

Spring MVC beginner tutorial with Spring Tool Suite IDE

Last Updated on 06 January 2016 | [Print](#) [✉ Email](#)

Download Aspose for all your file format manipulation needs

In this tutorial, we will walk you through the steps of creating a hello world Spring MVC application using Spring Tool Suite (an Eclipse-based IDE). You will learn the fundamental concepts of Spring MVC during building the sample application. The tools/technologies used in this tutorial include:

- Spring framework 3.2.2
- Spring Tool Suite IDE 3.2.0 (based on Eclipse Juno 4.2.2).
- vFabric tc Server Developer Edition v2.8 (based on Apache Tomcat and optimized for Spring applications).

Table of content:

1. [About Spring Tool Suite IDE](#)
2. [A brief overview about Spring MVC](#)
3. [Creating a Spring MVC project in Spring Tool Suite IDE](#)
 - 3.1. [Maven dependencies configuration](#)
 - 3.2. [Spring MVC configuration](#)
 - 3.3. [Web deployment descriptor \(web.xml\)](#)
 - 3.4. [The example controller: HomeController.java](#)
 - 3.5. [The example JSP view: home.jsp](#)
4. [Deploying and running the application](#)
5. [Modifying the project](#)

1. About Spring Tool Suite IDE

[Spring Tool Suite](#) (STS) is an Eclipse-based IDE which is dedicated for developing Spring-based projects. It is actively developed and maintained by the [SpringSource community](#). STS facilitates and simplifies Spring-based applications development by providing robust project templates such as Spring Batch, Spring Integration, Spring Persistence (Hibernate + JPA), Spring MVC, etc. In addition, with Maven integration, STS releases developers from manually managing Spring jar files in their projects. You always get the latest update of Spring artifacts from Maven repository.



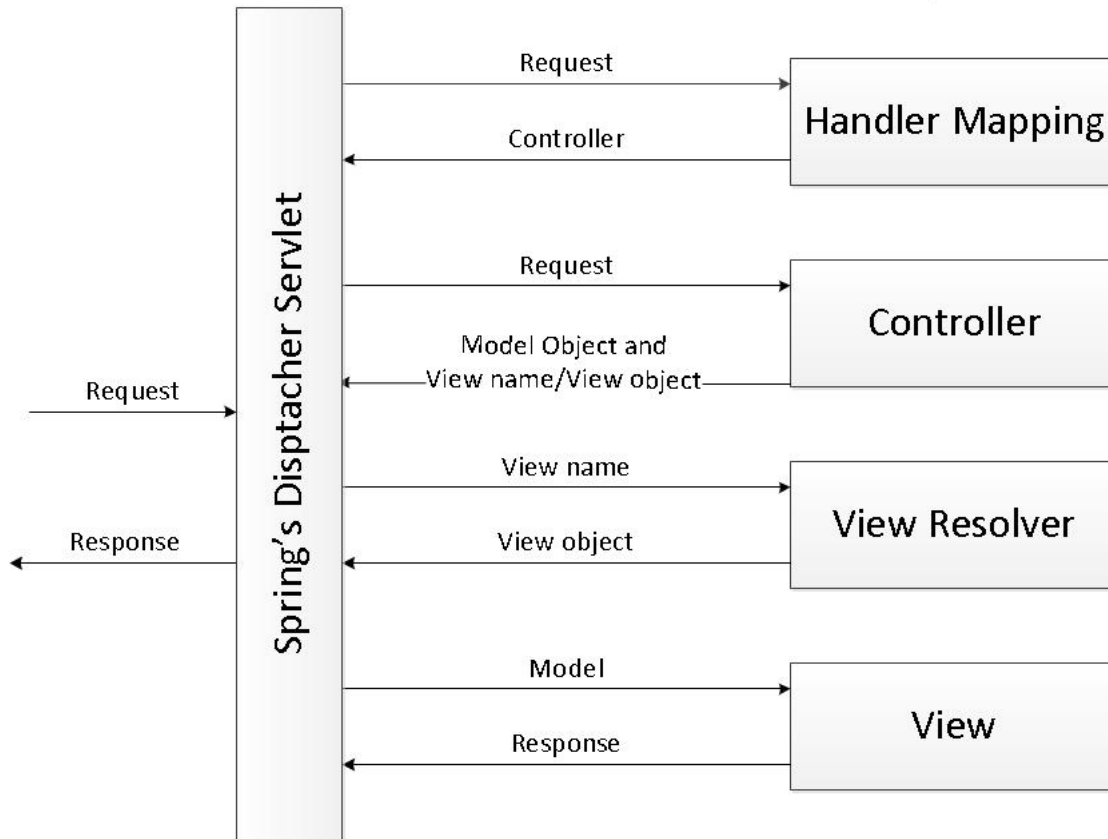
You can choose to [download](#) and install STS in one of three ways:

- Download and install STS from an installer program.
- [Install STS through Eclipse update.](#)
- Download and extract zip archive.

2. A brief overview about Spring MVC

Let's take a look at how Spring MVC works. The following diagram depicts the architecture of Spring MVC framework:

Spring MVC Architecture



As its name says, the Spring MVC framework is based on the Model - View - Controller (MVC) design pattern which separates the application's logic into the three layers Model, View and Controller. MVC is implemented in Spring by the following components:

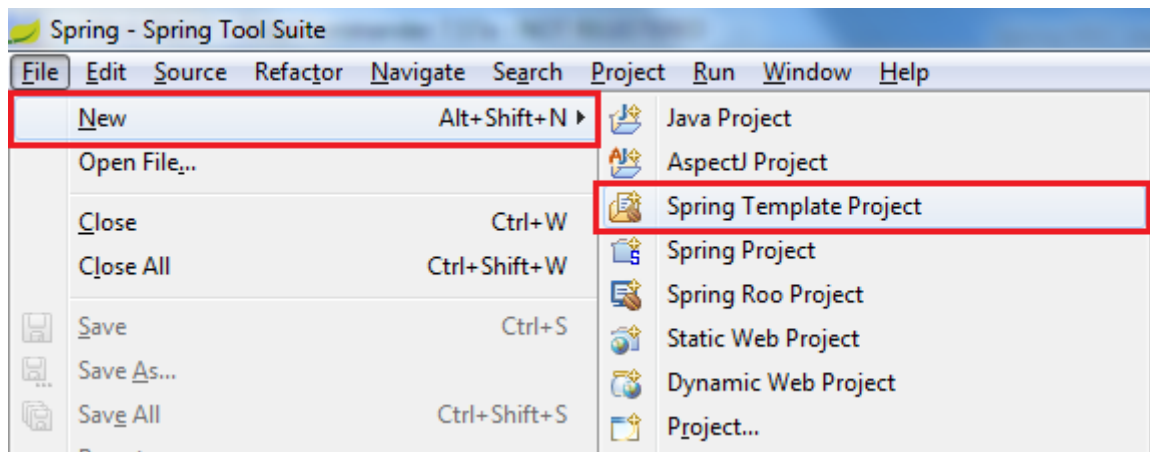
- **Spring's dispatcher servlet**: acts as a front controller between the Spring application and its clients. The dispatcher servlet intercepts all requests coming to the application and consults the Handler Mapping for which controller to be invoked to handle the requests.
- **Handler Mapping**: is responsible to find appropriate controllers that handle specific requests. The mapping between request URLs and controller classes is done via XML configuration or annotations.
- **Controller**: is responsible to process the requests by calling other business/service classes. The output can be attached to model objects which will be sent to the view. To know which view will be rendered, the controller consults the View Resolver.
- **View Resolver**: finds the physical view files from the logical names.
- **View**: physical view files which can be JSP, HTML, XML, Velocity template, etc.



