Welcome to this IBM ILOG Elixir overview video.

Elixir is a set of 11 data display components for the Adobe Flex 3 and AIR platforms meant to be used by developers to create custom applications. We deliver installers for the Windows, Mac and Linux operating systems. Elixir is available both in English and Japanese and can be localized to any other language.

Before we look at features, let me cover important information:

- Elixir is a commercial grade set of components, field tested by thousands of projects
- It is closely integrated with FlexBuilder, including simply UI creation with components drag&drop, property editing, library source code access on Ctrl click and F1 contextual help
- It ships with a set of ready made samples, available in source code and commented for you to jumpstart your developments
- More samples are available from our blog at blogs.ilog.com/elixir
- We also have a free support forum, monitored by R&D that provide fast and accurate answers, even for evaluators

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1 - Let’s come back to the features overview and start with the 3D charts.

They were designed to be as close as possible to the Adobe 2D charts for 2 major reasons:

1. First, it helps you be productive more quickly: just change few MXML tags and migrate your displays from 2D to 3D
2. Second, you can leverage all Adobe 2D charts features as animations or live data updates for instance

We created a true 3D engine with camera placement and lighting. Since the engine is crafted only for 3D charts display, it provides small file size and high performance.

Concerning scalability, for displays where the end user will manipulate the chart to make it rotate for instance, you can typically handle up to 300 data points. If the end user will just look at static charts, you can easily scale up to few thousands data points. Note that for larger data sets, you would have to subsample before passing them to our 3D charts engine.

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2 - The second module we'll now look at are the Gauges

The use cases that drove their development were business intelligence, reporting displays or business dashboard both for data display and data inputs scenarios.

It ships with 21 ready made gauges, integrated with Flex Builder for easy drag & drop GUI creation. The core value of Elixir Gauges is their framework. It makes custom gauges creation a breeze.

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3 - The third module is the vector map displays.

The requirement was here again dashboards and BI reporting displays. This module displays vector maps you can color code according to custom data as stock levels or product revenues. You can also overlay any Flex object as charts or labels either by location as Texas, France or China or by geographic position in longitude and latitude. As for Gauges, we ship some ready made maps but the core value lies in the custom map converter. Let me explain, with Elixir, you can transform any map in ESRI shape format you download or purchase into Flex components. In other words, you are not limited to the maps we provide, you can create your own custom maps. In that transformation process, there is a simplification step that shrink map size while keep ping its appearance for faster downloads and more efficient animations.

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4 - We will now see the Heat Maps

Heat maps are also often used in business dashboards, BI and reporting applications to display how data is spread across regions, either maps or physical areas as web pages clicks for instance. Elixir supports both cases, working either in x/y or lon/lat and adds another dimension: you can display either data density (how many you have here or there) or data value as weather forecasts or prospects incomes for instance.

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5 - The next module is radar charts

Also named spider, web charts or Kiviat graphs, they are often used in dashboard to display in a very compact way unrelated data on a given item as location energy consumed, stock levels and employee productivity for instance. One need feature is the decluttered data tips on rollover when your display have many close data points. As any other Elixir modules, it is compliant with Flex habits so support animations for instance.

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6 – Calendar displays

Elixir ships with a calendar display you can embed and extend to create applications ala Outlook or Google Calendars. It supports 5 different default views: day, week, work week, month and custom duration (from 2 days up to 6 weeks). It can handle both one time and recurrent events with description based on the iCal standard to make information exchange easier. Additionally, it supports multiple schedules so you can create multi-users or personal and professional event tracking displays. It also provides multiple simultaneous event display and events that span multiple days and finally support direct mouse interactions for start and end times editing.

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7 - The next module is the Elixir Gantt resource chart

This display shows what your resources as employees, trucks or factories do and when. It supports direct editing and is nicely animated.

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8 – We'll now see the complementary module, Gantt task charts

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This display is used for project management displays ala MS project to see what is to be done, when and in which order.

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9 - We will now see the Elixir Org chart

Our objective here was to help you design and deliver appealing corporate portals with intuitive navigation into employees' structures. It ship both with a global view to see all of your employees at once and a local view to navigate from close to close. You can either reuse the default displays we provide or easily create you custom ones using custom item renderers for instance.

10 - We will now see the treemap display

They are efficient 2D charts displays designed to visualize mass amount of data at once and visually detect trends and outliers. It provides direct manipulation to create custom coloring and clustering and well as drill-down to help navigate in your data sets and understand what is going on.

11 – OLAP and pivot charts

It provides features similar to Excel pivot charts but also supports multiple charts clusters. This module was designed to build interactive dashboard and data exploration displays to represent and analyze data from multiple points of views using clustering and drill down. Elixir pivot charts are built on Adobe Flex OLAP interfaces and offers same API Flex's OLAP DataGrid for easy upgrades. The difference between the OLAP and the pivot chart is that the latter supports end-user interactive clustering and drill down.

Elixir provides free trials, fully functional and documented which have 3 limitations: they are valid for 60 days, are watermarked and library source code is not provided. Once you purchase, you will get another installer. Please have a look at the installation video for more details.

I hope this short video helped you get more familiar with Elixir. Feel free to download a trial and use other resources as the blog with additional samples, the forum for help and support and our public base of whishes and bugs.