



Eclipse BIRT 4.3 Release Review

June 5, 2013

Eclipse BIRT PMC



Introduction: BIRT 4.3 Release Review



- BIRT 4.3 is targeted for availability June 26, 2013
 - Based on Eclipse Platform 4.3
 - Part of Kepler Simultaneous Release
- Recent Release History
 - 2.5, Jun 2009; 2.5.1 Sep, 2009; 2.5.2, Feb 2010
 - 2.6, Jun 2010; 2.6.1 Sep, 2010; 2.6.2, Feb 2011
 - 3.7, Jun 2011; 3.7.1 Sep, 2011; 3.7.2, Feb 2012
 - 4.2, Jun 2012; 4.2.1 Sep, 2012; 4.2.2, Feb 2013
- Release alignment
 - “Major” release designation determined by feature set
 - Service Releases will be aligned with Eclipse release train

Features: BIRT 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 Plan developed and published on Eclipse.org

Features: Summary of BIRT 4.3 Objectives & Themes



- Integrate and provide BIRT as part of the Kepler Simultaneous Release
 - Tested with and integrates components from the Simultaneous release
 - Support use of BIRT in a wide range of Eclipse 4.3 applications
 - Ensures BIRT technology is easily accessible to Eclipse 4.3 community
- Significant new features in this release are:
 - Access to MongoDB as a data source
 - Access to Apache Cassandra as a data source
 - Access to POJOs as a data source
 - Improved export to Microsoft PowerPoint
 - Improved export to Microsoft Word
 - Improved export to Microsoft Excel
- Incorporate Eclipse Themes & Priorities where applicable

For Details, refer to BIRT Release Plan and Bugzilla

Non-Code Aspects: Documentation & Examples

- BIRT 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 N&N will be created for final release



APIs: Overview

- BIRT 4.3 supports BIRT 2.1 to 4.2 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
- BIRT Migration Guide is maintained with specific notes:
 - http://wiki.eclipse.org/BIRT_Migration_Guide

APIs: Status



Name	Status	Doc Status	Test Cases	# of Clients	Backward Compatible	Maturity
BIRT Report Object Model	Platform	Comprehensive document	Yes	2+	Indefinite	Mature
BIRT Design Engine API	Platform	Overview, How To, Examples and JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature
BIRT Report Engine API	Platform	Overview, How To, Examples and JavaDoc	Yes	3+	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature
BIRT Report Scripting API	Provisional	JavaDoc , Examples	Yes	N/A	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature
BIRT Report Item Extension API	Provisional	Overview , Examples and JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature
BIRT Report Rendering Extension API	Provisional	JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature
BIRT Chart Engine API	Provisional	Overview, FAQ, Model Specification and JavaDoc	Yes	2+	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature
BIRT Chart Type Extension API	Provisional	JavaDoc	Yes	5+	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature
BIRT Chart Device Rendering Extension API	Provisional	JavaDoc	Yes	3+	2.1.x – 4.2.x	Mature

API Contract Compatibility: BIRT 4.3is upwards contract-compatible with BIRT 2.1.x, to 4.3.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 4.3 APIs will ensure compliance with BIRT 2.1.x to 4.2.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



- BIRT 4.3 leverages Eclipse Platform 4.3 as the primary workbench UI
 - Eclipse Platform 3.8 continues to supported as a secondary UI
- API compatibility with previous BIRT releases

Tool Usability



- BIRT follows OS and Eclipse UI standards and capabilities
- BIRT 4.3 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 4.3



	4.3.0 M6	4.3.0 RC1	4.3.0 RC2	4.3.0 RC3	4.3.0	4.3 Total	Future
blocker					1	1	3
critical							13
enhancement				1	2	3	500
major		5			1	6	34
minor	1	3			2	6	23
normal		12	13	1	11	37	586
trivial					1	1	2
Total		20	13	2	18	54	1161

Bug statistics as of May 28, 2013

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 24 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, Turkish and Thai
 - Group Bidi languages - Arabic and Hebrew

- Accessibility
 - BIRT follows standard Eclipse Accessibility capabilities

Schedule



- BIRT 4.3 adopted Eclipse Kepler Simultaneous Release Schedule:
 - http://wiki.eclipse.org/Kepler/Simultaneous_Release_Plan

Community: Process



- Open and inclusive release planning and tracking processes
 - Bugzilla used to request and track defects and enhancements
- For Kepler development cycle, some contributions are checked into Eclipse GIT directly and other contributions are first tested in a local GIT build before being pushed to the Eclipse GIT system
- For post-Kepler development, all contributions will be checked into Eclipse GIT directly
- 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 conference call

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
 - BIRT Committers also work on DTP project; DTP is key component of BIRT
 - Other Eclipse projects utilize BIRT

Community: Activity



- Articles and Technical Content Placement on BIRT Exchange
 - <http://www.birt-exchange.org/devshare/>
- Conferences and User Groups
 - EclipseCon Europe 2012
 - EclipseCon 2013
 - Presented on BIRT at other conferences and events during last 12 months
- Blogging
 - BIRT World: <http://birtworld.blogspot.com>
 - Promoting BIRT on other sites
- Six 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)
 - BIRT for Beginners (lulu.com)
 - BIRT Best Practices

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 4.3 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

- Project Log maintained by the PMC
 - Project log is being updated and will be complete by release date
 - IP Log: <http://www.eclipse.org/birt/project-info/BIRTProjectLog4.3.html>

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

Project Plan



- BIRT 4.3 scheduled for June 26, 2013
 - Based on and supports Eclipse 4.3
 - Also provides support for Eclipse 3.8
 - Part of Eclipse Kepler Simultaneous Release
- BIRT 4.3.1 scheduled for Q4 2013
 - Maintenance release
 - Synchronized and tested with Eclipse SR1 Release
 - Exact date pending on planned date for Eclipse SR1 Release
- Next major BIRT release targeted for June 2014
 - Part of Eclipse Simultaneous Release
 - 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/phoenix/project/pmc.php>)