Generate branded iOS apps

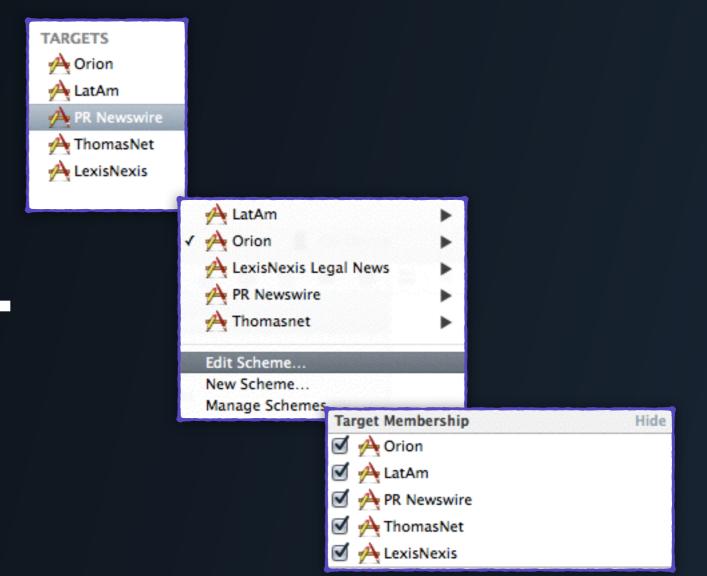
Ian Paterson, Pawan Poudel April 15th, 2014

Scaling Up

Ian Paterson Newstex, LLC

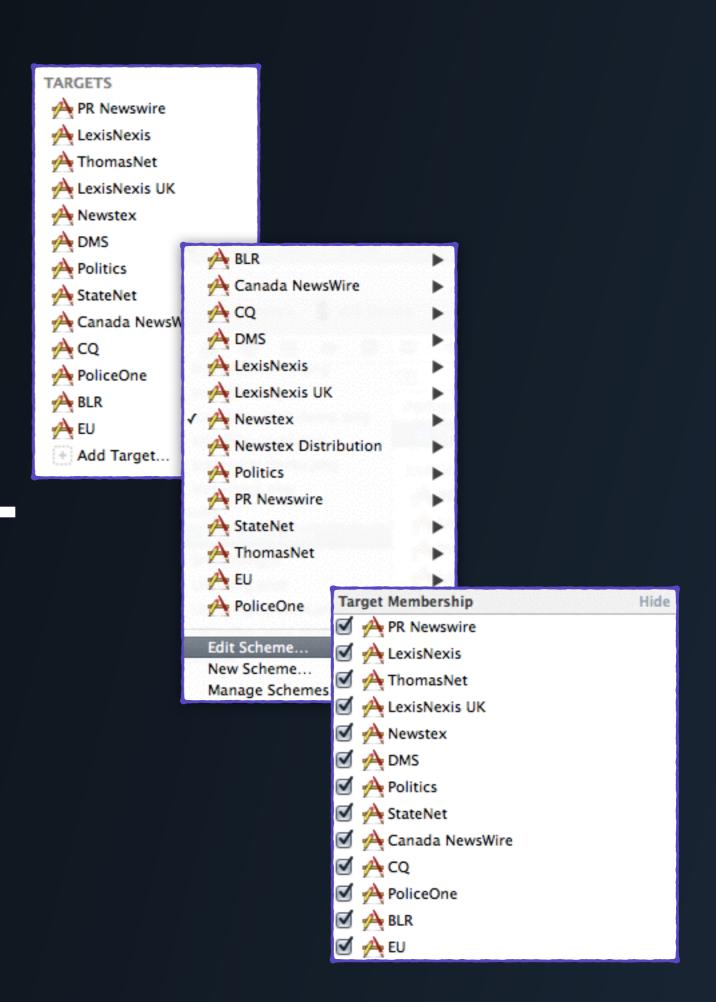
2011 5 Targets

- White-label news app
- One target per app
- Few targets, all is well



2012 13 Targets

- Project file management becomes a burden
- Difficult to add and remove targets
- Frequent mistakes



