

# BIRT: Introduction to the Eclipse Business Intelligence & Reporting Tools Project

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# Agenda

### BIRT Project = Business Intelligence and Report Tools Project

- Business Intelligence and Reporting Primer
- ☐ How Developers Solve the Problem Today
- ☐ The Emergence of the BIRT Project
- Demonstration
- □ Gallery
- ☐ API's, Extensibility
- □ Actuate BIRT
- Summary



# **Business Intelligence and Reporting Primer**



- Most applications have some type of reporting need
- Simple reporting is easy, but users demand more
- Real-world report development is challenging
  - Non-relational data sources
  - Sorting, aggregation and calculations on data
  - Professional presentation of information
- Meeting user demand for reporting is key to application success



# How Developers Traditionally Solve the Problem

JSP JFaces

Java

XSLT XML

**JavaScript** 

HTML

**Build** 

**Custom Developed Solution** 

Buy

**Closed Source Commercial Products** 

**Crystal Reports** 

ReportNet

**JReports** 

StyleReports



### **Open Source Creates New Choices**

**Build** 

**Custom Developed Solution** 

**Build using** 

**Open Source** 

Code

Leverage Open Source in a Custom Solution

**Open Source** 

**Products** 

**Open Source Based Products** 

Buy

**Closed Source Commercial Products** 



### Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools



#### PRESS RELEASE



### ACTUATE JOINS ECLIPSE FOUNDATION AS STRATEGIC DEVELOPER AND BOARD MEMBER

Actuate Proposes a Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools Project to the Eclipse Open-Source Community for Review

Actuate International User Conference- Los Angeles - August 24, 2004 - The Eclipse Foundation, a community committed to the implementation of a universal platform for tools integration, and Actuate Corporation (NASDAQ: ACTU), the world leader in Enterprise Reporting Applications, today announced that Actuate has joined the Eclipse Foundation as a Strategic Developer. Actuate will join existing Strategic Developers IBM Corporation, Intel and QNX Software Systems Limited as a Board Member for the Eclipse Community. In addition, Actuate is leveraging a decade of experience in business intelligence and enterprise reporting to propose the Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools (BIRT) Project, If approved by the Eclipse community, BIRT will be the first top-level Eclipse project for the development of applications that include business intelligence and enterprise reporting functionality. The BIRT project proposal will be available on the Eclipse Foundation website for review and comment over the next 30 days.

Actuate and Eclipse recognize that reporting and analysis are key functions of every enterprise and customer-facing application. Today, the majority of developers build reporting functionality into applications by hand coding lava Server Pages (1SP) and would

### **BIRT Project Goals**

- Next generation reporting technology
- Web centric design metaphor
- Open source and extensible
- XML report design format
- Foundation for commercial products
- Build community and ecosystem

### **BIRT Project Committers**

- Actuate (http://www.actuate.com)
- Innovent Solutions (http://www.innoventsolutions.com)
- IBM (http://www.ibm.com)
- InetSoft (http://www.inetsoft.com)



### **BIRT Project Scope**

### **Operational Reporting**

### Ad hoc Query & Reporting

### Analytics/OLAP/Data Mining

#### **Typical Characteristics:**

- Operational reports
- Developer creates reports
- Very easy end user access
- Highly formatted
- Multiple output formats
- No end user training needed
- Data access can be complex

BIRT Initial Focus

Simple ad hoc exploration of data

**Business user creates reports** 

Fairly easy to use

**Typically limited formatting** 

Interactive

Minimal training

Semantic layer hides complexity

- · Complex "Slice and Dice" of data
- · Business user creates reports
- More complex to use
- Minimal formatting
- Very interactive
- Requires training
- Semantic layer/data cubes

#### **Business Intelligence Continuum**



# **BIRT Project Initial Target Users**

Audience		Features
Report Developers	Easy	Drag & Drop authoring, charting
Advanced Report Developers		Scripting, Script API
Runtime Integration Developers		BIRT Viewer and Engine APIs
Report Design Integration	Cor	Design Engine API
Extension Developers	Complex	BIRT Extension Points
Core Development	×	Eclipse Development, Open Source



### BIRT: Feature Rich Open Source Technology

- Designed to handle real-world reporting problems
- Innovative approach to report layout and design a web page design paradigm
- Technology should make simple reports easy to develop...
  - ...but it should also be flexible enough to handle complex report layouts

