m2e-wtp 0.16.0 Release Review

Planned Review Date: 2012-09-26

Communication Channel: m2e-dev@eclipse.org

Fred Bricon (fbricon@gmail.com)

Max Andersen (max.andersen@redhat.com)

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

- m2eclipse-wtp was split from Sonatype m2eclipse's codebase in May 2010

- m2eclipse-wtp is hosted on https://github.com/sonatype/m2eclipse-wtp

- m2eclipse-wtp is #4 most popular project on Eclipse MarketPlace (Sept 2012)

- m2e-wtp was proposed to the Eclipse Foundation in March 2012

Features

- The m2e-wtp 0.16.0 release is mostly focused on stability improvement.

- The most notable new feature is the addition of new Java EE Project conversion participants, used to convert existing Java EE Eclipse project settings to their equivalent maven plugin configuration.

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 – Migration from m2eclipse-wtp

- m2e-wtp uses a different namespace than m2eclipse-wtp for the java code, in compliance with the Eclipse Foundation requirements

- configurator ids have been maintained to minimize disruption for m2e-wtp adopters

- Except for non-default project / workspace settings, projects and workspaces used in m2eclipse-wtp are expected to work in m2e-wtp

APIs - Java

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

- After discussions with 3rd party adopters, we agreed on declaring most of m2e-wtp 0.16.0 java API as provisional (instead of moving to internal packages).

- 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

- 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

- 39 Bugs have been opened since the m2e-wtp moved to Eclipse.org

    - 24 have been fixed for the 0.16.0 release

    - 5 have been rejected

    - 10 are still open

- The small number of opened bugs can be attributed to :

    - the maturity of the existing project

    - Users waiting for the official release to raise new issues

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 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 0.16.0 release is aligned with Juno SR1

- The goal is to make m2e-wtp part of the Kepler Release Train

Committer Diversity

- Developers from Red Hat work on m2e-wtp

- Members of the WTP Team from IBM are contributing patches

Project Health

- Moderately active codebase

  - 45 commits since the initial code contribution

- 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 currently built on Red Hat's internal CI infrastructure.

- Builds from hudson.eclipse.org will be available for during the next development cycle.
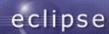
Communities

- 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, with members of IBM's WTP Team contributing patches

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

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

- Close collaboration with m2e and WTP teams

IP Log

- m2e-wtp 0.16.0 IPLog has been approved by the Eclipse IP Team

IP Issues

Notes

Credits and Kudos

- Special credits go to the IBM team, who was really instrumental with the project migration to eclipse.org and who also provided several patches to m2e-wtp.