

BIRT Cascading Parameter Enhancements Feature Specification

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Document Revisions

Version	Date	Description of Changes
Draft 1	03/08//2006	Initial draft.
Draft 2	04/11/2006	<u>Moved the parameter binding to dataset level.</u>

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1. Introduction

BIRT 2.0 supports dynamic parameters and cascading parameter feature. This document proposes enhancements to the existing Cascading parameter feature. Some of the bugs referred to while coming with the proposal are listed below.

https://bugs.eclipse.org/bugs/show_bug.cgi?id=120796

https://bugs.eclipse.org/bugs/show_bug.cgi?id=116960

The following is the list of enhancements planned for this feature in BIRT 2.1

- Support for multiple datasets in cascading parameters
- Support parameter binding for the datasets used in the cascading parameter
- Prompt text for cascading parameter group

2. Use cases

2.1 Cascading Parameters - Multiple Dataset Support

A report designer wants to create a report with cascading parameters, with each parameter associated with a different dataset

For e.g. a report has the following cascading parameter

Country

State

City

- Report designer creates a cascading parameter group and defines the following parameters.
 - “paraCountry” and associates with dataset ‘dsCountry’
 - “paraState” and associates with ‘dsState’
 - “paraCity” and associates with dataset ‘dsCity’
- Edits the dataset ‘dsState’; binds the dataset parameter to report parameter ‘paraCountry’
- Edits the dataset ‘dsCity’; binds the dataset parameters to report parameters ‘paraCountry’ and ‘paraState’

 Note the order of the parameters defines the cascading order.

2.2 Cascading Parameter depends on a Simple Parameter

A report designer wants to create a report with a simple text parameter to enter the search pattern, and another cascading dynamic parameter whose list is populated based on the filter criteria (filter text parameter) above.

- Report designer creates a simple parameter “paraProductFilter”
- Report designer creates a cascading parameter “paraProduct” associated with dataset ‘dsProduct’
- Edits the dataset ‘dsProduct’; binds dataset parameter to report parameter ‘paraProductFilter’

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3. BIRT Designer Change

3.1 UI changes to Cascading Parameter Dialog

The cascading parameter dialog will be enhanced as follows

- Option to choose between single dataset or multiple dataset.

- A new column called Data Set will be supported. This will allow user to select a dataset for each parameter. If Single Data set is selected then only the first parameter dataset combo box is enabled
- A promptText for the Cascading parameters group. This is optional and by default empty.

Edit Cascading Parameter

General

Cascading Parameter Name:

Prompt text:

Select ☒ Single Data Set ☐ Multiple Data Sets

Parameters

Name	Data Set	Value	Display Text
country	Data Set 1	COUNTRY	<Select a Display Column>
state		STATE	<Select a Display Column>
city		CITY	<Select a Display Column>
<Create New Parameter...>		<Select a Value Column>	

Properties

Name:

Prompt text:

Data Type:

Display type:

Default value:

More Options

Help Text:

Format as:

List Limit: values ☐ Allow null value

4. BIRT Viewer - Report Parameter Page

- The report parameter page will be enhanced to support multiple datasets.
- The cascading parameter group will show 'promptText' instead of the group name. If the prompt text is empty, then the group is not shown.

