Docs

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[Guides and Tutorials](https://guides.gradle.org)

[DSL Reference](http://docs.google.com/dsl/)

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* [User Manual Home](http://docs.google.com/userguide/userguide.html)
* [Release Notes](http://docs.google.com/release-notes.html)
* [Installing Gradle](http://docs.google.com/userguide/installation.html)
* [Tutorials](https://guides.gradle.org/)

### Reference

* [Groovy DSL Reference](http://docs.google.com/dsl/)
* [Gradle API Javadoc](http://docs.google.com/javadoc/)
* [Core Plugins](http://docs.google.com/userguide/plugin_reference.html)
* [Gradle & Third-party Tools](http://docs.google.com/userguide/third_party_integration.html)

### Getting Started

* [Creating New Gradle Builds](https://guides.gradle.org/creating-new-gradle-builds/)
* [Creating Build Scans](https://guides.gradle.org/creating-build-scans/)
* [Migrating From Maven](https://guides.gradle.org/migrating-from-maven/)

### Running Gradle Builds

* [Command-Line Interface](http://docs.google.com/userguide/command_line_interface.html)
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  + [Configuring the Build Environment](http://docs.google.com/userguide/build_environment.html)
  + [Configuring the Gradle Daemon](http://docs.google.com/userguide/gradle_daemon.html)
  + [Initialization Scripts](http://docs.google.com/userguide/init_scripts.html)
* [Directory Layout](http://docs.google.com/userguide/directory_layout.html)
* [Executing Multi-Project Builds](http://docs.google.com/userguide/intro_multi_project_builds.html)
* [Gradle Wrapper](http://docs.google.com/userguide/gradle_wrapper.html)
* [Troubleshooting](http://docs.google.com/userguide/troubleshooting.html)
* [Using Build Scans](https://docs.gradle.com/build-scan-plugin)
* [Enabling and Configuring the Build Cache](http://docs.google.com/userguide/build_cache.html)
* [Integrating Separate Gradle Builds (Composite Builds)](http://docs.google.com/userguide/composite_builds.html)

### Authoring Gradle Builds

* [Fundamentals](#30j0zll)
  + [Introducing the Basics of Build Scripts](http://docs.google.com/userguide/tutorial_using_tasks.html)
  + [Working with Tasks](http://docs.google.com/userguide/more_about_tasks.html)
  + [Learning More About Build Scripts](http://docs.google.com/userguide/writing_build_scripts.html)
  + [Working with Files](http://docs.google.com/userguide/working_with_files.html)
  + [Creating Custom Task Types](http://docs.google.com/userguide/custom_tasks.html)
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  + [The Standard Gradle Plugins](http://docs.google.com/userguide/standard_plugins.html)
  + [Understanding the Build Lifecycle](http://docs.google.com/userguide/build_lifecycle.html)
  + [Working with Logging](http://docs.google.com/userguide/logging.html)
  + [Configuring Multi-Project Builds](http://docs.google.com/userguide/multi_project_builds.html)
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  + [Authoring Maintainable Build Scripts](http://docs.google.com/userguide/authoring_maintainable_build_scripts.html)
  + [Organizing Gradle Projects](http://docs.google.com/userguide/organizing_gradle_projects.html)
  + [Optimizing Build Performance](https://guides.gradle.org/performance/)
  + [Using the Build Cache](https://guides.gradle.org/using-build-cache/)
* [Dependency Management](#3znysh7)
  + [Introduction to Dependency Management](http://docs.google.com/userguide/introduction_dependency_management.html)
  + [Dependency Management Terminology](http://docs.google.com/userguide/dependency_management_terminology.html)
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  + [Using Ant from Gradle](http://docs.google.com/userguide/ant.html)
* [Sample Gradle builds](#1t3h5sf)
  + [Groovy DSL Samples](https://github.com/gradle/gradle/tree/master/subprojects/docs/src/samples)
  + [Kotlin DSL Samples](https://github.com/gradle/kotlin-dsl/tree/master/samples)

### Extending Gradle

* [Writing Custom Plugins](http://docs.google.com/userguide/custom_plugins.html)
* [Plugin Development Guides](https://gradle.org/guides/?q=Plugin+Development)

[Edit this page](https://github.com/gradle/gradle/edit/master/subprojects/docs/src/docs/userguide/)

# Software model concepts

| **⚠** | Rule based configuration [will be deprecated](https://blog.gradle.org/state-and-future-of-the-gradle-software-model). New plugins should not use this concept. |
| --- | --- |

The software model describes how a piece of software is built and how the components of the software relate to each other. The software model is organized around some key concepts:

* A *component* is a general concept that represents some logical piece of software. Examples of components are a command-line application, a web application or a library. A component is often composed of other components. Most Gradle builds will produce at least one component.
* A *library* is a reusable component that is linked into or combined into some other component. In the Java ecosystem, a library is often built as a Jar file, and then later bundled into an application of some kind. In the native ecosystem, a library may be built as a shared library or static library, or both.
* A *source set* represents a logical group of source files. Most components are built from source sets of various languages. Some source sets contain source that is written by hand, and some source sets may contain source that is generated from something else.
* A *binary* represents some output that is built for a component. A component may produce multiple different output binaries. For example, for a C++ library, both a shared library and a static library binary may be produced. Each binary is initially configured to be built from the component sources, but additional source sets can be added to specific binary variants.
* A *variant* represents some mutually exclusive binary of a component. A library, for example, might target Java 7 and Java 8, effectively producing two distinct binaries: a Java 7 Jar and a Java 8 Jar. These are different variants of the library.
* The *API* of a library represents the artifacts and dependencies that are required to compile against that library. The API typically consists of a binary together with a set of dependencies.

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