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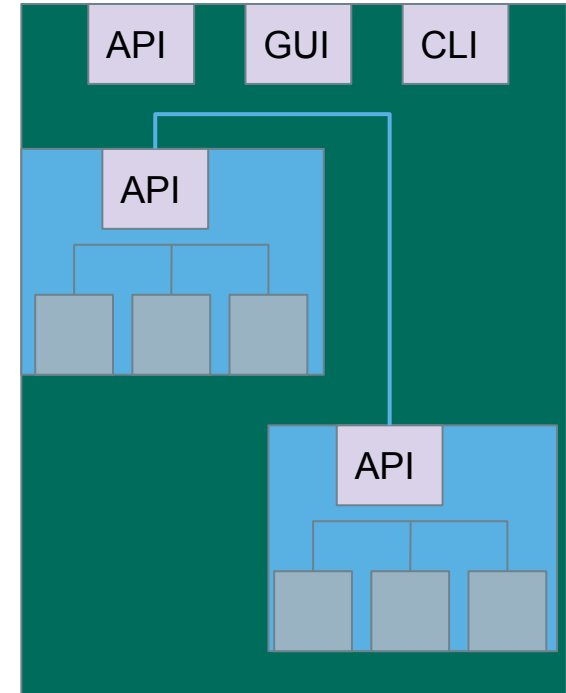
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Lecture 7: System (Integration) Testing and Test Automation

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DIT636/DAT560 - February 9, 2026

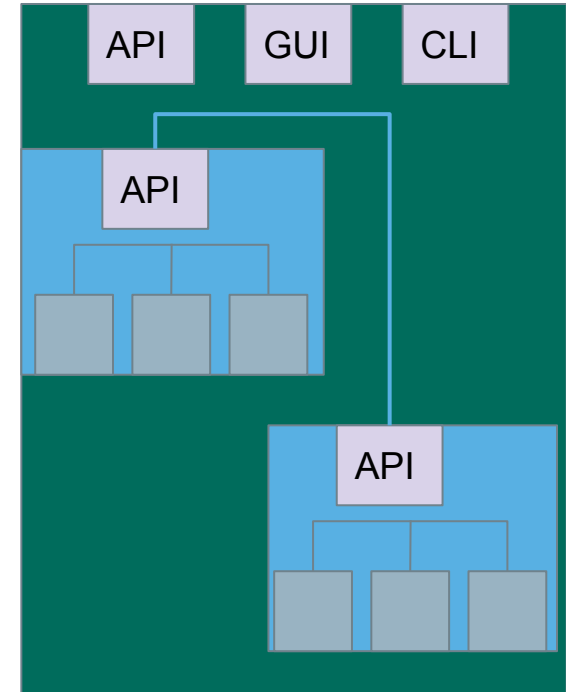
Testing Stages

- We interact with **systems** through **interfaces**.
 - APIs, GUIs, CLIs
- Systems built from **subsystems**.
 - With their own interfaces.
- Subsystems built from **units**.
 - Communication via method calls.
 - Set of methods is an interface.



Testing Stages

- **System-level Testing**
 - Tests **whole system** or **independent** subsystems through an **interface**.
 - **Integrates** lower-level components
 - (Subsystem-level) Does unit collaboration work correctly?
 - (System-level) Does subsystem collaboration work correctly?



Unit vs System Testing

- Unit tests focus on a **single class**.
 - Simple functionality, more freedom.
 - Few method calls.
- System tests **bring many classes together**.
 - Focus on testing through an interface.
 - One interface call triggers many internal calls.
 - Slower test execution.
 - May have complex input and setup.

System Testing

- System components are expected to interact.
 - Usually this is planned!
 - Sometimes unplanned interactions break the system.
- **We should select tests that thoroughly test component integrations.**



Fire and Flood Control



- Fire Control activates sprinklers when fire detected.
- Flood Control cuts water supply when water detected on floor.
- **Interaction means building burns down.**

WordPress Plug-Ins

[`:weather:`]



:) 8-) ;-) ...



Today's weather: [`:weather:`🕶️]

- Weather and emoji plug-ins tested independently.
- Their interaction results in unexpected behavior.

