

To be able to decrease significantly the build time, you need to use ccache with your Axmol project. The tool ccache is a compiler cache that can drastically improve the build for C and C++ projects and it is hosted here (<https://ccache.dev>)

Before implementing this solution, it was taking us about 14 to 15 minutes to build each time that we changed a single line of code. Everything was rebuild at each time. Obviously is not acceptable in a professional/production environment.

After implementing this solution, it takes us now about 1min30s to 2min to build (depending on the change). That's about 8 times faster than before. Now our development time with Axmol is much faster and acceptable. We are back into business.

These are the steps to configure your system with ccache.

Step 1) Install ccahe:

a) On Mac: use brew to install ccache. It's very simple. From your terminal just enter the command:

```
brew install ccache
```

b) On Linux: you just install the ccache package. Any distribution out there should have the package available.

b) On Windows: I don't have a Windows system so I'm not sure. But I do believe that you can find the instructions on ccache website (<https://ccache.dev>).

Step 2) create a test file ccache-clang script file:

Create a small script which will redirect the compile command to ccache and use the CC and CXX attributes to tell Xcode about the script. Add these lines in your "ccache-clang" file.

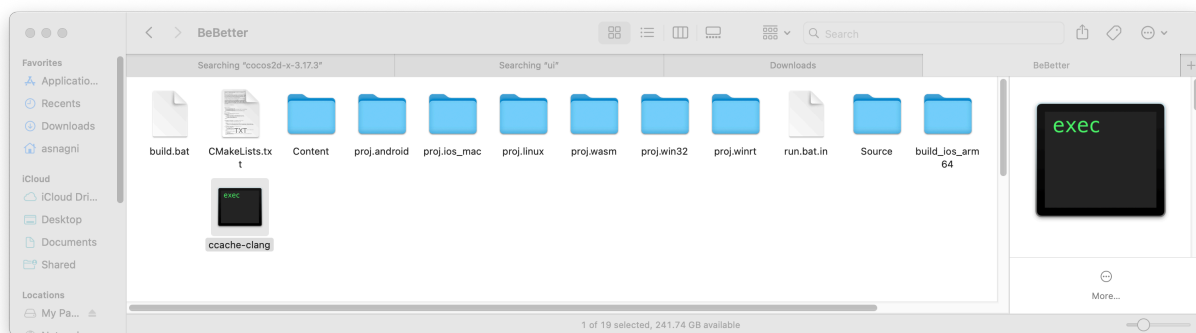
```
#!/bin/sh
export PATH=$PATH:/usr/local/bin
if type -p ccache >/dev/null 2>&1; then
    export CCACHE_MAXSIZE=20G
    export CCACHE_CPP2=true
    export CCACHE_HARDLINK=true
    export
    CCACHE_SLOPPINESS=file_macro,time_macros,include_file_mtime,incl
    ude_file_ctime,file_stat_matches

    exec ccache /usr/bin/clang "$@"
else
    exec clang "$@"
fi
```

You can find the signification of these parameters here and adjust them for your case if needed (<https://ccache.dev/manual/3.2.1.html>)

- \* `CCACHE_MAXSIZE`: sets the maximum size of the cache
- \* `CCACHE_CPP2`: This is to prevent certain pathological cases related to the preprocessor and enabling it is strongly recommended when using ccache with clang.
- \* `CCACHE_HARDLINK`: If true, ccache will attempt to use hard links from the cache directory when creating the compiler output rather than using a file copy. Using hard links may be slightly faster in some situations

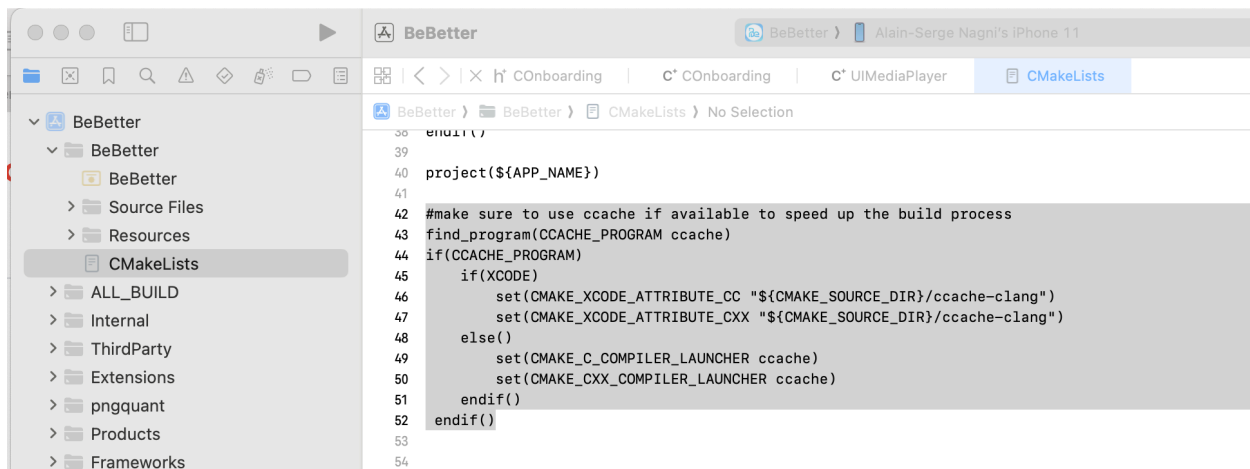
**Step 3)** Put the the ccache-clang (script) in project folder. Where the CMake file resides.



