# **Learning Cmake**

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Slides: http://www.elpauer.org/stuff/learning\_cmake.pdf

# Part I Build systems – what for?

# Why?

- You write an application (source code) and need to:
  - Compile the source
  - Link to other libraries
  - Distribute your application as source and/or binary
- You would also love if you were able to:
  - Run tests on your software
  - Run test of the redistributable package
  - See the results of that

### Compiling

-Manually?

gcc -DMYDEFINE -c myapp.o myapp.cpp

- •Unfeasible when:
  - you have many files
  - some files should be compiled only in a particular platform, are you going to trust your brain?
  - different defines depending on debug/release, platform, compiler, etc
- You really want to automate this step

### Linking

- •Manually?
  - ld -o myapp file1.o file2.o file3.o -lc -lmylib
- Again, unfeasiable if you have many files, dependence on platforms, etc
- You also want to automate this step

### Distribute your software

- •Traditional way of doing things:
  - Developers develop code
  - Once the software is finished, other people package it
  - There are many packaging formats depending on operating system version, platform, Linux distribution, etc: .deb, .rpm, .msi, .dmg, .src.tar.gz, .tar.gz, InstallShield, etc
- You'd like to automate this but, is it possible to bring packagers into the development process?

#### **Testing**

- You all use unit tests when you develop software, don't you? You should!
- •When and how to run unit tests? Usually a threestep process:
  - You manually invoke the build process (e.g. make)
  - When it's finished, you manually run a test suite
  - When it's finished, you look at the results and search for errors and/or warnings
  - Can you test the packaging? Do you need to invoke the individual tests or the unit test manually?

# Testing and gathering results

- Someone needs to do testing for feach platform, then merge the results
- •Is it possible to automate this? "make test"? what about gathering the results?

#### **Automate!**

- Your core business is software development, not software building
- •What are you selling?
  - A flight simulator? or,
  - A "flight simulator built with an awesome in-house developed built system"?
- The client does not care about how you built your software, they are only interested in having the best software application possible
- So should you: modern build systems should be able to build the software, package it, test it and tell

# Part II Build systems tour

#### **Autotools**

- lt's been in use for many years and it's still widely used
  - -Autohell?
  - You need to write scripts in Bourne shell ('sh'), m4 (you all develop software in m4, don't you?),
  - Only Unix platform => Visual Studio, Borland, etc in Win32 are unsupported (Cygwin/MinGW supported)
  - Dependency discovery is mostly manual (no bundled "finders" grouping several steps)
  - Tusually long, difficult to understand scripts
- Autotools create a Makefile for 'make'

#### Jam

- The original implementation (Perforce Jam) is quite buggy
  - There are many slightly different implementations
- Cross platform
- Dependency discovery is mostly manual (no bundled "finders" grouping several steps)
  - Compiles and links by itself
  - Users cannot use the tools they are used to
  - What if Jam is not available for that platform?
  - Allows parallel linking

#### **SCons**

- Python DSL
  - The interpreter is not always available
  - You need to learn almost a programming language
- Cross-platform
  - You are actually writing a software app which happens to build another software app
  - Does not scale well
  - Dependency discovery is mostly manual (no bundled "finders" grouping several steps)
  - Compiles and links by itself

#### Waf

- Second generation of bksys, tries to fix Scons
- No installation: it's a 100KB script you redistribute with your source
  - It's a security issue: if a bug is found, every app needs to redistribute a new waf version
- Not cross-platform, won't ever be Recently added Win32
  - Dependency discovery is mostly manual (you can write "finders" but you cannot reuse them)
  - Compiles and links by itself

#### **CMake**

- Cross-platform
- Very simple script language
- Dependency discovery is awesome: FIND\_PACKAGE
- Scales very well: KDE4 is using it (4+ MLOC)
  - •Creates a project files for Makefile, Visual Studio, Levelop, Eclipse, etc
  - Users can use the tools they are used to
    Cannot overcome the limitations those IDEs/'make'
    have

# Part III Meeting CMake

# The Kitware build and test chain





- Cmake
- CPack







### What is CMake

- Think of it as a meta-Make
- CMake is used to control the software compilation process using simple platform and compiler independent configuration files
- CMake generates native makefiles and workspaces that can be used in the compiler environment of your choice: Visual C++, Kdevelop3, Eclipse, XCode, makefiles (Unix, NMake, Borland, Watcom, MinGW, MSYS, Cygwin), Code::Blocks etc
- Projects are described in CMakeLists.txt files

