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Actuate Professional Services

BIRT Fast Start Package

The Actuate Professional Services BIRT Fast Start Package enables new customers to quickly and effectively develop customer facing applications to deliver personalized insights. Actuate Professional Services follows a proven approach to guide your in-house team through the crucial steps of establishing the overall BIRT application development framework, mentoring your team, and assisting with the implementation of the initial Actuate BIRT application.

What This Package Will Give You

Rapid Implementation
Experienced Actuate Professional Services consultants will aid you in meeting your initial report, dashboard or HTML5 visualizations development objectives and schedule, and help make your project a success.

Knowledge Transfer
Your development team will benefit by working closely with Actuate's Professional Services consultants to make optimal use of BIRT to address your business requirements. Familiarity with key components and capabilities of all the BIRT products, as well as an understanding of best practices in planning, design and implementation of successful BIRT-based solutions.

Resource Leverage
Actuate Professional Services will assist you in allocating and mentoring your internal resources for their most effective utilization during project development and deployment phases.

Reduced Risk
Utilizing our experienced Professional Services consultants will greatly reduce your implementation and deployment risks. We will act as a conduit to transfer knowledge to your development team and our proficiency in BIRT will assist your team in producing an optimal project plan and help ensure the success of the project.

Rapid ROI
Actuate Professional Services has access to the collective knowledge and best practices of over a thousand implementations. Our consultants share the goal of making Actuate customers successful in their mission critical projects and will help you get the most from your Actuate investment.

Actuate Professional Services Fast Start Package Summary

Professional Services Fast Start Engagement
10 days of on-site consulting services to assist your internal staff to begin deploying Actuate BIRT Information Applications on an accelerated basis.

Product Requirements
Requires purchase commitment of minimum Actuate BIRT software configuration.

Training Prerequisites
To ensure the best results, we recommend that training be attended before initiating the Fast Start engagement. Take advantage of our ability to deliver Actuate training on-site at your facility, or attend public courses at one of our state-of-the-art education centers.

The two primary BIRT training courses recommended for all BIRT developers are:

- Working with BIRT Report Designer (4 days)
- Beyond Open Source: Using Actuate BIRT (2 days)

The descriptions of all the BIRT training courses are available at the Actuate University course directory online.

Actuate Product Requirements

BIRT iHub Visualization Platform

Build intuitive, secure, and scalable data visualizations that provide improved brand experiences and personalized analytics for your customers, partners, and employees. Designed specifically to give users more control over their personalized business insights, BIRT iHub transforms complex data seamlessly and effectively into compelling visualizations: graphs, charts, tables, diagrams, and more. With customizable features like dashboards, statements, applications, and interactive reports, the BIRT iHub Visualization Platform is accessible through any Internet browser or by smart mobile devices.

BIRT Designer Pro

The BIRT Designer Pro extends the capabilities of the Eclipse open source BIRT designer by adding hundreds of HTML5-powered charts, gadgets and maps; commercial data drivers; a metadata layer, impact analysis; and cube design and caching features for creating interactive and analytic content.

Product Maintenance

This option is designed for organizations that need basic customer support services to ensure successful development, deployment and maintenance of Actuate BIRT applications.

Getting Started

Before we arrive at your site, the Sales Team and/or Actuate Professional Services Manager will contact you for details regarding the system environment where Actuate BIRT will be installed, and to confirm your expectations for the Fast Start engagement. The information to be collected includes the following items:

- **Project Objectives:** Overall information content/ report creation, management, and delivery objectives and critical success factors
- **Infrastructure Profiles:** Hardware platforms, operating systems, database servers, web servers, application servers, information technology standards and methodologies
- **Project Resources:** Any resources that will be involved in the engagement such as Developers, Business Analysts, System Administrators, Database Administrators, etc.

Typical Agenda

The Fast Start engagement includes the services described below. The actual day-by-day task schedule may be adjusted based on specific requirements, availability of customer resources and related factors.

