Open Source
BI Reporting Tools

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The Problem

- You have a highly available, high performance MySQL instances that are all perfectly 3NF-ed, sharded, replicated, partitioned, scaled, hadoopied, and/or in a cloud.
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Then someone says 'Hey DBA! Can your make me a report??'
SELECT a, b, c FROM foo

not that impressive

✦ You want a good looking report
✦ Excel (ugh)
✦ Write a one off report generator
✦ Pay $$
✦ Use open source BI reporting tool
BIRT, JasperReport & Pentaho

- Open Source Reporting Tools
- Commercial version available, ala MySQL
- ETL and other tools available
- Need Java (JRE or JDK) and Connector/J or ODBC
- Work VERY well with MySQL
- Documented fairly well
- Multiple operating systems supported
- Did I mention they were open source?
- There are other reporting software out there but these three are used for examples
What kind of reports can I get?

- Simple lists
- Grouped lists
- Multiple column
- Cross tabs
- Graphs
- Values can be computed, filtered, aggregated
Similar Logical Flow

- Start Program
- New Project
- New Report
- Connect to MySQL Instance
- `jdbc:mysql://host:database`
- Make query
  - Let BI software do the GROUP BY work!
  - Let BI do software filtering, i.e. `Population > 20000000`
- Refine rough report
- SAVE
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IMPORTANT!!!!
Ad-Hoc to Regular Process

- Writing good reports is a skill
- Publishing Standards
- Clarity
- All three tools presented have ways to turn reports into an automated process for regular distribution. Your mileage may vary.
Conclusion and Hints

- BIRT, JasperReport, and Pentaho work!!
- Personal Preference will help you chose the reporting tool of your choice
  - May need a suite of tools to work together like Spoon and Mondrian in your environment
  - May work with your IDE (NetBeans or Eclipse)
- High cost report writers may have features that your company needs
  - Or you boss requires
- Excel-centric users will go 'pivot-table' on your butt!
Quick demonstrations follow (as time permits) when slides finish!
Summary

- You can have good looking reports
- Work great with MySQL
- Open Source tools work
- Thank you for your time!

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http://NorthTexasMySQL.ORG
And for your calendar...

- Community dinner tomorrow night at Tech Mart
- OTN MySQL Developer Day May in Santa Clara May 3rd
- This talk will be presented to the SF MySQL Users Group May 3rd
- Oracle Open World – MySQL Track, October 2-6