

Typesafe enumerations

Typesafe enumerations are classes with a private constructor and only a few defined instances. Each instance does have a name and a value. As of Java 1.5, they will be part of the Java language. For those of us, who are still stuck with older versions, a source generator is a good solution.

```
<enumGenerator targetClass="org.apache.ws.jaxme.js.junit.EnumExample"
               destDir="${build.src}">
  <item name="JOE" value="John Doe"/>
  <item name="POPEYE" value="Olivia's Lover"/>
  <item name="DONALD" value="The Duck King"/>
</enumGenerator>
```

This will generate a class looking roughly like this:

```
public class EnumExample {
    private String name;
    private String value;
    private EnumExample(String pName, String pValue) {
        name = pName;
        value = pValue;
    }
    public String getName() { return name; }
    public String getValue() { return value; }
    public final static EnumExample JOE = new EnumExample("JOE", "John Doe");
    public final static EnumExample POPEYE = new EnumExample("POPEYE", "Olivia's Love
    public final static EnumExample DONALD = new EnumExample("DONALD", "The Duck King
}
```

The important thing with this enumeration is that there cannot be other instances besides JOE, POPEYE and DONALD.