How to set up C/C++ development environment in Eclipse

Last updated on August 15, 2013 Authored by Dan Nanni   10 Comments

If you are a C/C++ developer looking for C/C++ IDE to work with, you can consider Eclipse-based IDE. Eclipse boasts of an extensible plug-in system for customizing IDE to support various programming languages including Java, C/C++, etc. Eclipse CDT is one such plugin which converts Eclipse into a fully functional IDE for C/C++ developers.
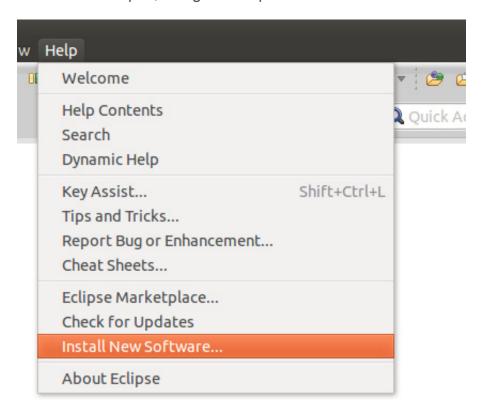
Eclipse CDT has the following features to help developing C/C++ programs.

- Standard make build, as well as managed build with various toolchains.
- Source navigation tools such as type hierarchy, call graph and hyperlink navigation.
- Code editor with syntax highlighting.
- Source code refactoring and code generation.
- Visual debugging tools.

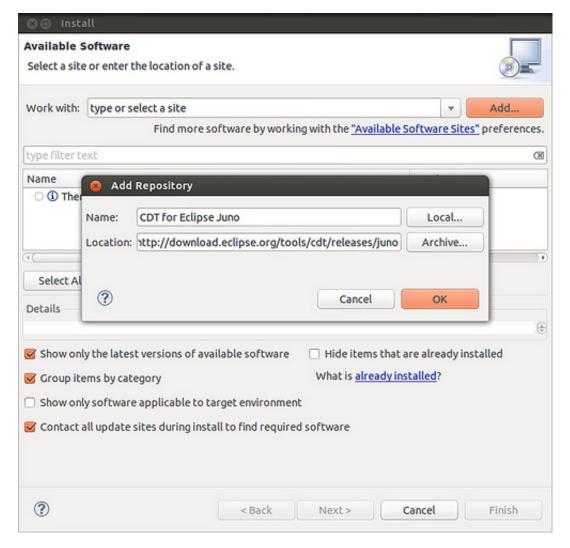In this tutorial, I will describe **how to set up C/C++ development in Eclipse by installing Eclipse CDT**.

I assume that you already have a working installation of Eclipse ready on your system.

First launch Eclipse, and go to "Help"->"Install New Software" menu.
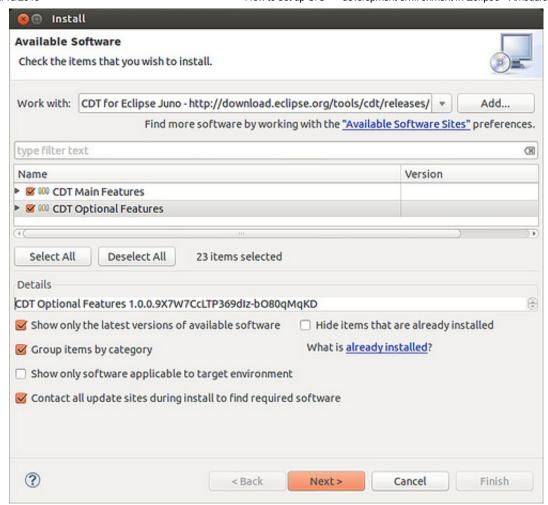

Click on "Add" button to add a new repository. Fill in repository name, and specify the URL location of the repository as follows.
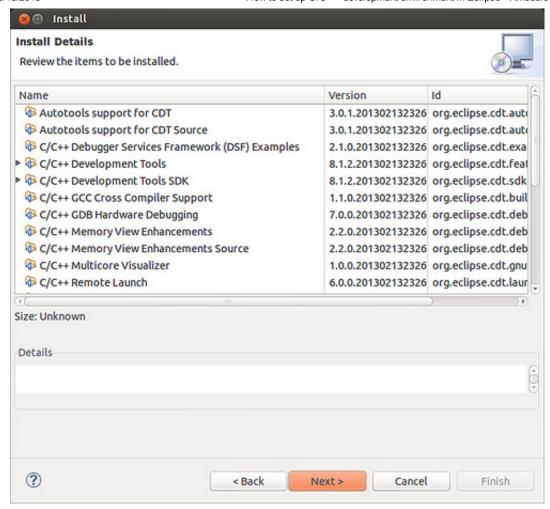
- **Eclipse 4.3 (Kepler):**http://download.eclipse.org/tools/cdt/releases/kepler
- **Eclipse 4.2 (Juno):** http://download.eclipse.org/tools/cdt/releases/juno
- **Eclipse 3.7 (Indigo):**http://download.eclipse.org/tools/cdt/releases/indigo
- **Eclipse 3.6 (Helios):**http://download.eclipse.org/tools/cdt/releases/helios
- **Eclipse 3.5 (Galileo):**http://download.eclipse.org/tools/cdt/releases/galileo

Enable checkbox for "CDT Main Features" and "CDT Optional Features", and click on "Next" button.

Review the items to be installed. Finally, go ahead and install C/C++ development tools on Eclipse.

After installation, restart Eclipse.

To verify that CDT has been installed successfully, go to "Help"->"About Eclipse" menu, and check if Eclipse CDT icon is listed there.

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Dan Nanni is the founder and also a regular contributor of Xmodulo.com. He is a Linux/FOSS enthusiast who loves to get his hands dirty with his Linux box. He likes to procrastinate when he is supposed to be busy and productive. When he is otherwise free, he likes to watch movies and shop for the coolest gadgets.

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