Vanilla

BIRT Plugins

How to add and use Vanilla Birt plugins

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Version 3.4

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Introduction

The Vanilla Birt plugins allow Birt designers to use Vanilla components into reports.
Thanks to the Vanilla Birt plugins, you can use :

- The FreeMetadata abstract layer (business views)
- ODA Data Sources
- Flash charts in your reports
- Flash maps in your reports
- The authentified Web Portal of Vanilla for consultation
- Scheduling thanks to the BiProcessManager module
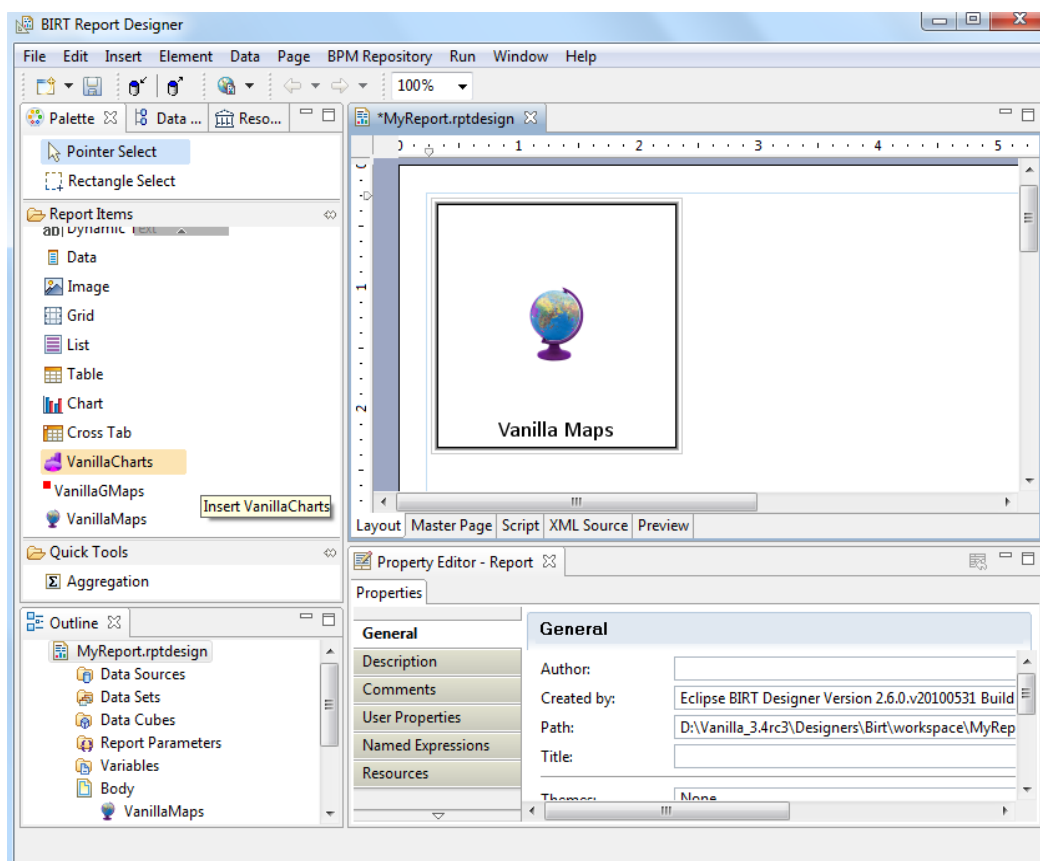
Plugins overview

Menus description

The only added menu is the 'BPM Repository' menu. Thanks to this one, you can :

- Publish your report into a Vanilla repository in order to allow users accessing to it
- Download a report from a Vanilla repository into your hard drive

BPM Repository	Run	Window	Help
Load Report From Repository			
Save Report To Repository			
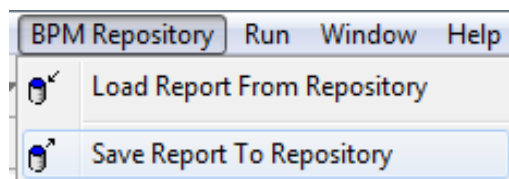
Interfaces description

The added items in the Birt palette are the following ones :

- Vanilla Charts : Add a flash chart into your Birt report

VanillaCharts

- Vanilla Maps : Add a flash map into your Birt report

VanillaMaps

Integration with the other Vanilla components

The Vanilla plugins interact with several Vanilla components. We can quote :

- FreeMetadata for requests through abstract business layer
- Norparena for adding and definition of flash maps
- Vanilla Web Portal for consultation of reports on an authenticated platform
- BiProcessManager for scheduling

About this documentation

This documentation is about Vanilla plugins for Birt (version 3.4, released April 2011).

