



Eclipse BIRT 2.5 Release Review

May 27, 2009

Eclipse BIRT PMC



Introduction: BIRT 2.5 Release Review



- BIRT 2.5 is targeted for availability June 24, 2009
 - Based on Eclipse Platform 3.5
 - Part of Galileo Simultaneous Release
- Major Milestone History
 - 1.0, Jun 2005; 1.0.1, Jul 2005
 - 2.0, Jan 2006; 2.0.1, Feb 2006
 - 2.1, Jun 2006; 2.1.1 Sep, 2006; 2.1.2, Feb 2007; 2.1.3, Jul 2007
 - 2.2, Jun 2007; 2.2.1 Oct 2007; 2.2.2, Feb 2008
 - 2.3, Jun 2008; 2.3.1 Sep, 2008; 2.3.2, Feb 2009
- Release alignment
 - “Major” release designation determined by feature set
 - Summer releases will be aligned with Eclipse release train

Features: BIRT 2.5 Requirements Process



- Requirements gathered from multiple sources:
 - Enhancement requests already entered in Bugzilla
 - Discussions in BIRT newsgroup
 - Innovation/experience from within the BIRT project team
- Requirements captured in Bugzilla
 - Community encouraged to enter all enhancements into Bugzilla for planning and tracking
- BIRT 2.5 Plan developed and published on Eclipse.org

Features: Summary of BIRT 2.5 Objectives & Themes



- Integrate and provide BIRT as part of the Galileo Simultaneous Release
 - Tested with and integrates components from Galileo release
 - Support use of BIRT in a wide range of Eclipse 3.5 applications
 - Ensures BIRT technology is easily accessible to Eclipse 3.5 community
- Specific additional features can be grouped into broad categories
 - Report Layout (e.g. display page aggregates, consistency of report output layout with the design layout, consistent style sheet support across all report output formats)
 - Crosstab enhancements (e.g. apply filter on any cube dimension)
 - Data Access (e.g. support parameters for XML data sources)
 - Charts (e.g. multiple drill-downs, control chart output when dataset is empty)
 - Scripting (e.g. control page breaks through scripts, use expressions as default parameter values)
 - Parameters (e.g. multiple default values for list-box parameters)
 - Bidirectional enhancements (e.g. data source layout transformations, enhanced runtime support)
 - Performance improvements (e.g. improved performance of Java Event Handlers)
 - Usability improvements (e.g. extension point for custom Report Templates, create connection profile from existing data source)
- Incorporate Eclipse Themes & Priorities where applicable

For Details, refer to BIRT 2.5 Release Plan and Bugzilla

Non-Code Aspects: Documentation & Examples

- BIRT 2.5 download includes online documentation
 - Created by professional technical writers
- Tutorials and examples available on www.eclipse.org/birt
 - How-To recorded demos
 - Articles on common BIRT usage scenarios
 - Examples of common reports, code snippets
- BIRT includes an embedded Derby sample database
 - Easy to learn how to use BIRT with tutorials and examples
 - Standard SQL data that can easily be loaded into other DBs
- New & Noteworthy documents
 - Have been created for Milestone releases
 - Comprehensive BIRT 2.5 N&N will be created for final 2.5 release



APIs: Overview

- BIRT Report Engine API moved to “Platform” status in BIRT 2.5
- Community feedback on APIs prompted a number of enhancements and improvements in BIRT 2.5
- BIRT 2.5 supports BIRT 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 APIs that are in use by the community
 - No compatibility claimed for BIRT 1.0.x and 2.0.x APIs
- Any compatibility issues should be reported as defects and we will work to address them where possible