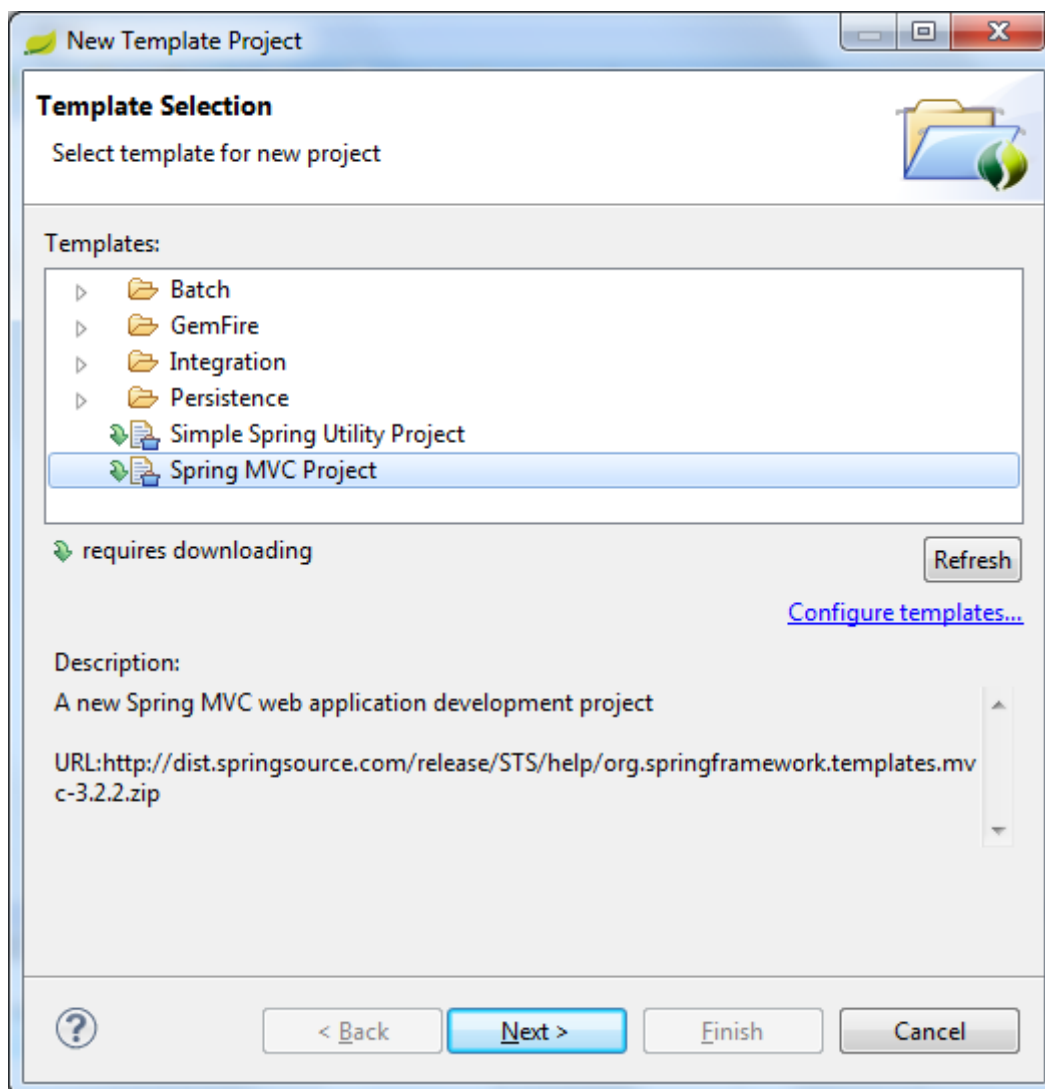
3. Creating a Spring MVC project in Spring Tool Suite IDE

Now let's play with the Spring Tool Suite IDE to see how it leverages Spring application development.

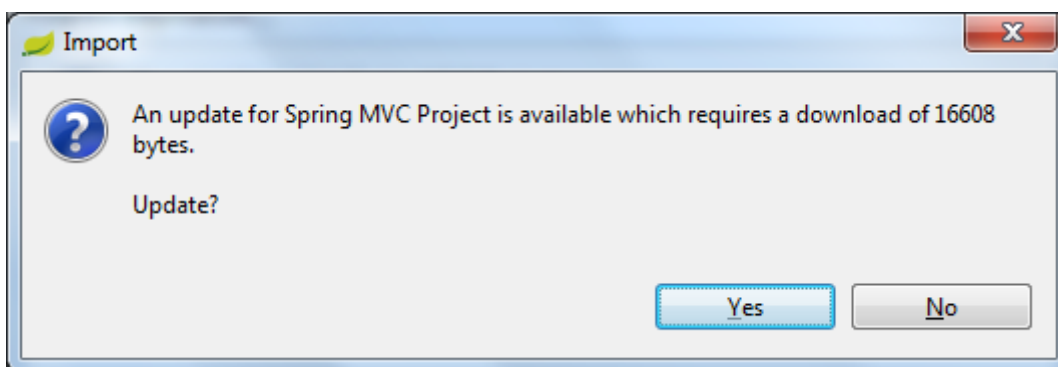
Start STS in your own workspace and make sure the current perspective is Spring (default). From main menu, select **File > New > Spring Template Project**:



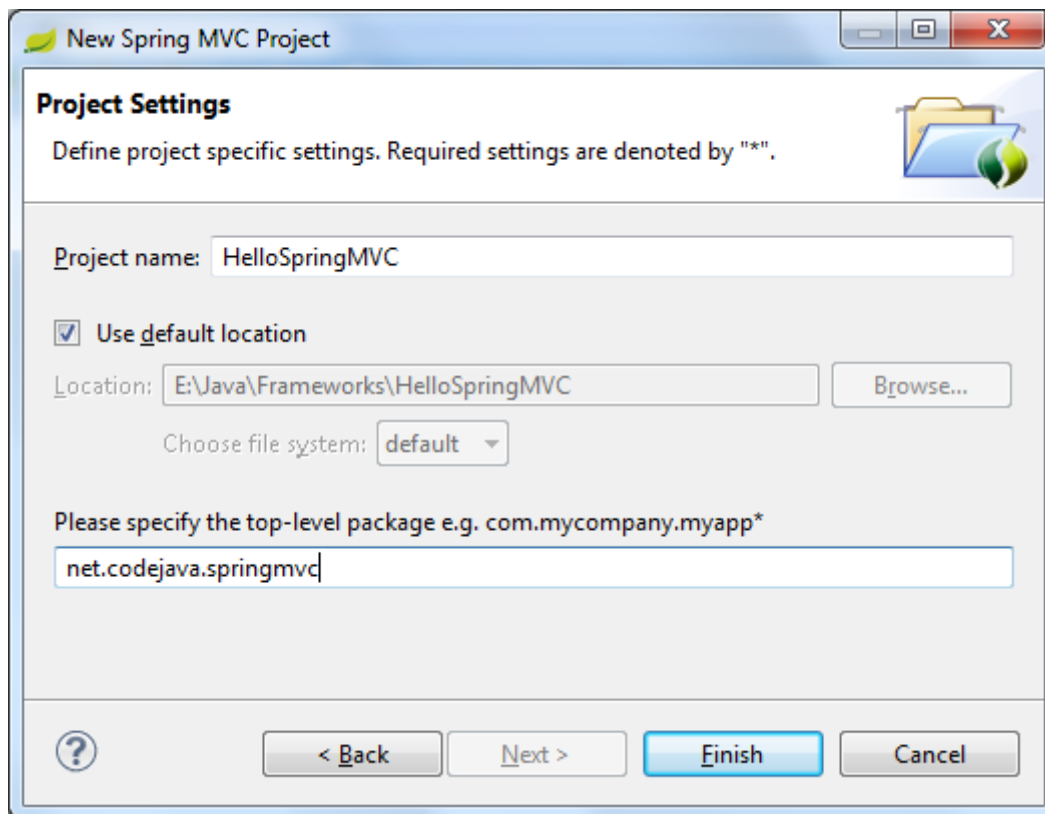
In the *New Template Project* dialog, select *Spring MVC Project*:



Click **Next**, it requires downloading an update of the template (for the first time you use this template or whenever an update available):



Click **Yes** to download the update, it should process quickly and then bring the *New Spring MVC Project*:

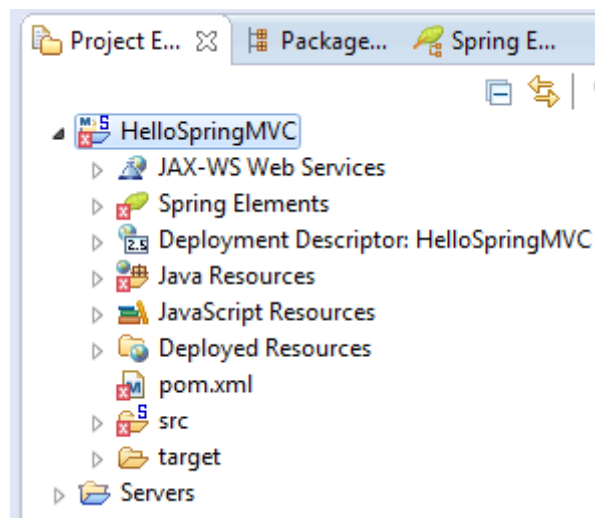


In this dialog, enter the following information:

- Project name: *HelloSpringMVC*
- Top-level package: *net.codejava.springmvc*

NOTE: Be careful when selecting the package name, because the last element (*springmvc* in *net.codejava.springmvc*) will be used as `artifactId` in Maven project file (`pom.xml`) and as context path of the application. However we can change this in the `pom.xml` file (which will be discussed later in this tutorial).

