Java Packaging for Developers
(Get someone to package your Java application)

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Abstract

Basic guidelines for developers to make it easier for their applications to get into Linux distributions. Handling source releases, build systems and dependencies and making packagers happy in the process.

Main audience: Java developers with little packaging experience.
Overview

Linux distributions\(^1\)

- Take source code
- Build binary packages
- Test
- Fix
- Release packages

\(^1\)Thanks to Thierry Carrez <thierry (at) openstack (dot) com> for providing next three introductory slides and several ideas from: http://fnords.wordpress.com/2010/09/24/the-real-problem-with-java-in-linux-distros/
Java upstreams

- Write source code
- Build binary bundle with deps
- Test
- Fix
- Release binary bundle
Solutions

- Package binary bundle
  - Package all versions of all libs
  - Force software to use our versions of libs
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Source releases

- Make complete source releases with build scripts

Results of no source releases

```bash
# latest release doesn't generate javadocs and there is no source
# tarball with pom.xml or ant build file
#
# svn export -r86 http://atinject.googlecode.com/svn/trunk atinject-1
# tar caf atinject-1.tar.xz atinject-1
```
Dependencies

- Try to pick dependencies from major projects
- Don’t add another xml parser dep just because…
- Do not patch your dependencies.
- Know where your deps are coming from
Doom of every packager: bundling

*Bundle n.*: A number of things bound together,... into a mass or package convenient for handling or conveyance; a loose package;

- Security problems
- Maintenance problems
Z, oh where are thou?

What are micro revisions?
- Z in X.Y.Z version string
- Micro revisions are smallest released changes
- Usually contain only bugfixes
- ALWAYS backward compatible
- No new dependencies

Java ecosystem understanding of Z in X.Y.Z
- Anything goes (for a LOT of projects)
- Binary compatibility does not matter in Java
Z, oh where are thou? (cont.)

Example Maven update from 3.0 to 3.0.1

- Required Aether update from 1.7 to 1.8
- Aether had new dependency on async-http-client
- Async-http-client added netty, jetty 7.x, etc
- Fortunately only netty was runtime dependency

How to do it?

- Z update = only backward-compatible bugfixes
- No changes to dependencies
- Check required deps for new dependencies
How to use Ant properly?

Short answer?

DON’T

Long answer

- Try apache-ivy instead of bundling dependencies
- Use properties to reuse definitions
- Place all dependencies into one directory
- Use name-version.jar for dependencies
- Don’t be overly smart when writing build.xml
## Advantages of Maven over Ant

### For developers
- Declarative instead of descriptive
- Project metadata information in one place
- Good integration with other tools
- Support for running Ant for parts of build

### For packagers
- Declarative instead of descriptive
- Clear dependencies including their versions
- No bundling of dependencies
- **Problems are the same in all projects**
Not easy to make a mess with Maven, but...

- Sometimes too easy to add new dependency
- Careful with `maven-dependency-plugin:copy-dependencies`
- Use `maven-bundle-plugin` carefully
  - Useful for metadata manipulations
  - Export-Package can include dependencies in resulting jar
  - This is practically static linking
- Please don’t use `maven-shade-plugin`
  - Relocates package classes into different package
  - Hidden static linking
  - Impossible to reveal just from contents of jar
OSGI side of things

Make your jars OSGI-enabled:

```xml
...<packaging>bundle</packaging> ...
<brm<build>
  <plugins>
    <plugin>
      <groupId>org.apache.felix</groupId>
      <artifactId>maven-bundle-plugin</artifactId>
      <extensions>true</extensions>
    </plugin>
  </plugins>
</build> ...
```

Using maven-assembly-plugin to release source

```xml
<build>
<plugins>
...
<plugin>
    <artifactId>maven-assembly-plugin</artifactId>
    <configuration>
        <descriptorRefs>
            <descriptorRef>project</descriptorRef>
        </descriptorRefs>
    </configuration>
    <executions>
        <execution>
            <id>make-assembly</id>
            <phase>package</phase>
            <goals>
                <goal>single</goal>
            </goals>
        </execution>
    </executions>
</plugin>
...
</plugins>
</build>
```
maven-shade-plugin in action