It describes the main actions and the general use and puts aside minor bugs.

Architecture & Installation

Plugins download

The Vanilla Birt plugins are available for download :

　　　　http://www.bpm-conseil.com (download section)

Additional download

Last version of Vanilla (3.4) is available for download :

http://www.bpm-conseil.com (download section)

Designers packages are available for download :

http://www.bpm-conseil.com (download section)

Administration packages are available for download :

http://www.bpm-conseil.com (download section)
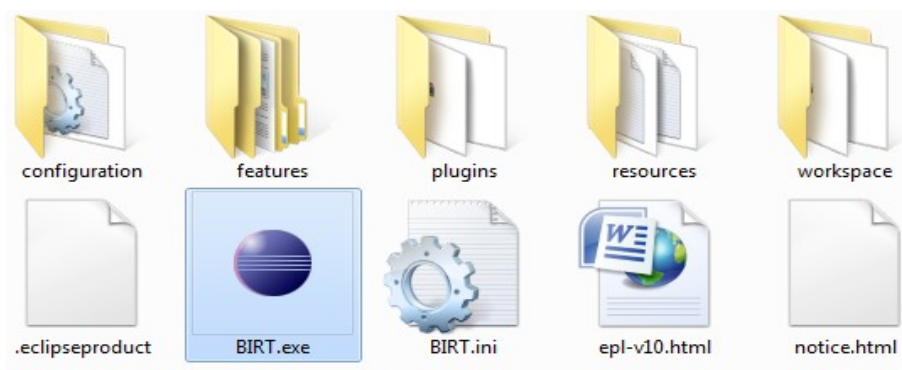
Installation

Unzip BirtPlugins package inside your Birt designer (fusion of folders).

Run Birt.exe.
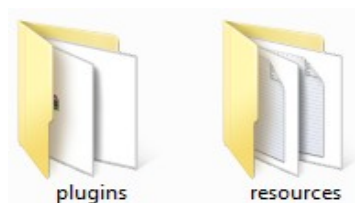
Folders of BirtPlugins package

Birt designer within the Vanilla plugins

Start with Vanilla plugins for Birt

How to use FreeMetadata Data Source

Using a FreeMetadata model as a data source for your report enables to create request and show information through a business layer.

Once more, FreeMetadata model are secured. Thanks to this, all the data which are in the report will be filtered by the user group (documentation of FreeMetadata module available).
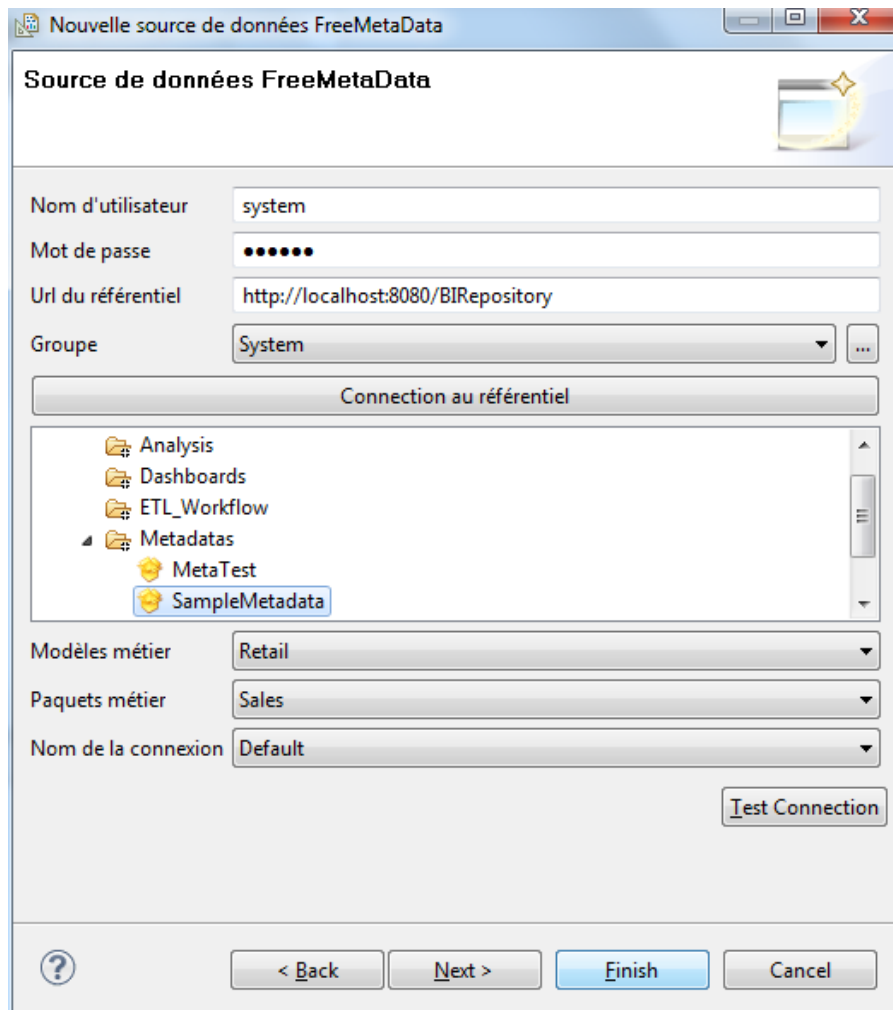
Definition of FMDT Data Source

