



+GAnt

Scripting Grails with Gant

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- The UK Open Source Training Company
 - Training on: Agile Development, Test Driven Development, Java, Eclipse, Spring, Hibernate, Ajax, Ruby on Rails, Struts Ti, Wicket, JavaServer Faces, Tapestry, Beehive, AOP, RIFE and more!
- Training straight from the Source
 - Experts write and teach our courses: Adrian Colyer, Chad Fowler, Howard M. Lewis Ship Craig Larman, Dave Crane, Kevlin Henney, Rob Harrop, Kito Mann, Rod Johnson and many more
- Partners with leading edge companies
 - BEA, IBM, Interface21, Sun, Tangosol, wso2

Your Speaker

- Graeme Rocher
 - Chief Technology Officer at Skills Matter
 - Project Lead of Grails
 - Member of the Groovy JSR-241 Expert Group
 - Author of “The Definitive Guide to Grails” (Apress)

Agenda

- What is Grails?
- The Problem with Ant
- An Introduction to Gant
- Grails + Gant
- So WHEN is 0.4 out!?!?!?

What is Grails?

- Grails: MVC web framework inspired by:
 - Convention over Configuration
 - Don't Repeat Yourself (DRY)
 - Ruby on Rails
- Built on solid foundations:
 - Spring + Spring MVC
 - Hibernate
 - SiteMesh
 - Quartz
- Why Groovy?
 - Expressive (like Ruby, Python etc.)
 - Meta-Programming
 - Closure Support
 - Java Integration



Why Grails?

- A full stack framework based on tried and **trusted Java** technologies. No re-inventing the wheel!
- Allowing a **blended approach** of static and dynamic typing. The best of both worlds.
- Giving Java developers the choice when it comes to the **right tool** for the job
- By embracing JEE standards with Groovy it allows you to maintain your existing investment in Java and get all the productivity benefits of a dynamic platform

The Problem with Ant

- Ant is great for simple builds
- But... as soon as your build needs any kind of logic the cracks start to show
- The Grails 0.3.1 build.xml was over a **1000 lines** long!
- Ant makes it hard to makes things truly extensible and dynamic

What is Gant?

- Gant is a Groovy wrapper for Ant
- A Gant script is a standard Groovy script
- Targets are defined as “tasks” in Gant
- You can build commands and logic thanks to Groovy!

```
task(compile:"The compilation task") {
    depends(clean, init)
    Ant.javac(srcdir:"src/java",
              destdir:"build/classes" )
}

task('default':"The default task") {
    depends(compile, jar)
}
```

A Gant Script

Demo

Grails & Gant

Where can they live?

- Gant scripts can be provided in multiple locations:
 - `$USER_HOME/.grails/scripts`
 - `$PROJECT_HOME/scripts`
 - `$PROJECT_HOME/plugins/*/scripts`
 - `$GRAILS_HOME/scripts`

What do you get?

- Tasks that can be re-used in **your** Gant scripts
- Ability to automate all kinds of task by writing Gant scripts
- Command line access to the Grails environment
- Anything you can imagine!

Grails & The Future

- Grails 0.4 out “within days”
- New features in 0.4
 - The Plugin System
 - Gant Scripting
 - Many improvements to GORM
 - Generic Encoding/Decoding of Data
 - ThreadLocal Performance Optimizations

Summary + QA