

**WINDOWS AND DEVELOPMENT  
AUTOMATION WITH NANT  
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# WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL

- NAnt = Not ANT - .NET Automation tool
- Why
  - Runs on all .NET versions and Mono
  - Automates complicated build process
  - Copy, move, ftp files
  - Interact with SVN, CVS
  - Countless other uses



# INSTALLATION & TOOLS

- Download NAnt and NAntContrib
- Create .bat file for easy access:  
@echo off  
“C:\Program Files\NAnt\bin\Nant.exe” %\*
- Tools
  - Visual Studio
  - NAntPad - <http://nantpad.com>
  - NAntBuilder - <http://www.nantbuilder.com>
  - Editor4NAnt  
[http://www.download.com/Editor4NAnt/3000-2352\\_4-10531916.html](http://www.download.com/Editor4NAnt/3000-2352_4-10531916.html)



# ANATOMY OF A SCRIPT

- XML syntax

```
<project name="displayMessage" default="run">  
  <property name="myMessage"  
    value="Goodbye Cruel World" />  
  <target name="run">  
    <echo message="${myMessage}" />  
  </target>  
</project>
```

- Properties and targets
- Built-in tasks and functions
- Dependencies and conditionals



# SOMETHING MORE USEFUL

NAnt, What Operating System is This?



# BUILDING CUSTOM TASKS

- Inline Scripting

Ref: <http://nant.sourceforge.net/release/latest/help/tasks/script.html>

- Custom .NET assemblies



# REAL USES

- File operations
- Compiling .NET projects
- Scripting application tasks
- Performing administrative tasks
- Editing IIS metadata
- Automating complicated tasks



# REFERENCES

NAnt: <http://nant.sourceforge.net>

NAntContrib: <http://nantcontrib.sourceforge.net>

Nightly NAnt builds: <http://nant.sourceforge.net/nightly/latest>

My Blog: <http://blog.tech-cats.com/search/label/NAnt>