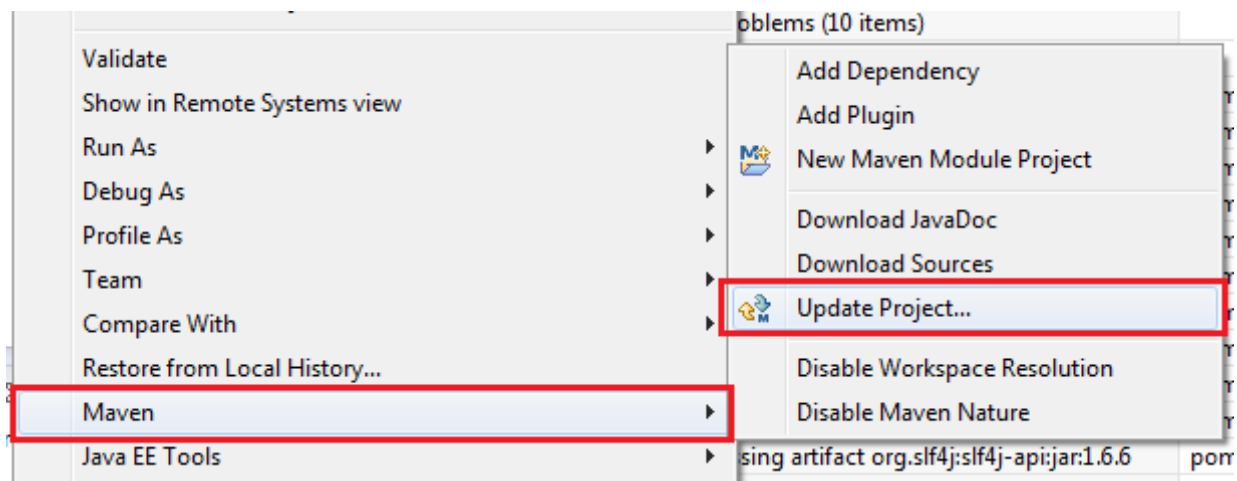
Click **Finish**, STS will create a Spring MVC-based project with some defaults for controller, views and configuration. You may get the errors in the *Project Explorer/Package Explorer* like this:



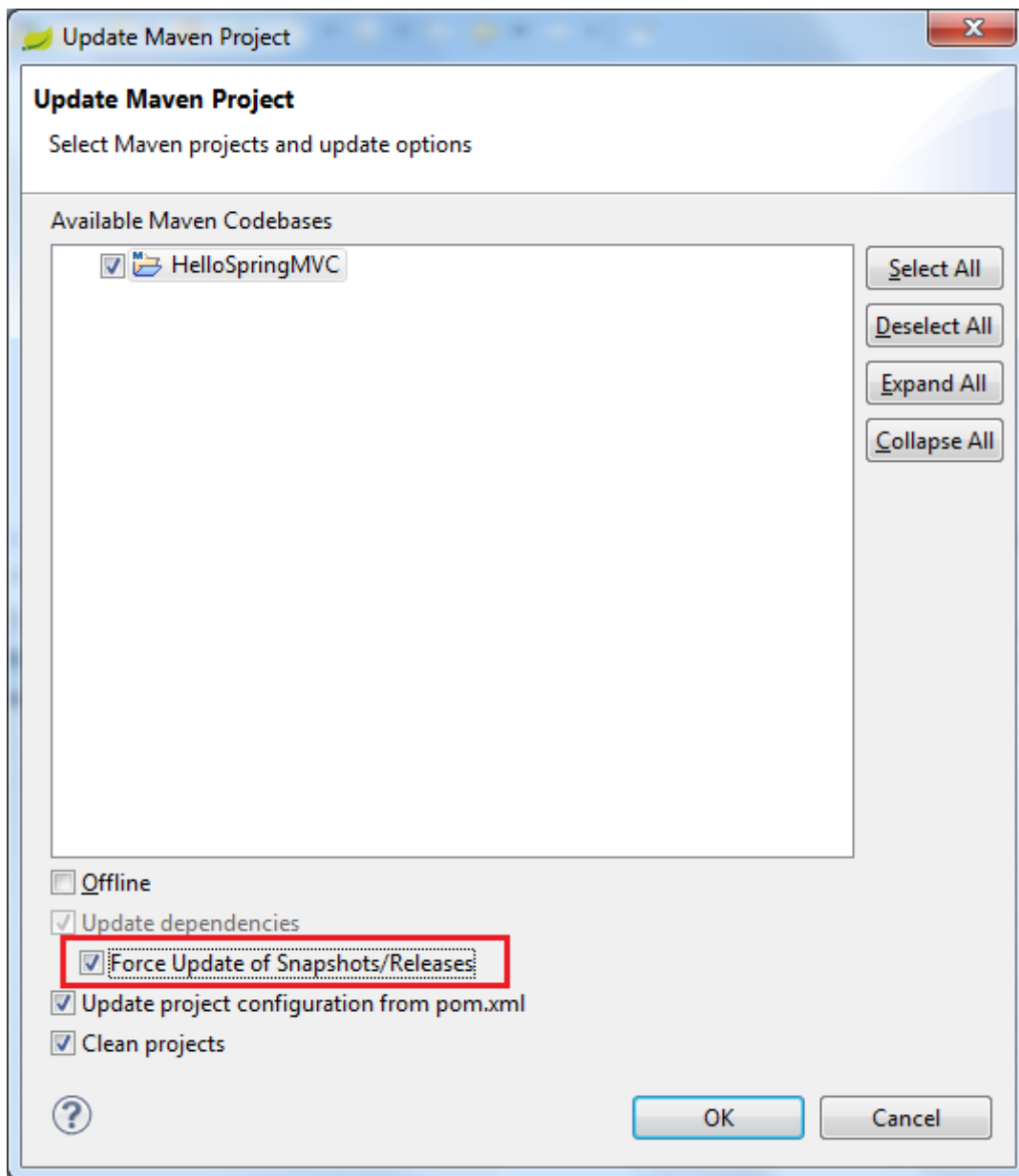
And errors in the *Markers* views like this:

Console Markers Progress					
24 errors, 1 warning, 0 others					
Description	Resource	Path	Location	Type	
▶ JSP Problem (1 item)					
▶ Java Build Path Problems (1 item)					
▶ Java Problems (10 items)					
▲ Maven Dependency Problem (12 items)					
✖ ArtifactDescriptorException: Failed to read art	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ ArtifactDescriptorException: Failed to read art	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact javax.inject:javax.inject:jar:1	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact javax.servlet:jstl:jar:1.2	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact javax.servlet:servlet-api:jar:2.5	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact javax.servlet.jsp:jsp-api:jar:2.1	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact junit:junit:jar:4.7	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact log4j:log4j:jar:1.2.15	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact org.aspectj:aspectjrt:jar:1.6.10	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact org.slf4j:jcl-over-slf4j:jar:1.6.6	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact org.slf4j:slf4j-api:jar:1.6.6	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
✖ Missing artifact org.slf4j:slf4j-log4j12:jar:1.6.6	pom.xml	/HelloSpringMVC	line 1	Maven Depen...	
▲ Spring Problems (1 item)					
✖ Class 'org.springframework.web.servlet.view.'	servlet-conte...	/HelloSpringMVC/s...	line 19	Spring Beans ...	