APIs: Status



Name	Status	Doc Status	Test Cases	# of Clients	Backward Compatible	Maturity
BIRT Report Object Model	Platform	Comprehensive document	Yes	2+	Indefinite	Platform
BIRT Design Engine API	Platform	Overview, How To, Examples and JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x, 2.2.x, 2.3.x	Mature
BIRT Report Engine API	Platform	Overview, How To, Examples and JavaDoc	Yes	3+	2.1.x , 2.2.x, 2.3.x	Mature
BIRT Report Scripting API	Provisional	JavaDoc , Examples	Yes	N/A	2.0.x, 2.1.x , 2.2.x	Medium
BIRT Report Item Extension API	Provisional	Overview , Examples and JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x , 2.2.x , 2.3.x	High
BIRT Report Rendering Extension API	Provisional	JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x , 2.2.x , 2.3.x	Medium
BIRT Chart Engine API	Provisional	Overview, FAQ, Model Specification and JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x , 2.2.x , 2.3.x	Medium
BIRT Chart Type Extension API	Provisional	JavaDoc	Yes	5+	2.1.x , 2.2.x , 2.3.x	Medium
BIRT Chart Device Rendering Extension API	Provisional	JavaDoc	Yes	3+	2.1.x , 2.2.x , 2.3.x	Medium

API Contract Compatibility: BIRT 2.5 is upwards contract-compatible with BIRT 2.1.x, 2.2.x and 2.3.x to the greatest extent possible. All incompatibility exceptions will be documented. Downward contract compatibility is not supported. There is no guarantee that compliance with BIRT 2.5 APIs will ensure compliance with BIRT 2.1.x; 2.2.x, 2.3.x APIs. Refer to general Eclipse document on [Evolving APIs](#) for a discussion of the kinds of API changes that maintain contract compatibility.

Architectural Items



- No changes from BIRT 2.3

Tool Usability



- BIRT follows OS and Eclipse UI standards and capabilities
- BIRT 2.5 includes UI enhancements in response to community feedback on usability

End of Life Issues



- No features or APIs are moving into End of Life in this release

Bugzilla Statistics



- Dedicated professional QA team testing BIRT
- Strong participation in testing from Community
- All bugs are tracked through Bugzilla
- All automated tests/JUnit tests are in CVS

Bugzilla Statistics for BIRT 2.5



	2.5.0	2.5.0 M1	2.5.0 M2	2.5.0 M4	2.5.0 M5	2.5.0 M6	2.5.0 M7	2.5.0 RC0	2.5.0 RC1	2.5.0 RC2	2.5.0 RC3	2.5.0 RC4	2.5 Totals	2.5.1	2.5.2	Future
blocker	2			1	4	8	8	1	4	4	3		35			7
critical	6			2	5	10	11		4	4			42	1	1	4
enhancement	35			20	10	25	29		16	8	2		145	10	13	381
major	16			3	4	22	22	2	18	5	3		95	3	1	28
minor	2				2	4	4		3	2	1		18	2		18
normal	206	5	2	55	83	209	296	11	117	89	31	8	1112	43	16	405
trivial				1			1						2			3
Total	267	5	2	82	108	278	371	14	162	112	40	8	1449	59	31	846

Bug statistics as of May 27, 2009

Standards



- BIRT is designed to work in a standards-based environment
 - Eclipse plug-ins for design-time activities
 - General Java class libraries for deployment
 - Ability to render reports as HTML pages for output
 - Example deployment implementation for Apache Tomcat
- BIRT uses JavaScript for scripting (Mozilla Rhino engine)
 - Conforms to ECMA-262 standard
 - Reference: <http://www.mozilla.org/js/>
- BIRT Leverages other open source in the project where possible
 - Examples: Flute; Tomcat; Derby

UI Usability



- Internationalization & Localization
 - BIRT uses Eclipse and Java localization/internationalization infrastructure
 - Report architecture enables easy localization of labels/text in actual reports
 - BIRT is tested for 23 locales:
 - Group 1 languages - German, Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Brazilian Portuguese, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese
 - Group 2 CEMA languages - Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Russian
 - Group 2a additional languages - Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Greek, Norwegian, Portuguese, Swedish and Turkish
 - Group Bidi languages - Arabic and Hebrew
- Accessibility
 - BIRT follows standard Eclipse Accessibility capabilities

Schedule



- BIRT 2.5 adopted Eclipse Galileo Simultaneous Release Schedule

11/19/2008	2.5 M3
01/12/2009	2.5 M4
02/16/2009	2.5 M5
03/23/2009	2.5 M6
05/11/2009	2.5 M7
05/25/2009	2.5 RC1
06/01/2009	2.5 RC2
06/08/2009	2.5 RC3
06/15/2009	2.5 RC4
06/26/2009	2.5 Galileo

