BIRT Dynamic Parameter List Enhancements Feature Specification

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Document Revisions

Version	Date	Description of Changes
Draft 1	03/08//2006	Initial draft.

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1. Introduction

BIRT 2.0 supports dynamic parameters and cascading parameter feature. This document proposes enhancements to the existing Cascading parameter feature. Some of the bugs referred to while coming with the proposal are listed below.

https://bugs.eclipse.org/bugs/show_bug.cgi?id=120796

https://bugs.eclipse.org/bugs/show_bug.cgi?id=116960

The following is the list of enhancements planned for this feature in BIRT 2.1

- Support for multiple datasets in cascading parameters
- Support parameter binding for the datasets used in the cascading parameter
- Prompt text for cascading parameter group

2. Use cases

2.1 Cascading Parameters - Multiple Dataset Support

A report designer wants to create a report with cascading parameters, with each parameter associated with a different dataset

For e.g. a report has the following cascading parameter

Country

State

City

Report designer creates a cascading parameter group and defines the following parameters.

- "paraCountry" and associates with dataset 'dsCountry'
- "paraState" and associates with 'dsState', binds the dataset 'dsState' to parameter 'paraCountry'
- "paraCity" and associates with dataset 'dsCity", binds the dataset 'dsCity' to parameter 'paraCountry' and 'paraState'

Note the order of the parameters defines the cascading order.

2.2 Cascading Parameter depends on a Simple Parameter

A report designer wants to create a report with a simple text parameter to enter the search pattern, and another cascading dynamic parameter whose list is populated based on the filter criteria (filter text parameter) above.

- Report designer creates a simple parameter "paraProductFilter"
- Report designer creates a cascading parameter "paraProduct" associated with dataset 'dsProduct', and binds dataset "dsProduct" to "paraProductFilter"

