



# Eclipse BIRT 2.5 Release Review (Subset)

May 27, 2009

## Eclipse BIRT PMC



## 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](http://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

# 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 und Reporting Tool (Xpert.press) (German)