Select Vanilla FreeMetadata ODA Data Source in the list.
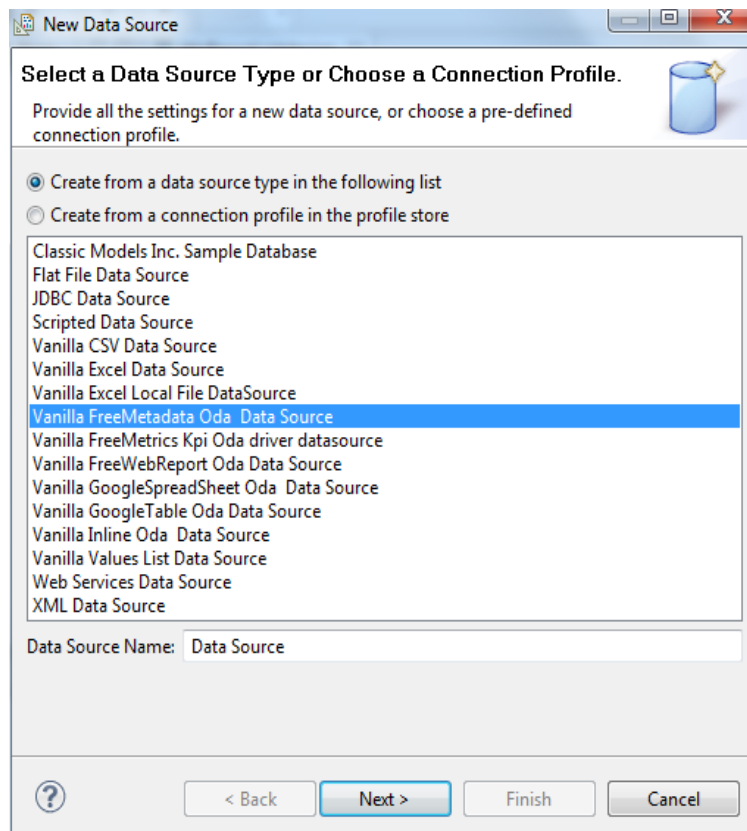
Click on Next.

This window is the place where you select which model will be used as a data source. This model has to be stored in one of your Vanilla repository.

Fill the connection information in relation with your repository.

Click on

Select your group, then click on 'Connexion au référentiel'.