#### **Open Source BIRT Report 1.0 New Features**

- Listing and Grouped Listing Reports
- Multi-section Reports
- Sub-reports
- List (including groupings, subtotals)
- Table (including groupings, subtotals)
- Text
- Grid
- Chart
- Label Element
- Data Element
- Image Element
- Web Style Output
- Web-based Report Viewer
- PDF Output

- Printing
- Cut, Copy, and Paste
- Report Wizard (> Cheat Sheets)
- Schematic Design View
- Outline View
- Report Preview
- Style Builder
- Chart Wizard (> Chart Properties)
- Palette View
- Page Setup User Interface
- Grouping User Interface
- Properties User Interface
- Query Editor
- Expression Builder

- Basic Parameters
- Scripting
- Aggregations
- Computed Columns
- Filtering
- Sorting
- Grouping
- JDBC Queries
- Custom Data Access
- Multiple Data Sources and Queries
- Report Execution and Viewing API
- Extensible Model
- Report Design API and Format
- Internationalization



# BIRT: Feature Rich Open Source Technology

#### **Open Source BIRT Report 2.1 New Features**

- Enhanced chart interactivity and scripting
- New chart marker, scale and legend control
- Additional Y-axis support in charts
- Percentage Pie chart type
- Central location for resource files

- Hyperlinks to Table of Contents entries
- Automatic parameter discovery for hyperlink
- Connection pooling for JDBC data sources
- Multiple Master page support
- Improved usability in parameter management
- Cascading parameters with multiple sources
- Ability to JOIN datasets in BIRT
- Advanced control on data bindings
- More page break and heading control
- Connection profile support

#### **Open Source BIRT Report 2.0 New Features**

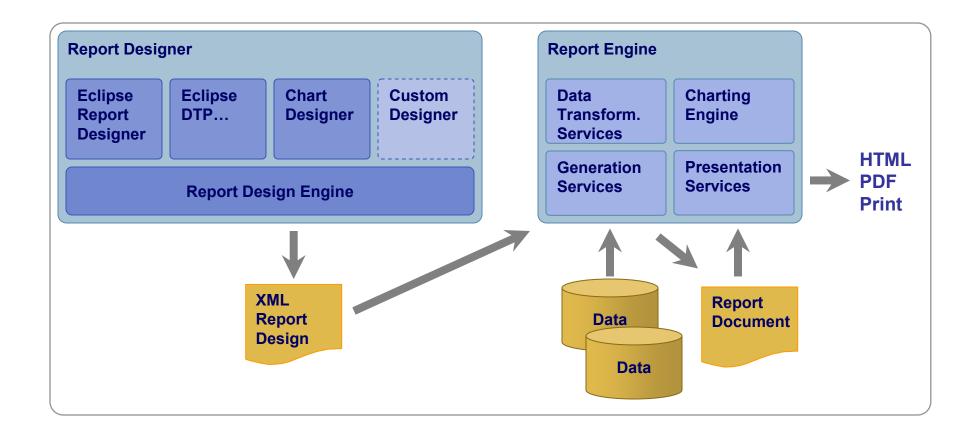
- Table of Contents Support in Viewer UI
- Chart Interactivity at View Time in Reports
- Ability to Export Report Data as CSV
- Data Extraction from a Report
- Table of Contents API Support in Engine
- Top N / Bottom N Report Layout
- Multi-pass Aggregate, Sorting and Filtering Support
- Hyperlinks to Other Reports
- Multi-page Reports
- Persistent Storage of Report Output
- Basic XML as a Data Source
- Improvements to Chart components
- Provide Methods for Controlling Chart Behavior
- Provide support for Displaying CLOB (Text)
   Data from Database
- Provide support for Displaying BLOB (Image)
   Data from Database
- Bookmarks (Hyperlinks into a Report Body)

- Expanded JavaScript Support
- New and improved chart types
- Controlled/bounded use of System Memory
- Disk-Based Sorting and Data Manipulation
- Page-on-Demand Report Viewing APIs
- Cache Query Results while Developing
- Page-on-Demand Navigation UI/UI Framework
- Concurrent User Scalability for large numbers of Active Users
- Improve PDF Output Generation
- Dynamic Parameter List Support
- Cascading Dynamic Parameter Lists
- Chart Builder/Wizard
- Ability to use Property Editor for Chart Elements
- New Expression Builder for Improved Usability
- Syntax color coding in Expression Builder
- Auto-complete in Expression Builder

