Eclipse BIRT 2.6 Release Review
May 28, 2010

Eclipse BIRT PMC
Introduction: BIRT 2.6 Release Review

- BIRT 2.6 is targeted for availability June 23, 2010
  - Based on Eclipse Platform 3.6
  - Part of Helios Simultaneous Release
- Major Milestone History
  - 1.0, Jun 2005; 1.0.1, Jul 2005
  - 2.0, Jan 2006; 2.0.1, Feb 2006
  - 2.1, Jun 2006; 2.1.1 Sep, 2006; 2.1.2, Feb 2007; 2.1.3, Jul 2007
  - 2.2, Jun 2007; 2.2.1 Oct 2007; 2.2.2, Feb 2008
  - 2.3, Jun 2008; 2.3.1 Sep, 2008; 2.3.2, Feb 2009
  - 2.5, Jun 2009; 2.5.1 Sep, 2009; 2.5.2, Feb 2010
- Release alignment
  - “Major” release designation determined by feature set
  - Summer releases will be aligned with Eclipse release train
Features: BIRT 2.6 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 2.6 Plan developed and published on Eclipse.org
Features: Summary of BIRT 2.6 Objectives & Themes

- Integrate and provide BIRT as part of the Helios Simultaneous Release
  - Tested with and integrates components from the Simultaneous release
  - Support use of BIRT in a wide range of Eclipse 3.6 applications
  - Ensures BIRT technology is easily accessible to Eclipse 3.6 community
- Specific additional features can be grouped into broad categories
  - Charts (e.g. new Polar/Radar chart, pie chart rotation, palette hashing, sort locale and strength, more flexibility in using chart background images)
  - Libraries (e.g. notification when library properties are changed within a BIRT design)
  - Data Access (e.g. ODA context sensitive help)
  - Bidirectional enhancements (e.g. enhanced BIDI support in BIRT emitters)
  - Performance improvements (e.g. improved PDF image inclusion performance, improved performance of large datasets)
  - Usability improvements (e.g. support multiple resource files, accessibility improvements to the Dataset editor)
- Incorporate Eclipse Themes & Priorities where applicable

For Details, refer to BIRT 2.6 Release Plan and Bugzilla
Non-Code Aspects: Documentation & Examples

- BIRT 2.6 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 2.6 N&N will be created for final 2.6 release
APIs: Overview

- BIRT 2.6 supports BIRT 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5 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
## APIs: Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Doc Status</th>
<th>Test Cases</th>
<th># of Clients</th>
<th>Backward Compatible</th>
<th>Maturity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIRT Report Object Model</td>
<td>Platform</td>
<td>Comprehensive document</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2+</td>
<td>Indefinite</td>
<td>Platform</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRT Design Engine API</td>
<td>Platform</td>
<td>Overview, How To, Examples and JavaDoc</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2+</td>
<td>2.1.x, 2.2.x, 2.3.x, 2.5.x</td>
<td>Mature</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRT Report Engine API</td>
<td>Platform</td>
<td>Overview, How To, Examples and JavaDoc</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3+</td>
<td>2.1.x, 2.2.x, 2.3.x, 2.5.x</td>
<td>Mature</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRT Report Scripting API</td>
<td>Provisional</td>
<td>JavaDoc, Examples</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRT Report Item Extension API</td>
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<td>BIRT Report Rendering Extension API</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIRT Chart Engine API</td>
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<td>Overview, FAQ, Model Specification and JavaDoc</td>
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<td>BIRT Chart Type Extension API</td>
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<td>3+</td>
<td>2.1.x, 2.2.x, 2.3.x, 2.5.x</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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</table>

API Contract Compatibility: BIRT 2.6 is upwards contract-compatible with BIRT 2.1.x, 2.2.x, 2.3.x and 2.5.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 2.6 APIs will ensure compliance with BIRT 2.1.x; 2.2.x, 2.3.x, 2.5.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

- No changes from BIRT 2.5
Tool Usability

- BIRT follows OS and Eclipse UI standards and capabilities
- BIRT 2.6 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 2.6

## Bug Statistics as of May 24, 2010

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<th>Type</th>
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<th>2.6.0 M7</th>
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<th>2.6.0 RC1</th>
<th>2.6.0 RC2</th>
<th>2.6.0 RC3</th>
<th>2.6 Totals</th>
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</table>
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 23 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 and Turkish
    - Group Bidi languages - Arabic and Hebrew

- Accessibility
  - BIRT follows standard Eclipse Accessibility capabilities
### Schedule

- BIRT 2.6 adopted Eclipse Helios Simultaneous Release Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Version</th>
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<td>M3</td>
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<td>2.6 M3</td>
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<td>M4</td>
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<td>M7</td>
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<td>RC1</td>
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<td>RC2</td>
<td>05/25/2010</td>
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<td>RC3</td>
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<td>RC4</td>
<td>06/08/2010</td>
<td>2.6 RC4</td>
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<tr>
<td>RC5</td>
<td>06/15/2010</td>
<td>2.6 Final</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Community: Process

- Open and inclusive release planning and tracking processes
  - Bugzilla used to request and track all defects and enhancements
- All contributions made directly to Eclipse CVS
  - Nightly, stable, and release builds available to the community
- Project specific process details are posted on project web site
- 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
  - TPTP incorporates BIRT functionality
  - BIRT Committers also work on DTP project; DTP is key component of BIRT
Community: Activity

- Articles and Technical Content Placement on BIRT Exchange
- Conferences and User Groups
  - Eclipse Summit Europe, November 2009
  - EclipseCon 2010
  - Presented on BIRT at many other conferences and events during last 12 months
- Blogging
  - BIRT World: [http://birtworld.blogspot.com](http://birtworld.blogspot.com)
  - Promoting BIRT on many other sites such as TheServerSide, JavaLobby and EclipseZone
- Five 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)
  - BIRT for Beginners (lulu.com)
Intellectual Property

- Accepting Contributions (In-Bound Licensing)
  - All BIRT code provided under [Eclipse Public License (EPL)](http://www.eclipse.org/org/documents/Eclipse_IP_Policy.pdf)
  - BIRT downloads include only 3\(^{rd}\) party (non-EPL) components approved by EMO

- Licensing Contributions (Out-Bound Licensing)
  - BIRT 2.6 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 3\(^{rd}\)-party (non-EPL) components used by BIRT
  - 3\(^{rd}\) 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/BIRTProjectLog2.6.html
Project Plan

- BIRT 2.6 scheduled for Jun 23, 2010
  - Based on and supports Eclipse 3.6
  - Part of Eclipse Helios Simultaneous Release
- BIRT 2.6.1 tentatively scheduled for Q4 2010
  - Maintenance release
  - Synchronized and tested with Eclipse Fall Release
  - Exact date pending on planned date for Eclipse Fall Release
- Next major BIRT release tentatively targeted for Jun 2011
  - Part of Eclipse Simultaneous Release
  - Release designation will be sync’d with platform release number
  - 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](https://bugs.eclipse.org/bugs/enter_bug.cgi?product=BIRT)
- Submit questions / issues in the BIRT Newsgroup:
- Engage with the PMC to contribute:
  [birt-pmc@eclipse.org](mailto:birt-pmc@eclipse.org) or individual PMC members (see