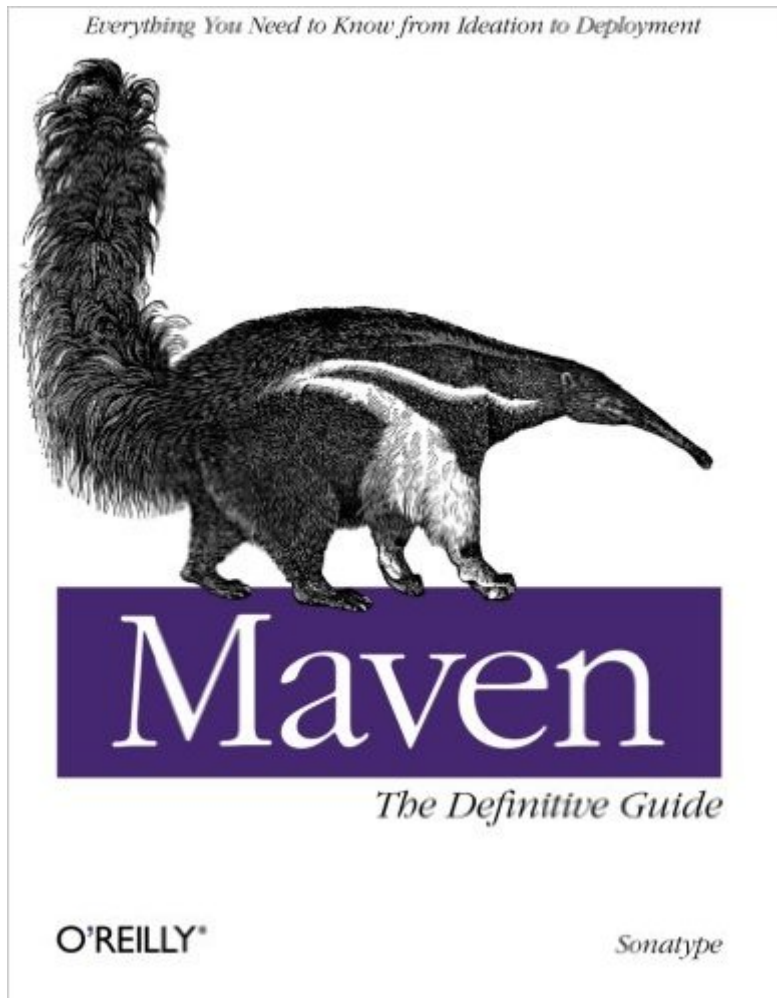# Maven: The Definitive Guide

Synopsis

For too long, developers have worked on disorganized application projects, where every part seemed to have its own build system, and no common repository existed for information about the state of the project. Now there's help. The long-awaited official documentation to Maven is here.Written by Maven creator Jason Van Zyl and his team at Sonatype, Maven: The Definitive Guide clearly explains how this tool can bring order to your software development projects. Maven is largely replacing Ant as the build tool of choice for large open source Java projects because, unlike Ant, Maven is also a project management tool that can run reports, generate a project website, and facilitate communication among members of a working team.To use Maven, everything you need to know is in this guide. The first part demonstrates the tool's capabilities through the development, from ideation to deployment, of several sample applications -- a simple software development project, a simple web application, a multi-module project, and a multi-module enterprise project.The second part offers a complete reference guide that includes:The POM and Project RelationshipsThe Build LifecyclePluginsProject website generationAdvanced site generationReportingPropertiesBuild ProfilesThe Maven RepositoryTeam CollaborationWriting PluginsIDEs such as Eclipse, IntelliJ, ands NetBeansUsing and creating assembliesDeveloping with Maven ArchetypesSeveral sources for Maven have appeared online for some time, but nothing served as an introduction and comprehensive reference guide to this tool -- until now. Maven: The Definitive Guide is the ideal book to help you manage development projects for software, web applications, and enterprise applications. And it comes straight from the source.

Book Information

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The book is not well written. It is not interesting or easy to glean information. It doesn't distinguish fundamental info from extraneous stuff you may never need. I was constantly having to reread paragraphs that you can only interpret if you already know the material. The index is not very helpful in locating the information you need when starting out.You really need to read the entire book before even starting your first small Maven project. I read books thoroughly, if not directly from first to last chapter, but in this case I needed to get up to speed on Maven quickly. This book was terrible for learning on an as-needed basis. Part of this is the nature of Maven. Even relatively simple real world webapp, swing, client-server projects will require multi-modules, an assembly (for custom deployable end product), and properties, and profiles, but even something as simple and basic as naming your output artifact jar or war to fit your current project expectations is scattered throughout later chapters. Most of the stuff I needed (and found via google and Maven documentation) I later found in this book somewhere by the time I finished it.The information on using plugins is particularly weak. You can get by using almost all built in plugins, but this is a significant part of the power of Maven and many Maven users will use plugins for almost everything.The Nexus repository chapter is good and has all you need. You will have to wade through it to get the little bits you really need for your project pom to pull dependencies, deploy snapshots and production artifacts to Nexus, and manually add 3rd party jars to your Nexus.I'd like to give less than three stars but the book is pretty complete, the sample code is good, it is up-to-date for 2.

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