- Custom Template Support for New Reports
- Enhance Report Object Model API for Ease of Use
- Improvements to Chart Engine API
- Improve and Publish Chart Model
- Library Support for Reusable Report Items and Objects
- External Style Sheets for Use Across Multiple Report Designs
- Perspective for Java Code Editing in Report Designs
- Ability to import CSS Style Sheets
- Pass-through of External Context Objects to ODA Data Providers
- Support Data Set Output Parameters
- Move ODA Runtime Extension Point and Java Interfaces to DTP
- Provide Plug-in Adapter for BIRT ODA Drivers to DTP ODA



# High Level BIRT Architecture







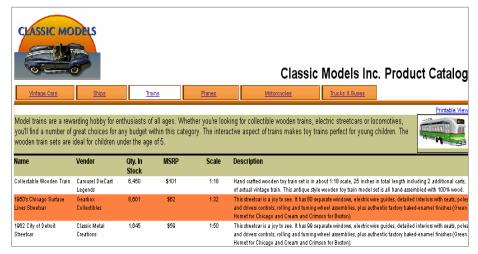


### Report Gallery



### **Employee Directory**

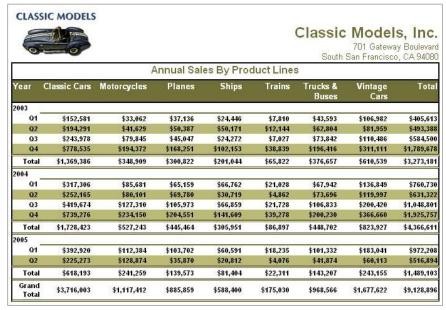
### **Product Catalog**





### Report Gallery

### **Crosstab/Matrix Report**

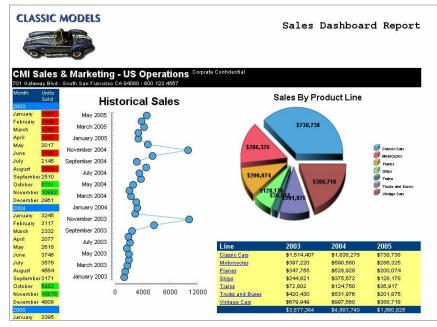


### **Form Letter**



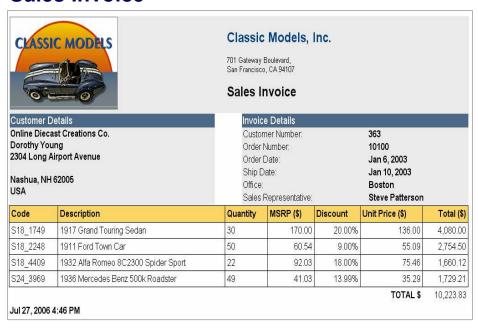


# Report Gallery



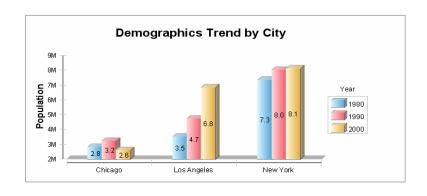
#### **Sales Dashboard**

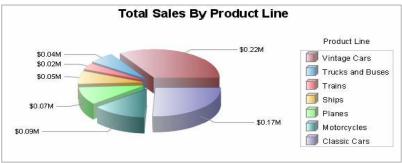
#### Sales Invoice

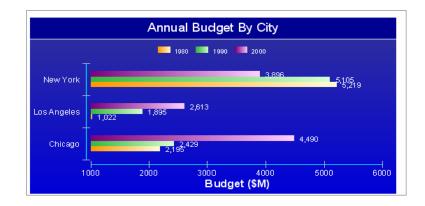


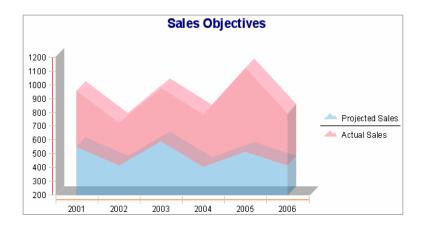


# **Chart Gallery**



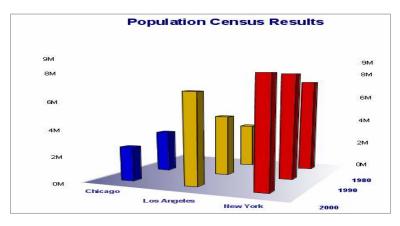


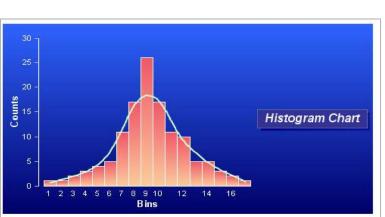


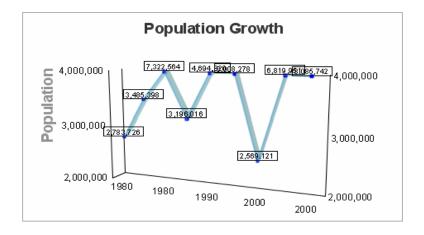


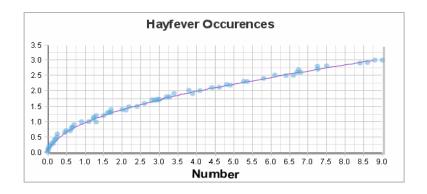


# **Chart Gallery**



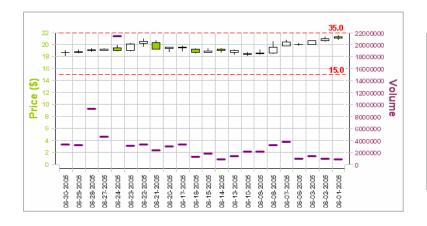