Component Interactions

Unit test vs. Integration test



Interface Types

- Parameter Interfaces
 - Data passed from through method parameters.
 - Subsystem may have interface class that calls into underlying classes.
- Procedural Interfaces
 - Interface surfaces a set of functions that can be called by other components or users (API, CLI, GUI).
 - Integrates lower-level components and controls access.

Interface Types

- Shared Memory Interfaces
 - A block of memory is shared between (sub)systems.
 - Data placed by one (sub)system and retrieved by another.
 - Common if system architected around data repository.
- Message-Passing Interfaces
 - One (sub)system requests a service by passing a message to another.
 - A return message indicates the results.
 - Common in parallel systems, client-server systems.

Interface Errors

- Interface Misuse
 - Malformed data, order, number of parameters.
- Interface Misunderstanding
 - Incorrect assumptions made about called component.
 - A binary search called with an unordered array.
- Timing Errors
 - Producer of data and consumer of data access data in the wrong order.

How to Write System Tests

- As before: choices, representative values, etc.
- If targeting internal code, unit tests can call methods from multiple classes.
- If targeting a dedicated interface:
 - Postman (REST)
 - Selenium (web browser)
 - Bash or Powershell scripts (command line)
 - Espresso (Android)

Differences from Unit Testing

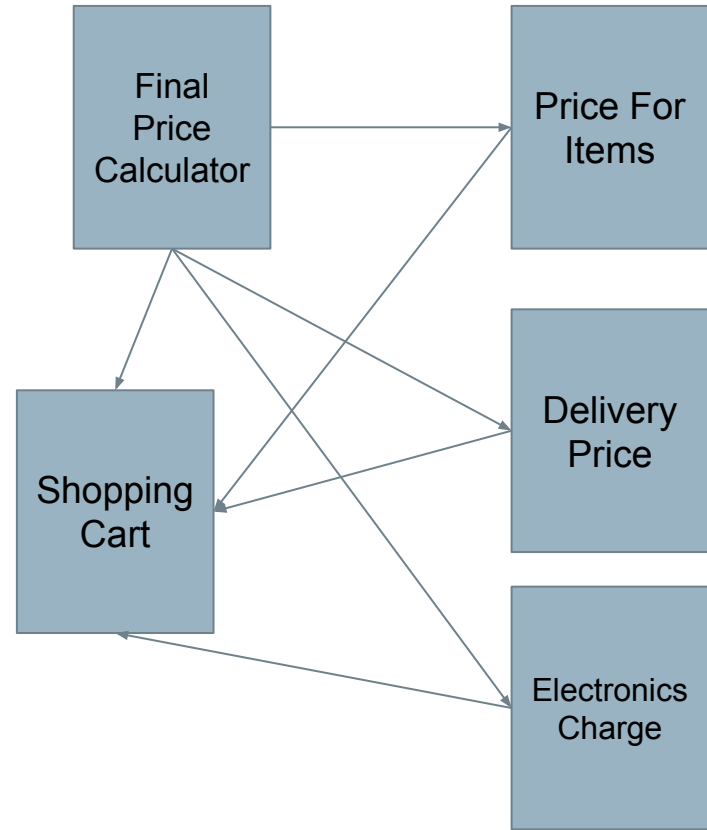
- Test design is more “conceptual”.
 - Based on high-level functionality, not directly traced to low-level code elements.
 - Choices may be tied to multiple code classes.
- Dependencies outside of codebase.
 - May need wrapper code for external dependencies to invoke in test cases that invoke internal code.
- More complex setup and teardown.

System Testing and Requirements

- Tests can be written early in the project.
 - Can create tests using the requirements.
 - Does not require a detailed design.
- Creating tests supports requirement refinement.
- Tests can be made concrete once code is built.

