



# *Journeying into the Web 2.0 World*

**WHEN THE HOME SHOPPING NETWORK** needed a custom-designed, reliable and high-performance software solution based on Open Source and Java, they needed someone to help them along in the process. While they recognized the need for such a solution to improve their business and maximize their developers' productivity, they also knew they didn't have the wherewithal to design or deploy it themselves. They wanted more than just a software solution; they needed a primer on the Web 2.0 world itself.

Now, Open Source and Java are no longer like foreign languages to the team at the Home Shopping Network. After a full-on education, they're completely adept at maneuvering through this new world and its more user-centered model, built out of collaboration and sharing.

Their instructors on this journey? Exadel. Based out of Concord, California, Exadel is a leading provider of custom Web 2.0 application software and professional services that help organizations deploy rich internet applications. Exadel specializes in delivering modern, scalable and cost-effective solutions that leverage their global delivery model and Open Source technologies to reduce application life-cycle costs and improve overall productivity.

Building on their commitment to Web 2.0, the company is an active participant in the Open Source community and is the original developer of Exadel Studio Pro, the Eclipse-based IDE that's now known as JBoss Developer Studio. Exadel developed the BIRT plug-in – available in the Open Source project JBoss Tools – which enables BIRT to be easily

deployed with JBoss technologies, including Seam Hibernate and RichFaces.

### How Does BIRT Fit In?

By integrating BIRT into the custom Web 2.0 applications they design for their customers, Exadel reduces the effort and time that traditionally goes into such a project, while improving clients' visibility into their enterprise data. They reuse BIRT in a number of application developments and are able pass the resulting cost savings on to their clients.

Exadel recently used BIRT in developing a complex invoice processing and budgeting application for a large financial services group serving millions of customers in 10 countries worldwide. When the company asked for customizable reporting dashboards and the ability to customize management reports, Exadel looked at their options: develop their own reporting engine or integrate a commercial product they had previous success with. The decision was a no-brainer. BIRT Studio, iServer Express, BIRT for iServer Express and the BIRT Interactive Viewer for iServer Express were integrated in record time.

JavaServer Faces (JSF) is used for user interface in the financial services application. JSF is a standard Java technology for building web applications. Furthermore, the UI was enriched with RichFaces. RichFaces, created by Exadel, is one of the most popular rich JSF component libraries today. RichFaces adds Ajax feature as well as large number of out-of-the-box rich controls.

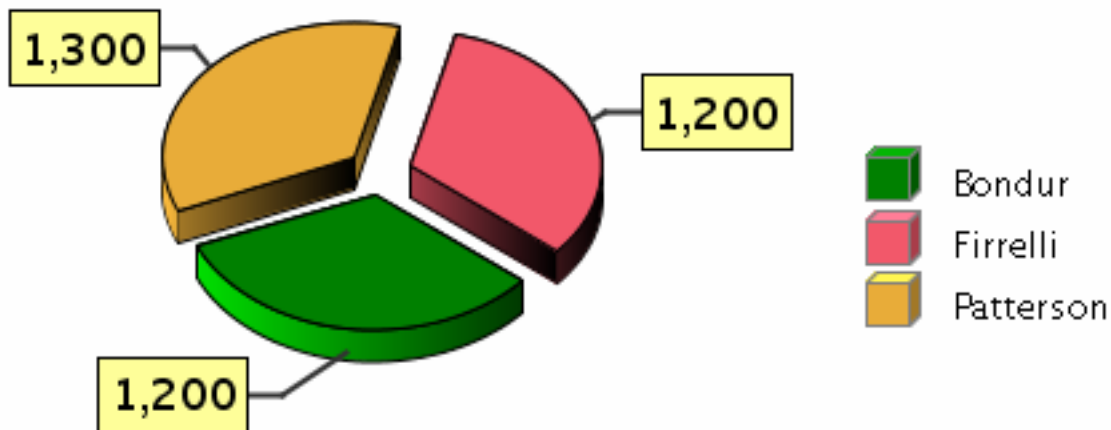
To use BIRT reports inside JSF, Exadel has developed the JSF4Actuate library. This library allows you to take any BIRT or Actuate report and wrap it as a JSF component. JSF developers

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can now seamlessly add powerful BIRT reports to any JSF page while BIRT developers gain another avenue for displaying reports inside a JSF page. In addition, report parameters and data can be updated on the JSF page, submitted to the server and update BIRT report via Ajax.

The integration of BIRT into the Exadel solutions has been smooth, while Exadel's clients have also found value in the added functionality. BIRT Studio provides Exadel's customers with the ability to create and modify their reports, providing business users with improved tools for decision making and for the effective management of their business.

For more information, visit [www.exadel.com](http://www.exadel.com).



[ Figure 9.1: BIRT report chart rendered as JSF component. ]