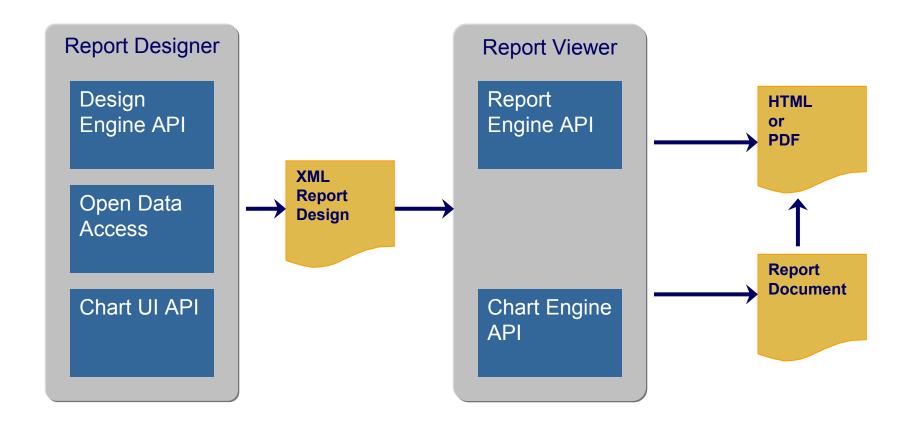
# **Chart Gallery**







# Integration APIs: An Overview





### **Extension Point Overview**

- Extensibility is a key principle for the BIRT project
- Data source extensibility
  - Application specific design-time query builders
  - Custom design-time & run-time data access
- Custom business logic extensibility
  - Incorporate complex business logic scripting
  - Access existing and new Java code
- Visualization extensibility
  - Build new visual data presentation 'widgets'
  - Extend charting with new chart types; new output formats
- Rendering reports for output
  - Target report output for specific devices & formats



# Business Intelligence & Reporting Tools Timeline

Aug, 2004	BIRT Project Proposal posted for community review on Eclipse.org
Sep, 2004	BIRT Project proposal accepted, and project launched
Feb, 2005	1.0 Preview: Eclipse Report Designer, Report Engine, Chart Engine
Jun, 2005	■ 1.0 Release: Eclipse Report Designer, Report Engine, Chart Engine
Jul, 2005	■ 1.0.1 Release: Support for Eclipse 3.1; RCP version of BIRT
Dec, 2005	2.0 Release: Support for a wide variety of common report types
Jun, 2006	2.1 Release: Advanced parameters, ability to join data sets
Sep, 2006	2.1.1 Release: Maintenance release
Feb, 2007	2.1.2 Release: Maintenance release
TBD	2.1.3 Release: Maintenance release
Jun, 2007	2.2 Target Release Date