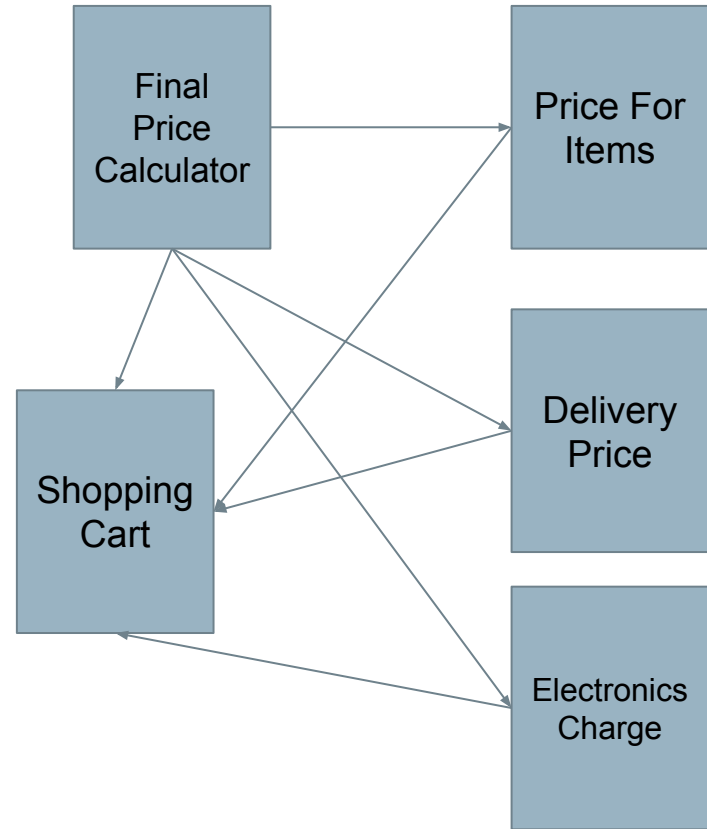
Example: Shopping

- Final price of each item is calculated as:
 - (price * quantity)
- Delivery costs:
 - 1-3: \$5
 - 4-10: \$12.5
 - 10+: \$20
 - If an item is from electronics category, \$7.5 extra.



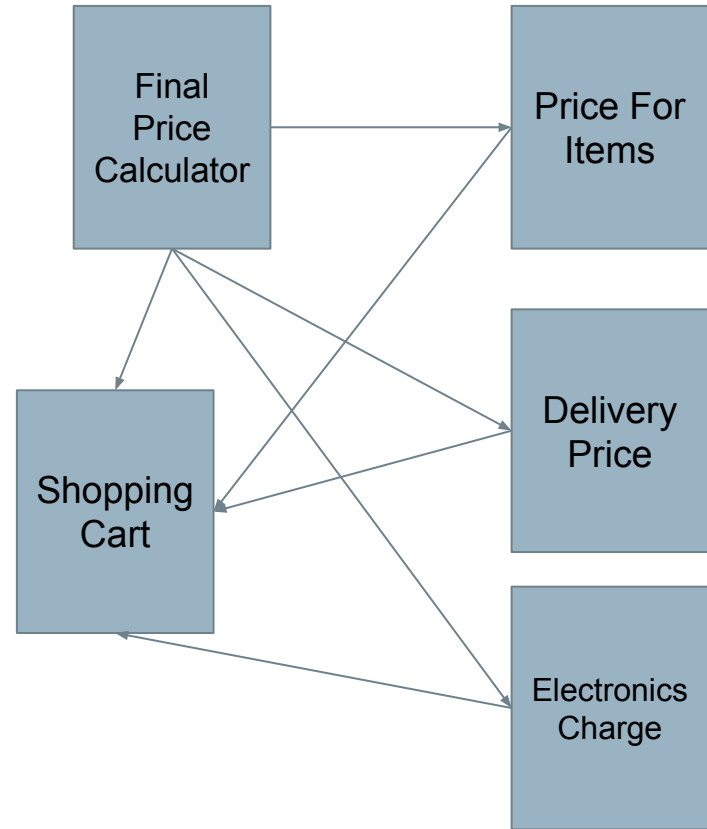
Example: Shopping

- ShoppingCart, “Price Rules” can be tested during unit testing.
- FinalPriceCalculator *could* be unit tested, but...
 - **Should** be target of integration testing.



Example: Shopping

- **Choice:** Shopping cart
 - Empty, 1, 2+ items
- **Choice:** Per-item quantities
 - 1, 2+
- **Choice:** Total quantity
 - 1-3 items, 4-10, 10+
- **Choice:** Electronics
 - Yes, no



User Journeys

- A “business facing” test, designed to simulate **a typical user’s journey** through the system.
 - A user’s entire interaction with a system to achieve some goal - **one path in a use case**.
 - Invokes multiple functions in one test.
- Typical in late stages of system, exploratory testing.
- Also used to demonstrate system to stakeholders.

