Maven is a software project management and comprehension tool. Based on the concept of a project object model (POM), Maven can manage a project build, reporting and documentation from a central piece of information.

It is designed to give a clear definition of what the project consists of. The tool can be used for building and managing any java project. Maven’s goal is to give the user the ability to understand the total effort required for the project in the shortest amount of time. Does this by:

1. Making the build process easy
2. Providing a uniform build system
3. Providing quality project information
4. Encouraging better development practises

All maven projects are built to a uniform standard so once you understand how one maven project was built you will understand how every project is build saving time. It would be great help to use maven as it allows better planning of tasks in the project for example, outline of specifications, execution and the reporting of unit tests are part of the normal build cycle using maven. Some of its best practises that are used as a guideline in maven are keeping test source code in a separate, but parallel source tree and having test cases setup their environment instead of customizing the build for test preparation.

Maven builds a project using its project object model (POM) and a set of plugins. When you familiarize yourself with one maven project, you know how all of them build. Cuts the time needed to navigate projects.

Maven can provide:

* Cross referenced sources
* Change log created from the source control
* Dependencies used by the project
* Unit test reports including coverage
* Mailing lists managed by the project

Maven also aids in issue and release management. It also provides guidelines for the directory structure of the project.

If the project build structure is unusual and cannot be reorganized, it suggests we forgo some features or stop using maven altogether.