Faster Builds with Maven in Netbeans

By Roger Keays, 2 August 2008

An often expressed lament of Java developers is the slowness of compile/deploy round-tripping. Here are a few tips to help alleviate the condition in Netbeans.

1. Change your maven build action to *compile war:exploded*. The default target for the run action is *package*, which unnecessarily zips up the war, and copies it to your repository. You can change the build action by right clicking on the project and selecting properties.
2. Skip tests. Even if you haven't got any actual test cases, it can still take a second or two for the build to figure that out. There is a skip tests checkbox just below where you set the build actions.
3. Debug instead of run. It takes a little longer initially, but the debugger can compile and deploy changes to a single class with the *Apply Code Changes* button. It doesn't seem to allow adding, renaming, or removing methods, but still pretty handy nevertheless.

About Roger Keays



Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed addressand has leftfootprints on 40-something different countries around the world. Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.