Example: Advertising

- Use case: a user wants to create an event and invite appropriate members to it.
- One test case:
 - Create an event.
 - Sort the list of members, filtering by location, age, and gender.
 - Send a message to those users with an invitation to the event.

Message Board

- Events
 - Create
 - Edit
 - Delete
- Get Members
 - Filters
- Messages
 - Compose Message

Example: Advertising

- Set up database of members.
- Log in.
- Create an event.
- Sort the list of members, filtering by location, age, and gender.
- Send a message to those users with an invitation to the event.
- Check correctness of each step.
- Reset database contents.

Best Practices

- Implement **separate, reusable** setup and teardown.
 - Pre-testing setup run **before executing the first test**.
 - Restore to this state in teardown of each test.
 - Setup run before **each** test case with a common setup.
 - Simplifies each test case.
 - Easier to maintain.

Best Practices

- Run each test in a **clean environment**.
 - Resetting database or internal memory.
 - Logging out of accounts.
 - Stopping and restarting system.
- Balance risk against cost of a full restart.
- Can implement a “reset” function in test code.
 - Do not leave in production system.

Test Automation

Executing Tests

- How do you run test cases on the program?
 - System level: *could* run code and check results by hand.
 - **Limit how often you do this.**
 - Humans are slow, expensive, and error-prone.
 - **Exception - exploratory and acceptance testing.**
 - Test design requires effort and creativity.
 - Test execution should not.

Test Automation

- Development of software to separate repetitive tasks from creative aspects of testing.
- Control over *how* and *when* tests are executed.
 - Control environment and preconditions/setup.
 - Automatic comparison of predicted and actual output.
 - Automatic hands-free re-execution of tests.

Testing Requires Writing Code

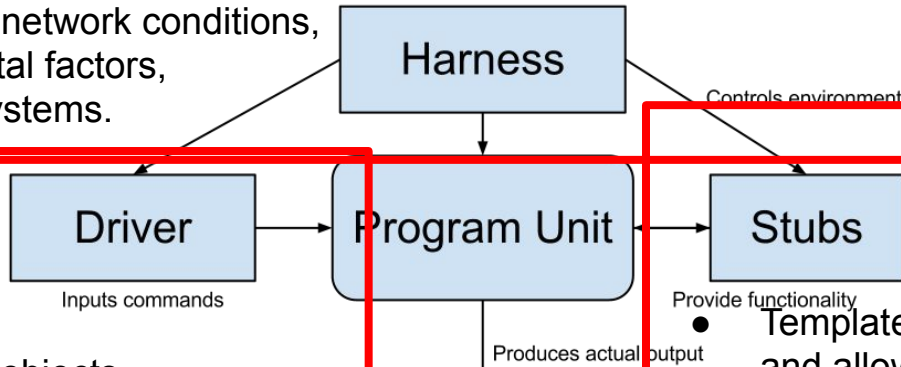
- The component to be tested must be isolated and ***driven*** using method or interface calls.
- Untested dependencies must be ***mocked*** with reliable substitutions.
- The deployment environment must be simulated by a controllable ***harness***.

Test Scaffolding

- Test scaffolding is a set of programs written to support test automation.
 - Not part of the product, often temporary
- Allows for:
 - Testing before all components complete.
 - Testing independent components.
 - Control over testing environment.

Test Scaffolding

- Simulates the execution environment.
- Can control network conditions, environmental factors, operating systems.



- Initializes objects
- Initializes parameter variables
- Performs the test
- Performs any necessary cleanup steps.

- Templates that provide functionality and allow testing in isolation

- Checks the correspondence between the produced and expected output and renders a test verdict.