### **BIRT Market Momentum and Uptake**

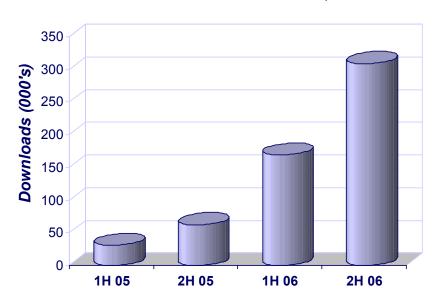
Sample Adopters To Date Since BIRT 1.0 Released in June 2005





### **BIRT Market Momentum and Uptake**

#### 660K BIRT Downloads thru Q4 2006

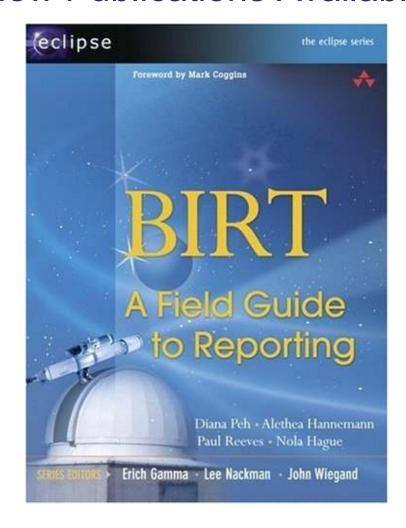


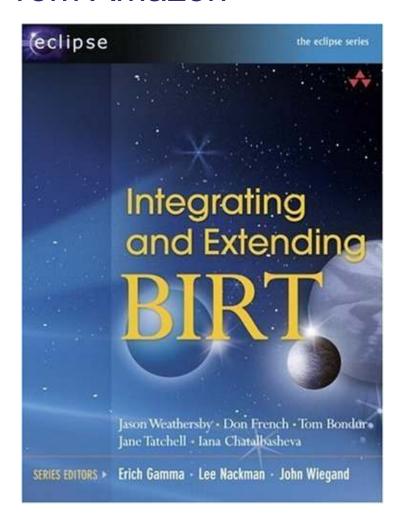
"From my research, BIRT is a really big deal, it has legitimate traction in the market." Stephen O'Grady, RedMonk





### New Publications Available From Amazon







# What is BIRT Being Used For?

### **BIRT's flexibility supports very diverse applications:**

- Personal desktop report development tool
- Reporting technology integrated into corporate web applications
- Reporting technology integrated into corporate desktop applications
- Reporting technology integrated into ISV web applications
- Reporting technology integrated into ISV Eclipse-based applications

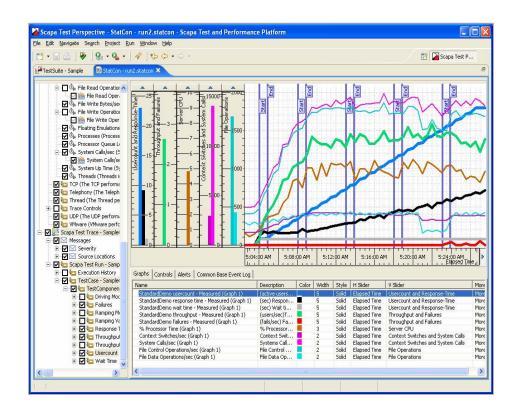


### Case Study – Scapa Technology

Scapa Technologies is privatelyheld, based in Edinburgh, UK

Build and sell system performance & analysis solutions into vertical sectors, including telecommunications, retail & financial services

Scapa Test and Performance
Platform is a powerful application
performance testing, diagnosis &
monitoring product applicable
across a wide range of commercial
software technologies at multiple
points in the application lifecycle

