ACTUATE
The BIRT Company™

The Differences Between BIRT Designers

The BIRT Designers are for developers of varying skills and needs who want to provide highly graphical reports and data visualizations to meet the diverse and ever-changing needs of end users without developing and maintaining all the code by hand.

There are four BIRT Designers and they all share a common set of features which include

- Web 2.0 style reports and data visualizations
- Web-based design metaphor
- Wizards, editors and builders
- Component-based model for reuse
- Extensible and flexible data access and handling
- Standards-based programmability
- Localization and i18n

More information regarding the common set of features is available in the "Common Features of all BIRT Designers" document.

The tables below summarize the differences between each of the four designers.

	Eclipse BIRT Report RCP Designer	Eclipse BIRT Report Designer All-in-One and Framework* (*plug-in version of All-in-One)	BIRT Designer Professional	BIRT Studio
Target User				
Eclipse, Java, PHP and report developers creating and maintaining reports and components with or without the Eclipse IDE.		√	√	
Report developers creating and maintaining reports and components without the Eclipse IDE.	√			
Business users creating and maintaining reports from pre-defined components over the web without the Eclipse IDE				√
Eclipse Integration				
Common Eclipse BIRT code base	√	√	√	√
Eclipse Java Debugger - identifies java-based script errors.		√	√	
Eclipse Project Management features - organizes related reports, source code management via CVS		√	√	
Eclipse-based Tools – accesses perspectives, project workspaces, and other development tools.		√	√	

	Eclipse BIRT Report RCP Designer	Eclipse BIRT Report Designer All-in-One and Framework* (*plug-in version of All-in-One)	BIRT Designer Professional	BIRT Studio
Web 2.0 Style Reports and Data Visualizations				
Common BIRT Web 2.0 Style Report and Data Visualization Features*	√	√	√	√
Out-of-the-box support for Flash Objects			√	can use
Pre-built Flash Object Library			√	can use
HTML Button support to facilitate client application integration			√	√
Auto-suggest parameter support			√	√
HTML5 Charts			√	√
Web Based Design Metaphor				
Common BIRT Web-based design metaphor*	√	√	√	√
Wizards, Editors, and Builders				
Design Helpers	√	√	√	subset
Task-specific Editors	√	√	√	
Task-Specific Builder	√	√	√	subset
Component-Based Model Reuse				
Use Component Libraries and Design Templates	√	√	√	√
Create Component Libraries and Design Templates	√	√	√	
Extensible, Flexible Data Access and Handling				
Common BIRT data access and handling features*	√	√	√	can use
Built-in Drivers - SQL Server, Oracle, DB2, Sybase, Informix, MySQL			√	can use
BIRT Report as a data source			√	can use
Metadata Layer – with Actuate's Information Objects			√	can use
Secure data access within a report based on users and roles			√	can use
Standard-based Programmability				
Programmatic control of report execution using JavaScript or Java	√	√	√	can use
Java and Eclipse IDE capabilities to further control report layout, data access, data transformation and report rendering with Java programs.		√	√	
Localization and i18n				
Common BIRT Localization and i18 features	√	√	√	√
Designer Extensibility				
Data Access – add custom methods, including runtime components for fetching data and UI	√	√	√	can use

	Eclipse BIRT Report RCP Designer	Eclipse BIRT Report Designer All-in-One and Framework* (*plug-in version of All-in-One)	BIRT Designer Professional	BIRT Studio
Report Elements – add custom items to existing palette of items	√	√	√	can use
Output Format – add emitter to output custom format	√	√	√	can use
Charts and Graphs – add custom formats into charting engine	√	√	√	can use
Cheat Sheets – add application-specific help	√	√	√	
Actuate-specific Extensions				
Single Click Installer			√	√
BIRT Web Viewer – unlimited deployment			√	
Publish to BIRT iServer Express and BIRT iServer Enterprise			√	√
Platform Support				
Windows	√	√	√	√
Linux		√		√
Unix				√
Mac OS X		√		√

** See "Common Features of all BIRT Designers" Document*