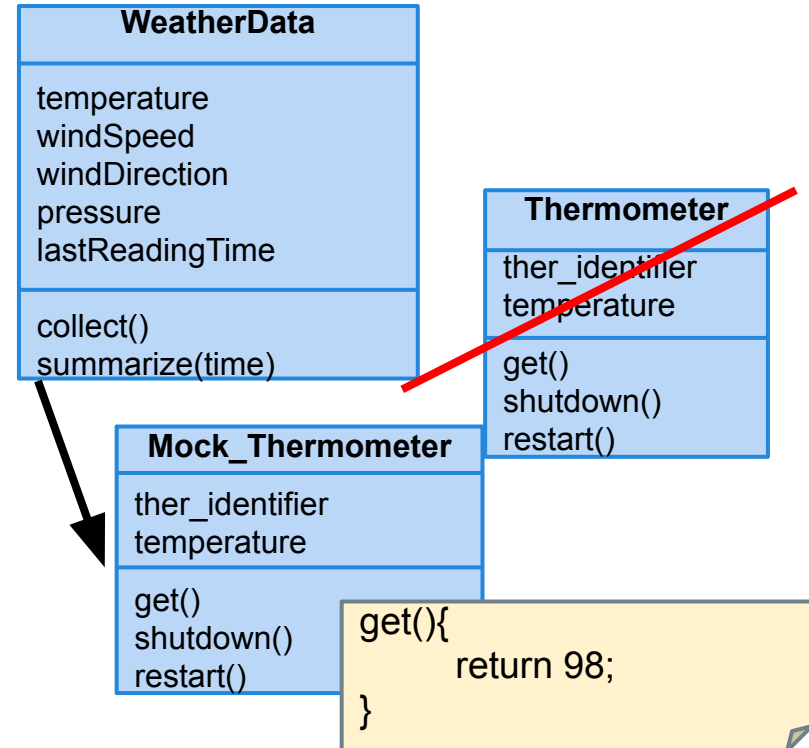
Scaffolding

- Mock objects and drivers are written as replacements for other parts of the system.
 - May be required if pieces of the system do not exist.
- Scaffolding allows control over test execution and greater observability to judge test results.
 - Simulate dependencies and test components in isolation.
 - Ability to set up specialized testing scenarios.
 - Ability to replace part of the program with a version more suited to testing.

Unit Testing - Object Mocking

Unit may depend on unfinished (or untested) components. Can **mock** those components.

- Same interface as real component, but hand-created simulation.
- Can be used to simulate abnormal operation or rare events.
 - Ex. Place exact data in database needed to hit special outcome.



Mocking Example



- Declare a mock object:
`LinkedList mList = mock(LinkedList.class);`
- Specify method behavior:
`when(mList.get(0)).thenReturn("first");`
 - Returns "first": `mList.get(0);`
 - Returns null: `mList.get(99);`
 - Because behavior for "99" is not specified.
`when(mList.get(anyInt())).thenReturn("element");`
 - `mList.get(0)`, `mList.get(99)` both return "element", as all input are specified.

Mocking Within a Test



@test

```
public void temperatureTest(){  
    Thermometer mockTherm = mock(Thermometer.class);  
    when(mockTherm.get()).thenReturn(98);  
    WeatherData wData = new WeatherData();  
    wData.collect(mockTherm);  
    assertEquals(98, wData.temperature);  
}
```

Let's take a break.

Build Systems

Build Systems

- Building, running tests, packaging and distributing are very common, effort-intensive tasks.
 - Building and deploying should be as easy as possible.
- **Build systems** ease process by automating as much as possible.
 - Repetitive tasks can be automated and run at-will.

Build Systems

- Allow control over code compilation, test execution, executable packaging, and deployment.
- Script defines actions that can be automatically invoked at any time.
- Many frameworks for build scripting.
 - Most popular for Java: Ant, Maven, Gradle.
 - Gradle very common for Android projects.

Build Lifecycle



- **Validate** the project is correct and all necessary information is available
- **Compile** the source code of the project.
- **Test** the source code using a suitable unit testing framework.
 - **Unit tests** and **subsystem integration tests**.
- Take the compiled code and **package** it in its distributable format, such as a JAR.

Build Lifecycle



- **Verify** - run **system tests**.
 - System tests require a packaged executable.
 - This is also when tests of non-functional criteria like performance are executed.
- **Install** the package for use as a dependency in other projects locally.
- **Deploy** the package to production environment.

Apache Ant

- Simple build system for Java.
- Build scripts define **targets** that can be executed on command.
 - Correspond to lifecycle phases or other automated tasks.
 - Targets can trigger other targets.
 - Build scripts written in XML.
 - Platform neutral, But can invoke platform-specific commands.
 - Human and machine readable.
 - Created automatically by many IDEs (Eclipse).

