

Forrestbot

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1. Overview

Forrestbot lets you automate building and deploying websites. The whole process gets the source docs, builds it, then deploys the site where you want it to go. It can also notify you afterwards, and it keeps a log of the build process. To accomplish these tasks Forrestbot uses four "workstages" (getsrc, build, deploy, notify) that are comprised of "implementations" and have various properties that may be set, depending upon the implementations chosen.

FIXME (AB):

Need a better term than comprised of? Trying give a sense of the building blocks used and how they relate to each other.

2. Using Forrestbot

You need to create a customized buildfile directing Forrestbot's work and then simply execute:

```
forrest -f mybuildfile.xml
```

The next section explains how to create your buildfile.

3. Creating a buildfile

Within the new buildfile you need to first set properties needed by the workstages you are going to use and then specify what implementations will be used by each workstage.

FIXME (AB):

This seems backwards since the properties are dependent on the implementations - no?

This sample buildfile can be used as a base from which to customize your own buildfile. The file starts with the project name and default workstage target, then sets the specific properties we will need to get the source, set up notification and indicate the deploy location. It then specifies which implementations we will use and finishes up with importing the forrestbot.xml file.

FIXME (AB):

Is "default workstage target" the correct term for default="main"?

```
<project name="mysampleproject" default="main">
  <property name="notify.email.host" value="smtp.myhost.com"/>
  <property name="notify.email.to" value="me@domain.com"/>
  <property name="notify.administrator" value="Your Name
&lt;me@domain.com>"/>
  <property name="getsrc.cvs.user" value="anoncvs"/>
  <property name="getsrc.cvs.password" value="anoncvs"/>
  <property name="getsrc.cvs.root" value="/home/cvspublic"/>
  <property name="getsrc.cvs.host" value="cvs.myhost.com"/>
  <property name="getsrc.cvs.module" value="myproject"/>
  <property name="deploy.scp.dest"
value="username@myhost.com:/var/www/mydomain/htdocs"/>

  <!-- here we specify to use two notification implementations -->
  <target name="notify" depends="notify.local, notify.email"/>

  <!-- here we specify to deploy with the scp implementation -->
  <target name="deploy" depends="deploy.scp"/>
```

```

        <!-- the default implementation for getsrc is getsrc.cvs, which is
what we want -->

        <!-- assumes FORREST_HOME has been set as an environment variable
-->
        <property environment="env"/>
        <import
file="${env.FORREST_HOME}/tools/forrestbot/core/forrestbot.xml"/>
</project>

```

3.1. Workstages

It is only necessary to include the specific target implementations in the buildfile if we want to override the default implementations. The following tables show the various workstages and which implementations may be used for each and which is the default.

Workstage	Implementations
getsrc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • getsrc.local • getsrc.cvs (default) • getsrc.svn
build	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build.forrest
deploy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deploy.local (default) • deploy.scp • deploy.cvs • deploy.svn • deploy.ftp
notify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify.local (default) • notify.email

If you want to do more advanced processing for your project, you can override the 'main' target, which by default is `<target name="main" depends="getsrc, build, deploy, notify"/>`, create your own implementation of a workstage, or use any other ant tasks to do additional work.

FIXME (AB):

How do you create your own implementation? Can you create a different default target than main - how do you override the default?

3.2. Workstage Properties

Each workstage implementation is configurable with properties. The following tables describe each property and whether or not you are required to set it in your buildfile.

Many workstage properties use usernames and passwords. You may want to keep them out of your project's xml buildfile (especially if you store that file in CVS or SVN). A nice way to do this is make a simple buildfile (e.g. my-settings.xml) that just sets those properties (don't include it in CVS/SVN). Then in your project buildfile, have `<import file="my-settings.xml"/>`.