Don't worry, that's because Maven hasn't update some dependencies yet. We are going to fix these errors right now. Right click on project name in the *Project Explorer* view, select **Maven > Update Project...** from the context menu:

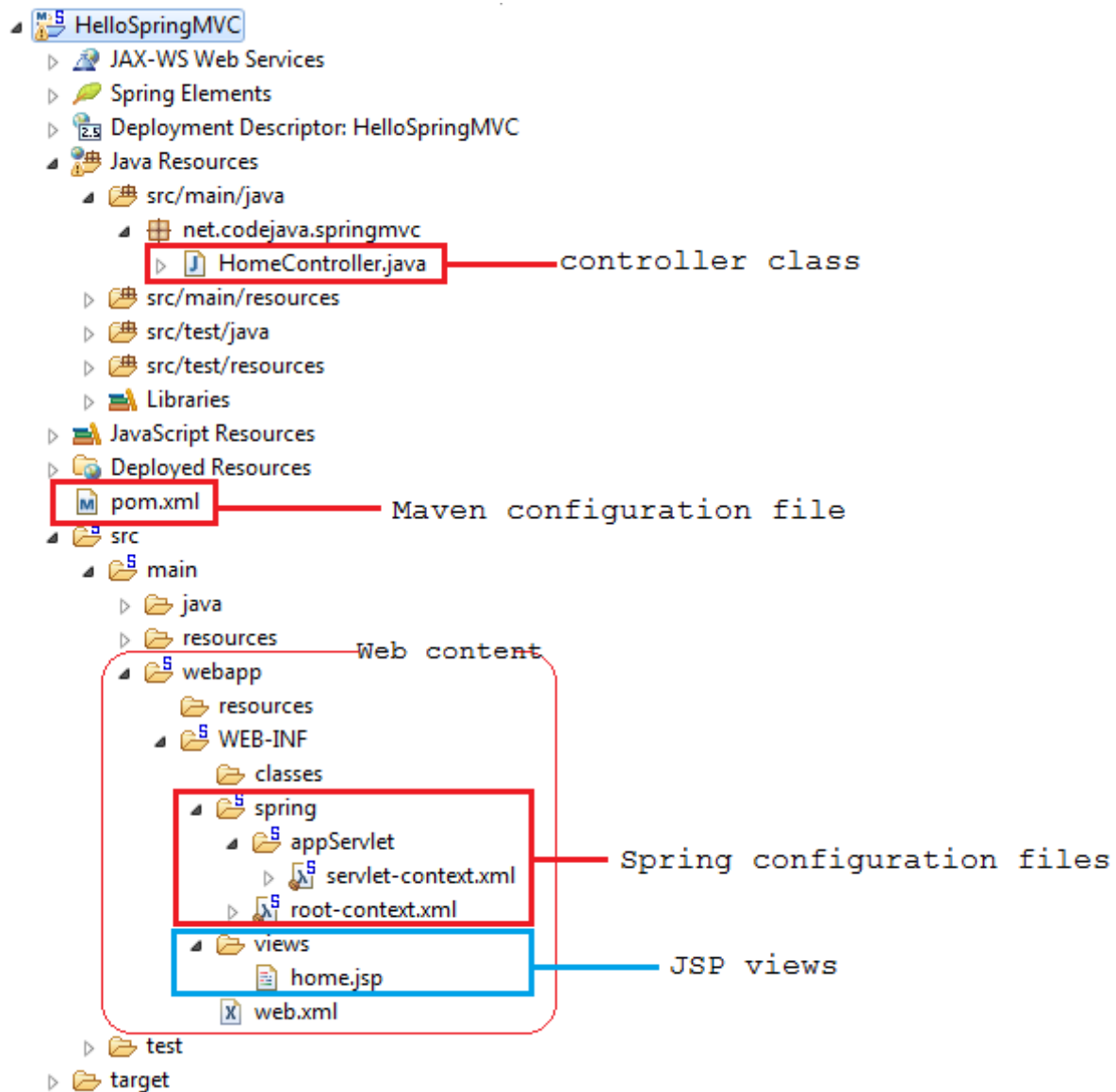


In the *Update Maven Project* dialog, select the checkbox *Force Update of Snapshots/Releases*:



Click **Finish**, wait a while for Maven downloading the required dependencies then the errors will be gone away.

Now let's explore what has been created by the Spring MVC Project template. Expand the branches in the *Project Explorer* view, we would see the project is structured like this:



As we can see, STS created all the nuts and bolts for a typical Spring MVC application: XML configuration, jar dependencies, an example controller, and an example JSP view. Let's look at these pieces in more details.

10%
off



MOTION PRO 08-0127 HEAVY DUTY SPRING HOOK

~~\$15.99~~ **\$14.39**

3.1. Maven dependencies configuration

Here's a partial content of the `pom.xml` file:



The generated `pom.xml` file includes all necessary dependencies for Spring core and Spring MVC, as well as servlet API, logging, etc. The noteworthy points are marked by red rectangles in the screenshot above.

Value of the `artifactId` element will be used as context path of the web application when deploying the project on a server running within the IDE. That means we will access this application in the following form:

`http://localhost:port/springmvc`

If we want to change version of Spring framework, just updating value of the `org.springframework-version` element. Because the version `3.1.1.RELEASE` is not the latest, change it to the latest release `3.2.2.RELEASE` (at writing time) as follows:

```
<org.springframework-version>3.2.2.RELEASE</org.springframework-version>
```

Just by saving the `pom.xml` file, Maven will detect the change and updates all the related dependencies immediately.

This video tutorial: [The Java Spring Tutorial](#) help you discover how to master the Spring framework instantly.

3.2. Spring MVC configuration

STS created two Spring configuration files: `root-context.xml` and `servlet-context.xml`.

root-context.xml:

```
root-context.xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
       xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
       xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans http://www.springfram

<!-- Root Context: defines shared resources visible to all other web components -->

</beans>
```

This specifies configuration for root Spring container which are shared by all servlets and filters. The `root-context.xml` file is loaded by the Spring's `ContextLoaderListener` upon application's startup. This file is empty by default.

servlet-context.xml:

```
servlet-context.xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans:beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc"
             xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
             xmlns:beans="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
             xmlns:context="http://www.springframework.org/schema/context"
             xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc
http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
http://www.springframework.org/schema/context http://www.springframework.org/schema/context"

<!-- DispatcherServlet Context: defines this servlet's request-processing infrastructure -->

<!-- Enables the Spring MVC @Controller programming model -->
<annotation-driven />

<!-- Handles HTTP GET requests for /resources/** by efficiently serving up static resources (without using a controller) -->
<resources mapping="/resources/**" location="/resources/" />

<!-- Resolves views selected for rendering by @Controllers to .jsp resources in the /WEB-INF/views directory -->
<beans:bean class="org.springframework.web.servlet.view.InternalResourceViewResolver">
    <beans:property name="prefix" value="/WEB-INF/views/" />
    <beans:property name="suffix" value=".jsp" />
</beans:bean>

<context:component-scan base-package="net.codejava.springmvc" />

</beans:beans>
```

This file is loaded by the Spring's `DispatcherServlet` which receives all requests coming into the application and dispatches processing for controllers, based on the configuration specified in this `servlet-context.xml` file. Let's look at some default configurations:

- `<annotation-driven />`: tells the framework to use annotations-based approach to scan files in the specified packages. Thus we can use the `@Controller` annotation for the controller class, instead of declaring XML elements.
- `<resources mapping=.../>`: maps static resources directly with HTTP GET requests. For example images, javascript, CSS,... resources do not have to go through controllers.
- Bean `InternalResourceViewResolver`: this bean declaration tells the framework how to find physical JSP files according to logical view names returned by the controllers, by attaching the prefix and the suffix to a view name. For example, if a controller's method returns "home" as logical view name, then the framework will find a physical file "home.jsp" under the `/WEB-INF/views` directory.
- `<context:component-scan .../>`: tell the framework which packages to be scanned when using annotation-based strategy. Here the framework will scan all classes under the package `net.codejava.springmvc`.

When the application grows up, we will put more configurations for business beans, DAOs, transactions, etc.

