Introduction: BIRT 2.3 Release Review

- **BIRT 2.3 is targeted for availability June 25, 2008**
  - Based on Eclipse Platform 3.4
  - Part of Ganymede 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
- **Release alignment**
  - "Major" release designation determined by feature set
  - Summer releases will be aligned with Eclipse release train

Features: BIRT 2.3 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
- **Candidate projects identified and listed on BIRT Wiki**
- **BIRT Project Specifications (BPS) created to define scope and encourage discussion and feedback**
- **BIRT 2.3 Plan developed and published on Eclipse.org**

Features: Summary of BIRT 2.3 Objectives & Themes

- Integrate and provide BIRT as part of the Ganymede Simultaneous Release
  - Support use of BIRT in a wide range of Eclipse 3.4 applications
  - Ensures BIRT technology is easily accessible to Eclipse 3.4 community
- Specific additional features can be grouped into broad categories
  - Support for Eclipse 3.4 (tested with Ganymede components)
  - Prototype Integration of Eclipse DTP Project's Graphical Query Builder
  - BIRT JavaScript Debugger to debug scripting with JavaScript
  - JavaScript validation within Expression Builder
  - Usability Improvements (e.g easier formatting, Prototype Integration of DTP Graphical Query Builder, crosstab improvements)
  - Crosstab Enhancements (e.g. scripting, computed measures)
  - Chart Enhancements (e.g. better layout, consume cube data)
  - Crosstab & Chart Integration (e.g. chart view of measure data)
  - Inclusion of External JavaScript files (e.g. references to external .js files)
  - Generate Report Document directly from BIRT Workbench
  - Extension point to create custom data extracts from Report
  - Bidirectional language support (Bidi) for Hebrew and Arabic
  - Bi-Directional enhancements for core API and BIRT runtime (e.g. rendering right-to-left reports in HTML and alternate formats such as Excel, PDF, WPML).
- Incorporate Eclipse Themes & Priorities where applicable

For Details, refer to BIRT 2.3 Release Plan and Bugzilla

Non-Code Aspects: Documentation & Examples

- BIRT 2.3 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 2.3 N&N will be created for final 2.3 release