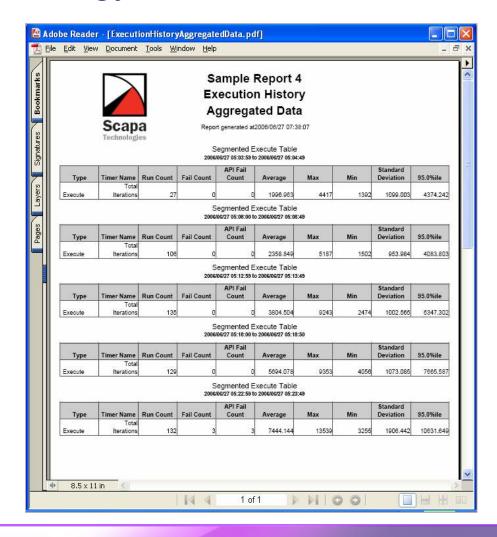


http://www.scapatech.com/



### Case Study – Scapa Technology

- BIRT runtime component is embedded in Scapa Test and Performance Platform
- Scapa application leverages the BIRT API to invoke the runtime component
- Users run reports & select the report layout, structure & visual preferences from within the Scapa user-interface
- BIRT runtime component adopts the look & feel of the Scapa application
- Built hooks within application that drive what the report should look like & create a report template programmatically



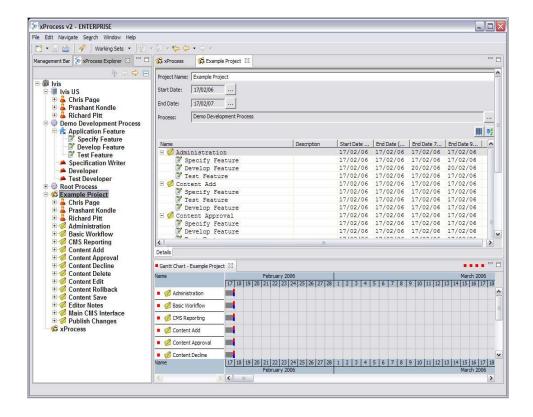


# Case Study – Ivis Technologies

Ivis Technologies is privately held, based in Arizona, USA.

Build and sell software solutions that enable organizations to merge process improvement with live project execution.

xProcess is the premier process improvement and project execution environment that captures & creates processes, generates project plans and supports continuous process improvements

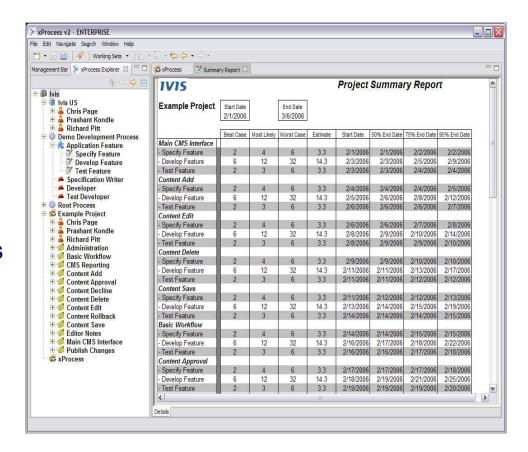


http://www.ivis.com/public/products/xprocess



# Case Study – Ivis Technology

- xProcess embeds BIRT
  - BIRT designer for built in reports
  - Custom built wrapper for DE API
  - Report lib => ~10 data sets
  - Runtime launched from xProcess
- Project Summary Report provides snapshot of a project at any time





# Case Study – MAXIMUS

MAXIMUS is a public company (NYSE: MMS) headquartered in Reston, Virginia, USA.

Leading government services company with over 5,200 employees providing consulting, systems and outsourcing services.

FacilityMAX is a web based application that enables organizations to improve, automate and integrate all of their facility management, asset management and maintenance operations.

FacilityMAX has over 150 customers.

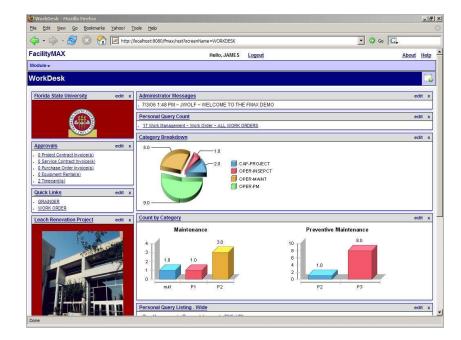


http://www.assetsolutions.maximus.com



# Case Study – MAXIMUS

- BIRT is embedded in the FacilityMAX web application
- MAXIMUS selected BIRT because:
  - Low total cost of ownership
  - Solid technology and architecture
  - Comprehensive support for variety of report layouts
  - Ability to report on large volumes of data
  - Open standards, including 100% Java and J2EE standard
  - Support from the Eclipse project and large open source community
- BIRT reports include work order status and trends; facility and project budgets; and employee productivity
- Initial integration completed in a few days
- Reports created in real-time and can refresh automatically on application screen

