Business Intelligence & Reporting Tools (BIRT) Introduction

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Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools

Actuate Joins Eclipse Foundation as Strategic Developer and Board Member
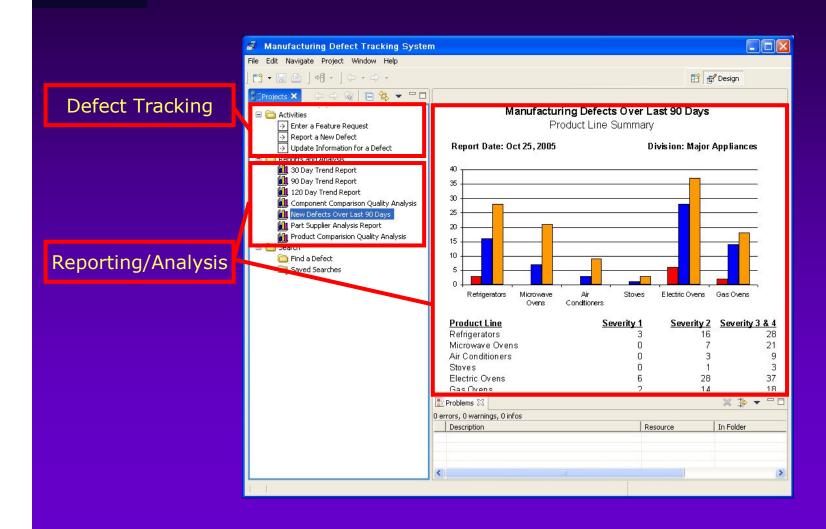
Actuate Proposes a Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools Project to the Eclipse Open-Source Community for Review

ACTUATE INTERNATIONAL USER CONFERENCE - LOS ANGELES – August 24, 2004 – The Eclipse Foundation, a community committed to the implementation of a universal platform for tools integration, and Actuate Corporation (NASDAQ: ACTU), the world leader in Enterprise Reporting Applications, today announced

- Actuate joins Eclipse as Strategic Developer and proposes BIRT
- Initiative is part of the Eclipse Open Source community
- Focused on embedded reporting needs for J2EE
- Addresses a key J2EE application development pain-point
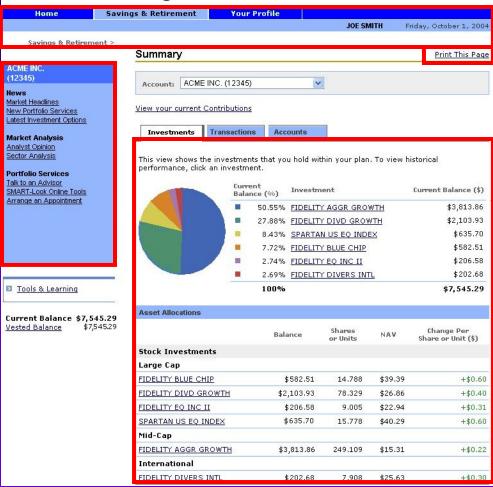
Example: Manufacturing Defect System

Defect Tracking

Reporting/Analysis

Example: Financial Web Site

Reporting Need is Widespread

Bank Account Transaction List

Utility Bill

Defect Tracking

Assets Under Management

Product Order Invoice

Deviation from Service Level Objectives

Telecom Statement Online and Printed

Daily Work Order Task List

Financial Budget Reports

Network Outages Frequency

Product Sales Reporting

Shipping Manifest

Web Site Traffic Analysis

Sales Commission Reports
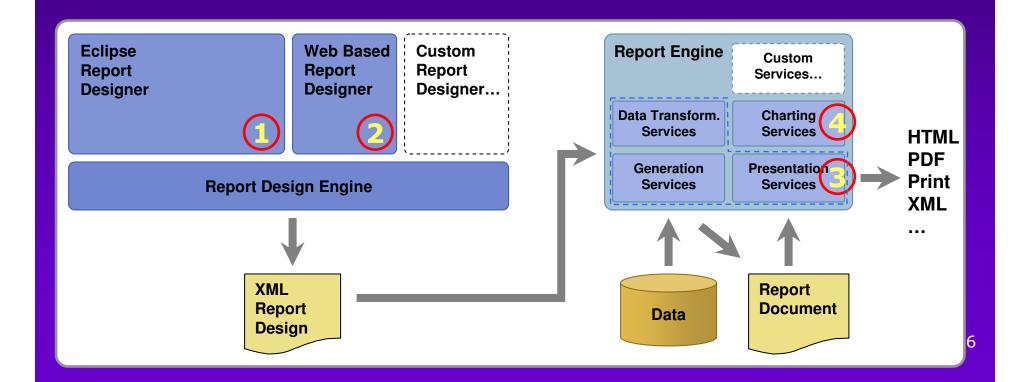
- Most applications have some type of reporting need
- Easy reporting is easy, but users demand more
- Real-world report development is challenging
  - Non-relational data sources
  - Complex sorting, aggregation and calculations on data
  - Professional and precise presentation of information
- User demand for flexible reporting is key to application success

What is the BIRT Project?