This book: [Spring in Practice](#) covers 66 Spring development techniques that help you solve practical issues you will encounter when using Spring framework.

3.3. Web deployment descriptor (web.xml)

Here is content of the generated `web.xml` file:

```
web.xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<web-app version="2.5" xmlns="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee/web

  <!-- The definition of the Root Spring Container shared by all Servlets and Filters -->
  <context-param>
    <param-name>contextConfigLocation</param-name>
    <param-value>/WEB-INF/spring/root-context.xml</param-value>
  </context-param>

  <!-- Creates the Spring Container shared by all Servlets and Filters -->
  <listener>
    <listener-class>org.springframework.web.context.ContextLoaderListener</listener-class>
  </listener>

  <!-- Processes application requests -->
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>appServlet</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>org.springframework.web.servlet.DispatcherServlet</servlet-class>
    <init-param>
      <param-name>contextConfigLocation</param-name>
      <param-value>/WEB-INF/spring/appServlet/servlet-context.xml</param-value>
    </init-param>
    <load-on-startup>1</load-on-startup>
  </servlet>

  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>appServlet</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>/</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>

</web-app>
```

This is the typical configuration for a Spring MVC-based application with declaration for Spring's `ContextLoaderListener` and `DispatcherServlet` along with the Spring configuration files `root-context.xml` and `servlet-context.xml`. Finally, it specifies the URL mapping for Spring's `DispatcherServlet` to handle all requests.

Ads by Google

[▶ Spring MVC](#)

[▶ Spring Tutorial](#)

[▶ Spring Framework](#)

[▶ Tutorial Video](#)

3.4. The example controller: `HomeController.java`

Following is the generated code of the controller class:

```

HomeController.java
package net.codejava.springmvc;

import java.text.DateFormat;

/**
 * Handles requests for the application home page.
 */
@Controller
public class HomeController {

    private static final Logger logger = LoggerFactory
        .getLogger(HomeController.class);

    /**
     * Simply selects the home view to render by returning its name.
     */
    @RequestMapping(value = "/", method = RequestMethod.GET)
    public String home(Locale locale, Model model) {
        logger.info("Welcome home! The client locale is {}.", locale);

        Date date = new Date();
        DateFormat dateFormat = DateFormat.getDateTimeInstance(DateFormat.LONG,
            DateFormat.LONG, locale);

        String formattedDate = dateFormat.format(date);

        model.addAttribute("serverTime", formattedDate);

        return "home";
    }
}

```

As we can see, the `@Controller` annotation is used to specify this class is a Spring controller, and the `@RequestMapping` annotation specifies that the `home()` method will handle a GET request with the URL / (default page of the application). In one controller class we can write many methods to handle different URLs.

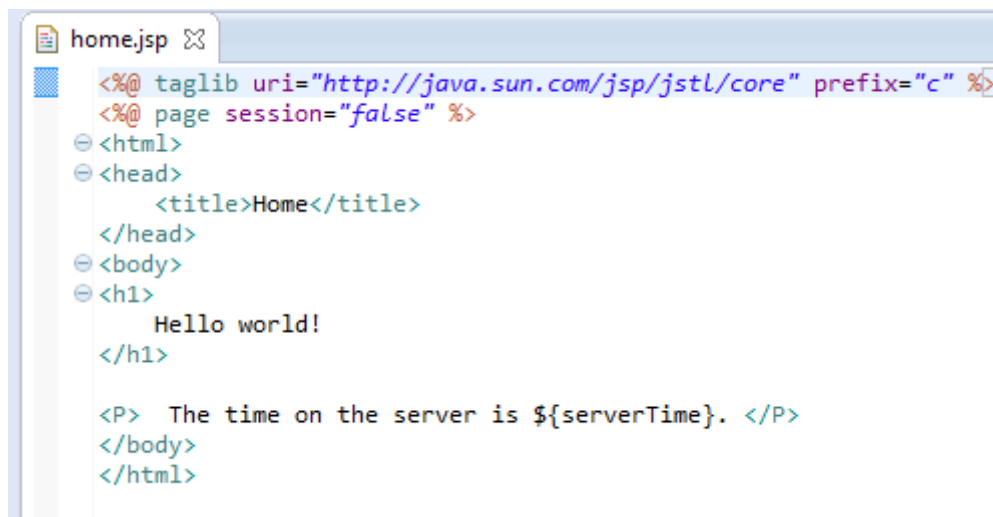
Inside the `home()` method, it creates a String object to hold the current date based on the current locale, and adds this object to the model with the name "serverTime":

```
model.addAttribute("serverTime", formattedDate);
```

And finally the method returns a view named "home", which will be resolved by the view resolver specified in the `servlet-context.xml` file, to find the actual view file.

3.5. The example JSP view: home.jsp

The `home.jsp` file is generated under `/WEB-INF/views` directory with the following content:



```
home.jsp
<%@ taglib uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" prefix="c" %>
<%@ page session="false" %>
<html>
<head>
<title>Home</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1>
Hello world!
</h1>

<P> The time on the server is ${serverTime}. </P>
</body>
</html>
```

This code is very simple, it just prints out value of the variable “serverTime” which is passed by the controller, using an EL expression:

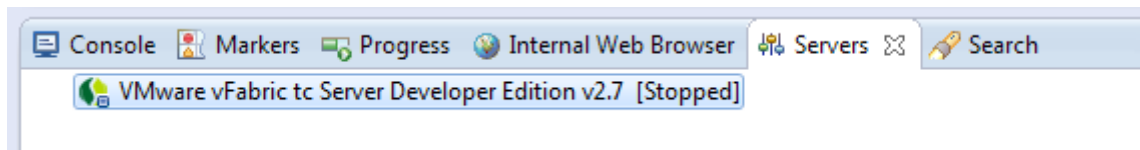
```
The time on the server is ${serverTime}.
```

So far we have gone through all the stuffs generated by the Spring MVC Project template. Notice we haven’t written any line of code yet, but the application is ready to be deployed and tested now. Let’s go!

This book **Pro Spring 3** helps you learn Spring basics and core, remoting, Hibernate, and EJB, transactions, the web and presentations tiers, deployment, and much more.

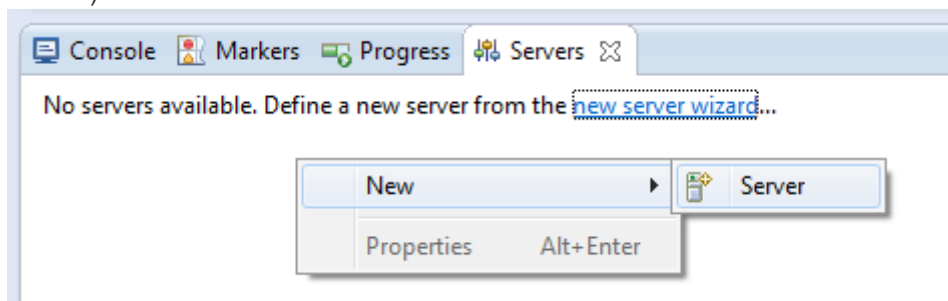
4. Deploying and running the application

In Spring Tool Suite IDE, switch to the *Servers* view. Probably you should see the *VMWare vFabric tc Server* like this:

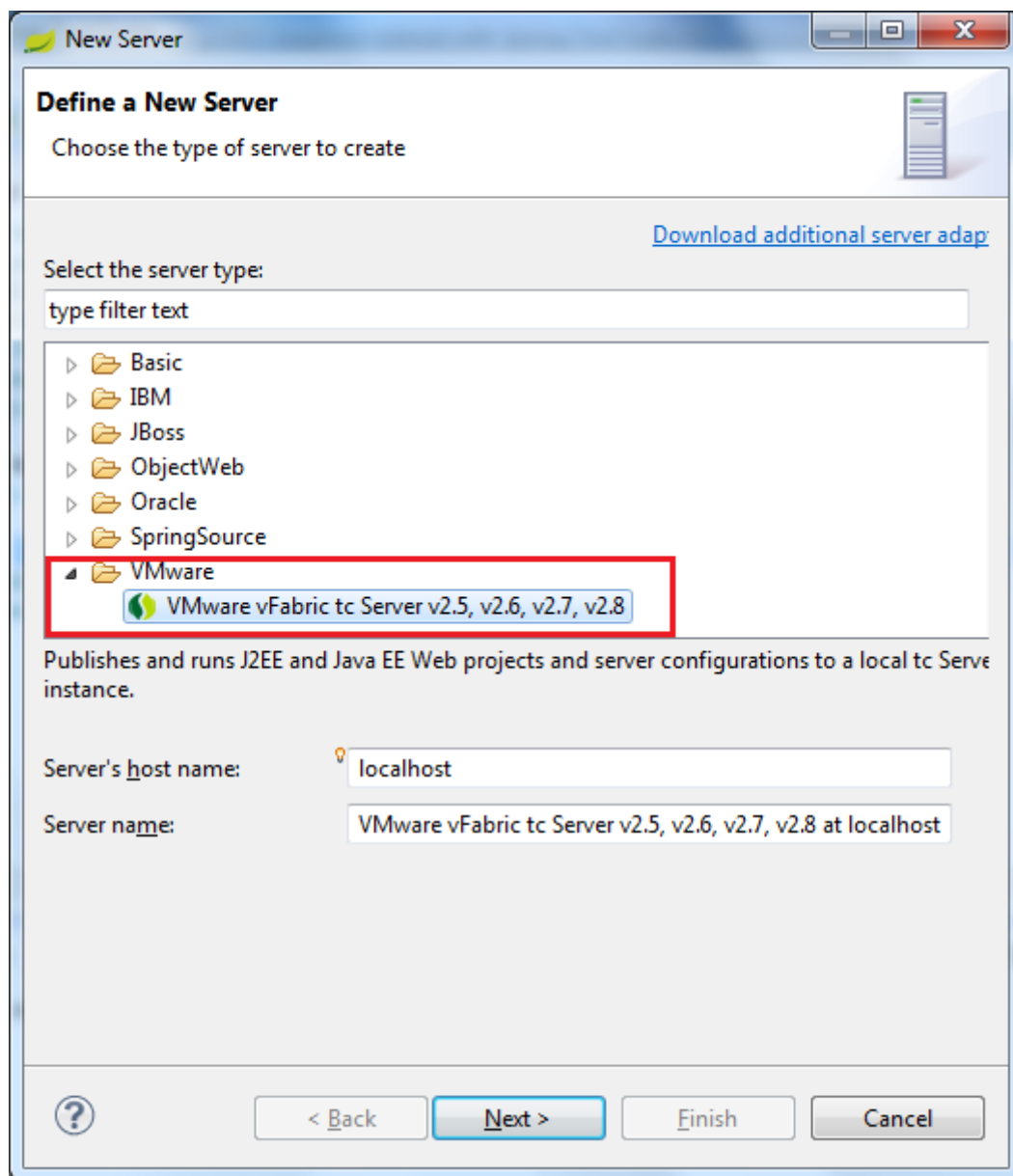


If you don’t see any server, follow these steps to add one:

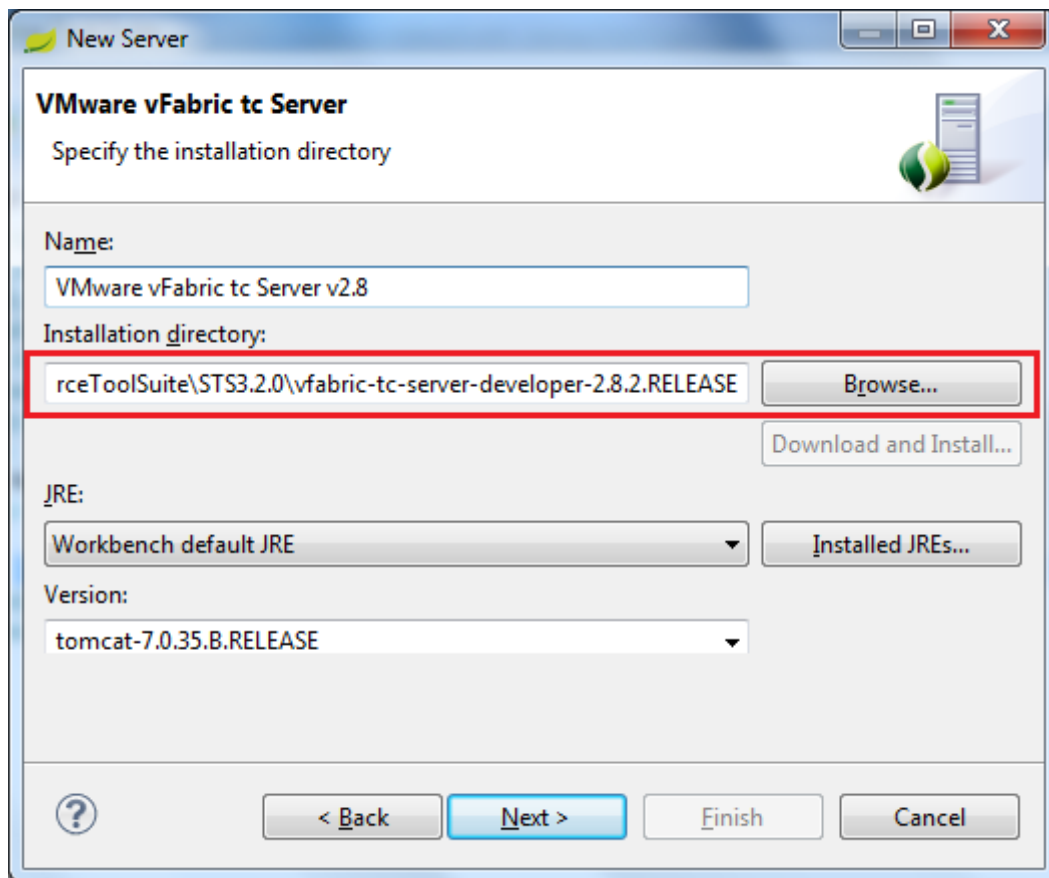
- Right click inside the *Servers* view then select **New > Server** from the context menu (Or click on the link **new server wizard**, if this link available):



- In the *New Server* dialog, select **VMware > VMware vFabric tc Server...** as follows:



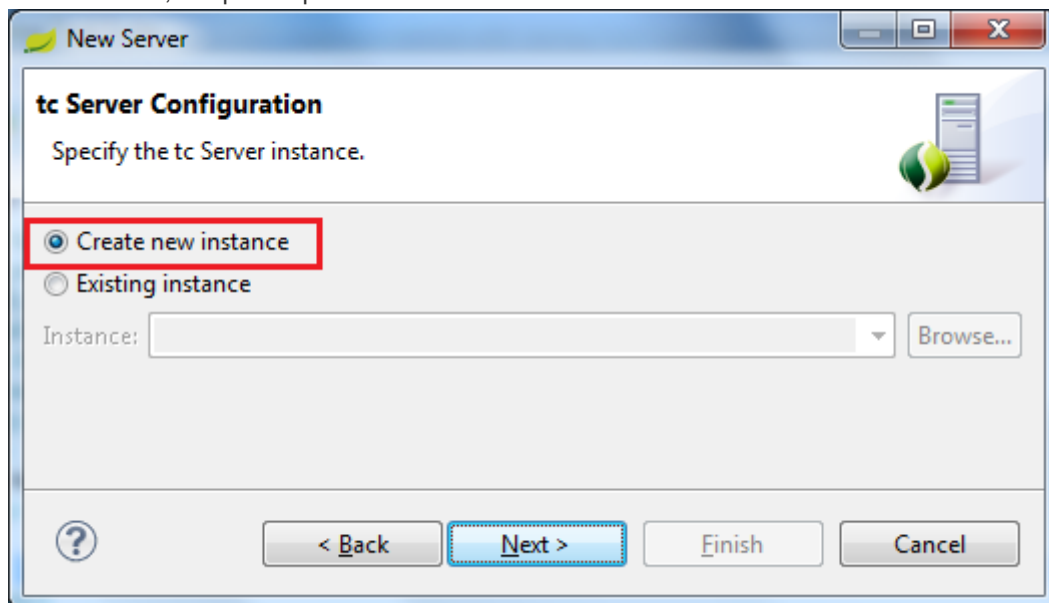
- Click **Next**, you may have to select installation directory for the server:



