



# Reporting and Data Analytics for Federal Applications

## Actuate BIRT is engineered for demanding Federal IT

Federal agencies and departments are great at generating and collecting data, but that's not enough in today's era of open government, efficiency pressures, and budget constraints. Government IT is challenged to make data accessible, sharable and actionable. Agencies are charged with using data to manage and improve performance, and they're also tasked with uncovering and eliminating fraud, waste and abuse.

Facing these challenges can be daunting. Federal data is often siloed and decentralized, and ranges from legacy systems (nearly half of Federal IT dollars are spent maintaining outdated technology<sup>1</sup>) to new sources like social data.

Federal datasets regularly have hundreds of millions of rows of data – a volume that chokes desktop tools – so analyzing data at this scale to identify trends and anomalies has typically been the exclusive domain of experts. But since only 23 percent of governments claim to have a strong analytical technical architecture,<sup>2</sup> agencies need more effective options to unlock their data's true value.

### Why BIRT is Right for Federal IT

BIRT meets those challenges with data-driven dashboards, reporting, and data visualization for large, complex applications. Systems Integrators (SIs) who build and maintain applications for the exacting needs of government agencies value BIRT for its comprehensive design and deployment platform. Specific BIRT strengths that apply to Federal projects include:

**Open source foundation:** BIRT launched in 2004 as an open source project sponsored by Actuate in the Eclipse Foundation. BIRT has been downloaded more than 13 million times, has more than 3.5 million developers, and features an active community. Actuate continues to sponsor and lead the open source BIRT project, and also creates commercial products that extend and enhance BIRT's value and usefulness.

**Open, flexible architecture:** Actuate's commercial design and deployment tools are used to develop data-driven applications. BIRT isn't limited by pre-packaged or predefined modules; instead, it provides developers with a comfortable yet powerful environment and APIs, which can be used to build, integrate and deploy creative and innovative applications without coding. BIRT content can be integrated into secure mobile apps, and BIRT-based applications can be deployed on premise or in the cloud.

**Powerful, scalable server:** BIRT iHub is designed with near linear scalability and benchmarked to handle more than 40 million users. BIRT iHub can meet the needs of an entire organization – including employees, other agencies, vendors and citizens – and give everyone a personalized view of the data they are permitted to access.

**Certifications:** Products built with BIRT meet Federal certifications including Department of Defense Information Assurance Certification and Accreditation Process (DIACAP), Department of the Navy Applications and Database Management System (DADMS), U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), U.S. Air Force Authority to Operate (USAF ATO), Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), and Federal Certification and Accreditation (C&A) for security. BIRT-based applications integrate with Common Access Cards (CAC), and reports built with BIRT comply with Section 508 accessibility requirements.

**GSA availability:** Actuate products are available on GSA Schedule #GS-35F-0265X with immix Group ([www.immixgroup.com/actuate/](http://www.immixgroup.com/actuate/)).

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*"Actuate's interactive viewing and web-based report design tools enabled us to provide our customers with access to their data in the formats they desire."*

John Cole, Chief Technology Officer, Integrated Data Services (IDS)

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## Where You Can Use BIRT

Actuate BIRT provides nearly limitless capabilities for developing data-driven applications. Federal agencies and their IT partners can use BIRT to support many important efforts, including:

**Identifying fraud, waste and abuse:** Applications built with BIRT enable everyone in an agency – not just specialized data scientists – to see data aggregated from multiple disparate sources in visual, easy to digest formats. Personnel can then apply their domain expertise to uncover trends and anomalies in financial reports that may signal fraud, waste or abuse. BIRT data visualizations and reports are fully interactive, so users can drill down to underlying data with a few clicks.

**Performance Management:** You can use BIRT to build dashboards, and Actuate’s Metrics Management option lets an organization create key performance indicators (KPIs), measure performance against those KPIs, and collaboratively develop corrective action plans to address shortcomings. BIRT is used at many Federal agencies and laboratories to provide this type of performance management.

**Data sharing:** Reports built with BIRT can run on demand or on a preset schedule, then be exported and shared in many formats including browser-based online, Excel, PDF and even PowerPoint. Multiple, flexible security layers enable BIRT reports to inherit, and also enhance, the security rules of the underlying data.

**Healthcare:** There has never been a greater need for data-driven dashboards to measure performance and effectiveness of Federal healthcare, both civilian and military. BIRT’s ability to integrate and analyze data from multiple sources makes it a key element of successful healthcare IT projects.

**Citizen Self-Service:** Leaders and citizens demand transparency from government and want to know where and how tax dollars are spent. BIRT consolidates data for reports and dashboards, giving anyone the ability to visualize, drill into and analyze that data while ensuring security and citizen privacy. The same platform that presents data to citizens can also handle intra-agency and inter-agency communication.

## Some of Actuate’s Federal Customers and their IT Partners



### Actuate Federal Customer Success

BIRT is used in dashboards and reports for operational, financial and engineering applications at the FAA’s Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City. BIRT enables instant access to information and lets users to drill down to detailed information needed for day-to-day operations.

1 Federal Times, “House Passes FITARA” by Michael Hardy, February 25, 2014. [www.federaltimes.com/article/20140225/ACQ02/302250009/House-passes-FITARA](http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140225/ACQ02/302250009/House-passes-FITARA)  
 2 Forrester Research, “Open Data Changes The Business Of Government” by Jennifer Belissent, Ph.D., February 1, 2013