A Basic Build Script

```
<?xml version = "1.0"?>
<project name = "Hello World Project" default = "info">
  <target name = "info">
    <echo>Hello World - Welcome to Apache Ant!</echo>
  </target>
</project>
```

- File typically named **build.xml**, and placed in the base directory of the project.
- Build script requires **project** element and at least one **target**.
 - Project defines a **name** and a default **target**.
 - This target prints project information.
 - **Echo** prints information to the terminal.

Targets

```
<target name = "deploy" depends = "package"> .... </target>
<target name = "package" depends = "clean,compile"> .... </target>
<target name = "clean" > .... </target>
<target name = "compile" > .... </target>
```

- A target is a collection of tasks you want to run in a single unit.
 - Targets can depend on other targets.
 - Dependencies denoted using the **depends** attribute.
 - **deploy** will call **package**, which will call **clean** and **compile**.

Targets

```
<target name = "deploy" depends = "package"> .... </target>  
<target name = "package" depends = "clean,compile"> .... </target>  
<target name = "clean" > .... </target>  
<target name = "compile" > .... </target>
```

- Target attributes:
 - **name** defines the name of the target (required)
 - **depends** lists dependencies of the target.
 - **description** is used to describe the target.
 - **if** and **unless** allow execution of the target to depend on a conditional attribute.
 - Execute target **if** attribute is true, or execute **unless** true.

Executing targets

```
<?xml version = "1.0"?>
<project name = "Hello World Project" default = "info">
  <target name = "info">
    <echo>Hello World - Welcome to Apache Ant!</echo>
  </target>
</project>
```

```
Buildfile: build.xml
info: [echo] Hello World - Welcome to Apache
Ant!
BUILD SUCCESSFUL
Total time: 0 seconds
```

- In the command line, invoke:
 - **ant <target name>**
- If no target is supplied, the default will be executed.
 - In this case, **ant** and **ant info** give same result because info is default target.

Properties

- XML does not natively allow variable declaration.
 - Instead, create **property** elements, which can be referred to by name.

```
<?xml version = "1.0"?>
<project name = "Hello World Project" default = "info">
  <property name = "sitename" value = "http://cse.sc.edu"/>
  <target name = "info">
    <echo>Apache Ant version is ${ant.version} - You are at ${sitename} </echo>
  </target>
</project>
```


Properties

```
<?xml version = "1.0"?>
<project name = "Hello World Project" default = "info">
  <property name = "sitename" value = "http://cse.sc.edu"/>
  <target name = "info">
    <echo>Apache Ant version is ${ant.version} - You are at ${sitename} </echo>
  </target>
</project>
```

- Properties have a name and a value.
 - Property value is referred to as **`${property name}`**.
 - Ant pre-defines **`ant.version`**, **`ant.file`** (location of the build file), **`ant.project.name`**, **`ant.project.default-target`**.

Property Files

- Can define static properties in a file.
 - Allows reuse of build file in different environments (development, testing, production).
 - Allows easy lookup of property values.
- Called **build.properties** and stored in the same directory as build script.
 - Lists one property per line: `<name> = <value>`
 - Comments can be added using `# <comment>`

Property Files

- build.xml

```
<?xml version = "1.0"?>
<project name = "Hello World Project" default = "info">
  <property file = "build.properties"/>
  <target name = "info">
    <echo>You are at ${sitename}, version ${buildversion}</echo>
  </target>
</project>
```

- build.properties

```
# The Site Name
sitename = http://cse.sc.edu
buildversion = 3.3.2
```

Conditions

```
<target name = "myTarget" depends =  
"myTarget.check" if =  
"myTarget.run"> .... </target>  
<target name = "myTarget.check">  
  <condition property =  
"myTarget.run">  
    <and>  
      <available file =  
"foo.txt"/>  
      <available file =  
"bar.txt"/>  
    </and>  
  </condition>  
</target>
```

- Property value determined by **and/or**.
 - **And** requires that each property is true.
 - foo.txt and bar.txt must exist.
 - (**available** checks for file existence)
 - **Or** requires that 1+ properties true.
 - Calling **myTarget.check** creates property (**myTarget.run**), true if both files present.
 - When **myTarget** called, it will run only if myTarget.run is true.

