Apache Ant Java build tool

CONCEPTS

Ant reads build.xml in the current directory. Run with no target and it runs the project's default target.

Project build.xml, default target

Target named step, depends on others

Task javac, jar, copy ...

Properties are immutable: the first definition wins, so -D on the command line overrides build.xml.

depends only orders targets. It does not rerun a target that already ran in this invocation.

RUN

ant
Run the project's default target

ant *<target>* **[***<target>***...]**
Run targets in order

ant -projecthelp / ant -p
List targets that have a description

ant -buildfile *<file>* **/ ant -f** *<file>*
Use a different build file

RUN (cont.)

ant -find [*<file>***] / ant -s [***<file>***]**
Search parent dirs for the build file

ant -version
Print Ant version

ant -diagnostics
Print Java, classpath and Ant diagnostics

ant -help / ant -h
Show command line options

ant -keep-going / ant -k
Continue with targets not depending on a failure

ant -noinput
Never prompt for input (CI)

PROPERTIES AND OUTPUT

ant -D*<name>***=***<value>*
Set a property from the command line

ant -propertyfile *<file>*
Load properties from a file

ant -quiet / ant -q
Less output

ant -silent / ant -S
Only task output and failures

ant -verbose / ant -v
Extra output

ant -debug / ant -d
Debugging output

PROPERTIES AND OUTPUT (cont.)

ant -logfile *<file>* **/ ant -l** *<file>*
Write the log to a file

ant -lib *<path>*
Add jars or dirs to Ant's classpath

ANT_OPTS="-Xmx1g" ant
Pass options to the JVM

BUILD FILE BASICS

<project name="<n>" **default="***<target>***" basedir=".">**
Root element

<target name="<n>" **depends="***<a>***,***<b>***" description="***<text>***">**
Define a target

<property name="<n>" **value="***<v>***"/>**
Define a property

<property file="build.properties"/>
Load properties from a file

<property environment="env"/>
Read env vars as ${env.NAME}

${*<name>***}**
Reference a property

${basedir}
Project base directory

BUILD FILE BASICS (cont.)

<target name="<n>" **if="***<prop>***">**
Run only if a property is set

<target name="<n>" **unless="***<prop>***">**
Run only if a property is not set

<import file="<other.xml>"/>
Include another build file

<path id="<id>"><fileset dir="lib" includes=".jar"/></path>*
Reusable classpath

<fileset dir="<d>" **includes="**/*.java" excludes="***<pat>***"/>**
Select files by pattern

<echo message="<text>"/>
Print a message

<exec executable="<cmd>"><arg value="<a>"/></exec>
Run an external command

COMMON TASKS

<mkdir dir="<d>"/>
Create a directory

<delete dir="<d>"/>
Remove a directory tree

<copy todir="<d>"><fileset dir="<s>"/></copy>
Copy files

COMMON TASKS (cont.)

<move file="<f>" **tofile="***<t>***"/>**
Move or rename a file

<javac srcdir="src" destdir="build/classes" classpathref="<id>" **includeantruntime="false"/>**
Compile Java sources

<jar destfile="dist/<n>.jar" **basedir="build/classes"/>**
Build a jar

<manifest><attribute name="Main-Class" value="<cls>"/></manifest>
Set jar manifest (inside <jar>)

<java classname="<cls>" **classpathref="***<id>***" fork="true"/>**
Run a Java class

<junit printsummary="yes" haltonfailure="yes">
Run JUnit tests

RECIPES

Clean build with a property

```
ant -p
ant clean jar -Dversion=1.2
# in build.xml: <jar
destfile="dist/app-
${version}.jar" .../>
```