m2e-wtp 0.17.0 Release Review

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Introduction

- m2e-wtp aims at providing a tight integration between Apache Maven and Maven Integration for Eclipse (a.k.a m2e) on one hand and the Eclipse Web Tools Project (a.k.a WTP) on the other hand

- It provides a set of m2e connectors configuring Java EE projects in WTP, from their maven plugin configuration.

- m2e-wtp also brings some advanced Maven features to the IDE, such as dynamic resource filtering or war overlays

Project history

- m2e-wtp takes over Sonatype's m2eclipse-wtp

- m2e-wtp has been incubating at the Eclipse Foundation since April 2012

- m2e-wtp 0.16.0 has been released on 28/09/2012

- m2e-wtp 0.16.0 is #5 most popular project on Eclipse MarketPlace (Feb. 2013)

- m2e-wtp is planning on participating to the Kepler release train (June 2013)

New features

- The m2e-wtp 0.17.0 release features new Java EE Project configurators, available as separate, optional features for :

    - JAX-RS

    - JSF

    - JPA

- Improvements added to the Eclipse to Maven project conversion when using m2e 1.3

- 'Better' classpath resolution for war "classes" and ejb "client" classifiers when using m2e 1.3

Non-Code Aspects

- Localization, Internationalization, Accessibility :
  - Current user interface displayed in English only
  - I18n and L10n will be supported in the next release

- Documentation :
  - 1 video tutorial and some articles are available on the Wiki
  - Documentation is limited to basic use cases only.
  - High priority for the next release

APIs - Java

- Ongoing work on providing stable APIs as per the Eclipse standards

- Stabilized APIs so far :

  - org.eclipse.m2e.wtp.namemapping

  - org.eclipse.m2e.wtp.mavenarchiver

  - org.eclipse.m2e.wtp.preferences

Architectural Issues

- m2e's lack of support for "classifier" projects in workspace and classpath resolution prevents m2e-wtp from supporting some use cases.

- Significant portions of m2e-wtp codebase are workarounds for WTP limitations.

- War Overlay support is highly experimental and doesn't cope well with certain server adapter's deployment strategies.

- WTP needs to expose some hooks to provide a better integration (with its UI)

Tool Usability

- Java EE integration :
  - Project facet configuration based on pom.xml
  - Automatic generation of MANIFEST.MF based on pom.xml
  - Optional JPA, JAX-RS, JSF Facet support
- Integration of unique Maven features :
  - on-the-fly resource filtering and deployment
  - war overlay from workspace project or .war archives,
- Eclipse to Maven project conversion
  - pom.xml configuration based on eclipse settings for all Java EE project types

Bugzilla

- 23 Bugs are currently opened
- 20 Bugs have been opened since the 0.16.0 release
    - 13 have been fixed for the 0.17.0 release
    - 1 has been rejected

Standards

- m2e-wtp aims at supporting the IDE-relevant configuration from all maven-<package>-plugins associated with Java EE projects.

- Notable exceptions are :

  - No support for skinny wars from maven-ear-plugin 2.7+

  - No support for filtering war overlays from maven-war-plugin

  - Limited support for classes, ejb-client, test-classes classifiers

  - Support for deployment exclusion filters dependent on server adapter implementations

UI Usability

- m2e-wtp's conformance to the User Interface Guidelines was not evaluated.

Schedule

- Generally, m2e-wtp's build and release schedule is aligned with the Eclipse yearly simultaneous release

- The m2e-wtp 0.17.0 release is aligned with Juno SR2

- m2e-wtp 0.18.0/1.0 is participating to the Kepler Release Train

Committer Diversity

- Developers from Red Hat work on m2e-wtp

Project Health

- Moderately active codebase

    - 34 commits since the 0.16.0 release

    - Similarly to m2e, a separate git repository for unit & integration tests is hosted at github.com, due to significant -IP related- efforts involved in moving these tests to eclipse.org.

- m2e-wtp is built using Eclipse CBI infrastructure

- m2e-wtp tests are run on Red Hat's internal CI infrastructure.

- CI Builds are manually promoted to Eclipse.org's download area.

Communities

- Active user community

    - m2e and m2e-wtp share the same user mailing list

    - No community activity statistics were collected for m2e-wtp 0.16.0.

- Active developer and adopter communities

- #m2e-wtp on irc://irc.freenode.net

- Project decisions discussed on monthly dev status call meetings and m2e-wtp-dev mailing list

- Close collaboration with m2e and WTP teams

IP Log

- m2e-wtp 0.17.0 IPLog has been approved by the Eclipse IP Team

IP Issues

Notes

Credits and Kudos