#### **Build flow**

```
CMakeLists.txt

cmake / CMakeSetup / CMakeGui

.vcproj / Makefile / etc

Native building tools (Visual Studio, Eclipse, KDevelop, etc)

.obj / .o

Native linking tools (lib.exe, link.exe, ld, etc)

.exe / .dll / .lib / .a / .so / .dylib

Tools the developer is already familiar with
```

#### In-source vs out-of-source

- Where to place object files, executables and libraries?
- In-source:
  - helloapp/hello.cpp
  - helloapp/hello.exe
- Out-of-source:
  - helloapp/hello.cpp
  - helloapp-build/hello.exe
- CMake prefers out-of-source builds

#### The CMake workflow

- Have this tree:
  - myapp
    build
    trunk
- cd myapp/build
- cmake ../trunk

- If Eclipse:
  - myapp/trunk
  - myapp-build
- Eclipse has problems if the build dir is a subdir of the source dir
- make (Unix) or open project (VC++)
- On Windows, you can also use CMakeSetup (GUI). Cmake 2.6 includes a multiplatform Qt4based GUI.

# Very simple executable

- PROJECT( helloworld )SET( hello\_SRCS hello.cpp )ADD EXECUTABLE( hello \${hello SRCS} )
- PROJECT is not mandatory but you should use it
- ADD\_EXECUTABLE creates an executable from the listed sources
- Tip: add sources to a list (hello\_SRCS), do not list them in ADD\_EXECUTABLE

### **Showing verbose info**

- To see the command line CMake produces:
  - SET( CMAKE\_VERBOSE\_MAKEFILE on )
- Or:
  - \$ make VERBOSE=1
- Or:
  - \$ export VERBOSE=1
  - \$ make
- Tip: only use it if your build is failing and you need to find out why

### Very simple library

```
PROJECT( mylibrary )SET( mylib_SRCS library.cpp )ADD LIBRARY( my SHARED ${mylib SRCS} )
```

- ADD\_LIBRARY creates an static library from the listed sources
- Add SHARED to generate shared libraries (Unix) or dynamic libraries (Windows)

#### **Shared vs static libs**

- Static libraries: on linking, add the <u>used</u> code to your executable
- Shared/Dynamic libraries: on linking, tell the executable where to find some code it needs
- If you build shared libs in C++, you should also use soversioning to state binary compatibility (too long to be discussed here)

#### The CMake cache

- Cmake is very fast on Unix but noticeably slow on Windows with Microsoft Visual C++ due to VC++ slowliness to check types
- The CMake cache stores values which are not usually changed
- Edit the cache using ccmake (Unix) or CMakeSetup (Windows)

### Variables & cache (I)

- Unconditional set
- SET( var1 13 )
  - "var1" is set 13
  - If "var1" already existed in the cache, it is shadowed by this value
  - This call does not overwrite "var1" value in the cache, if it existed

### Variables & cache (II)

- Reuse the cache
- •SET( var2 17 ... CACHE ... )
  - "var2" already in cache => keep cache value
  - "var2" not yet in cache (usually during first cmake run) => var2 is set to 17 and this goes into the cache
  - The value in the cache can be changed by editing CMakeCache.txt, or "make edit\_cache", or running ccmake or running cmake-gui.

### Variables & cache (III)

- Unconditional set & overwrite cache
- SET(var3 23 ... CACHE FORCE)
  - "var3" always takes this value, whether it was already in the cache or not
  - Cached value will always be overwritten => this makes editing the cache manually impossible

### Regular expressions

- Worst side of Cmake: they are non-PCRE
- Use STRING( REGEX MATCH ... ), STRING (REGEX MATCHALL ... ), STRING(REGEX REPLACE ... )
- You will need to try once and again until you find the right regex
- I'm implementing STRING( PCRE\_REGEX MATCH ...), etc based on PCRE. Not sure if it will be on time for Cmake 2.6.0 – It won't be