The content of your repository is available. Double-click on the FreeMetadata model you want to use and wait for the business models and business packages to appear.
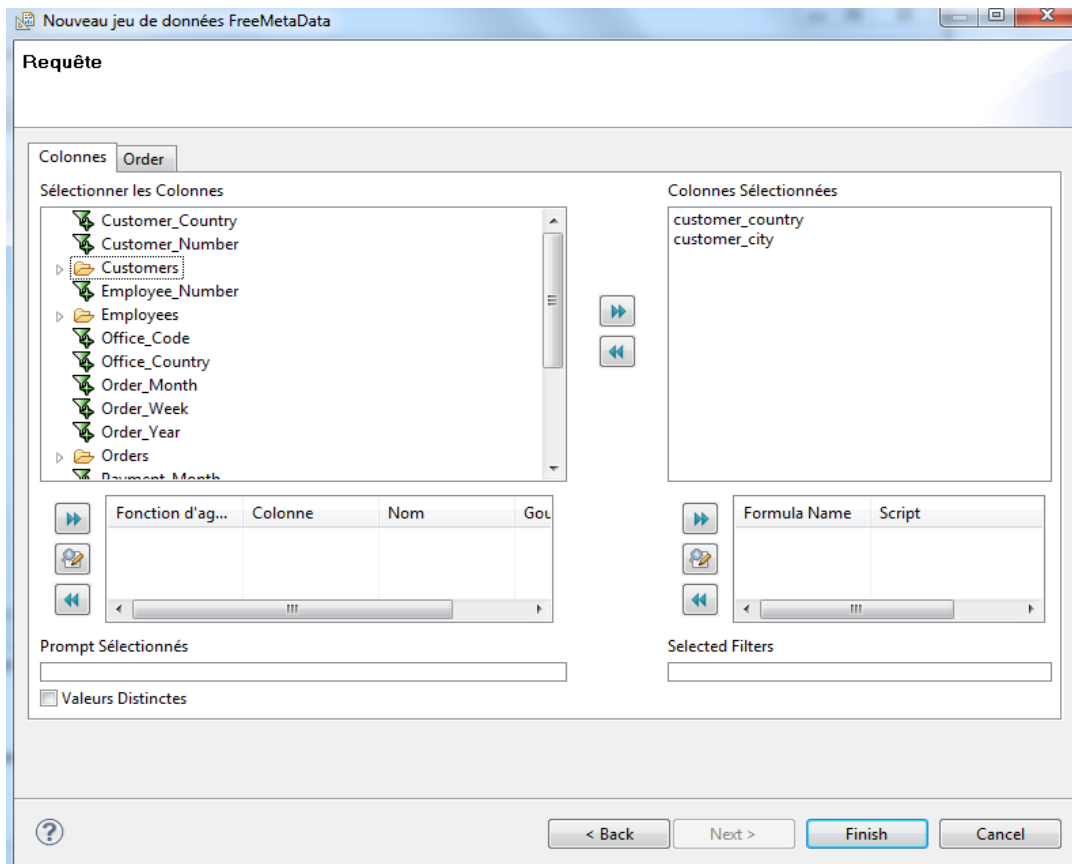
Select the ones you want to use and click on Finish.

Your FMDT data source for your Birt report is created and available.
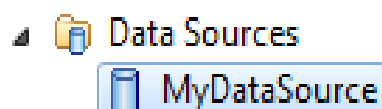
Request on FMDT Data Source

This is the request creation interface :

In the left top part, there are the elements of your business package. On the right part, there is the subpart that you selected from your business view.

In order to add a column to your request, select it and click on
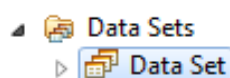
If you want to remove it, select it and click on

Note that you can also define aggregated columns and calculated columns.

Note also that you can check the 'Valeurs distinctes' (distinct values) option.

Once your request created, click on Finish.

Your data set is created and can be used in your Birt report creation interface.

How to use ODA Data Sources

There are the available types of ODA Data Sources availables thanks to the Vanilla plugins for Birt :

- Vanilla CSV Data Source
- Vanilla Excel Data Source
- Vanilla Excel Local File Data Source
- Vanilla FreeMetrics Kpi ODA Data Source
- Vanilla FreeWebReport ODA Data Source
- Vanilla GoogleSpreadSheet ODA Data Source
- Vanilla GoogleTable ODA Data Source
- Vanilla Inline ODA Data Source
- Vanilla Value List Data Source

Flash Charts (FusionCharts)

The Vanilla Chart item enables to include flash charts in your reports.

Note that the flash charts are interactive elements, so you have to select an HTML format for the render of your report. The preview in Birt interface (designer or WebViewer) is compatible.

