

Using Ant With XSLT 2.0 And Saxon

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You will first have to download the Saxon libraries. You can find them at the [SourceForge Saxon Web Page](#) I put the files in my C:/Apps/saxon8 folder

I then add the following to a properties file:

– content of my.properties file –

```
Saxon8HomeDir=C:/Apps/saxon8
saxon8jar=${Saxon8HomeDir}/saxon8.jar
# used to make sure Saxon gets the right XSLT 2.0 processor
processor=trax
```

– end of my.properties file –

Here is an excerpt from my build file

– contents of build.xml –

```
<!-- load the local properties file -->
<property file="my.properties"/>

<!-- a sample task that demonstrates the use of Saxon 8 -->
<target name="XSL using Saxon"
        description="Demonstration of XSL using Saxon">
    <xslt
        in="MyInput.xml"
        out="MyOutput.htm"
        style="MyTransform.xsl"
        classpath="${saxon8jar};${antHome}/lib/ant-trax.jar"
        processor="${processor}" >
    </xslt>
</target>
```

The following is an handy transform for printing the XSLT 2.0 and system related variables

– [MyTransform.xsl](#) –

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xsl:stylesheet xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform" version="1.0">
    <xsl:output method="html"/>
    <xsl:template match="/">
        <html>
            <head>
                <title>Print XSLT Related Environment Variables</title>
            </head>
            <body>
                <ul>
                    <li><b>Version: </b><xsl:value-of select="system-property('xsl:version')"/>
                    </li>
                    <li><b>Vendor: </b><xsl:value-of select="system-property('xsl:vendor')"/>
                    </li>
                    <li><b>Vendor URL: </b><xsl:value-of select="system-property('xsl:vendor-url')"/>
                    </li>
                    <li><b>Java Version: </b><xsl:value-of select="system-property('java.version')"/>
                    </li>
                    <li><b>OS Name: </b><xsl:value-of select="system-property('os.name')"/>
                    </li>
                    <li><b>File Separator: </b><xsl:value-of select="system-property('file.separator')"/>
                    </li>
                </ul>
            </body>
        </html>
    </xsl:template>
</xsl:stylesheet>
```

This should display something like the following:

– output of `MyOutput.htm` –

- Version: 2.0
- Vendor: SAXON 8.4 from Saxonica
- Vendor URL: <http://www.saxonica.com/>
- Java Version: 1.5.0_02
- OS Name: Windows XP
- File Separator: \

To use this just create an empty XML input file with a valid root:

– `MyInput.xml` –

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<root>
  <empty></empty>
</root>
```

Or once you have downloaded `saxon8.jar`, simply call Ant with `-lib path/to/saxon8.jar` on the command line, and use `<xslt>` as usual. Since Saxon implements the TraX API, and is now first on Ant's classpath, `<xslt>` will automatically pick it up. Wrap the appropriate `-lib` option in a custom startup script, or use an `ANT_OPTS` [EnvironmentVariable](#) to avoid having to type it all the time. --DD