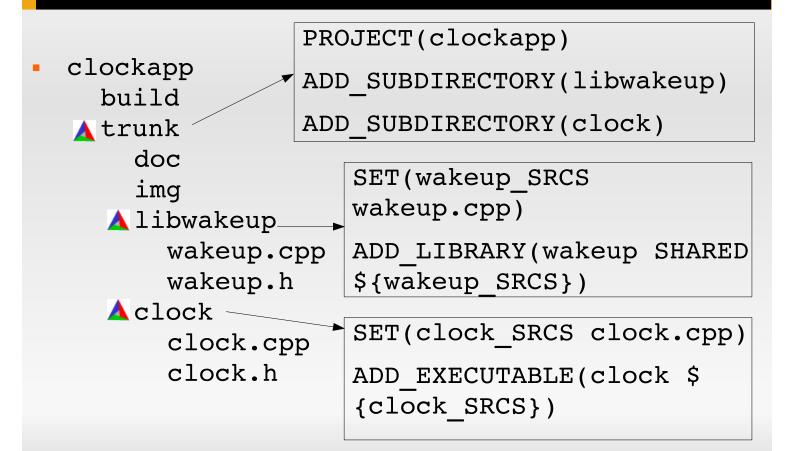
# Back/Forward compatibility

- Since Cmake 2.0, ask for at least a certain version with CMAKE\_MINIMUM\_REQUIRED
- Since Cmake 2.6, tell Cmake to behave like a certain version ( > 2.4) with CMAKE\_POLICY( VERSION major.minor[.patch] )

# Part IV Real world CMake:

dependencies between targets

### **Adding other sources**



#### **Variables**

- No need to declare them
- Usually, no need to specify type
- SET creates and modifies variables
- SET can do everything but LIST makes some operations easier
- Use SEPARATE\_ARGUMENTS to split spaceseparated arguments (i.e. a string) into a list (semicolon-separated)
- In Cmake 2.4: global (name clashing problems)
- In Cmake 2.6: scoped

### Changing build parameters

- Cmake uses common, sensible defaults for the preprocessor, compiler and linker
- Modify preprocessor settings with ADD\_DEFINITIONS and REMOVE DEFINITIONS
- Compiler settings: CMAKE\_C\_FLAGS and CMAKE\_CXX\_FLAGS variables
- Tip: some internal variables (CMAKE\_\*) are read-only and must be changed executing a command

#### Flow control

```
• IF(expression)
    ...
ELSE(expression)
    ...
ENDIF(expression)
```

Process a list:
 FOREACH(loop\_var)
 ...
 ENDFOREACH(loop\_var)

• WHILE(condition)
...
ENDWHILE(condition)

Always repeat the expression/condition

It's possible to avoid that but I won't tell you how

### Visual Studio special

- To show .h files in Visual Studio, add them to the list of sources in ADD\_EXECUTABLE / ADD\_LIBRARY
- SET(wakeup\_SRCS wakeup.cpp)
  IF(WIN32)
   SET(wakeup\_SRCS \${wakeup\_SRCS}
  wakeup.h)
  ENDIF(WIN32)
  ADD LIBRARY(wakeup SHARED \${wakeup SRCS})
- Use SOURCE\_GROUP if all your sources are in the same directory

# Managing debug and release builds

- SET(CMAKE BUILD TYPE Debug)
- As any other variable, it can be set from the command line:

```
cmake -DCMAKE BUILD TYPE=Release ../trunk
```

 Specify debug and release targets and 3rdparty libs:

```
TARGET_LINK_LIBRARIES(wakeup RELEASE $
{wakeup_SRCS})
TARGET_LINK_LIBRARIES(wakeupd DEBUG $
{wakeup_SRCS})
```

#### Standard directories... not!

- Libraries built in your project (even if in a different CmakeLists.txt) is automatic (in rare occasions: ADD\_DEPENDENCIES)
- If the 3<sup>rd</sup> party library or .h is in a "standard" directory (PATH and/or LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH) is automatic
- If in a non-standard dir:
  - Headers: use INCLUDE\_DIRECTORIES
  - Libraries: use FIND\_LIBRARY and link with the result of it (try to avoid LINK DIRECTORIES)

