* 1. **Maven. . . What is it?**

The answer to this question depends on your own perspective.

The great majority of Maven users are going to call Maven a *“****build tool***”: a tool used to build deployable artefacts from source code.

Build engineers and project managers might refer to Maven as something more comprehensive: ***a project management tool***.

***What is the difference?***

A build tool such as Ant is focused solely on pre-processing, compilation, packaging, testing, and distribution.

A project management tool such as Maven provides a ***superset of features found in a build tool***.

In addition to providing build capabilities, Maven can also:

* run reports
* Generate a web site

And

* Facilitate communication among members of a working team.

***A more formal definition of Apache Maven:***

Maven is a project management tool which encompasses a

Project object model,

A Set of standards,

A project lifecycle,

A dependency management system,

And

Logic for executing plugin goals at defined phases in a lifecycle.

When you use Maven, you describe your project using a well-defined **project object model**, Maven can then apply cross-cutting logic from a set of shared (or custom) plugins.

**References**: Maven: The Complete Reference

Authors: Tim O'Brien Manfred Moser John Casey Brian Fox Jason Van Zyl Eric Redmond Larry Shatzer