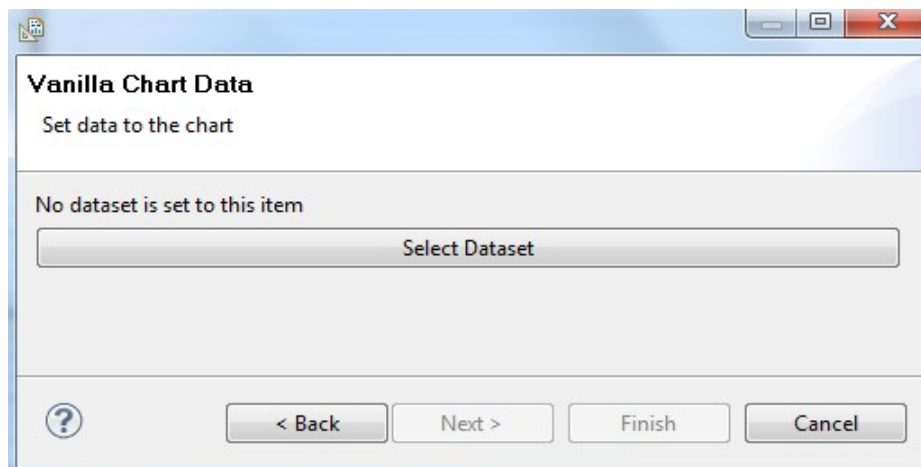Select the Vanilla Chart item in the palette and drag and drop it in your workspace.

This window appears and ask for a type of chart to use.

Note that you have to fill the url access to your VanillaRuntime web application.
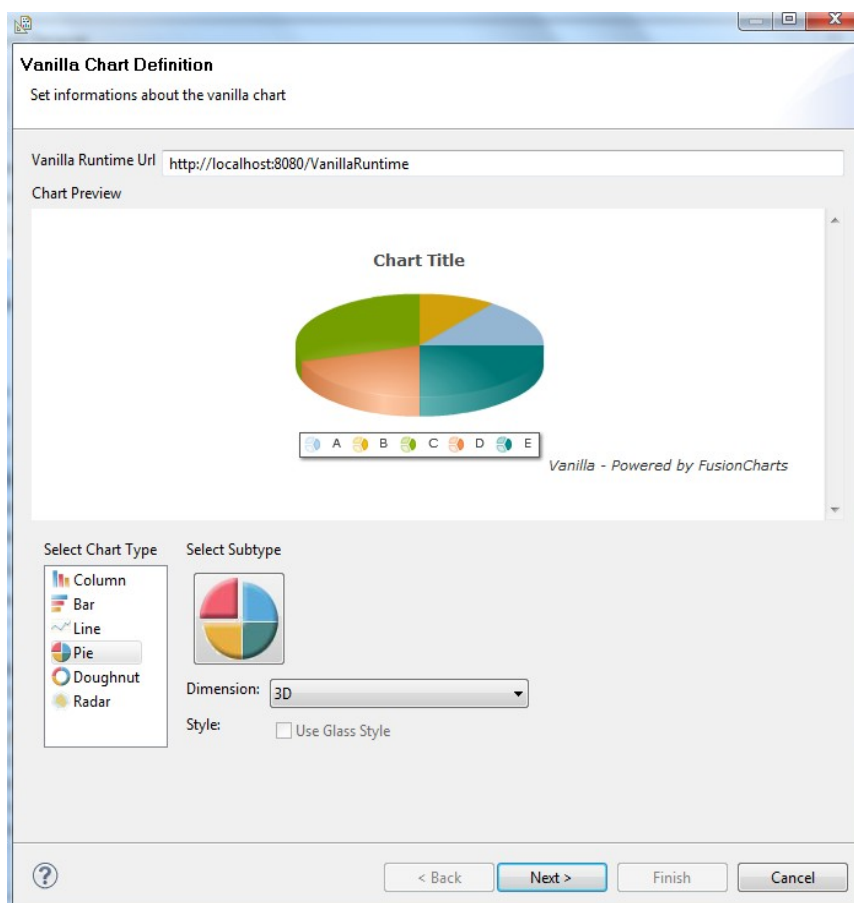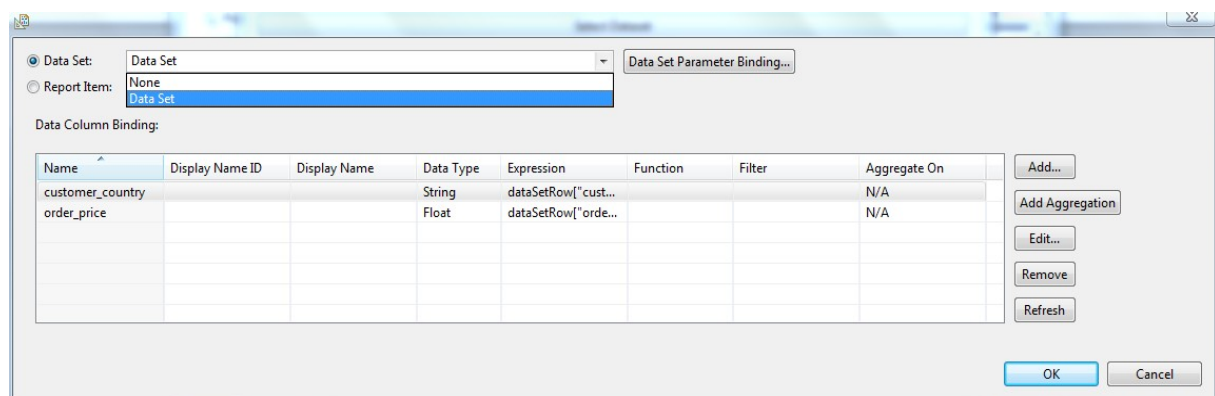

