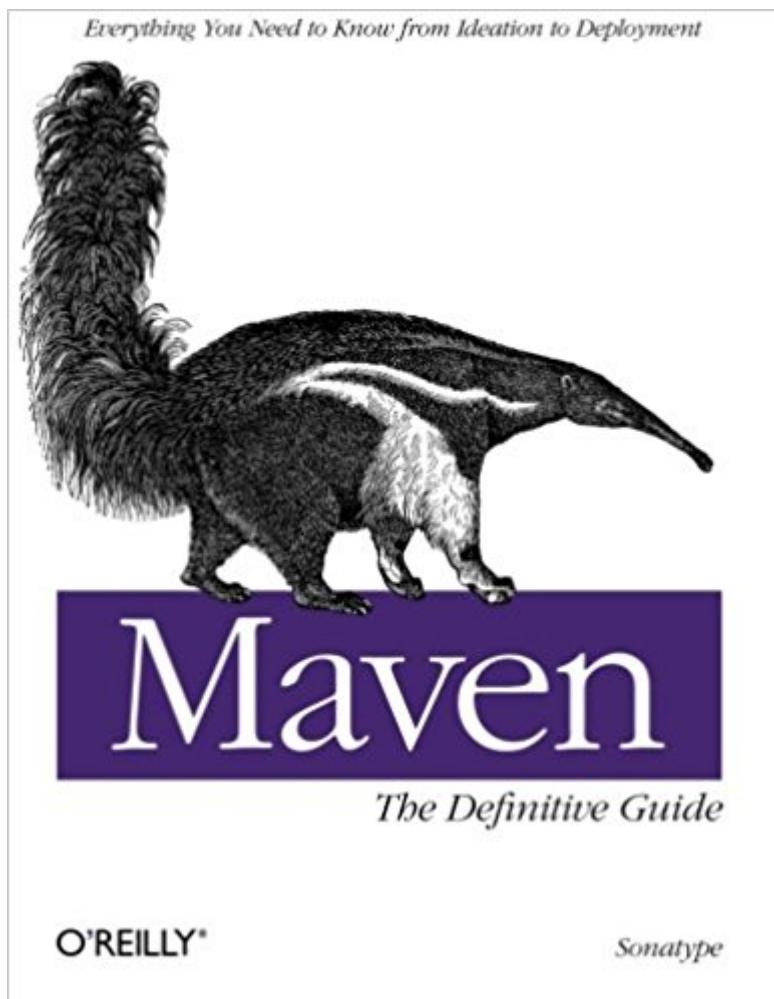


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# Maven: The Definitive Guide



## 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 Relationships  
The Build Lifecycle  
Plugins  
Project website generation  
Advanced site generation  
Reporting  
Properties  
Build Profiles  
The Maven Repository  
Team Collaboration  
Writing Plugins  
IDEs such as Eclipse, IntelliJ, and NetBeans  
Using and creating assemblies  
Developing with Maven Archetypes  
Several 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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## Customer Reviews

Sonatype Company is Jason Van Zyl's company and pretty much the center of the Maven universe. Jason Van Zyl is the inventor and lead developer of Maven.

