

Administering Eclipse site-wide for a large developer base

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Outline

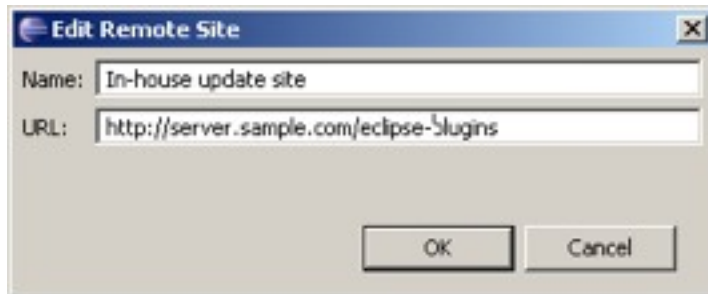
- Deploying the Eclipse SDK
- Deploying additional features using an update site
- Deploying plug-ins in a shared extension location
- Per user plug-in directories
- Common preferences
- References

Deploying Eclipse SDK

- any tool that is able to extract or copy files and add a shortcut to the start menu will do the job
- What we do
 - create a master Eclipse installation
 - extract the original zip file downloaded from eclipse.org
 - add some configurations (eg. links subdirectory)
 - repackage the master installation using a product called NetInstall
 - Deploy Eclipse using a NetInstall client program
- Other tools that proved to fit the requirements are
 - MacOS X: dmg
 - Linux: rpm / dpkg
 - Windows: NSIS

Deploying additional features using an update site

- Create an in-house update site to offer features and updates:
 - download features / updates you want to offer
 - wrap plug-ins in a feature project if none exists
 - create an update site project containing all the features
 - compile and upload update site to a server
- Add your new update site to the list of update sites in Eclipse

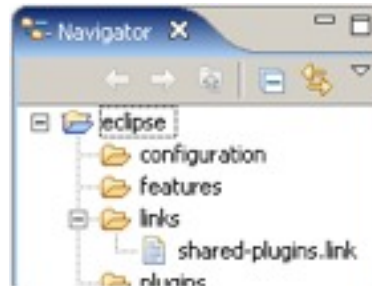


- Developers can then install the features from the internal site

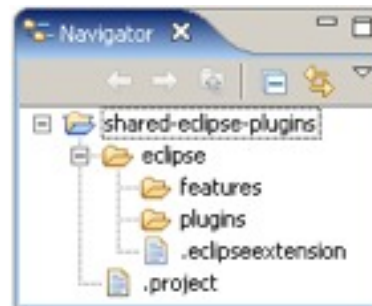
Deploying plug-ins in a shared extension location

- Plug-ins can be loaded from a shared extension location

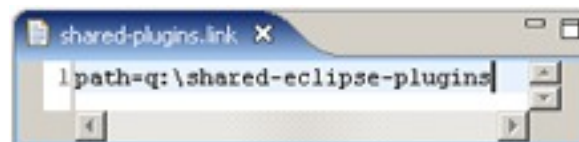
File system structure
in Eclipse install dir:



File system structure
in shared location:



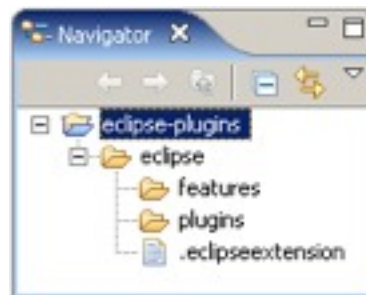
Link file content:



Per user plug-in directories

- Eclipse is configured to use each developers own plug-in directory *~/eclipse-plugins* as extension location



File system structure
in ~/eclipse-plugins:



Configuration of extension locations:



Common preferences

- We use two levels of settings:
 - common workspace preferences
Company-wide set of preferences that are mandatory for each developer (eg. file encoding, use spaces for indentation, ...)
 - project preferences
We store as much preferences as possible within the projects to attain a high flexibility on the project level and to make sure all developers of a project use same settings.
- Deployment of the settings is done using *.epf files and  import and  export preferences functions

References

- <http://help.eclipse.org/help31>
- <http://eclipsewiki.editme.com>
- <http://www.eclipsefaq.org>
-  Eclipse Distilled
by David Carlson
Addison-Wesley, 2005
ISBN: 0-321-28815-7
-  Eclipse Rich Client Platform
by Jeff McAffer; Jean-Michel LeMieux
Addison-Wesley, 2005
ISBN: 0-321-33461-2