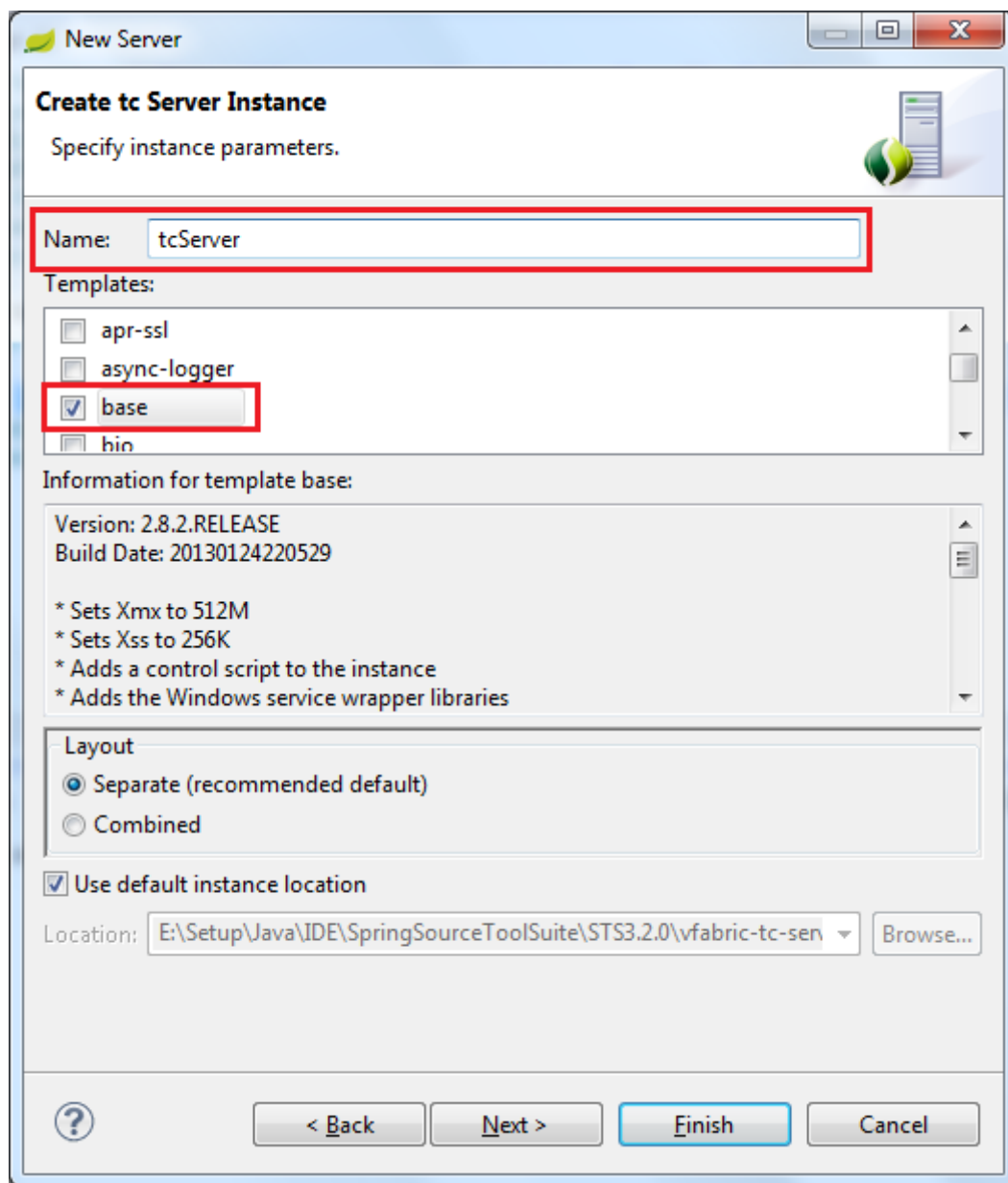
For a STS installation, the server usually installed in the following directory:

`STS_HOME\vfabric-tc-server-developer-VERSION`

- Click **Next**. In the next screen, keep the option *Create a new instance* selected:

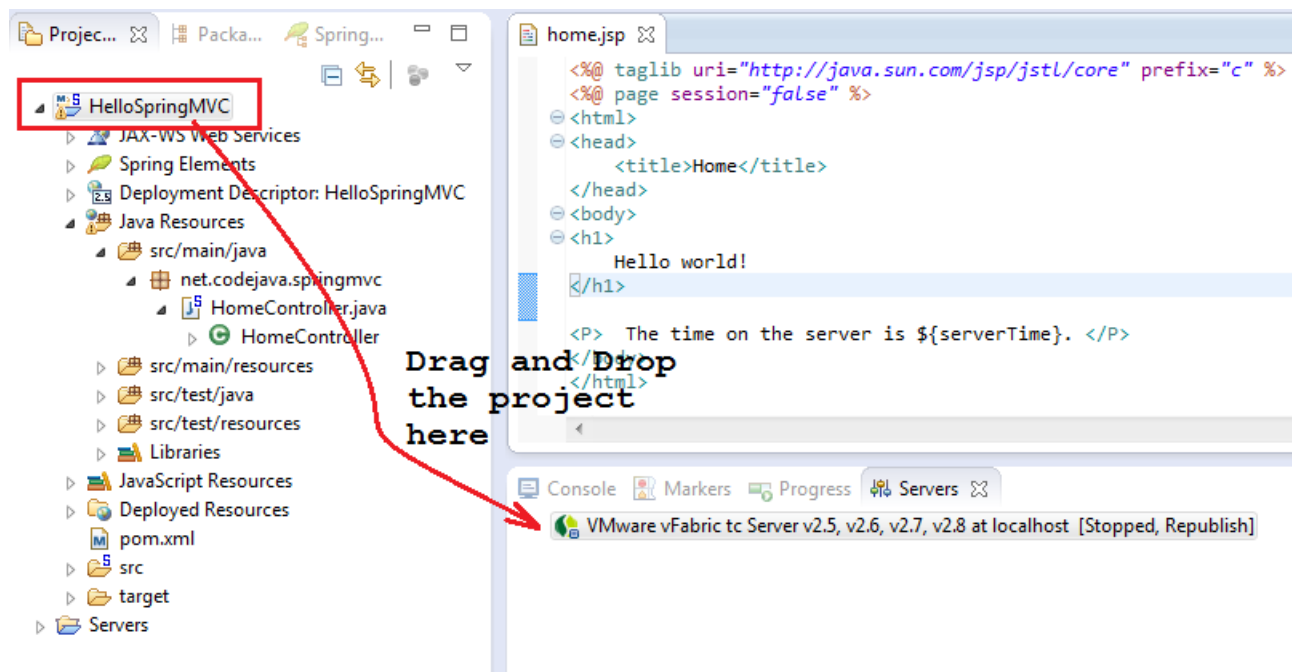


- Click **Next**. In the next screen, type *tcServer* as name for the new instance and select **base** as the template:

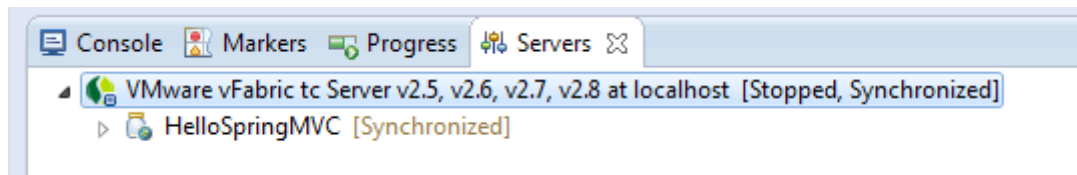


- Click **Finish**, to complete the server setup and you should see the server appears in the Servers view.

