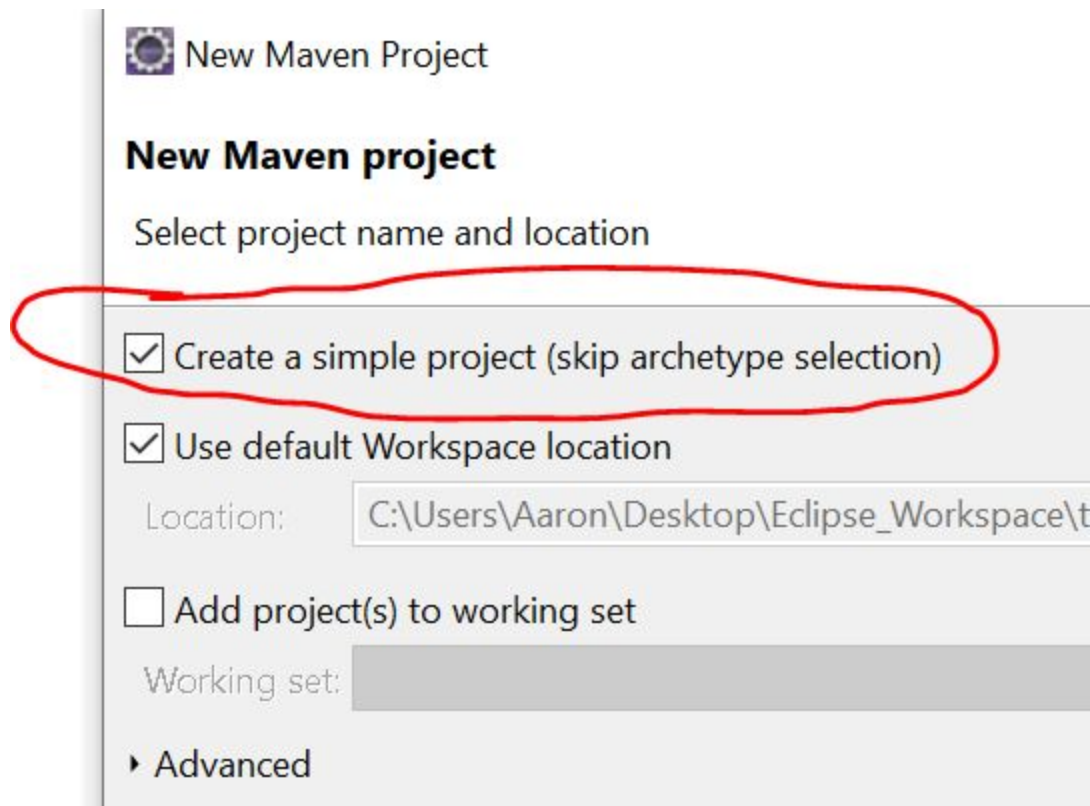**How to create a simple maven project by skipping archetypes**:

(**Note**: can only use **<java.version>** in pom.xml when using Spring Boot, so doesn't apply when using a simple Maven setup)

Step 1: Create a maven project in Eclipse/Intellij. In the wizard, skip the archetype selection and create a simple maven project.

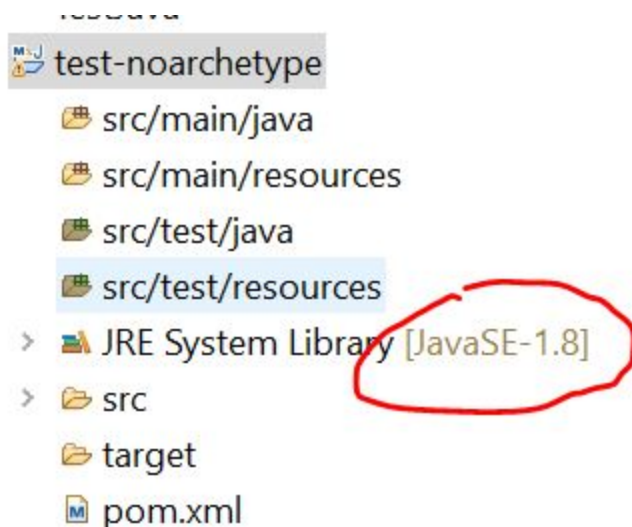**Step 2**: Add this to your pom.xml (otherwise, it defaults to Java SE 1.5 in project)

```
<properties>
    <maven.compiler.target>1.8</maven.compiler.target>
    <maven.compiler.source>1.8</maven.compiler.source>
</properties>
```

```
WebMvcTest.class    test-noarchetype/pom.xml
 1  <project xmlns="http://maven.apache.org/POM/4.0.0" xmlns:
 2      <modelVersion>4.0.0</modelVersion>
 3      <groupId>testing.com</groupId>
 4      <artifactId>test-noarchetype</artifactId>
 5      <version>0.0.1-SNAPSHOT</version>
 6
 7      <properties>
 8          <maven.compiler.target>1.8</maven.compiler.target>
 9          <maven.compiler.source>1.8</maven.compiler.source>
10  </properties>
11
12  </project>
```

Step 3: Update your maven project (Maven -> Update Project). This should refresh it to Java 1.8.

Step 4: If that doesn't work, also need to go into the Build Path (Build Path -> Configure Build Path -> Libraries) and delete the Java 1.5 JRE that is activated. Then refresh Maven project (Maven -> Update Project).

See this helpful StackOverFlow article that discusses these steps: (https://stackoverflow.com/questions/38882080/specifying-java-version-in-maven-differences-between-properties-and-compiler-p)