

Makefiles

Computing

A task runner that works everywhere, and the two rules that trip you up.

Make is a dependency graph with a shell attached.

Structure

target: dependencies

<TAB>command

Make runs dependencies first

make with no target runs the first one

Essentials

.PHONY: build test — targets that are not files

\$\$@ the target name

\$\$< the first dependency

VAR ?= default

Gotchas

Tabs, never spaces

Each line is a separate shell

Use ; \ to continue one shell

\$\$ for a shell variable

Declare .PHONY for every target that is not a real file, or make will skip it when a file of that name exists.