

Eclipse BIRT and Actuate



Resources Sheet

BIRT (Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools) is a top-level Eclipse project and a modern, open source data visualization technology. BIRT has been downloaded more than 10 million times through 2010, making it the open source business intelligence offering with the most momentum.

Eclipse BIRT, the open source version of BIRT, includes three major components:

- **The Eclipse BIRT Designers** – designer tools for representing structured data and visualizations in a layout similar to a web page.
- **The Eclipse BIRT Report Engine and Java API's**– a collection of Java classes and API's used to execute BIRT reports and generate them in a variety of formats.
- **The Eclipse BIRT Sample Viewer** – available with the Eclipse BIRT Engine and Java APIs the Eclipse Viewer is a sample implementation of the BIRT Engine in a web application.

Actuate and BIRT

Actuate Corporation co-founded and leads the BIRT project. In addition to being a primary contributor of code to the BIRT project, Actuate offers value-added products, support, training, consulting services and an online community, BIRT Exchange, for BIRT users.

Value-added Products Built on Open Source BIRT

Actuate offers products that speed up BIRT implementation, automate and secure reporting, and provide interactive, AJAX-based report creation and customization. Actuate products that build on BIRT include:

Designers

Actuate offers BIRT Designers for developers of varying skills and needs who want to provide highly graphical reports and data visualizations to end users.

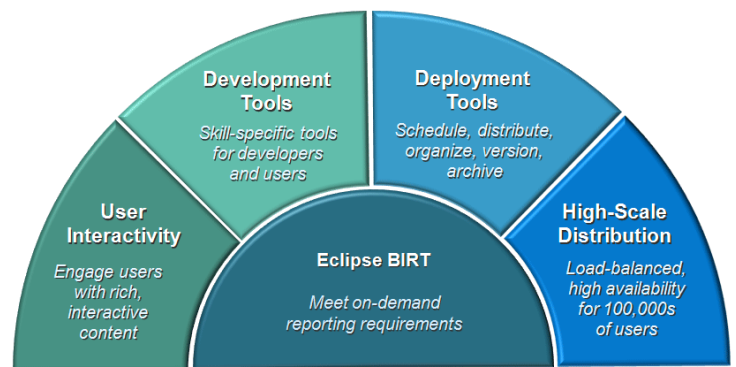
- **BIRT Designer Pro** – a standalone visual report development tool working outside the Eclipse IDE. It supports Flash Objects and programming with JavaScript for report customization. In addition, BIRT Designer Pro provides the functionality of the Eclipse IDE for creating and manipulating Eclipse projects.

- **BIRT Studio** – a web-based BIRT tool for business users to create BIRT reports. It is an AJAX-based tool accessed from a web browser with no client software to install.

Deployment Options

There are two architectural options built on the Eclipse BIRT Engine and Java APIs for report execution and generation on an ongoing basis:

- Actuate BIRT Deployment Kit - a lightweight J2EE report repository with a web front-end for users to browse, select, and run BIRT reports on demand.
- BIRT iServer Enterprise – a report server that includes all the features of BIRT iServer Express and additional facilities for high availability and scalability for enterprise-level deployment



Viewers

Actuate's BIRT Viewers provide enhanced interactivity and additional support for navigating and interacting with large HTML BIRT reports.

- **BIRT Viewer** - adds the ability for BIRT reports to contain Flash objects, quicker viewing with progressive report viewing and temporary file management, and easy security integration for added performance and usability.

BIRT Resources

- **BIRT Interactive Viewer** - a web-based, enduser tool for interactive report analysis and modification of BIRT reports. BIRT Interactive Viewer supports Flash objects with client-side JavaScript for interactivity.

BIRT Training

Instructor-led BIRT training classes are offered in-person and in live webinar format. Classes are available for experienced BIRT users as well as those new to BIRT and include the following topics:

Working with BIRT Designer

Working with BIRT Designer is a 4-day class intended for developers and project managers who have never used BIRT before, or have just started using it.

Integrating and Deploying BIRT

Integrating and Deploying BIRT is a three-day class that covers advanced scripting with BIRT reports, as well as using the BIRT Java APIs to embed BIRT reports in Java applications.

BIRT Reference Books

BIRT: A Field Guide to Reporting (The Eclipse Series)

Introduces BIRT reporting capabilities and presents how to develop and customize reports of progressive complexity using the BIRT Designer.

Integrating and Extending BIRT (The Eclipse Series)

Introduces programmers to the BIRT architecture, reporting framework, applications and engines. It includes installing, deploying, and troubleshooting the engines in an Enterprise Java application server environment.

BIRT Professional Services

With pre-defined Professional Services packages to choose from and the ability to define a custom engagement, BIRT Exchange consultants can help every organization make the most of BIRT.

Packaged services offerings include:

BIRT Report Factory

A pay-as-you-go service for designing reports or converting them from a legacy reporting technology in a short time frame, with minimal onsite resources and at a reasonable cost. The BIRT Report Factory combines senior BIRT consultant expertise with offsite development resources.

Best Practice Report Design

A five-day engagement for report development teams that want to learn to build a BIRT reusable component model; create highly rich, interactive and graphical reports; and determine integration architectures. It combines two days of classroom training and three days of mentoring.

BIRT Technical Support

Actuate offers technical support for the Eclipse BIRT and Actuate BIRT product line. Support incidents can be purchased in 5-packs or as an unlimited annual subscription.

BIRT Exchange community site

A community site for software development teams interested in designing BIRT reports, automating BIRT reports, and providing end users with ad-hoc and interactive reporting. Developers share ideas, technical tips and code on BIRT Exchange and can download Eclipse BIRT packages as well as free 45-day trial downloads of all Actuate products that build on BIRT.

Visit www.birt-exchange.com for more information.

The screenshot shows the BIRT Exchange website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Products & Services' and 'Community' tabs. Below that, a secondary navigation bar includes 'Forums', 'DevShare', 'Wiki', 'Blog', 'Downloads', 'Demos', 'Documentation', and 'Bug R'. The main content area displays a forum post titled 'DevShare: Using BIRT with Rational'. The post description states: 'DevShare is the place to share and discover useful information contributed by other developers in the BIRT community. You'll find code, report designs, helpful tips, tutorials, and more.' Below the text, there's a table listing forum posts. The first row is highlighted and shows a post titled 'UML model reporting with BIRT in Rational Software Modeler' with a rating of 5 stars and 9273 views.

Name	Topic	Date	Views	Rating
UML model reporting with BIRT in Rational Software Modeler Tutorial on building BIRT reports from UML models	Using BIRT with Rational	Sep 03, 2008	9273	☆☆☆☆☆

About Actuate Corporation

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