<plugin>
  <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
  <artifactId>maven-shade-plugin</artifactId>
  <configuration>
    <relocations>
      <relocation>
        <pattern>org.objectweb.asm</pattern>
        <shadedPattern>org.packager</shadedPattern>
      </relocation>
    </relocations>
  </configuration>
</plugin>
maven-shade-plugin in action (cont.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents of resulting jar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/MANIFEST.MF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/maven/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/maven/org.packager/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/maven/org.packager/Pack/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/maven/org.packager/Pack/pom.properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>META-INF/maven/org.packager/Pack/pom.xml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>org/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>org/packager/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>org/packager/signature/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>org/packager/signature/SignatureReader.class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>org/packager/signature/SignatureVisitor.class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>org/packager/signature/SignatureWriter.class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>org/packager/Pack.class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can you tell where is signature sub-package coming from?
maven-bundle-plugin in action (cont.)

<plugin>
  <groupId>org.apache.felix</groupId>
  <artifactId>maven-bundle-plugin</artifactId>
  <extensions>true</extensions>
  <configuration>
    <instructions>
      <Export-Package>org.objectweb.asm.signature</Export-Package>
    </instructions>
  </configuration>
</plugin>
maven-bundle-plugin in action (cont.)

Contents of resulting jar

META-INF/MANIFEST.MF
META-INF/
META-INF/maven/
META-INF/maven/org.packager/
META-INF/maven/org.packager/Pack/
META-INF/maven/org.packager/Pack/pom.properties
META-INF/maven/org.packager/Pack/pom.xml
org/
org/objectweb/
org/objectweb/asm/
org/objectweb/asm/signature/
org/objectweb/asm/signature/SignatureReader.class
org/objectweb/asm/signature/SignatureVisitor.class
org/objectweb/asm/signature/SignatureWriter.class
org/packager/
org/packager/Pack.class
Buildsystem specific

Fedora.JavaSIG.getStatus()

Current activities
- Java SIG coordinating on bigger core updates
- New guidelines for Fedora 15
- No more versioned symlinks
- Fedora is #1 distribution with Java tools

Future plans and goals
- Simplify packaging (look into Jigsaw?)
- Make sure our core stack stays up-to-date
- More guidelines changes
- Your ideas?
IRC, irc.freenode.net #fedora-java
java-devel@lists.fedoraproject.org ¹
Fedora Java Packaging Guidelines ²
Java Packaging FAQ ³
Java SIG wiki ⁴

¹http://admin.fedoraproject.org/mailman/listinfo/java-devel
²http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Packaging/Java
³http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Java_packaging_common_problems
⁴http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/SIGs/Java
Summary

Please

- Provide source releases with build scripts
- Do not use niche libraries for dependencies
- Stable, bugfix-only, no-new-deps micro releases
- Try apache-ivy
- Ship pom.xml even if you build with ant
- Don’t be too smart with build.xml
- Careful with certain maven plugins
- Don’t be shy and ask!
The end.

Thanks for listening.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture room</th>
<th>D2 (80)</th>
<th>D3 (150)</th>
<th>A107 (50)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:45</td>
<td>Perl packaging for developers – Marcela Mašláňová</td>
<td>MythTV - User view – Lukáš Doktor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:50-10:35</td>
<td>Java packaging for developers – Stanislav Ochotnicky</td>
<td>Gnome 3.0 (r)evolution - Tomáš Bžatek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td>lunch</td>
<td>lunch</td>
<td>lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:10-14:55</td>
<td>PicketLink and PicketBox - Peter Škopek</td>
<td>Discussion: Bootloader and Dracut Future Plans - Harald Hoyer (session ends 10 minutes sooner)</td>
<td>Bug hunting &amp; static analysis – Ondřej Vašík and Petr Muller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00-15:45</td>
<td>Web Services for Remote Portlets - Michal Vančo</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>System vs Session - Lessons learned - David Zeuthen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:50-16:35</td>
<td>Infinispan 4 - Data Grids – Radoslav Husar, Michal Linhard</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>SysVinit, upstart and systemd in Fedora and RHEL – Petr Lautrbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:40-17:25</td>
<td>Deltacloud API – Michal Fojtik</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>Modern Linux Desktop alphabet – Tomáš Bžatek, Jaroslav Řezník</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>