

EGit: Issuing a fast-forward pull ~ How to configure fetch for a remote repository in EGit

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So let me set up my scenario. I am using EGit 4.1.1 in Spring Tool Suite (Eclipse 4.5.1). My tech-savvy coworker and I have cloned the same git repository from a remote URL. My tech-savvy coworker, who prefers the command line, does his file modification using VIM, then issues the commands

```
git add .
git commit -m "Modified file"
git push
```

Now the change is in the remote repository. Now I, who am less CLI-prone and more prefer the GUI, am using EGit in Eclipse. To receive the change, I right click the project (which I originally cloned using EGit), go to Team -> Pull, and I am told that there is **"Nothing to fetch"**. For sanity purposes, I have the "Git Reflog" view open, and I see that my coworker's change is not listed, and I begin to scratch my head.

So I go to the command line and I issue the command `git pull`. and voila!, it pulls in my coworkers change:

```
remote: Counting objects: 27, done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (10/10), done.
remote: Total 14 (delta 4), reused 0 (delta 0)
Unpacking objects: 100% (14/14), done.
From git://hostname.domain.com/git-repo
 * branch          master       -> FETCH_HEAD
Updating 123ae12..68cd2f0
Fast-forward
```

Better yet, I go back to Eclipse, and I see the change in the "Git Reflog" view, listed as

Commit	Commit Message	Date	Reflog Message
68cd2f0	Modified File	2015-12-23	pull: Fast-forward

So, I feel like what I am being told here leads me to believe that there is a Git concept that I am not familiar with - something that I'm probably just missing. So...

- Is there anything obvious I am missing here about the workings of git?
- I am assuming that fast-forward means I am just moving my HEAD forward in the same branch
- How do I accomplish this command-line "git pull" in Eclipse?

Edit: To address VonC's answer, I have added this information that is both more information and a solution to this question.

From the command line, when I run (from the repository) `cat ./.git/.gitconfig`, I get the following output:

```
[core]
  repositoryformatversion = 0
  filemode = true
  bare = false
  logallrefupdates = true
  ignorecase = true
[remote "origin"]
  url = git://hostname.domain.com/git-repo.git
  fetch = +refs/heads/*:refs/remotes/origin/*
[branch "master"]
  remote = origin
  merge = refs/heads/master
```

However, when I go into Eclipse and look at the fetch configuration, it is blank.

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edited Dec 30 '15 at 1:35

asked Dec 24 '15 at 4:55

[Michael Plautz](#)
2,858 ● 4 ● 21 ● 34

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First the reflog would not show you anything before a fetch (in command line or Eclipse): it records

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`fetch = +refs/heads/*:refs/remotes/origin/*`

By default, the command line `git fetch` would use the current branch:

`refs/heads/<head>:refs/heads/<branch>`

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edited May 23 '17 at 12:31

answered Dec 24 '15 at 5:05



VonC
1.0m • 435 • 3638 • 4269

@TimBiegeleisen I suspect .gitconfig is not completely configured, while the command line might default the fetch refspec to `refs/heads/<head>:refs/heads/<branch>` as mentioned in git-scm.com/docs/git-fetch. We need to see the `.gitconfig` first to know more. – VonC Dec 24 '15 at 5:09

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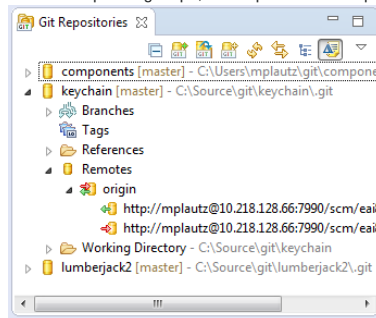
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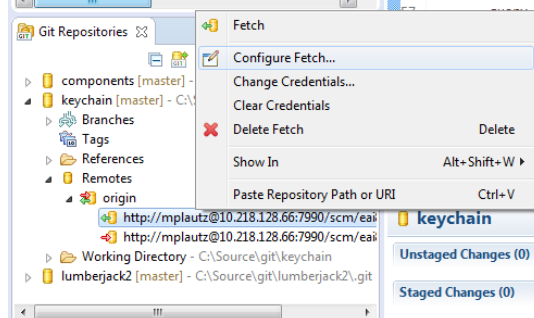
To add to VonC's answer, what this means is that I **missed a step** when I originally configured the remotes for the git repo when I used EGit to configure it. Since I didn't have fetch configured for the repo, Eclipse was giving me the error "Nothing to fetch" - where perhaps it should have given me a more meaningful error like "Fetch not configured for this repository. To configure, you must..." Maybe I'll fix that later since EGit is open source.

