

Forrestbot Web Interface

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This webapp implements a website staging application for sites built with Apache Forrest. The webapp hosts HTML for a number of managed websites. The user can regenerate these sites at will. Once the user is satisfied with the site, they may 'deploy' the site, making it live.

The forrestbot web interface requires a servlet container such as [Apache Tomcat](http://jakarta.apache.org/tomcat/) (<http://jakarta.apache.org/tomcat/>) .

1. Build

To build the webapp from source, you need [Apache Maven](http://maven.apache.org/) (<http://maven.apache.org/>) installed. From a command prompt, go to the `forrest/src/forrestbot/webapp` directory and execute "`maven war`".

2. Installation

Note:

Most of this configuration is related to the [OpenSymphony OSUser](http://www.opensymphony.com/osuser/) (<http://www.opensymphony.com/osuser/>) authentication layer.

1. Extract the war to a temporary directory
2. Modify `welcome.local.html`
3. Modify `osuser.xml` if you want to use an authenticator other than XML files
4. Modify `projects.xml`, `groups.xml`, and `users.xml` according to your needs
5. Modify `settings.properties` according to the server's specific setup
6. Repackage the war file
7. Deploy the war file in Tomcat or some other servlet container

3. TODO Wishlist

- seperate authorization of 'build' and 'deploy'
- log everything, not just the build
- view old log files
- ability to reload all config files on the fly
- put date at top of `viewlog_body` page

4. FAQ

4.1. The build and/or deploy commands don't seem to work

Currently forrestbot only logs the forrest part of it's execution, not the whole thing. And the web interface starts a forrestbot process and doesn't watch it's progress directly. So look at

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the debugging output for the command executed and the working directory used. Log into the server using the login of the Tomcat server and cd to the working directory and then execute the command. This will fairly accurately simulate what the web interface does.

Also, set debug-exec=true in settings.properties and make sure log4j.properties logs DEBUG. This will log all the thread output.

4.2. Can I do anything with this besides just running the forrestbot?

Sure. Create a wrapper script and specify it as forrest-exec in settings.properties. Here's an example:

```
#!/bin/bash

# remove env values set from container
PATH=/usr/bin
CLASSPATH=
# get env vars
. /home/user/.profile

# group writable for easier sharing of files with others who run forrestbot
umask g+w

# you can preprocess something
xmlfile=$2
if [ "${xmlfile##*.}" = "xml" ]           # everything after last .
then
    target=$3
    if [ "$target" != "deploy" ]         # don't run preprocess task
on a deploy
    then
        projectTarget=${xmlfile%.*}     # everything before last
        .                               # do something special for $projectTarget here
    fi
else
    echo "Syntax: forrest_wrapper.sh -f myapp.xml [build|deploy|...]"
    exit
fi

# run forrest(bot) with all the parameters
forrest $*

# you can postprocess something here
```