Click on Next.

This window ask for a data set linked to your chart.

Click on Select Dataset.

An other window appears :

This one is the default window for data set selection in Birt designer.

Select your data set and click on 'OK'.

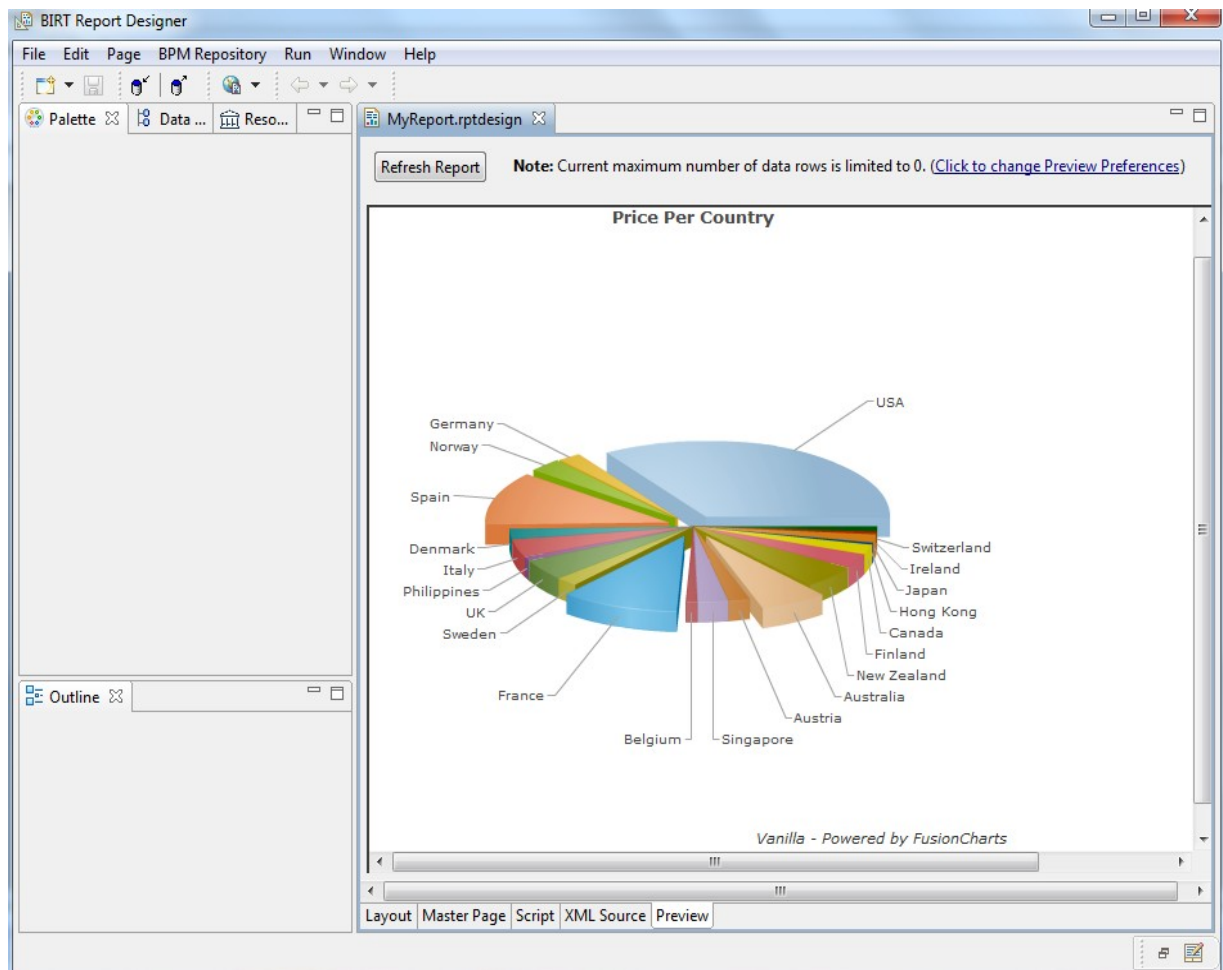Once your data set selected, additional information appear on the first window :

