Ant :

Apache Ant is a Java based build tool from Apache Software Foundation. Apache Ant's build files are written in XML and they take advantage of being open standard, portable and easy to understand.

Need for a Build Tool

On an average, a developer spends a substantial amount of time doing mundane tasks like build and deployment that include:

* Compiling the code
* Packaging the binaries
* Deploying the binaries to the test server
* Testing the changes
* Copying the code from one location to another

To automate and simplify the above tasks, Apache Ant is useful. It is an Operating System build and deployment tool that can be executed from the command line.

C:\>ant generate-javadoc

Buildfile: C:\build.xml

java doc has been generated!

BUILD SUCCESSFUL

Total time: 10.63 second

C:\>ant build-jar

Buildfile: C:\build.xml

BUILD SUCCESSFUL

Total time: 1.3 seconds

C:\>ant build-war

Buildfile: C:\build.xml

BUILD SUCCESSFUL

Total time: 12.3 seconds

C:\>ant deploy-war

Buildfile: C:\build.xml

BUILD SUCCESSFUL

Total time: 6.3 seconds

C:\>ant reload

Buildfile: C:\build.xml

BUILD SUCCESSFUL

Total time: 3.1 seconds