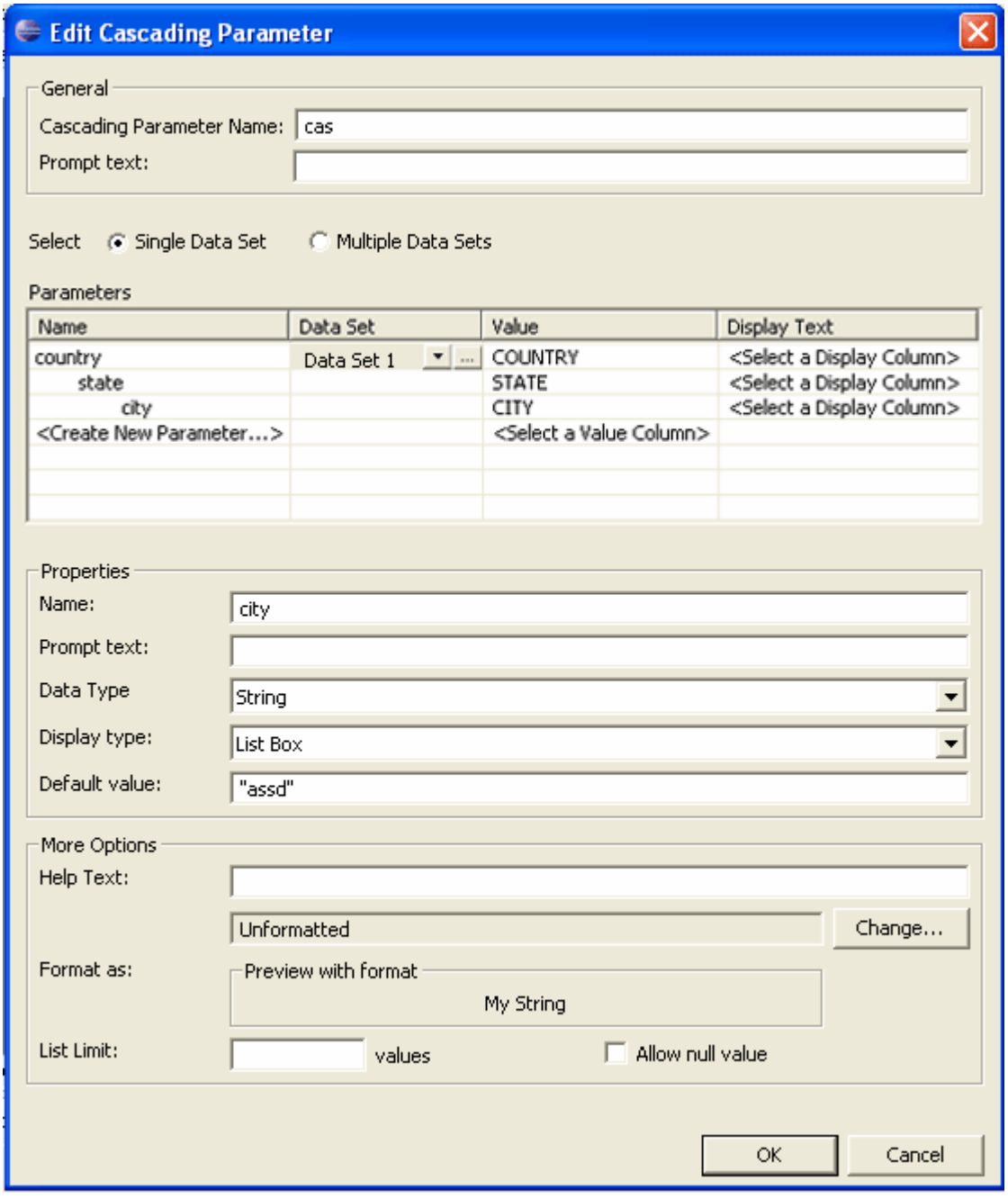
3. BIRT Designer Change

3.1 UI changes to Cascading Parameter Dialog

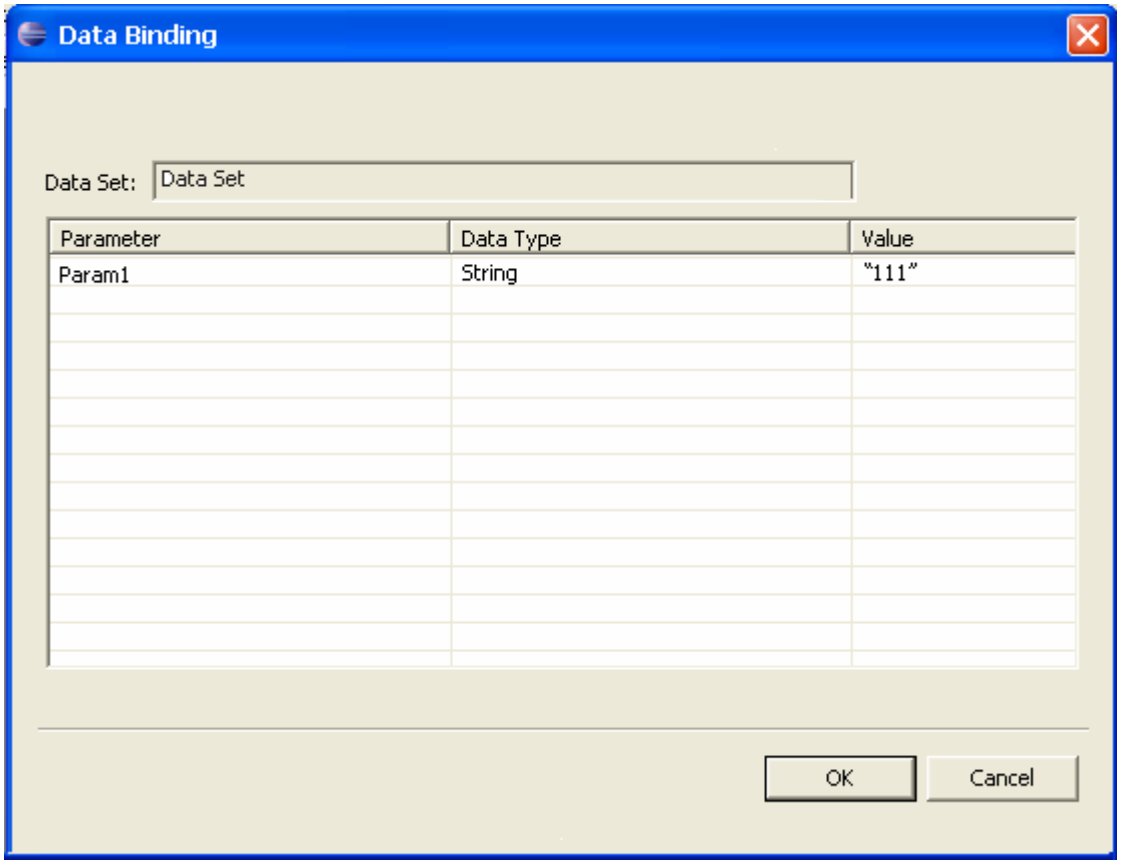
The cascading parameter dialog will be enhanced as follows

- Option to choose between single dataset or multiple dataset.
- A new column called Data Set will be supported. This will allow user to select a dataset for each parameter. If Single Data set is selected then only the first parameter dataset combo box is enabled
- A promptText for the Cascading parameters group. This is optional and by default empty.