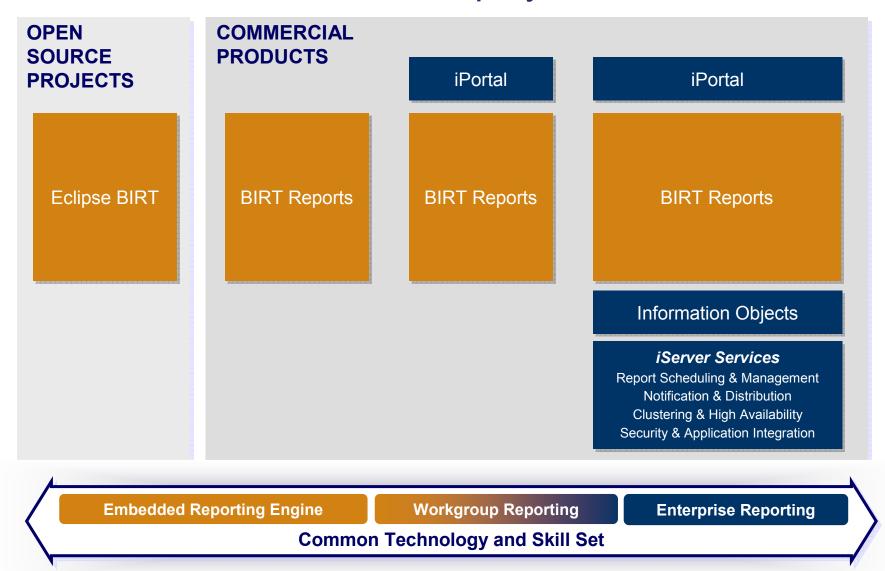


"The BIRT Reports technology offers a significantly lower total cost of ownership and high-quality Web-based reports to our customers."

Trey Drake, Software Architect, Asset Solutions Group at MAXIMUS



### Actuate Provides Flexible Deployment Choices





# Actuate BIRT Report Technology Family



### **Actuate BIRT Report Designer Pro**

Desktop tool for professional IT developers Full power of scripting in Java; Eclipse IDE; and more



### **Actuate BIRT Report Designer**

Desktop tool for report developers and power users Easier to use; can leverage components created in Pro



### **Actuate BusinessReport Studio**

Web tool for report creation by business users Simple to use yet powerful template based model



### **Actuate BusinessReport / BIRT Report Interactive Viewer**

Web tool for exploring and manipulating report documents Answer ad hoc business questions without writing a report



### **BIRT: What is Next?**

- Continue to add reporting capabilities for existing components
  - BIRT 2.1.3 Q2 2007: Maintenance Release
  - BIRT 2.2 June 2007: Feature Release
- BIRT 2.2: Project Plan at <u>www.eclipse.org/birt</u>
  - Expanded support for report types (Example: Dynamic crosstab)
  - New and improved data sources (Example: Web Services)
  - Additional output formats (Example: Excel)
  - Developer productivity (Example: integration components)
  - Additional charts types and Smart Formatting
  - See project plan for many more
- Expand project into Analytics area of Business Intelligence



# **BIRT Project Summary**

- Top level Eclipse project
- 100% Java, Open Source, powerful, extensible reporting technology
- Easy to use, with a web centric design metaphor
- Supported by an active community
- Open source and free, with a commercial friendly license
- Getting started & learning more:
  - BIRT pages on Eclipse Web site <a href="http://www.eclipse.org/birt">http://www.eclipse.org/birt</a>
  - BIRT pages on Actuate Web site <a href="http://www.actuate.com/birt">http://www.actuate.com/birt</a>
  - BIRT related blog <a href="http://birtworld.blogspot.com">http://birtworld.blogspot.com</a>
  - BIRT Newsgroup <u>news://news.eclipse.org/eclipse.birt</u>



### **THANK YOU!**