To fix this in Eclipse (EGit), do the following:

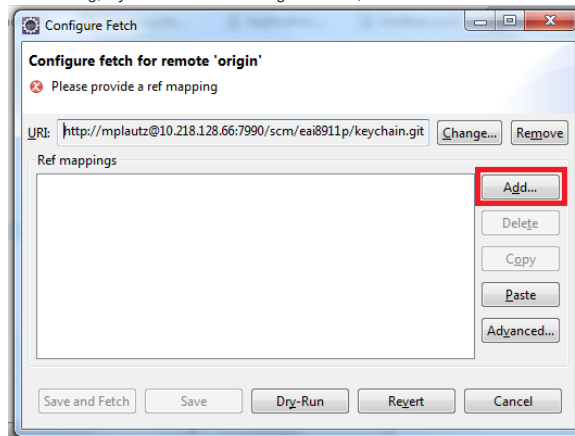
1. Ensure the *Git Repositories* view is open.
2. Select the specific git repo, and expand it till the specific remote in *remotes* is expanded:



3. Right click the *incoming* origin and choose *Configure Fetch*



4. In the dialog, if you see no fetch configured at all, select *Add* next to the *Ref Mappings* pane



5. In the dialog, for *Source*, type `refs/heads/*` (despite the "Not found in remote repository"

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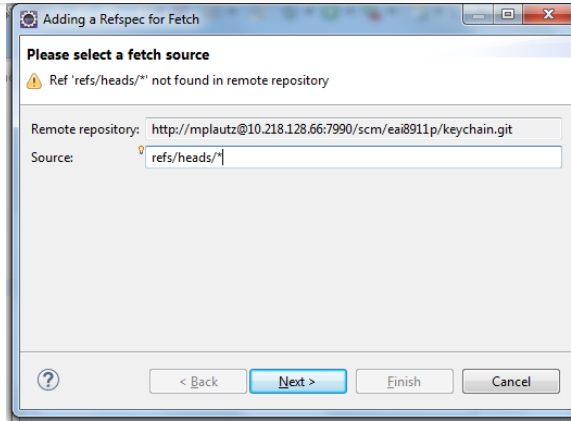
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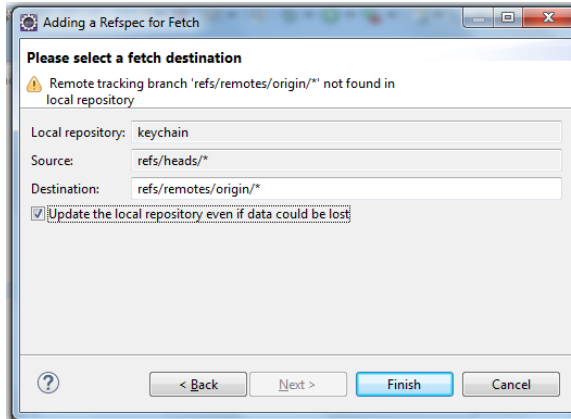


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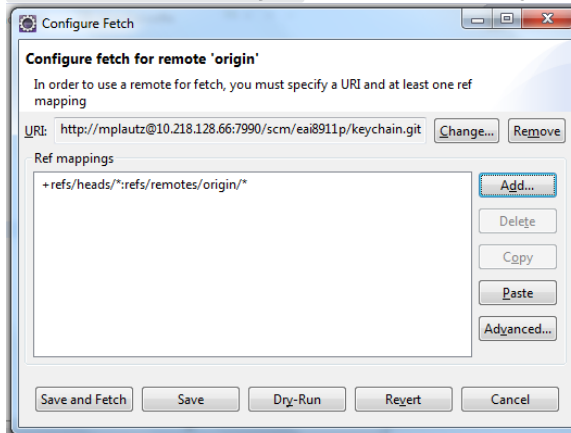
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6. For **Destination**, make sure `refs/remotes/origin/*` is filled in (it may auto-populate). Make sure *Update the local repository even if data could be lost* is checked. Click **Finish**.



7. Now in your **Configure Fetch** dialog, you will see the new ref mapping:
`+refs/heads/*:refs/remotes/origin/*`. This matches what is in the `.gitconfig` file.



8. Now click **Save** if you plan to fetch later, or **Save and Fetch** if you would like you update your local repository.

I'm not totally sure why EGit didn't do this automatically, perhaps that's a question for another day.

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answered Dec 30 '15 at 1:34

 **Michael Plautz**
2,858 ● 4 ● 21 ● 34

Great feedback, in addition to my answer. +1 – [VonC](#) Dec 30 '15 at 8:07

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