A strength of the Eclipse BIRT Engine and Java API are their ability to generate rich, highly graphical reports for use in web applications or for publishing on the web. While any HTML BIRT report can be viewed on any web browser, a large BIRT web page or report can sometimes benefit from additional features to optimize the end user experience.

There are three BIRT Viewers for viewing, navigating and interacting with large HTML BIRT reports. Each has their own purpose with increasing levels of functionality

- *Eclipse Sample BIRT Viewer* - is a sample implementation of the BIRT Engine in a web application and is available with the Eclipse BIRT Engine and Java APIs. It can retrieve HTML report content, display that content page-by-page in a web-based viewer and generate a table-of-contents for a more manageable user experience. It will also generate a PDF version, print, and export to CSV.
- *BIRT Viewer* - contains the functionality of the Eclipse BIRT Sample Viewer and adds performance and usability improvements for more demanding BIRT Reports. It adds the ability for a BIRT reports to contain Flash objects, view quicker with progressive report viewing and temporary file management, and easily integrate security. It is URL-compatible with the Eclipse BIRT Sample Viewer so that it can access reports built for it.
- *BIRT Interactive Viewer* - is a web-based end-user tool for interactive analysis and modification of BIRT Reports. It has an AJAX- based web UI through which end users can change BIRT report formatting; hide, add or move data; create charts, sort data and apply functions to data. BIRT Interactive Viewer supports Flash objects with client-side JavaScript for interactivity.

	Eclipse BIRT Sample Viewer	BIRT Viewer	BIRT Interactive Viewer
Purpose			
Sample viewer to preview the user experience viewing an on-demand BIRT report.	√		
Production-ready viewer with performance and usability improvement features.		√	
Web-based end user tool for interactive analysis and modification of BIRT reports			√
Web 2.0 Style Reports and Data Visualization			
FlashCharts, FlashGadgets and FlashObjects		√	√
Flash Object Library		√	√
Client Side JavaScript		√	√
JavaScript API for easy integration of content into applications			√
Fast Report Viewing			
Page-on-demand Viewing – select individual pages within a large report to view	√	√	√
Table of Contents generation	√	√	√
Progressive Report Viewing – view initial pages as others still being generated		√	√
Built-in temporary files/transient store management		√	√
Interactively Customize and Save a Report Document or Design			
Formatting: Change headers, labels, page breaks, data alignment, font, case, data filters, conditional logic.			√
Analysis: Rearrange data: sort, group, rank, hide and apply mathematical functions.			√

	Eclipse BIRT Sample Viewer	BIRT Viewer	BIRT Interactive Viewer
Charting: Specify data filters; orientation and size; and stack, overlay or side-by side-display.			√
Deployment Options			
WAR file within a web application server	√	√	√
EAR file within a web application server		√	√
BIRT Deployment Kit		√	√
BIRT iServer Enterprise		√	√
URL-based Integration			
Compatible with Eclipse Sample Viewer URL syntax	√	√	√
Report execution	√	√	√
Report viewing	√	√	√
Interactive report viewing			√
Security Integration			
Single Sign-on with applications		√	√
Repository authorization integration		√	√
Customization			
Code level customization (branding, logo changes)	√	√	√

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About Actuate Corporation
Actuate initiated and co-leads Eclipse BIRT (Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools), an Eclipse Foundation open source project. Actuate delivers support and training for BIRT, a product line that builds on BIRT, and products that support spreadsheets in Java.