Community: Process



- Open and inclusive release planning and tracking processes
 - Bugzilla used to request and track all defects and enhancements
- All contributions made directly to Eclipse CVS
 - Nightly, stable, and release builds available to the community
- Project specific process details are posted on project web site
 - <http://www.eclipse.org/birt/phoenix/project/>
- Weekly PMC meeting with minutes posted for community access
 - http://wiki.eclipse.org/BIRT_PMC_Minutes

Community: Activity



- Open communications via 6 BIRT mailing lists and 1 newsgroup
 - Project activities communicated via mailing lists for PMC/general
 - One mailing list for each sub-project
 - Plus low-noise news only mailing list
- Newsgroup is very active
 - Many how-to questions and discussions
 - Typically same day responses from BIRT team
 - Have adjusted projects in response to newsgroup feedback
- Dedicated resources generating content for BIRT community at Eclipse.org
 - BIRT project pages
 - BIRT Wiki
- Coordination/cooperation between other open source projects
 - TPTP incorporates BIRT functionality
 - BIRT Committers also work on DTP project; DTP is key component of BIRT

Community: Activity



- Articles and Technical Content Placement on BIRT Exchange
 - <http://www.birt-exchange.org/devshare/>
- Conferences and User Groups
 - Eclipse Summit Europe, November 2008
 - EclipseCon 2009, March 2009
 - JAX Germany, April 2009
 - Presented on BIRT at many other conferences and events during last 12 months
- Blogging
 - BIRT World: <http://birtworld.blogspot.com>
 - Promoting BIRT on many other sites such as TheServerSide, JavaLobby and EclipseZone
- Four books available:
 - BIRT: A Field Guide to Reporting (Addison-Wesley)
 - Integrating and Extending BIRT (Addison-Wesley)
 - Practical Data Analysis and Reporting with BIRT (Packt Publishing)
 - Eclipse BIRT: Business Intelligence and Reporting Tool (Xpert.press) (German)

Intellectual Property



- Accepting Contributions (In-Bound Licensing)
 - All BIRT code provided under [Eclipse Public License \(EPL\)](#)
 - BIRT downloads include only 3rd party (non-EPL) components approved by EMO
- Licensing Contributions (Out-Bound Licensing)
 - BIRT 2.5 provided under EPL
 - About files and license files are complete and correct
- Due Diligence and Record Keeping
 - All BIRT Committers completed Committer Agreement & approved by PMC/EMO
 - PMC maintains list of all 3rd-party (non-EPL) components used by BIRT
 - 3rd party components completed IP review process and approval by EMO
 - Exception: CQ3176 Mozilla Rhino Version: 1.7R1 Pending EMO Review
- Project Log maintained by the PMC
 - Project log is being updated and will be complete by release date
 - Automated IP Log: http://www.eclipse.org/projects/ip_log.php?projectid=birt

Eclipse Foundation IP Policy: http://www.eclipse.org/org/documents/Eclipse_IP_Policy.pdf

Project Plan



- BIRT 2.5 scheduled for Jun 24, 2009
 - Based on and supports Eclipse 3.5
 - Part of Eclipse Galileo Simultaneous Release
- BIRT 2.5.1 tentatively scheduled for Q4 2009
 - Maintenance release
 - Synchronized and tested with Eclipse Fall Release
 - Exact date pending on planned date for Eclipse Fall Release
- Next major BIRT release tentatively targeted for Jun 2010
 - Synchronized with Eclipse Simultaneous Release
 - Feature set and planning will determine release designation
 - Detailed planning and release designation TBD

Thanks and...



Feedback, Feedback, Feedback!

- Please provide us with your feedback, requirements, issues
- Submit enhancement requests / defects in Bugzilla
https://bugs.eclipse.org/bugs/enter_bug.cgi?product=BIRT
- Submit questions / issues in the BIRT Newsgroup:
<news://news.eclipse.org/eclipse.birt>
- Engage with the PMC to contribute:
birt-pmc@eclipse.org or individual PMC members (see <http://www.eclipse.org/birt/phenix/project/pmc.php>)