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.

`eclipse` `git` `egit` `git-pull`

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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

Community ♦   VonC
1 ●1   1.0m ● 435 ● 3638 ●
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@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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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.

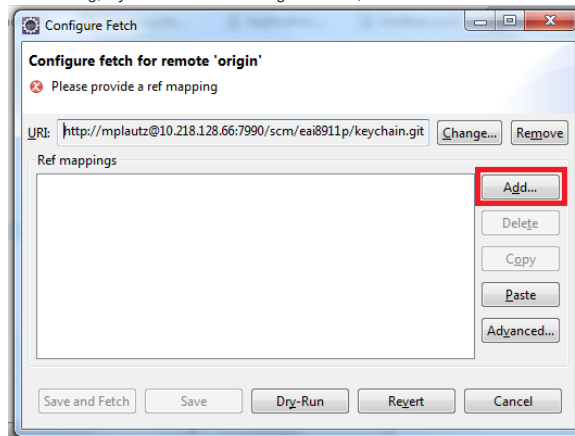**To fix this** in Eclipse (EGit), do the following:

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:
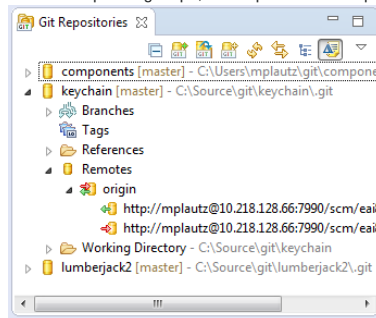
3. Right click the *incoming* origin and choose *Configure Fetch*
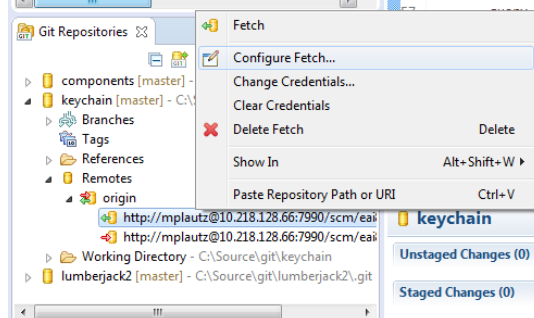
4. In the dialog, if you see no fetch configured at all, select *Add* next to the *Ref Mappings* pane

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

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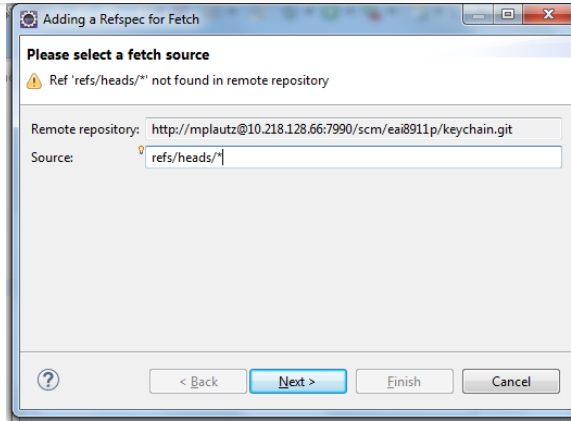 Tags
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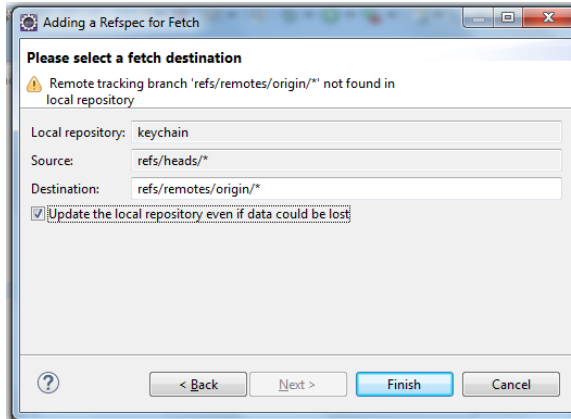**Stack Overflow for Teams** – Collaborate and share knowledge with a private group.
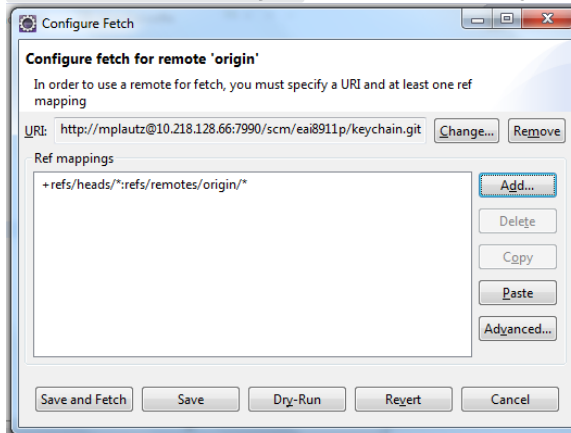
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6. For *Destination*, make sure `refs/remotes/origin/*` is filled in (it may auto-populate). Make sure *Update the local repository even if data could be lost* is checked. Click *Finish*.

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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