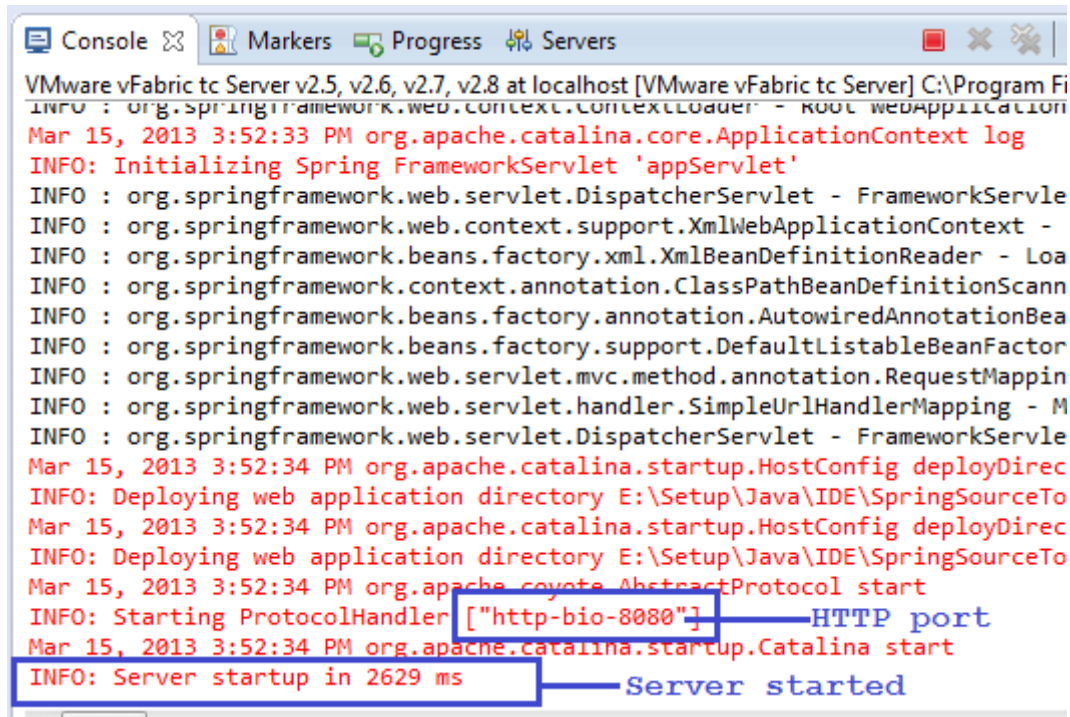
Now deploy our HelloSpringMVC application as simple as drag-n-drop the project to the server:



The application is deployed on the server if we see it beneath the server name like this:



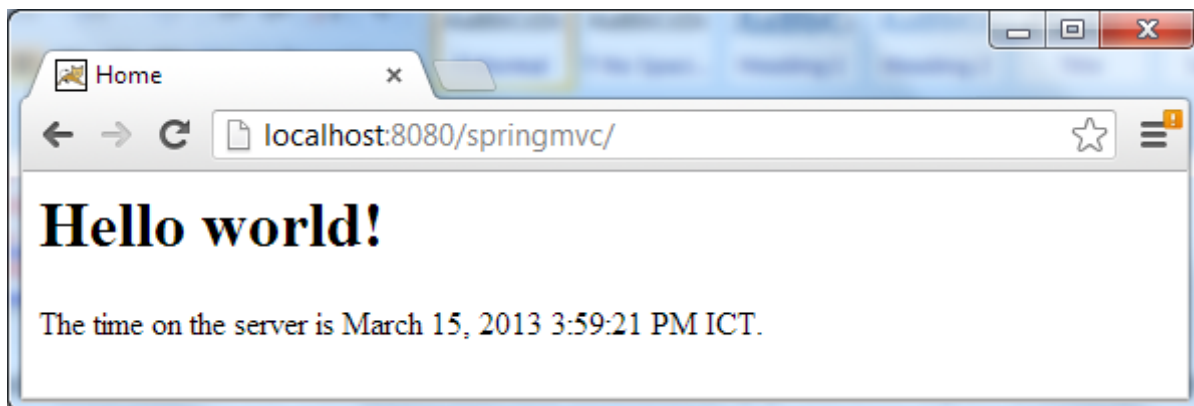
Start the server by right clicking on the server name then select **Start** from the context menu (or click on the start icon). Wait for seconds while the server is starting, you should see some verbose output in the *Console* view:



Notice the last line indicates the server has been started without any problem. Open a web browser window and type the following URL into its address bar:

http://localhost:8080/springmvc

If everything is going well (of course), we would see following screen:



Congratulations! We have got our first Spring MVC application running, it prints the current date time on the server. If you refresh the page, you should see the time changes.

This video tutorial: [The Java Spring Tutorial](#) help you discover how to master the Spring framework instantly.

5. Modifying the project

So far we have tested and seen the generated application running. Now let's add some changes to the project for further understanding Spring MVC.

Add the following method into the `HomeController.java` class:

```
1 @RequestMapping(value = "/test", method = RequestMethod.GET)
2 public String test(Model model) {
3     String greetings = "Greetings, Spring MVC!";
4     model.addAttribute("message", greetings);
5
6     return "test";
7 }
```

This method will handle requests having the URL pattern `/test` and does the following chore:

- Adds a String object as an attribute into the model with name "message" and value is "Greetings, Spring MVC!".
- Returns a logical view named "test".

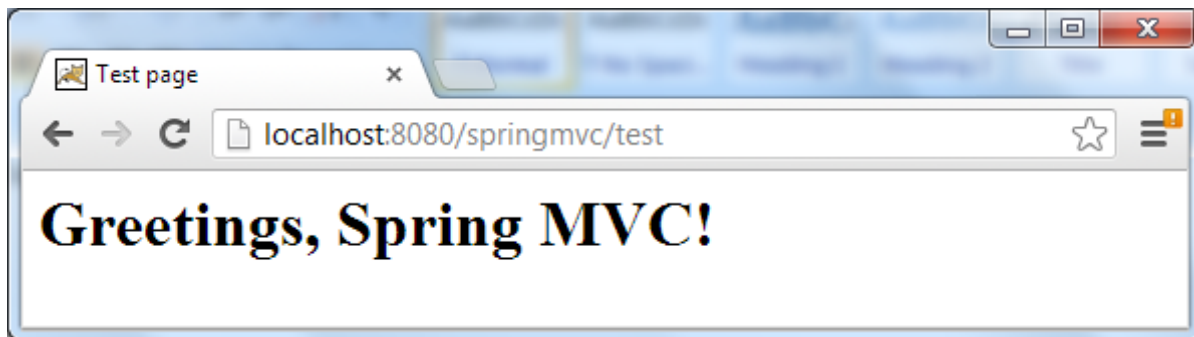
Because the `test()` method returns "test" view name, and following the configuration specified by the view resolver, we have to create a JPS file called `test.jsp` under `/WEB-INF/views` directory, with the following content:

```
1 <%@ taglib uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" prefix="c" %>
2 <%@ page session="false" %>
3 <html>
4 <head>
5     <title>Test page</title>
6 </head>
7 <body>
8 <h1>
9     ${message}
10 </h1>
11 </body>
12 </html>
```

This page is deadly simple, as it prints out value of the variable "message" which will be passed by the controller. Now get back to the browser window, change the URL to:

`http://localhost:8080/springmvc/test`

Hit **Enter**, we should be welcomed by the following screen:



Hurrah! We have finished walking through a quite long journey with Spring Tool Suite IDE and our first Spring MVC application. We hope this tutorial would be useful for those who want to be leveraged by Spring Tool Suite in Spring applications development. It's time to break!

You may be also interested in:

- [Understanding the core of Spring framework](#)
- [Understanding Spring MVC](#)
- [14 Tips for Writing Spring MVC Controller](#)

Spring Framework 4 Tutorial

Become A Real World Spring Developer Rapidly

Share this article:



Big Data Hadoop
Architect Masters
25% OFF
Use: **ONLINE25**

[LEARN MORE](#)



Data Scientist Masters
Certification
25% OFF
Use: **ONLINE25**

[LEARN MORE](#)



Data Scientist with R
25% OFF
Use: **ONLINE25**

[LEARN MORE](#)

 **simplilearn**

Free Java Beginner Tutorial Videos (8,212+ guys benefited)

EMAIL ADDRESS:

FIRST NAME:

SEND ME



Big Data Hadoop
Program
25% OFF
Use: **ONLINE25**

[LEARN MORE](#)



Data Scientist with R
25% OFF
Use: **ONLINE25**

[LEARN MORE](#)



SAS Base Programmer
25% OFF
Use: **ONLINE25**

[LEARN MORE](#)

 **simplilearn**