3.2.1. Misc Properties

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
ant.project.name (you specify this by <project name="____"> in your buildfile)	This must be unique for each project.		Yes

3.2.2. getsrc.clean-workdir

This should be executed before a getsrc implementation is executed. For example, <target name="getsrc" depends="getsrc.clean-workdir, getsrc.svn"/>

3.2.3. getsrc.local

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
getsrc.local.root-dir	Absolute path to the project's root directory on the local computer. Use location= instead of value= for this <property>		Yes

3.2.4. getsrc.cvs

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
getsrc.cvs.user	CVS username		Yes
getsrc.cvs.password	CVS password		Yes
getsrc.cvs.root	CVS root directory	/home/cvsroot	Yes
getsrc.cvs.host	CVS host	cvs.apache.org	Yes
getsrc.cvs.module	CVS module name (an alias, or full path) to the directory that contains forrest.properties	\${ant.project.name}	Yes
getsrc.cvs.tag	CVS tag or branch name		No

3.2.5. getsrc.svn

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
getsrc.svn.url	Full repository URL for project (this directory must contain forrest.properties)		Yes
getsrc.svn.revision	Revision number to fetch	HEAD	No

3.2.6. build.forrest

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
build.work-dir	Directory to temporarily hold working files	work	No
build.log-dir	Directory to hold log files	logs	No

3.2.7. deploy.local

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
deploy.local.dir	Path to deploy site to - the dir that would be the equivalent of build/site dir. Relative paths will be relative to \${bot.home}	sites/\${ant.project.name}	No

3.2.8. deploy.scp

`${user.home}/.ssh/known_hosts` must properly recognize the host, so you should manually make an ssh connection to the host if you never have before.

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
deploy.scp.dest	Full destination reference in the format user@host:/directory/path		Yes
deploy.scp.password	Password for user@host		No. You will be prompted for it if it is not set.

3.2.9. deploy.cvs

This is only available on *nix operating systems.

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
deploy.cvs.user	CVS username to use when committing changes		Yes
deploy.cvs.password	CVS password		Yes
deploy.cvs.root	CVS root	/home/cvs	Yes
deploy.cvs.host	CVS host	cvs.apache.org	Yes
deploy.cvs.module	CVS module	\${ant.project.name}	Yes
deploy.cvs.commit-message	Message to use when committing. You probably want to put a machine name or person's name here.	Automatic publish from forrestbot	No

3.2.10. deploy.svn

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
deploy.svn.user	SVN username to use when committing changes		Yes
deploy.svn.password	SVN password		Yes
deploy.svn.url	Full repository URL		Yes
deploy.svn.commit-mess	Message to use when committing. You probably want to put a machine name or person's name here.	Automatic publish from forrestbot	No

3.2.11. deploy.ftp

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
deploy.ftp.server	FTP server to upload files to	localhost	No
deploy.ftp.user	FTP username to use for authenticating with the server	anonymous	No
deploy.ftp.password	Password for the FTP user	forrestbot@	No
deploy.ftp.remotedir	The directory to upload to (this can be an absolute path or relative to the FTP user's default directory)	incoming	No

3.2.12. notify

These settings are used by all notify implementations.

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
notify.administrator	Name and email address of the forrestbot administrator		Yes
notify.on.failure	On a build failure, notification will happen if this is true.	true	No
notify.on.success	On a succesful build, notification will happen if this is true.	true	No
notify.log	Log file		No. Set by other workstage(s).
notify.deploy-location	Deployed location		No. Set by other workstage(s).

notify.completion-status	Result of the build		No. Set by other workstage(s).
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3.2.13. notify.local

No properties.

3.2.14. notify.email

Property	Description	Default Value	Required?
notify.email.host	SMTP host through which the email will be sent.	localhost	Yes
notify.email.to	Email address to send notification to.	\${user.name}@localhost	Yes
notify.email.from	From: address in the email	Forrestbot	No, but some mailers may require a valid email address.

4. Forrestbot design

Forrest and forrestbot use ant buildfiles extensively. Ant 1.6's import task is used to import multiple buildfiles into a single build. The following is the flow of control when running forrestbot:

- Your buildfile
 - forrestbot.xml
 - workstage buildfiles
 - forrest.build.xml

The workstage buildfiles set up the properties and files so that the main forrest buildfile (forrest.build.xml) will run. After it is run, other workstage buildfiles can implement reporting, deployment, or other post-build activities.

Your buildfile can specify which workstages you want to use, set properties for them, and do any additional pre- and post-processing.

FIXME (AB):

Which of these (Your buildfile/workstage buildfile) is the "project buildfile" referred to elsewhere on this page, if any? If it is "Your buildfile" can I also create workstage buildfiles? If so, how?