This book is actually available online, free, from sonatype (google "maven reference"). I've come across at least three points in this text (which was published in 2008) that had me scratching my head, and then finally (after too much wasted time) coming to the conclusion that the text must be bungled, or garbled. So I went to the online version and found that this was indeed the case, and the errors have been corrected there. There is much good material in this book, but if it's available for free, and the free version is more reliable, it lowers the motivation to buy the book. One serious complaint I have about both this and the online version is the beginning of the chapter on assemblies. Most of the book is not like this, but that particular section is one of the worst examples I've ever seen of a complicated topic approached from the assumption that you already understand the complicated topic. It doesn't even begin by defining clearly, to a newbie, just what an assembly is, and why you want to use it. Instead, it dives into some puzzling minutiae about the difficulties you can run into using assemblies. I had to go to other online resources (maven.org documentation was helpful, which is ironic, because most of it is written from the you-already-understand perspective, and that's what drove me to this book). Otherwise, I think I would have remained on the starting line with this topic. Learning maven is not easy, and I expect to struggle a bit, so when I say that they started on the assumption that you already understand the topic, I'm not whining that they didn't hold my hand sufficiently. I'm saying that, on the first, second and third readings, the gist of the text soared straight over my head. I might as well have been reading it in Greek. Having said that, there is material further into the chapter on setting up and configuring assemblies that is very helpful. However, it also contains one of the serious errors. There is a list of items describing how to resolve expressions in an `outputFileNameMapping` element. Item 1 has four subitems under it, a, b, c and d. Item 1 begins by saying, "If the expression matches the pattern \$". Sub-item d begins with "If the expression matches the patterns \$ or \$". Now, how can an expression match both \$ and \$? The online version corrects this, and turns sub-item d into item 2. (The original item 2 became item 3, and it was also revamped.) So that was some time wasted. Considering that this book was published in 2008, I would think that they might have at least corrected the errors in the e-book version by now. Another, more minor, quibble is that the book talks about "mojos" but doesn't explain

what they are; they're just maven goals. "Mojo" became a term to refer to a goal. Again, I found this on maven.org's documentation. (I also had this mixed up in my mind; codehaus has a set of maven plugin "mojos," and for some time I thought "mojo" was a codehaus term.) Having said all of this, I have learned much from the e-book, there is no question about that. If you really want an epub version of the book, to read it conveniently on a Kindle, then it's worth the modest price. If you come across a passage that seems to make no sense, bookmark and look it up later online.

When I saw the less than 5 star rating I really wanted to add my input. I particularly appreciated the content starting in chapters 6 and 7, about having a hierarchy of related projects, mixing packaging types of pom, jar and war files, reviewing the components of web apps and how they're packaged into Maven, etc. Our team has been working with Maven for 6 months now and I had previously read quite a bit online, plus purchased a couple other Maven books. For where I'm at in my learning curve, this book fits what I needed. I think somebody new to Maven could still follow it; it's not quite a "recipe" oriented as some books, but really clear writing and explicit steps. The book is now a few years old, but these tools and concepts are still relevant today (Q4 2012). If they do an update, I'd suggest a bit more in Chapter 6 about their web.xml file (reason for multiple targets, review the file-class-url mappings, etc.), though none of those issues prevent the chapter from being useful, and is really more of a review for folks who haven't put together a lot of webapps using any framework.

I like how this book is laid out. It is made up of little exercises that clearly illustrate each aspect of Maven and even introduces some best practices of how to use them. For example, how to use Profiles to define environments and how to set the default one as well as how to hide sensitive resource values like database passwords. One reason I like Maven so much is it centralizes all the aspects of a build. Too many times I've had to maintain web application projects where all aspects of a build were scattered all over the project. It would take me hours just to find out what gets compiled and investigate versioning issues of dependences. As a developer, one shouldn't have to be consumed by these issues.

This is an excellent book. I think the author is clear, informative, and explains all the small stuff that's necessary to get the examples working. I really don't like programming books that label themselves "intermediate" just as an excuse to be lazy and skip explanatory steps. This book is not like that at all. As of August 23, 2011, the download site of the book's example code still works. I'm

able to follow along with the authors explanations and am able to get each chapters code to run easily on my local setup. I'm brand new to Maven, so I'm surprised I could follow along so quickly and painlessly. I'm used to reading programming books where the example code has to be tweaked with the help of searching the Internet for help to get up and running locally. The quality of the writing and the fact that the examples work so easily means this book easily gets high commendations. I hope the author writes more books, because he's very good. I like Cameron MacKenzie books, too.

Although it has been 10 years since it published, the content is still excellent for absolute newbie. It can explain the software nice and in details. The example projects are great also. If there is a newer version to compare to gradle, the latest build tool would be perfect.

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