#### make install

- INSTALL(TARGETS clock wakeup RUNTIME DESTINATION bin LIBRARY DESTINATION lib)
- Would install in /usr/local/bin and /usr/local/lib (Unix) or %PROGRAMFILES%\projectname (Windows)

# Part V Platform checks and external dependencies

### Finding installed software

- FIND\_PACKAGE( Qt4 REQUIRED )
- Cmake includes finders (FindXXXX.cmake) for ~130 software packages, many more available in Internet
- If using a non-CMake FindXXXX.cmake, tell Cmake where to find it by setting the CMAKE MODULE PATH variable
- Think of FIND\_PACKAGE as an #include

#### **Qt with CMake**

#### Platform includes

- CONFIGURE\_FILE(InputFile OutputFile [COPYONLY] [ESCAPE QUOTES] [@ONLY])
  - Your source may need to set some options depending on the platform, build type, etc
  - Create a wakeup.h.cmake and:
    - #cmakedefine VAR will be replaced with #define VAR if VAR is true, else with /\* #undef VAR \*/
    - @VAR@ will be replaced with the value of VAR
  - Also useful for .conf files

### Platform includes (II)

- CHECK\_TYPE\_SIZE (needs INCLUDE(CheckTypeSize) )
- TEST\_BIG\_ENDIAN (needs INCLUDE(CheckBigEndian) )
- CHECK\_INCLUDE\_FILES (needs INCLUDE( CheckIncludeFiles ) )

### Platform Includes (III)

```
CmakeLists.txt
...
INCLUDE(CheckIncludeFiles)
CHECK_INCLUDE_FILES (
malloc.h HAVE_MALLOC_H )

wakeup.cpp
#include "wakeup.h"
#include "wakeup2.h"
#ifdef HAVE_MALLOC_H
#include <malloc.h>
#else
#include <stdlib.h>
#endif
void do_something() {
void *buf=malloc(1024);
...
}
```

# Part VI Macros and functions

#### **Macros**

```
MACRO( <name> [arg1 [arg2 [arg3 ...]]] )
COMMAND1(ARGS ...)
COMMAND2(ARGS ...)
...
ENDMACRO( <name> )
```

- They perform text substitution, just like #define does in C
- Danger! Variable-name clashing is possible if using too generic names. Hint: prefix your varnames with the macro name: MACRO\_VARNAME instead of VARNAME

#### **Functions**

- New in Cmake 2.6
- Real functions (like C), not just text-replace (ala C preprocessor)
- Advantages: avoid variable-scope trouble (hopefully)

### **New targets**

- Targets defined with ADD\_CUSTOM\_TARGET are always considered outdated (i. e. rebuilt)
- •Two signatures for ADD\_CUSTOM\_COMMAND:
  - Same as ADD\_CUSTOM\_TARGET but do not rebuild if not needed
  - Execute a target before build, after build or before link
- For example, you can createGENERATE\_DOCUMENTATION

#### GENERATE DOCUMENTATION

```
MACRO (GENERATE DOCUMENTATION DOXYGEN CONFIG FILE)
FIND PACKAGE(Doxygen)
SET(DOXYFILE FOUND false)
IF(EXISTS ${PROJECT SOURCE DIR}/${DOXYGEN CONFIG FILE})
    SET(DOXYFILE FOUND true)
ENDIF(EXISTS ${PROJECT SOURCE DIR}/${DOXYGEN_CONFIG_FILE})
IF ( DOXYGEN FOUND )
   IF( DOXYFILE FOUND )
        # Add target
        ADD CUSTOM TARGET ( doc ALL $ { DOXYGEN EXECUTABLE } "$
{PROJECT SOURCE DIR}/${DOXYGEN CONFIG FILE}" )
        # Add .tag file and generated documentation to the list
of files we must erase when distcleaning
        # Read doxygen configuration file
        FILE( READ ${PROJECT SOURCE DIR}/${DOXYGEN CONFIG FILE}
DOXYFILE CONTENTS )
        STRING( REGEX REPLACE "\n" ";" DOXYFILE LINES $
{DOXYFILE CONTENTS} )
```