- A command button is shown next to each dataset, clicking on the button will show the dataset parameter binding dialog.

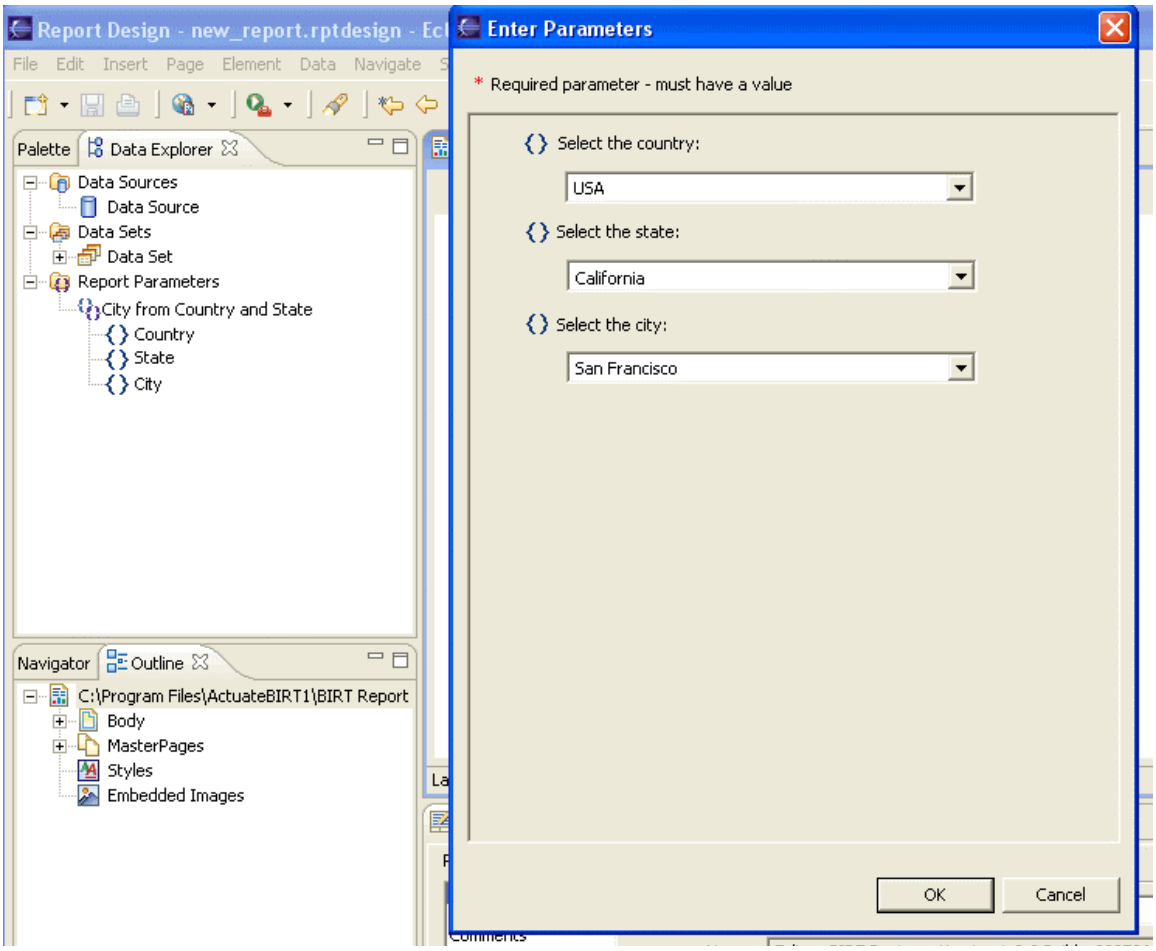


- The data binding dialog allows user to bind the report parameters to the dataset parameters. The behavior of this dialog is similar to table/list data binding.



4. BIRT Viewer - Report Parameter Page

- The report parameter page will be enhanced to support multiple datasets.
- The cascading parameter group will show 'promptText' instead of the group name. If the prompt text is empty, then the group is not shown.


Report Design - new_report.rptdesign - Ecl
File Edit Insert Page Element Data Navigate
Palette
Data Explorer
Data Sources
Data Source
Data Sets
Data Set
Report Parameters
City from Country and State
Country
State
City
Navigator
Outline
C:\Program Files\ActuateBIRT1\BIRT Report
Body
MasterPages
Styles
Embedded Images
Enter Parameters
* Required parameter - must have a value
Select the country:
USA
Select the state:
California
Select the city:
San Francisco
OK
Cancel