



Business Profile

Global vendor of storage appliances and software

Challenges

- Required enhancements to their storage appliances, through easily embeddable reporting functionality
- Needed a solution with a limited memory footprint, customized branding and support for multiple data sources
- Existing reporting system fell short on future needs, yet a purpose-built solution would be expensive and time consuming to create and maintain

Solution

Actuate's BIRT, embedded seamlessly into multiple storage devices through a Java app deployment platform

Benefits

- Users can now access a wealth of information on the health and performance of their storage devices
- Easy-to-navigate platform enables interaction with device data, including drill-down capabilities
- Robust functionality provides a secure, flexible and easy-to-upgrade environment

Storage Appliances Embedded with BIRT Reporting Help Users Better Manage Data

Employing over 10,000 personnel worldwide, this company creates storage systems and software to help global organizations store and manage their data.

Looking to embed new resources into its storage devices, with the aim of enabling customers to better manage their content and allocate storage, the company started the search for a new reporting tool.

Challenge

The storage solutions vendor knew it needed an easy-to-use, customizable reporting tool that could be embedded into its storage appliances through Java-based Jetty technology. The existing in-house reporting tool, though, had very limited capabilities, only displaying the most basic information. It was difficult and time consuming for users to navigate, and couldn't scale to meet the company's future ambitions for device functionality. Something better was needed.

Any new reporting solution would have to seamlessly incorporate company branding and fit into the very small storage footprint allocated for device reporting. It would need to be embedded into multiple appliances and connect to multiple data sources; interactivity and security were also key, as was a flexible reporting framework. All of this would help add to device functionality while better connecting users to the information in their storage systems.

With that in mind, the company first considered building its own solution from scratch. But doing so could be considerably more expensive and time consuming than buying pre-built reporting technology. So the company decided to look for a third-party solution as an alternative.

Solution

The organization began its search by considering a number of vendors, finding that most of them were unable to meet all of its requirements, especially in the areas of storage footprint, interactivity, security and ease of use. Ultimately, there were only two viable options that met all requirements:

- Build and maintain a solution internally with its own resources; or
- Buy Actuate's commercial BIRT business analytics and reporting tool.

Given the much higher costs – four to five times more expensive – associated with developing and retaining in-house expertise to build and maintain a lean yet robust reporting framework, Actuate was selected for the job.

With its small memory footprint, BIRT could be embedded directly into the company's appliances. Powerful and agile, BIRT was flexible enough to connect to multiple sources, with an equally flexible reporting framework. In addition, it is also part of the Eclipse ecosystem, which the company's Jetty developers were already familiar with.

Because BIRT is intuitive and easy to use, it didn't require storage managers at the company or its customers to have specialized reporting expertise, enabling them to get up to speed quickly and efficiently, without additional technical, staffing or training resources.

Benefits

Improved Functionality and Better Access to Information

BIRT significantly enhanced the overall functionality of the company's storage offerings by allowing its appliances to report relevant data to help users better monitor and manage their storage needs. Immediate access to insights on the health and performance of their appliances empowers users, who are now able to identify risks, take corrective actions as needed, and track the number of requests and nodes being used in real time.

User-Friendly Interactivity

The company's storage solution platform is now easier to utilize, enabling users to open any view or list of data, then sort or drill down, choosing the nodes they wish to access.

Easy to Upgrade

BIRT's reusable framework makes it flexible during product upgrades and easy to integrate into new devices. Even as the company moves to another Java application deployment environment, it is able to continue to deploy BIRT without changing the embedding code or WAR files.

Actuate – The BIRT Company™

Actuate provides software to more than three million BIRT developers and OEMs who build scalable, secure solutions that save time and improve brand experience by delivering personalized analytics and insights to over 200 million of their customers, partners and employees. Actuate founded and supports BIRT – the open source IDE – and develops BIRT iHub™ – the world-class deployment platform – to significantly improve productivity of developers working on customer facing applications. Actuate's BIRT Analytics™ delivers self-service predictive analytics to enhance customer engagement using Big Data. BIRT Content Services empowers ECM architects to easily transform, process, personalize and archive high volume content. Actuate is headquartered in Silicon Valley with more than 5,000 enterprise customers in financial services, technology and government. Visit actuate.com and developer.actuate.com.



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