In this window, these information are asked:

- X values series(click on 'Enabled Group' if necessary)

- Y values series

- Chart title

- Id of the chart

- Size of the chart

- Name and colour of series

Click on Finish.

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Birt preview of your chart in the designer :

Flash Maps (FusionMaps)

Before using Vanilla Maps items in your report, please read the Norparena documentation and be sure that the maps you want to include are set in your Vanilla platform.

The Vanilla Maps item of your Birt palette enables to include flash maps in your reports.

Note that the flash maps are interactive elements, so the render for your report has to be a HTML format. The Birt preview (designer or WebViewer) is compatible.

Select the Vanilla Maps item and drag and drop it into your workspace.

This window appears asking for a map definition.

Note that you have to fill the url access to your VanillaRuntime web application.

List the maps available in your Vanilla platform thanks to 'Load Map' button.

Select the map you want to include.

Fill an id for your map and its size.

Note that you can test your map.

Click on Next.

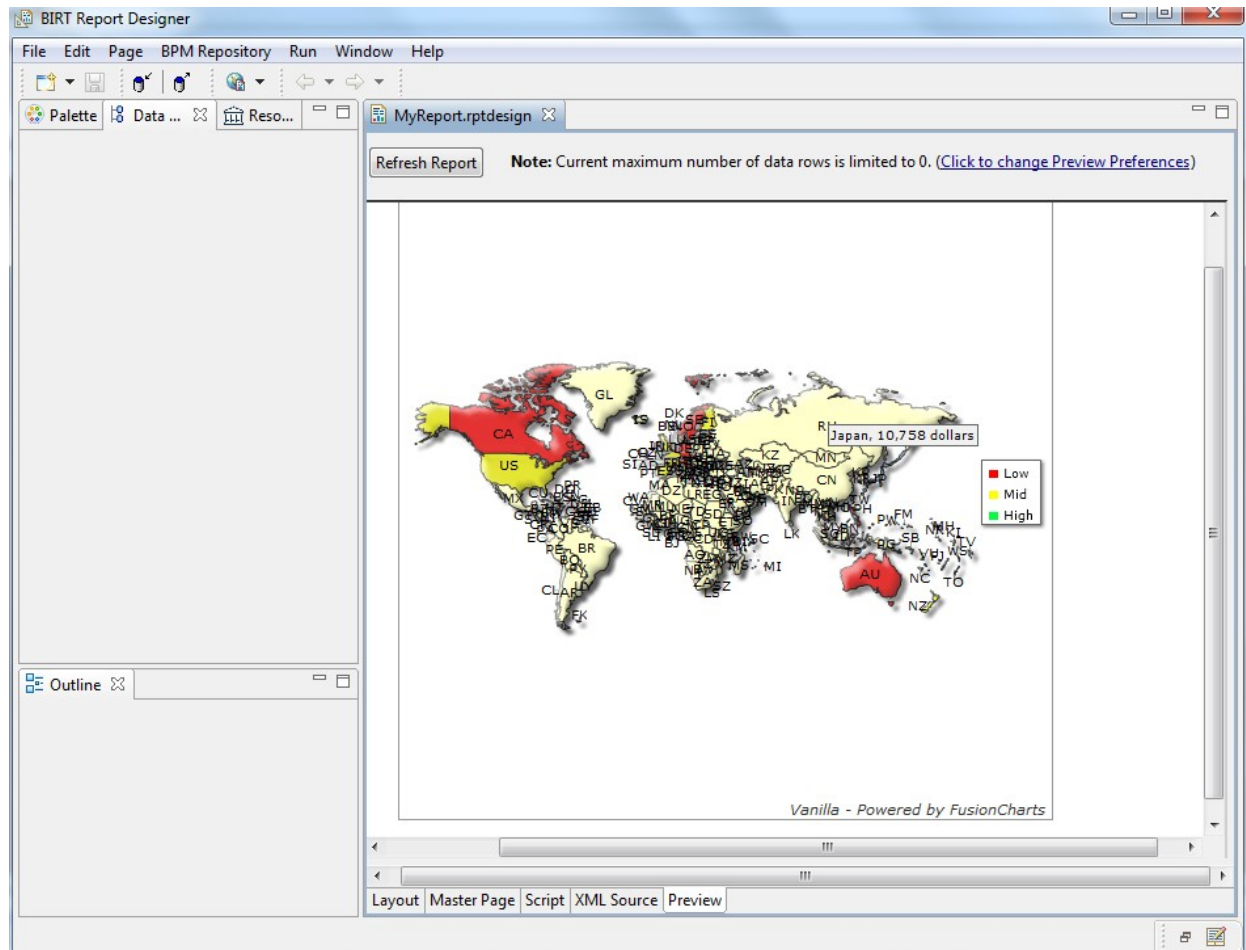Do the same as described in the Vanilla Chart section for the data set selection.