- **Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools based on Eclipse**
- **Initially focused on embedded reporting for Java developers**
- **Proposal has 4 initial components (projects)**

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Extensible Tools and Frameworks

- **Extensibility is a key principle for the BIRT project**
  - Enables unpredicted usage scenarios
- **Data source extensibility**
  - Application specific design-time query builders
  - Custom design and run-time data access
- **Data manipulation extensibility**
  - Incorporate complex business logic scripting
  - Access existing and new Java code
- **Visualization extensibility**
  - Build new visual data presentation 'widgets'
  - Extend charting with new chart types
- **Rendering reports for output**
  - Target report output for specific devices

BIRT Initial Target Users

- **Java developer**
  - Designs reports using Eclipse-based designer
  - Embed pre-designed reports in application
  - Provide "guided" report design capabilities in application
    - Highly parameterized reports
    - Custom, application specific report designer
  - Embed ad hoc query capabilities in application
- **Business User**
  - Uses report facilities provided by developer
  - Uses ad hoc query tool in application

Code Contributions and Collaboration

- Ground-up initiative targeting Java developer needs
- Actuate R&D project in this area since Q1, 2004
  - Actuate is donating all work from this project
- Project aims to leverage other open source
  - Example: Apache FOP (Formatting Objects Processor)
- Active collaboration with other Eclipse projects

- BIRT Project Proposal posted on August 24, 2004
- BIRT Project accepted on September 30, 2004

Oct 2004	- Publish initial roadmap and Release 1.0 Requirements - Release Draft XML Report Design Schema for comment - Eclipse infrastructure for BIRT up and running
Nov 2004	Initial code release for Report Object Model component
Jan – Mar 2005	Incremental code releases including Execution Engine, Eclipse Designer and Data Access components
Mar 2005	Release 1.0 of Eclipse Based Report Designer, Report Engine

Caveat: BIRT planning is in the early stages. All dates and features are tentative.
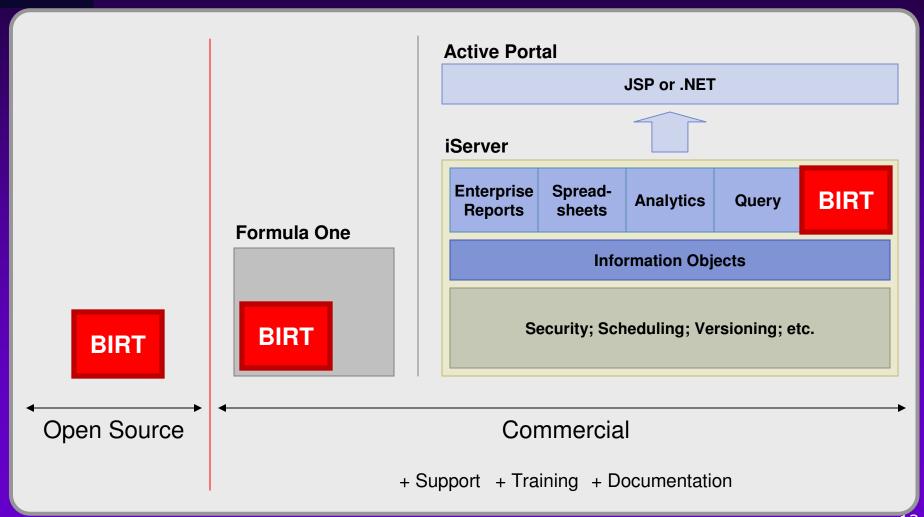
BIRT Release 1.0 Components

- **Report Designer plug-in for Eclipse framework** (1)
  - Graphical WYSIWYG report layout design tool
  - SQL Query editor
  - General support for common reports
  - Ability to run and preview reports
  - Output from tool is XML report design
- **Java Report Engine for deployment** (3)
  - Java class libraries for generating reports from design
  - Designed to be embedded into Java applications
  - Report output is HTML

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BIRT & Actuate Products

Active Portal

JSP or .NET

iServer

Enterprise Reports	Spread-sheets	Analytics	Query	**BIRT**

Information Objects

Security; Scheduling; Versioning; etc.

Formula One

BIRT

BIRT

Open Source

Commercial

+ Support   + Training   + Documentation

Project Contributors

- **Project Committers**
  Companies that are contributing committer's time to the project
  - Actuate (http://www.actuate.com)
  - Innovent Solutions (http://www.innoventsolutions.com)

- **Project Participants**
  Companies or entities that are providing feedback on requirements, design or testing the software
  - Siebel (http://www.siebel.com)
  - PeopleSoft (http://www.peoplesoft.com)
  - Data Beacon (http://www.databeacon.com)
  - Niku Corporation (http://www.niku.com)
  - State Street Bank (http://www.statestreetbank.com)
  - Accept Software Corporation (http://www.acceptsoft.com)
  - Tsinghua University (Beijing, China) (http://www.sist.tsinghua.edu.cn/Article_show_eng1.asp?articleID=486 and http://www.sist.tsinghua.edu.cn/index.asp)

Participating in the BIRT Community

- **BIRT pages on Eclipse web site are up and running**
  - http://www.eclipse.org/birt
  - Watch out for new content in coming weeks
- **Provide feedback and comments via newsgroup**
  - news://news.eclipse.org/eclipse.birt
- **Participate through the Eclipse development process**
  - See http://www.eclipse.org > Projects
- **Contact Project Management Committee (PMC)**
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