**Step 4)** change the access permissions of “ccache-clang” file by issuing the following command (from the project folder):

**chmod 777 ccache-clang**

**Step 5)** Modify the CMake file to use ccache. The change that I’m proposing will not attempt to use ccache if it’s not installed on your system. That makes it easier if you working in a team. It gives the time to your team members to adjust at their own speed.



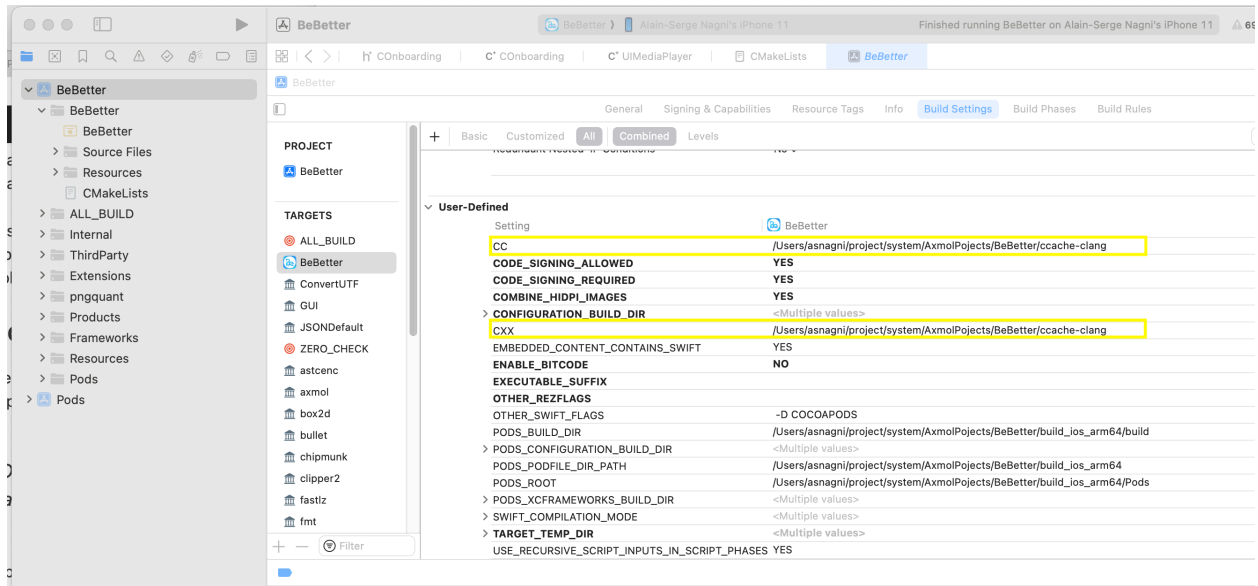
This is the CMake code to add to your CMake file:

```
find_program(CCACHE_PROGRAM ccache)
if(CCACHE_PROGRAM)
  if(XCODE)
    set(CMAKE_XCODE_ATTRIBUTE_CC "${CMAKE_SOURCE_DIR}/ccache-clang")
    set(CMAKE_XCODE_ATTRIBUTE_CXX "${CMAKE_SOURCE_DIR}/ccache-clang")
  else()
    set(CMAKE_C_COMPILER_LAUNCHER ccache)
    set(CMAKE_CXX_COMPILER_LAUNCHER ccache)
  endif()
endif()
```

**Step 5)** Add the two values “CC” & “CXX” into xcode Build Setting (User Defined Setting).

When Xcode projects contain user-defined build settings with the names CC and CXX, they override what Xcode uses as the compilers for C and C++ sources respectively. The compile command will be redirected to ccache by using the “CC” and “CXX” attributes.

Give these parameters the value: `$(SOURCE_ROOT)/ccache-clang`



Step 5) Compile again to build the ccache system. After that when you will build again it will be 8x faster.