



# Business Intelligence & Reporting Tools (BIRT) Project Creation Review

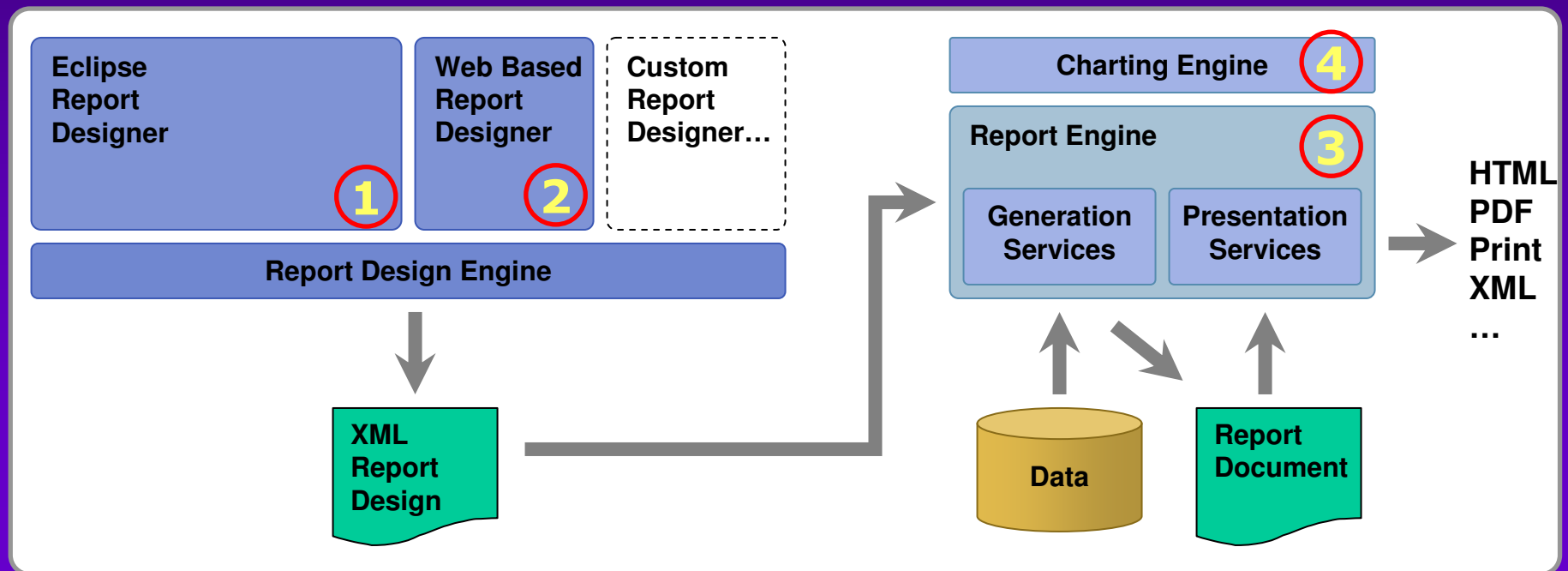
Mark Coggins  
SVP of Engineering, Actuate

Wenfeng Li  
VP of Development, Actuate

Paul Clenahan  
VP of Product Management, Actuate

# What is the BIRT Project?

- Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools
- Initially focused on embedded reporting capabilities for Java developers
- Proposal has 4 initial components (projects)

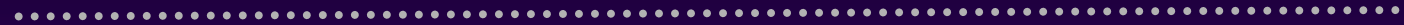




# BIRT Initial Target Users

---

- Java developer
  - Designs reports using Eclipse-based designer
  - Embed pre-designed reports in application
  - Provide “guided” report design capabilities in application
    - Highly parameterized reports
    - Custom, application specific report designer
  - Embed ad hoc query capabilities in application
- Business User
  - Uses report facilities provided by developer
  - Uses ad hoc query tool in application



# Summary of Community Feedback



# Community Feedback Summary

---

- BIRT Project Proposal posted on August 24, 2005
- eclipse.birt newsgroup: 15 threads, 43 messages
- Newsgroup postings fall into the following areas:
  - Leveraging existing open source projects
  - Charting
  - Report Design Format/Model
  - General and timeline



# Leveraging Existing Projects

---

- Are we building all new code or donating code?
- Are we planning to leverage existing open source?
- Will we provide compatibility or migration capabilities with other report engines?



# Charting

---

- Will we support SVG as an output format?
- There is a need for GIS mapping capabilities
- There is a need for Geographical charts



# Report Design Format/Model

---

- Are we considering using EMF/ XMI and/or CWM?
- Provide the ability to track design specifications with the report design





# Potential Consumers/Contributors

---

- A number of interested consumer scenarios:
  - Interested in using BIRT in J2SE and RCP applications
  - Interested in using BIRT as an ad hoc reporting tool in applications
  - Ability to save and reuse report templates in a database
  - Applications that need custom and controlled data access
- How to contribute?
  - [http://www.eclipse.org/org/documents/Eclipse%20Development%20Process%202003\\_11\\_09%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.eclipse.org/org/documents/Eclipse%20Development%20Process%202003_11_09%20FINAL.pdf)



# General and Timeline

---

- Incorporate Mondrian and JPivot under/into BIRT?
- How experienced are the developers that will work on the initial BIRT projects?
- Is it appropriate for Eclipse platform to have a business intelligence and reporting project?
- What is the BIRT timeline?



# BIRT Timeline

---

Oct 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Publish initial roadmap and Release 1.0 Requirements</li><li>■ Release Draft XML Report Design Schema for comment</li><li>■ Eclipse infrastructure for BIRT up and running</li></ul>
Nov 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Initial code release for Report Object Model component</li></ul>
Jan – Mar 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Incremental code releases including Execution Engine, Eclipse Designer and Data Access components</li></ul>
Mar 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Release 1.0 of Eclipse Based Report Designer, Report Engine</li></ul>

Caveat: BIRT planning is in the early stages. All dates and features are tentative.



# BIRT Release 1.0 Components

---

- Report Designer plug-in for Eclipse framework
  - Graphical WYSIWYG report layout design tool
  - SQL Query editor
  - General support for common reports
  - Ability to run and preview reports
  - Output from tool is XML report design
- Java Report Engine for deployment
  - Java class libraries for generating reports from design
  - Designed to be embedded into Java applications
  - Report output is HTML

Caveat: BIRT planning is in the early stages. All dates and features are tentative.