BIRT 2.0 Property Editor for Chart Report Item Functional Specification

New Property Editor UI Specification

This document specifies the functionality of the new user interface being provided for modifying chart elements within BIRT v 2.0.

Document History

Version	Changes	Date
Draft 3	This is the first draft of this section as an independent document. This was originally part of the Functional Spec. document for BPS 15.	09/06/2005

Table of Contents

Introduction

The BIRT Chart library provides the charting functionality for the BIRT Report Designer. The primary interface between the user and the chart engine is the 'Chart Builder'. The chart builder is a user interface that allows visual creation and editing of charts embedded into the report design. The primary purpose of the new user interface to be introduced in v 2.0 of BIRT is to make chart creation and editing an easy to follow, task-oriented, process. To enable this, the new UI will be very user friendly and will be organized to only show users properties and options that are relevant to the task at hand. This document is intended to provide a description of how this will be look and how it will work.

References:

Chart FAQ:

http://www.eclipse.org/birt/wiki/index.php?n=FAQ.Charts

Chart UI Feature Spec.

http://www.eclipse.org/birt/release20specs/BPS15%20-%20New%20Chart%20User%20Interface%20Feature%20SPEC%201.1.pdf

Chart UI Design Mockups.

<Include reference to UI Design Document.>

Chart Builder Functional Spec.

<Include reference to Chart Builder Functional Spec.>

New User Interface Components

For BIRT v 2.0, significant changes will be made to the way users create and modify charts in reports. The more visible of these changes will be in the form of a new User Interface for the chart builder as well as additional UI components and options for accessing the various task related UI for charts within the report.

The UI changes can be considered as three distinct but related components:

a. Chart Builder v 2.0
b. Chart-specific Property Editor Sheets
c. Popup Menu Items for Charts

Each of these will provide access to specific tasks in the chart creation and editing process and will make it easier for users to get tasks done without wading through unnecessary steps.

The following sections will give detailed descriptions on each of the new UI components. (NOTE: The Chart Builder section is in a separate document.)

Chart-specific Property Editor Sheets

General Property Sheet

The general property sheet for charts will provide UI to set overall chart properties.

Figure 1. BIRT 2.0: Chart Property Editor - General Sheet

Data-definition Property Sheet

The data-definition property sheet will allow users to directly change the data definitions for all the series in the chart from the property editor.

Figure 2. BIRT 2.0: Chart Property Editor - DataDefinition Sheet

Formatting Property Sheet

The formatting property sheet for charts will contain basic UI that will allow users to set common properties like titles for the chart, axes and palette colors for series.
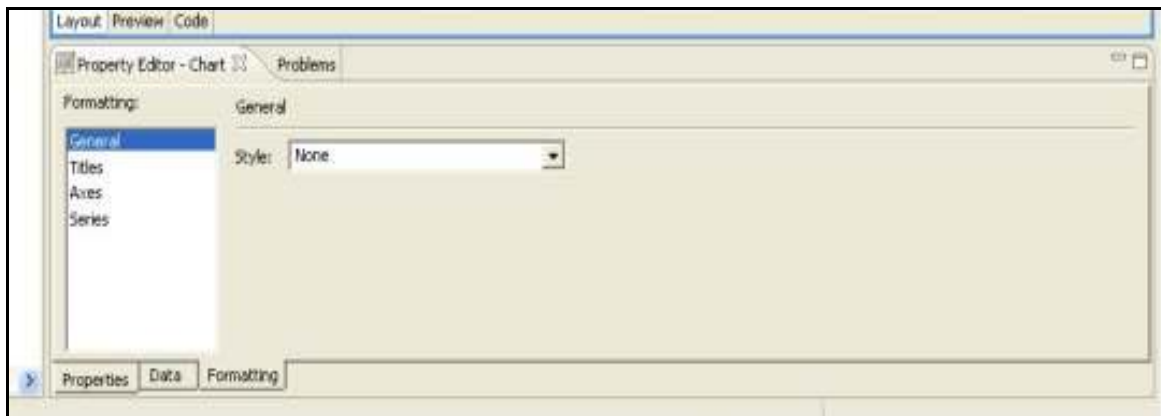

Figure 3. BIRT 2.0: Chart Property Editor - Formatting Sheet

Popup Menu Items for Charts

In addition to the general options available for all report items, the popup menu for charts will contain an option for **each** registered task in the chart builder. Each of the options for specific tasks, when selected will invoke the chart builder with the specific task selected.
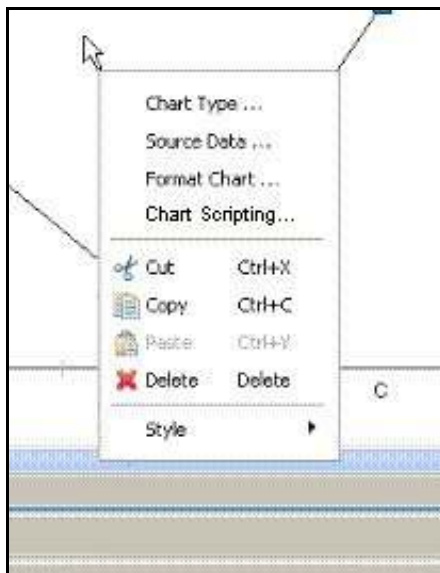

Figure 4. BIRT 2.0: BIRT Designer Popup Menu for Charts