Yes, that can be done, but can also be very limited and cumbersome to maintain.
Yet, of course, it's by far less prone to damages.
But, to test the build scripts I should reproduce exactly your machine, build and debug the scripts,
which can depend on many many factors (for example, wine for windows builds...) and then
upload to svn and hope they'll work also on your machine.
Then I must ask you to add them to a cron job. Then if something goes wrong I can't see easily
what happened, I must ask you to stop the job, retest scripts, ecc ecc.

In conclusion, IMHO, ssh access IS necessary for maintaining purposes. For the rest svn is more
than enough.

Ciao

Max

EDIT: without ssh, it would be by far easier to setup a build machine locally and use a cron job
that builds theide and upload it to an ftp server. The problem would be the updates when my
machine is off (for example, holydays)