# **GENERATE\_DOCUMENTATION (II)**

```
# Parse .tag filename and add to list of files to delete
if it exists
        FOREACH( DOXYLINE ${DOXYFILE CONTENTS} )
            STRING( REGEX REPLACE ".*GENERATE TAGFILE *= *([^
^\n]+).*" "\\1" DOXYGEN TAG FILE ${DOXYLINE} )
        ENDFOREACH ( DOXYLINE )
        ADD TO DISTCLEAN( ${PROJECT BINARY DIR}/$
{DOXYGEN TAG FILE} )
        # Parse doxygen output doc dir and add to list of files
to delete if it exists
        FOREACH( DOXYLINE ${DOXYFILE CONTENTS} )
            STRING( REGEX REPLACE ".*OUTPUT DIRECTORY *= *([^
^\n]+).*" "\\1" DOXYGEN DOC DIR ${DOXYLINE} )
        ENDFOREACH( DOXYLINE )
        ADD TO DISTCLEAN( ${PROJECT BINARY DIR}/$
{DOXYGEN DOC DIR} )
        ADD TO DISTCLEAN( ${PROJECT BINARY DIR}/$
{DOXYGEN DOC DIR}.dir )
```

# **GENERATE\_DOCUMENTATION (III)**

# Calling the outside world

- EXECUTE PROCESS
- Execute and get output from a command, copy files, remove files, etc
- Cross-platform: avoid calling /bin/sh or cmd.exe
   if EXECUTE\_PROCESS suffices

# Part VII Creating your own finders

#### What is a finder

- When compiling a piece of software which links to third-party libraries, we need to know:
  - Where to find the .h files (-I in gcc)
  - Where to find the libraries (.so/.dll/.lib/.dylib/...) (-L in gcc)
  - The filenames of the libraries we want to link to (-1 in gcc)
- That's the basic information a finder needs to return

#### **MESSAGE**

Show status information, warnings or errors

# **STRING**

- Manipulate strings or regular expressions
- Many signatures

### Files and Windows registry

#### GET\_FILENAME\_COMPONENT interacts with the outside world

- Sets a Cmake variable to the value of an environment variable
- Gets a value from a Windows registry key
- Gets basename, extension, absolute path for a filename

#### FILE

- Read from / write to files
- Remove files and directories
- •Translate paths between native and Cmake:

```
\backslash \leftrightarrow /
```

#### **Find libraries**

FIND\_LIBRARY and the CMAKE\_LIBRARY\_PATH variable

(this slide is only a stub)

### Find header files

- -FIND\_FILE
- (this slide is only a stub)

#### Find generic files

- FIND\_PATH and the CMAKE\_INCLUDE\_PATH variable
- (this slide is only a stub)

# **PkgConfig support**

- PkgConfig is a helper tool used when compiling applications and libraries
- PkgConfig provides the -L, -1 and -I parameters
- Try to avoid it, as it's not always installed
- Mostly Unix, available for Win32 but seldomly used
- Cmake provides two paths to use PkgConfig: UsePkgConfig.cmake and FindPkgConfig.cmake

- FIND\_PROGRAM
- (this slide is only a stub)

- TRY\_COMPILE
- (this slide is only a stub)

- TRY\_RUN
- (this slide is only a stub)

# Part VIII Properties

- -CMAKE\_MINIMUM\_REQUIRED
- (this slide is only a stub)

- -OPTION
- (this slide is only a stub)

- -GET\_CMAKE\_PROPERTY
- (this slide is only a stub)

- •GET\_TARGET\_PROPERTY
- (this slide is only a stub)

- -SET\_TARGET\_PROPERTIES
- (this slide is only a stub)

- -SET\_SOURCE\_FILES\_PROPERTIES
- (this slide is only a stub)

# Part IX Useful variables

- -CMAKE\_BINARY\_DIR/CMAKE\_SOURCE\_DIR
- (this slide is only a stub)

- -CMAKE\_CURRENT\_BINARY\_DIR /CMAKE\_CURRENT\_SOURCE\_DIR
- (this slide is only a stub)

- •PROJECT\_BINARY\_DIR/PROJECT\_SOURCE\_ DIR
- (this slide is only a stub)

- •EXECUTABLE\_OUTPUT\_PATH/LIBRARY\_OUTPUT\_PATH
- (this slide is only a stub)

- ENV (\$ENV{name})
- (this slide is only a stub)

- CMAKE\_SKIP\_RPATH (important in Debian and Debian-derivatives) (follow http://www.cmake.org/Wiki/CMake\_RPATH\_hand)
- (this slide is only a stub)

