

## Cognitive Interaction Toolkit - Feature #271

### build-generator does not evaluate environment variables

2014-06-12 13:00 - Florian Lier

<b>Status:</b>	Rejected	<b>Start date:</b>	2014-06-12
<b>Priority:</b>	High	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>	Jan Moringen	<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category:</b>	build-generator	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	Toolkit 0.1	<b>Spent time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Description</b>			
Based on the first beta tests, people tried to do the following:			
<pre>export prefix=/tmp/ \$prefix/jenkins/job-configurator --on-error=continue -b http://localhost:8080 -d \$prefix/dist/distributions/DESIRED_DISTRIBUTION.distribution -t '\$prefix/dist/templates/*.template'</pre>			
This does <i>not</i> work, however, this is clearly also dependent on the quality of the provided tutorial. However, I believe it's a good idea to enable the build-generator to make use of environment variables.			

#### History

##### #1 - 2014-06-12 13:02 - Florian Lier

- Subject changed from *build-generator does not understand environment variables* to *build-generator does not evaluate environment variables*

##### #2 - 2014-06-12 13:10 - Florian Lier

- Description updated

##### #3 - 2014-06-12 13:23 - Jan Moringen

- Status changed from *New* to *Rejected*

To make sure we are on the same page w.r.t. how this happens: In the provided example

```
export prefix=/tmp/
$prefix/jenkins/job-configurator --on-error=continue -b http://localhost:8080 -d $prefix/dist/distributions/DESIRED_DISTRIBUTION.distribution -t
'$prefix/dist/templates/*.template'
```

the part '\$prefix/dist/templates/\*.template' is protected from expansion by the shell because of the single quotes. As a result, the generator sees the commandline option string \$prefix/dist/templates/\*.template. It applies a kind of globbing which can expand the \*.template part, but it does not expand environment variables.

That said, I don't think it makes sense to implement expansion of environment variables in the build-generator.

Providing this feature for commandline arguments would add little value and the same result can be trivially achieved using the shell. In the above example, \$prefix/dist/templates/\*.template' would suffice.

Providing this feature for recipes would even be slightly dangerous because recipes would be less self-contained (I'm not sure whether this is suggested by this issue).