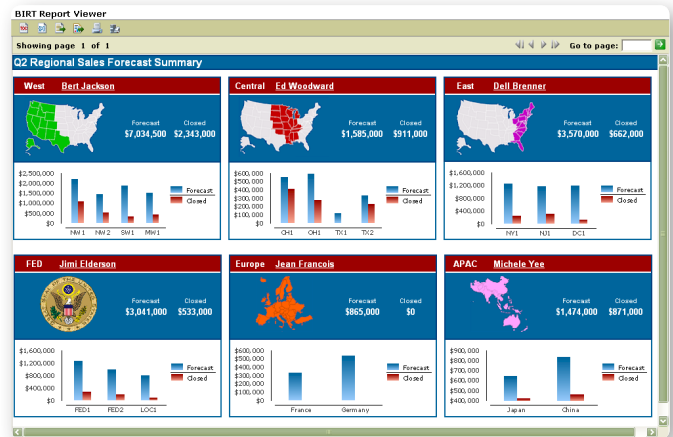
BIRT offers a variety of architectural options. The BIRT engine can be seamlessly embedded in a web application as an integral application function. BIRT reports can be served as an End-user Reporting Portal where users can run reports on-demand and even develop new reports. Or the BIRT engine can serve as a reporting service to one or more applications. The consultant will guide the project team to select the right fit for the project requirements.

Best Practice Report Design

BIRT supports the reuse of report components and designs through a common library. When built correctly, a BIRT report encapsulates presentation, business logic and data access for easier maintenance and so that development roles can be distributed based on skill level. The consultant will review the project requirements and recommend an approach to building a framework to leverage these BIRT capabilities.

Report Performance Optimization

The way BIRT reports are built can improve or hinder the performance of report generation and viewing. The consultant will review best practice report design, hierarchical design, report navigation development and query creation to optimize report performance.



Data Provisioning

BIRT provides multiple methods to access and present data within a rich information report. Access methods range from JDBC, Web Services APIs, XML, JavaScript, direct database drivers to an Open Data Access Framework to build custom data source access. In addition, the way the data source is designed can affect performance and increase the reusability of data components. The consultant will review and guide the project team through these options.

Security and Access Control

BIRT security can be implemented within a report; can come from an external directory or application; or be offered within a report server or web portal. The consultant will guide the project team through this decision process.

Production Best Practices

Finally, how BIRT reports are moved from development, to test to production can affect their maintainability and reliability. The consultant will work with the project team to develop a process right for the project at hand.

Programmability and Extensibility

Throughout the workshop, the consultant will keep in mind how the project team can benefit from the programmability and extensibility options within BIRT.

BIRT Strategy Workshop Agenda

Each workshop agenda is tailored to the unique needs of the application, project and team. The final agenda will be agreed on in advance.

Reporting Architecture

- Overview of BIRT architecture and engine framework
- Architecture options for the application at hand
- Engine implementation options
 - Embedded
 - Reporting Portal
 - External reporting service
- Architecture to ensure future flexibility and growth

Best Practice Report Design

- Review of project reporting needs and requirements
- Creating a reusable reporting framework to reduce development and maintenance effort
- Designing libraries of reusable report components
- Defining a set of report templates to meet the needs of multiple reports

Data Provisioning

- Review of project data source
- Best approach to access and provide the data to BIRT
- Best practice on creating reporting tables to optimize development efficiency and report performance

Report Performance Optimization

- Overview of how design affects performance
- Report Drill-down options (Hierarchical report creation vs. all-in-one report)
- Data provisioning Mapping

Security and Access Control

- Overview of BIRT security and access control options
 - Leveraging BIRT security capabilities
 - Leveraging existing security infrastructure
 - Creating application-specific security
- Project security and access control requirements
- Best approach to meet application security needs

Production Best Practices

- Moving from test to production
- User management

Deliverable

A *Project Recommendations Document* will be provided after the workshop capturing the decisions made and recommending select best practices for the project and application. The document will cover:

- Architecture
- Design Best Practices
- Reporting Best Practices
- Integration
- Scoping and Next Step Guidance

BIRT Exchange and Actuate

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.

BIRT Exchange Community Site

Visit 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.