

# How to run Forrest from within Maven

*This How-To describes how to run Forrest from within Maven.*

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## 1. Intended Audience

Users who want to run Forrest from within Maven.

## 2. Purpose

One may want to generate their project's documentation and/or website using Forrest in lieu of Maven's site plugin.

## 3. Prerequisites

- Understand how to add goals to [maven.xml](#).

## 4. Steps

The procedure outlined below describes how to add a goal to your project's maven.xml that will invoke Forrest's site target.

### 4.1. Set the FORREST\_HOME environment variable

Make sure the FORREST\_HOME environment variable points to your Forrest home directory (i.e. the directory that contains `forrest.build.xml`) (e.g. `C:\opt\apache-forrest-0.7`)

### 4.2. Initialize an Ant environment property at the top of maven.xml

Paste the following line at the top of your maven.xml:

```
<property environment="env" />
```

### 4.3. Add forrest goal to maven.xml

Paste the following goal into your project's maven.xml:

```
<goal name="forrest" description="runs Forrest">
  <property name="forrest.home" location="${env.FORREST_HOME}" />
  <property name="forrest.ant.home" location="${forrest.home}/tools/ant" />
  <java classname="org.apache.tools.ant.Main" fork="true" failonerror="true" maxmemory="128M">
    <classpath>
      <fileset dir="${forrest.ant.home}/lib">
        <include name="*.jar" />
      </fileset>
      <pathelement path="${java.home}/../lib/tools.jar" />
    </classpath>
    <sysproperty key="ant.home" value="${forrest.ant.home}" />
    <sysproperty key="forrest.home" value="${forrest.home}" />
    <sysproperty key="basedir" value="${basedir}" />
    <sysproperty key="java.endorsed.dirs" value="${forrest.home}/lib/endorsed" />
    <arg line="-f ${forrest.home}/main/forrest.build.xml" />
  </java>
</goal>
```

It is necessary to fork a separate java process because Maven 1.0 embeds Ant 1.5.2, but Forrest's `forrest.build.xml` requires Ant 1.6. The goal makes use of the copy of Ant 1.6 that is bundled with Forrest, so it's not even necessary to have Ant 1.6 installed separately.

#### 4.4. Alternative file

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Under `$FORREST_HOME/tools/targets/maven.xml`

#### 5. Feedback

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