Ant Utilities

- **Fileset** generates list of files matching criteria for inclusion or exclusion.
 - ** means that the file can be in any subdirectory.
 - * allows partial file name matches.

```
<fileset dir = "${src}" casesensitive = "yes">  
  <include name = "**/*.java"/>  
  <exclude name = "**/*Stub*"/>  
</fileset>
```

Ant Utilities

- **Path** is used to represent a classpath.
 - **pathelement** is used to add items or other paths to the path.

```
<path id = "build.classpath.jar">  
  <pathelement path = "${env.J2EE_HOME}/j2ee.jar"/>  
  <fileset dir = "lib"> <include name = "**/*.jar"/> </fileset>  
</path>
```

Building a Project

```
<project name = "Hello-World" basedir = "." default = "build">
  <property name = "src.dir" value = "src"/>
  <property name = "build.dir" value = "target"/>
  <path id = "master-classpath">
    <fileset dir = "${src.dir}/lib"> <include name = "*.jar"/> </fileset>
    <pathelement path = "${build.dir}"/>
  </path>
</project>
```

- Properties **src.dir** and **build.dir** define where the source files are stored and where the built classes are deployed.
- Path **master-classpath** includes all JAR files in the lib folder and all files in the build.dir folder.

Building a Project

```
<project name = "Hello-World" basedir = "." default = "build">  
  <target name = "clean" description = "Clean output directories">  
    <delete>  
      <fileset dir = "${build.dir}">  
        <include name = "**/*.class"/>  
      </fileset>  
    </delete>  
  </target>  
</project>
```

- The clean target is used to prepare for the build process by cleaning up any remnants of previous builds.
 - In this case, it deletes all compiled files (.class)
 - May also remove JAR files or other temporary artifacts that will be regenerated by the build.

Building a Project

```
<project name = "Hello-World" basedir = "." default = "build">  
  <target name = "build" description = "Compile source tree java files">  
    <mkdir dir = "${build.dir}"/>  
    <javac destdir = "${build.dir}" source = "1.8" target = "1.8">  
      <src path = "${src.dir}"/>  
      <classpath refid = "master-classpath"/>  
    </javac>  
  </target>  
</project>
```

- The build target will create the build directory, compile the source code (using javac), and place the class files in the build directory.
 - Can specify which java version to target (1.8).
 - Must reference the classpath to use during compilation.

Creating a JAR File

- The **jar** command creates executable from compiled classes.

```
<target name = "package">
  <jar destfile = "lib/util.jar" basedir = "${build.dir}/classes"
      includes = "app/util/**" excludes = "**/Test.class">
    <manifest><attribute name = "Main-Class" value = "com.util.Util"/></manifest>
  </jar>
</target>
```

- **destfile** is the location to place the JAR file.
- **basedir** is the base directory of included files.
- **includes** defines the files to include in the JAR.
- **excludes** prevents certain files from being added.
- The **manifest** declares metadata about the JAR.
 - Attribute Main-Class makes the JAR executable.

Running Unit Tests

- JUnit tests run using the **junit** command.

```
<target name = "test">
  <junit haltonfailure = "true" haltonerror = "false"
    printsummary = "true" timeout = "5000">
    <test name = "com.utils.UtilsTest"/>
  </junit>
</target>
```

- test** entries list the test classes to execute.
- haltonfailure** / **haltonerror** will stop execution if tests fail/errors occur.
- printsummary** displays number of tests run, number of failures/errors, time elapsed.
- timeout** will stop and issue error if the time limit is exceeded.

We Have Learned

- During system testing, we focus on interactions.
 - Test by calling methods or through an interface.
 - If thoroughly unit tested, failures due to interaction faults.
 - Mistaken assumptions, malformed calls.
 - Tests can focus on one “high-level” function or model full user journeys.

We Have Learned

- Test automation can lower cost and improve the quality of testing.
- Automation involves creating drivers, harnesses, stubs, and oracles.
 - Test cases written as executable code.
 - Additional support code (mocking, interface manipulation, wrappers for external dependencies) to enable testing.

We Have Learned

- Testing is not all that can be automated.
 - Project compilation, installation, deployment, etc.
- Project build automation:
 - Automating the entire compilation, testing, and deployment process.
 - Ant is an XML-based tool for automating build process.

Next Time

- Exploratory Testing
- Exercise Session: Unit Testing
 - (Follow instructions linked on Canvas to set up IDE)
- Assignment 2 due Feb 15.



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