Day 1: Scope Review and BIRT Application Requirements

- Review all defined objectives and requirements, to verify and refine Professional Services' and customer's understanding of the requirements and set expectations for the Fast Start delivery
- Document any changes to the requirements and update engagement schedule
- Install and configure all Actuate BIRT products to be used during the Fast Start engagement.

Day 2 – 3: Building the BIRT Framework

- Build Actuate BIRT framework that will maximize developer productivity, minimize report maintenance and standardize the appearance and functionality of the BIRT reports' content and UI (stylesheets, templates, libraries, etc.)
- Mentor developers on using the framework for application development

Day 4 – 7: BIRT Application Development

- Develop BIRT Data Objects and mentor developers on best practices
- Mentor developers to develop selected reports or Dashboards using Actuate BIRT
- Create compelling, easy to use web content
- Implement navigation, searching, extraction, and hyperlinks as dictated by customer requirements
- Demonstrate and mentor on how to publish and deploy applications to the BIRT iHub

Day 8: BIRT iHub Administration:

- Demonstrate adding users and user groups
- Demonstrate assigning privileges to a user and/or a user group
- Demonstrate content privileges for generation and viewing
- Demonstrate using notifications or mobile subscriptions
- Define scheduling properties such as frequency, content destination and location properties for cached content
- Define Version Control properties for within the BIRT iHub Volume(s)
- Define aging and archival properties that will be used by the BIRT iHub's automated archival functionality
- Give a walk-through of System Console for cluster setup, configuration changes, alerts, monitoring, etc.

Day 9: Website Integration Overview

- Discuss portal integration approaches
- Demonstrate how the Actuate BIRT Information Console can be tailored to create a customized user interface
- Discuss Single sign-on and LDAP/Active Directory Integration
- Document recommended approach for UI & security integration.

Day 10: Project Wrap-Up, Knowledge Transfer and Documentation

- Final review of the deliverables: BIRT reports, BIRT iHub configuration and documentation
- Review of requirements addressed during the engagement and discussion of recommended next steps
- Completion of any outstanding knowledge transfer activities

Building on your Initial Success

The Actuate Professional Services consultants assigned to your engagement are committed to the successful implementation of your Actuate BIRT-based application. Once the Fast Start package has been completed, follow-on Actuate Professional Services can be arranged to help you implement or extend your company's Actuate BIRT solution in a variety of areas, including:

- Additional report design and development support
- Dynamic, parameter-based reporting
- Ad-hoc query and analysis
- Web site integration
- Use of page-level security
- External security integration and single sign-on
- Access to multiple data sources
- Project management

A Proven Methodology

To ensure a successful engagement, Actuate Professional Services employs a team approach and leverages a flexible project implementation methodology. This methodology ensures that end-user participation in defining the requirements leads to the success and greater adoption of the BIRT application. The project will be staffed with highly qualified consultants, and a project manager can optionally be assigned to lead the team. Using an agile and iterative development model, we will prototype key business requirements and fine tune the design with a consultative approach. Knowledge transfer and mentoring by Actuate Professional Services consultants ensures that the future development and maintenance of the BIRT application is inherited by the Customers' in-house IT staff.

Benefits of using Professional Services

Actuate Professional Services brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to its projects, and includes access to various internal Actuate resources for the most current and accurate product information. Consultants can help customers resolve business issues and:

- Explain upgrade paths, hurdles and benefits
- Discuss solutions and architectures implemented on similar projects
- Discuss capabilities or recommend report development techniques
- Recommend performance optimization techniques
- Recommend solutions or implementation alternatives to resolve specific problems
- Marshall the appropriate Actuate resources to aid in resolving upgrade/migration issues
- Demonstrate specific solutions through existing and new Actuate products
- Mentor in-house staff on new features and upgrade implementation Best Practices, tips and techniques

Contact Information

To learn more about this BIRT Package or to engage Actuate Professional Services, email ps@actuate.com. Learn more about Actuate Professional Services online.

BIRT Developer Community Site

Visit http://developer.actuate.com for free trial software, forums, documentation and other resources.

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