project.pbxproj

contains everything about every target

in an ugly format

multiple times

in multiple places

Remove a class

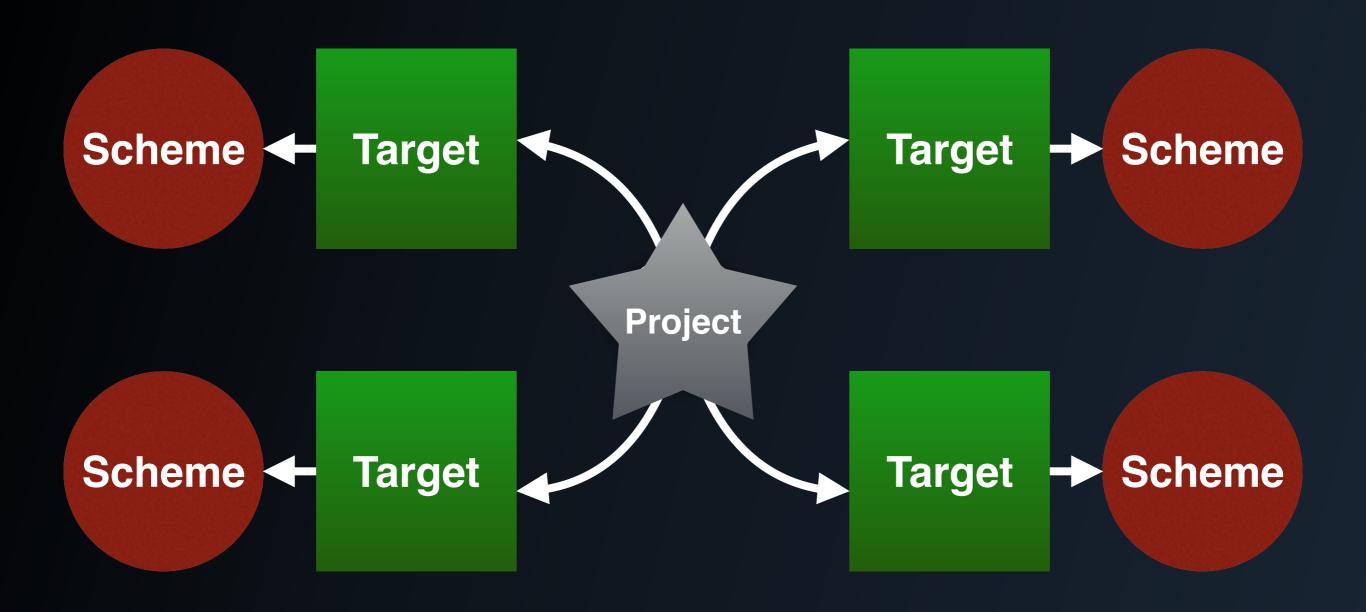
20 changes

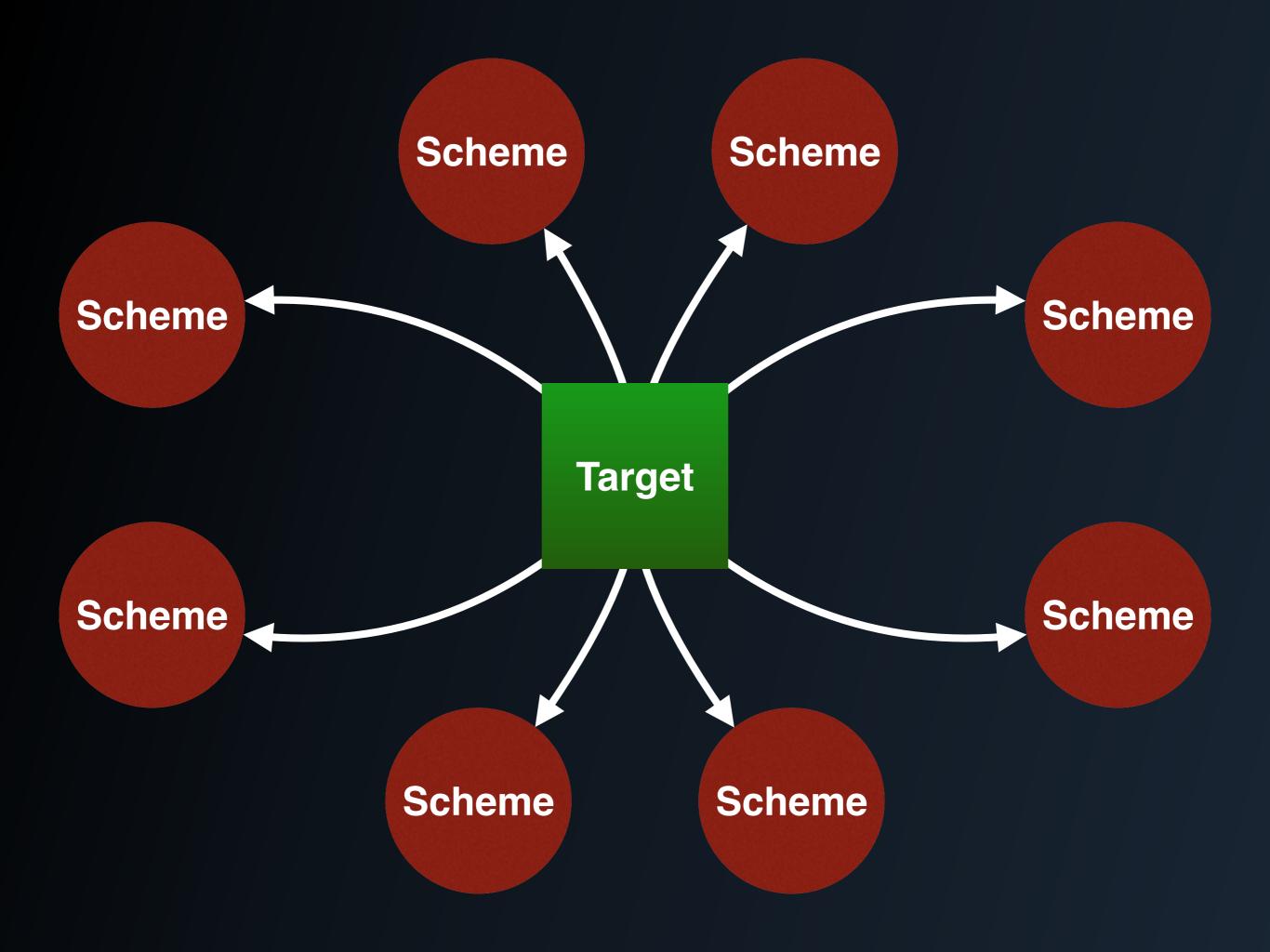
Add a class

changes 13 checkboxes

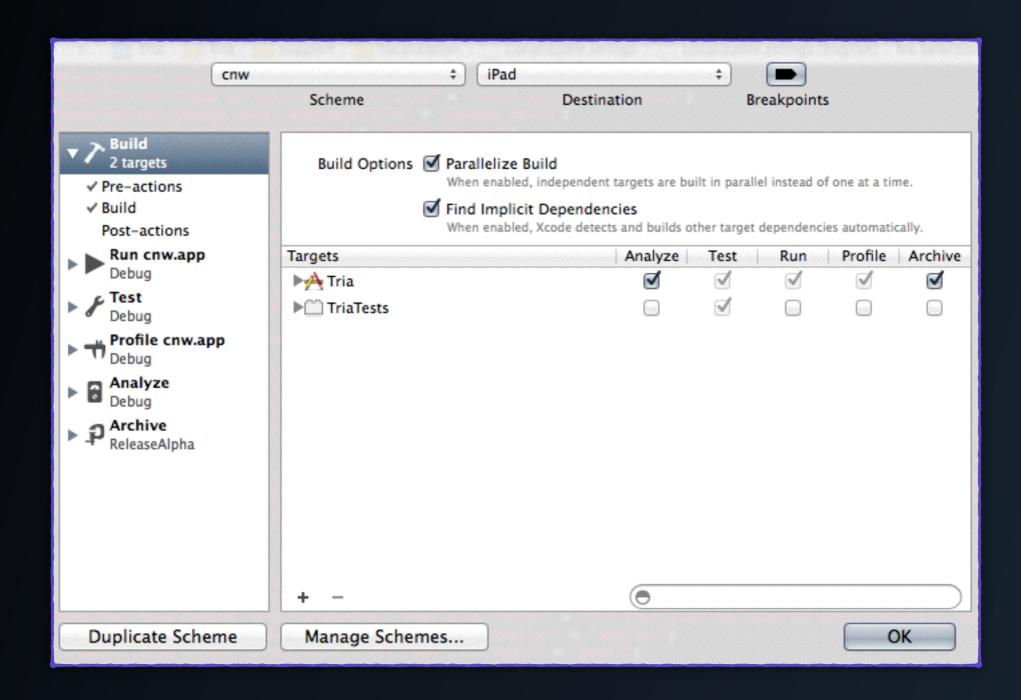
Add a target

changes 1119 lines added



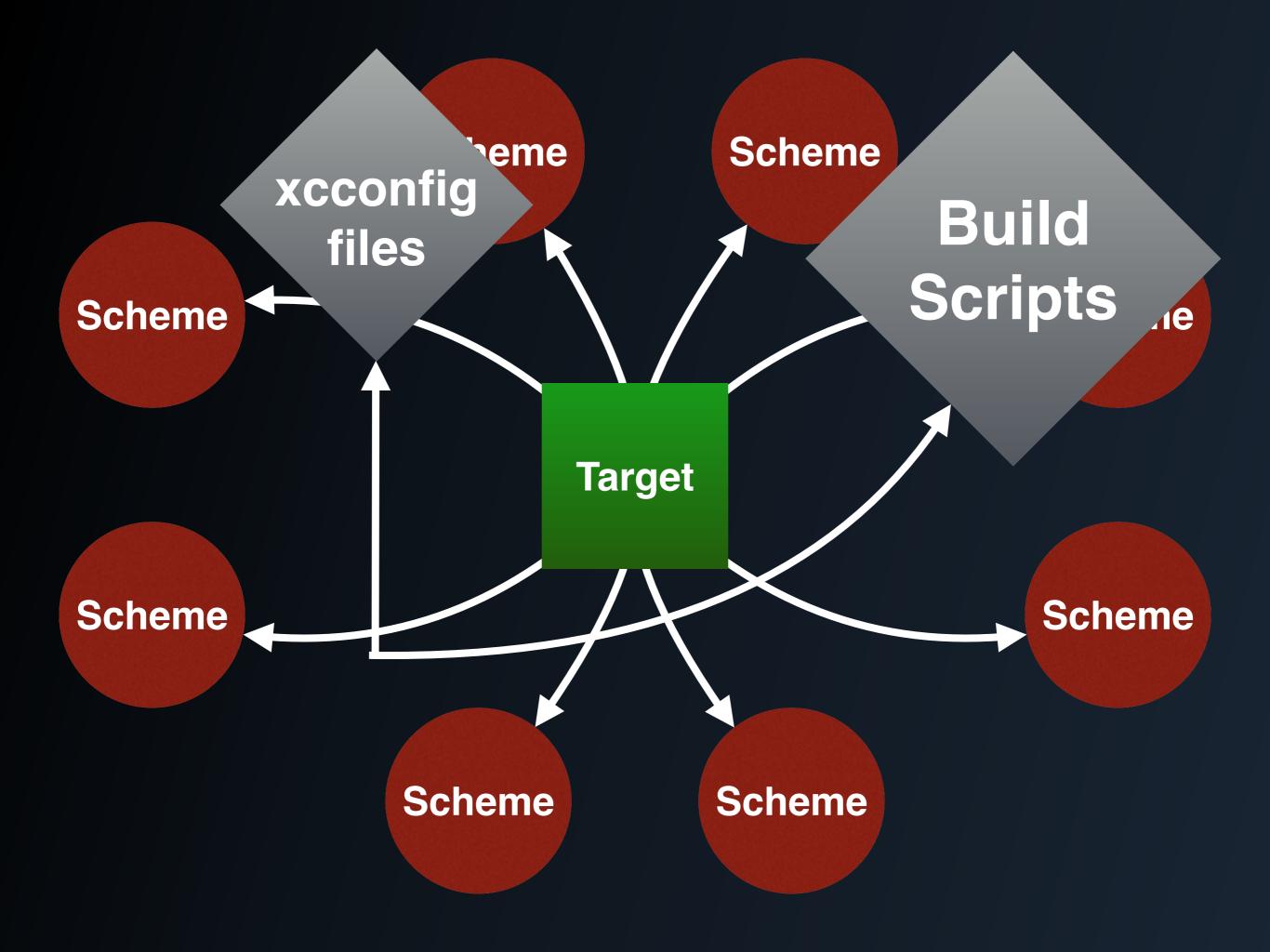


Implementation



Benefits

- Schemes are lightweight, no merge conflicts
- Eliminates inconsistent settings between targets
- Can maintain leads in separate branches
- Higher scalability than multiple targets
- Works with xcodebuild



Build Scripts

- Copy static assets specific to the app
 - Cannot use Copy Bundle Resources
- Generate theme, configuration plists, etc.
- Optimized PNGs, binary plists
- Enforce app's .xcconfig for current scheme

Problems

- Cannot run script before xcconfig is parsed
- Difficult to conditionally include frameworks
- Even more difficult to conditionally compile code
- Always a few insignificant changes in project and scheme files (references to product name)

Questions?

or ideas about how to better solve our problem...

Contact Info

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