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Using cmake how do I get verbose output from ctest?

I'm using CMake to build my project. I have added a unit test binary which is using boost unit testing framework. This one binary contains all of the unit tests. I've added that binary to be run by CTest:

```
ADD_EXECUTABLE( tftest test-main.cpp )
ENABLE_TESTING()
ADD_TEST( UnitTests tftest )
```

but the build output in Visual Studio only shows the result of running ctest:

```
    Start 1: UnitTests
  1/1 Test #1: UnitTests ................***Failed    0.05 sec

  0% tests passed, 1 tests failed out of 1
```

This is not very helpful because I can't see which test failed. If I run ctest manually from the command line with --verbose I get the output from boost unit test which tells what actually failed:

```
1: Test command: tftest.exe
1: Test timeout computed to be: 9.99988e+006
1: Running 4 test cases...
1: test-main.cpp(20): error in "sanity_check3": check 1 == 2 failed
1:
1: *** 1 failure detected in test suite "Master Test Suite"
1/1 Test #1: UnitTests ................***Failed    0.00 sec
```

So, what do I need to change in the CMakeLists.txt to have ctest run with --verbose at all times? Is there a better way to use boost unit tests with cmake/ctest?

cmake   ctest

edited May 26 '16 at 17:09   asked Apr 18 '11 at 23:15
Patrick B.   Skrymsli
6,008 4   27   54   **2,465** 4   22   32

7 Answers

You can set the environment variable `CTEST_OUTPUT_ON_FAILURE`, which will show you any output from the test program whenever the test fails. One way to do this when using Makefiles and the command line would be as follows:

```
env CTEST_OUTPUT_ON_FAILURE=1 make check
```

This SO question and answer shows how to set environment variables in Visual Studio.

edited May 23 at 11:54   answered Apr 22 '11 at 15:54
Community ♦   richq
1   1   **42.7k** 16   129   131

2   Doesn't work for me (ctest version 2.8.12.1). I tried `SET(CTEST_OUTPUT_ON_FAILURE TRUE)` and `SET(CTEST_OUTPUT_ON_FAILURE ON)`, but it has no effect. Other reports in the web corroborate that this