This window appears.

In this window, fill the information :

- unit for values of your map

- cells references column

- values column

- ranges and colours linked to these ranges

Click on Finish.

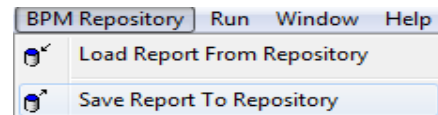Birt preview of your map in the designer :

How to publish your report

Once your report created, you can publish it into a Vanilla repository in order to allow access to end-users through the Web Portal.
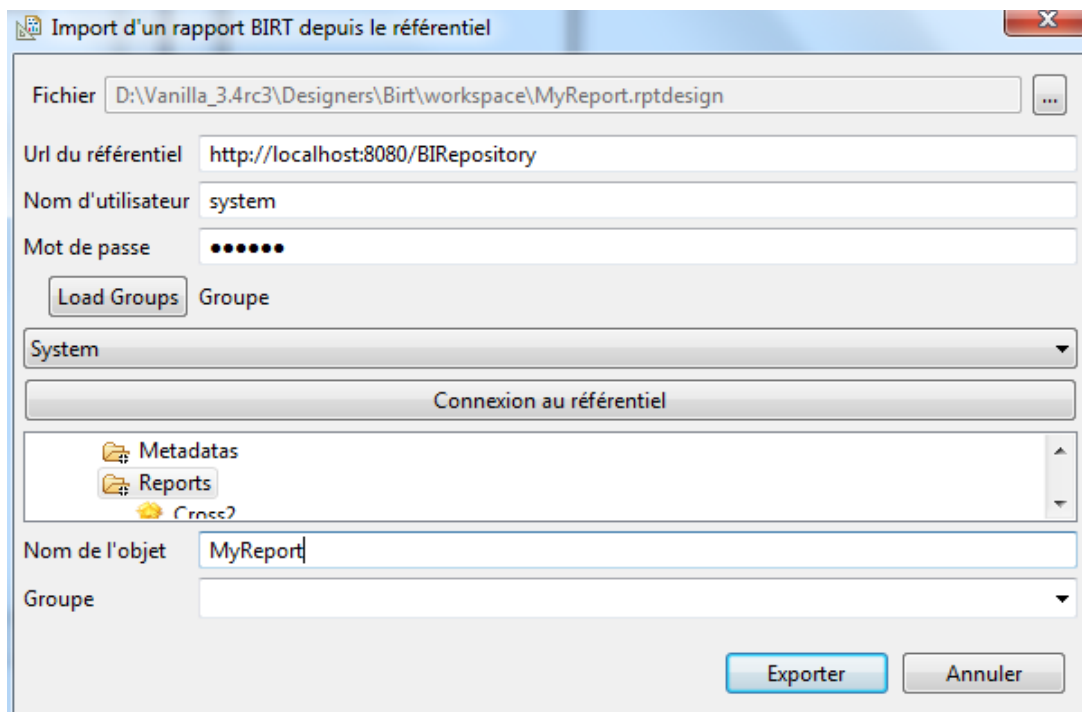
Two choices can be done :

- Export thanks to the 'BPM BIRepository' menu

- Export thanks to the icon of the toolbar

This window appears.

Fill the information :

- Vanilla repository url
- User and password

Click on Load Groups in order to list the available groups and select one.

Click on Connexion au référentiel and select the folder where the report will be published, then fill a public name for your report.

Click on Exporter.

Your report is now published on the Vanilla repository.