# Forrestbot introduction

## Getting started with using Forrestbot

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#### Warning:

This documentation applies to the forrestbot included with Forrest 0.5.1 or previous releases. The next version of forrest will include a new forrestbot, which has some documentation here.

#### 1. Goal

You have your own project and you want to use Forrest to build the project documentation.

#### 2. Introduction

The **ForrestBot** will automatically build and publish your documentation on a regular basis. The versatile ForrestBot can retrieve source XML instances from various type of repository (e.g. local filesystem, local CVS, remote CVS), generate the documents, and copy the result to a local or remote location (optionally via secure methods). It can be run from the command-line as part of your documentation edit-build-review cycle, it can be called from cron to automate your website update, it can operate as a centralised docs-build service for a set of remote projects, it can do tasks in parallel, and do even more. See some websites that are automatically built with ForrestBot at <a href="http://forrestbot.cocoondev.org/">http://forrestbot.cocoondev.org/</a>

This document provides a concise overview of one particular scenario. See <u>The ForrestBot</u> for details and understand <u>Our Contract</u>. We assume that you have built and configured Forrest as described in <u>Using Forrest</u>.

Please send your feedback to forrest-dev - the ForrestBot will be enhanced to meet diverse needs.

(Building the documentation for the actual Forrest project is a separate issue. Use ./build.sh site ... that will provide overview documentation about how Forrest operates and how you can help to improve it.)

### 3. Establish project source directory

The directory that contains your XML instances.

- PROJECT\_HOME = /home/you/yourproject
- SRC\_DOC = \$PROJECT\_HOME/src/documentation

Your XML instance documents are at \$SRC\_DOC/content/xdocs

### 4. Establish project configuration

See the sample configurations at xml-forrest/src/resources/forrestbot/samples/ copy one and edit it to replace the <project> definitions with our own, i.e.

```
<deploy type="local-copy">
     <destination name="/var/www/html/yourproject"/>
     </deploy>
</project>
```

#### 5. Run ForrestBot

```
[you@locahost]$ cd $PROJECT_HOME
[you@locahost]$ forrestbot -Dbot.config=<name>
... where <name> is the pathname to your configuration file.
There are also convenience scripts for automation. See
```

xml-forrest/src/resources/forrestbot/scripts/README.txt

### 6. Next Steps

Some enhancements to your ForrestBot would be ...

- Add your own skin as described in <u>Using Forrest</u>.
- Configure another <project> to conduct a secure copy to your public website.
- Instruct ForrestBot to send you email about the activities.
- Manage your XML instances with CVS and instruct ForrestBot to get the source.
- Use the "Forrestbot web interface" (website staging application).

  xml-forrest/src/resources/forrestbot/webapp/WEB-INF/README.txt

### 7. Other methods

See the **Using Forrest** document.

Forrest can also run as a dynamic webapp.