#### More variables

 Use this snippet to list all variables and their values:

# Part X CPack

#### **Features**

- CPack generates installing packages:
  - RPM, DEB, GZip and Bzip2 distributions of both binaries and source code
  - NSIS installers (for Microsoft Windows)
  - Mac OS X packages (.dmg)
- In Cmake 2.4, .rpm and .deb support works but is not good
- It can be used without Cmake
- If used with Cmake, takes advantage of the INSTALL declarations

#### Variables in CPack

- There are bundle-specific variables: NSIS needs some vars a ZIP does not need
- Important: set variable values BEFORE you INCLUDE( CPack )

#### **Example**

```
INCLUDE(InstallRequiredSystemLibraries)

SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_DESCRIPTION_SUMMARY "Alarm clock")
SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_VENDOR "Pau Garcia i Quiles")
SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_DESCRIPTION_FILE
   "$CMAKE_CURRENT_SOURCE_DIR}/ReadMe.txt")
SET(CPACK_RESOURCE_FILE_LICENSE
   "$CMAKE_CURRENT_SOURCE_DIR}/Copyright.txt")
SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_VERSION_MAJOR "0")
SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_VERSION_MINOR "0")
SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_VERSION_PATCH "1")
SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_INSTALL_DIRECTORY "CMake $
{Cmake_VERSION_MAJOR}.${CMake_VERSION_MINOR}")
```

# Example (cont.)

```
IF(WIN32 AND NOT UNIX)
SET(CPACK_PACKAGE_ICON "$
{Cmake_SOURCE_DIR}/Utilities/Release\\\InstallIcon.bmp")
SET(CPACK_NSIS_INSTALLED_ICON_NAME
"bin\\\MyExecutable.exe")
SET(CPACK_NSIS_DISPLAY_NAME "$
{CPACK_PACKAGE_INSTALL_DIRECTORY} My Famous Project")
SET(CPACK_NSIS_HELP_LINK "http:\\\\\\elpauer.org")
SET(CPACK_NSIS_URL_INFO_ABOUT "http:\\\\\\\elpauer.org")
SET(CPACK_NSIS_CONTACT "pgquiles@elpauer.org")
...
INCLUDE(CPack)
```

Part XI CTest

#### **Features**

- Cross-platform testing system which:
  - Retrieves source from CVS, Subversion or Perforce (git support currently being worked on)
  - Configures and build the project
  - Configures, build and runs a set of predefined runtime tests
  - Sends the results to a Dart/CDash dashboard
- Other tests:
  - code coverage: using BullsEye (\$\$\$) or gcov (free)
     (note to self: show rbxspf code coverage)
  - memory checking

#### **Example**

- Very easy!
  - ENABLE\_TESTING()
  - ADD\_TEST( testname testexecutable args )
- Some scripting needed to:
  - Download sources from a VC system (CVS, SVN and Perforce templates available, git in progress)
  - Upload to Dart/CDash dashboard (templates available for HTTP, FTP, SCP and XML-RPC)
- It can be used with non-CMake projects

# Part XII CDash

#### **Features**

- CDash aggregates, analyzes and displays the results of software testing processes submitted from clients.
- Replaces Dart
- For example, build a piece of software on Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, Solaris and AIX
- Usually, you want two kinds of information:
  - Build results on all platforms
  - Test (Ctest) results on all platforms
- Customizable using XSL

# **Example**



Nightly Changes as of 2008-03-28 01:00:00 EDT

Help

Ν		

Site	Build Name	Update	Cfg	Build		Test				- Build Time	
Site		Opuate		Error	Warn	Min	NotRun	Fail	Pass	Min	Dung Time
purple.kitware	darwin-gcc4.0.1 ■	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>	2.1	0	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	0.2	2008-03-28 02:22:00 EDT
kw.fury	Linux-gcc4.1-rel-static ■	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	8.3	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	0.2	2008-03-28 07:22:00 EDT
kw.panzer	MacOSX-gcc4.0-rel-static   □	0	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>	3.7	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	0.2	2008-03-28 03:36:00 EDT

No Continuous Builds

No Experimental Builds

No Coverage

No Dynamic Analysis