## Ant

* Released in 2000, very popular Java application builds
* It is based on procedural programming data
* Major drawback was XML as it is the format used to write build script
* XML becomes unmanageable and big when used with small projects (More lines of code)

## Maven

* Release in 2004, Goal was to improve the problems of Ant
* Continued to use XML for build specification
* While Ant requires developers to write all commands to complete build task, Maven relies on convention and provides targets that can be invoked
* Provides the ability to download dependencies over the network
* Focused mainly used to manage dependencies in project
* Maven is unable to handle the conflicts between different versions of the same library
* Since, its focused on dependency management, complex customized build scripts are hard to write in Maven than Ant
* Since it uses XML, it is highly structured & standardized

## Gradle

* Released in 2012, combines the good part of Ant & Maven
* Built on top of DSL based on groovy (JVM Language) . Does not use XML
* Gradle scripts are shorter and cleaner
* Google is using it as a build tool for Android