<http://www.rdeeson.com/weblog/99/relocating-eclipse-projects-the-project-description-file-project-for-xxx--is-missing.htm>

Relocating Eclipse Projects: The project description file (.project) for XXX is missing

Recently I changed the name of the mountpoint where my Eclipse projects are located, and while a lot of my projects opened without any problem, others would not, instead generating the error message:

The project description file (.project) for PROJECTNAME is missing

By default, Eclipse will look for the .project file in the root directory of the project itself. In some cases though, you may want to have the .project file outside of the main project directory, and you can do this by specifying the location in a file saved at workspace/.metadata/.plugins/org.eclipse.core.resources/.projects/PROJECTNAME/.location.

“.location” 파일은 binary format인 것 같다. 따라서 수정 시 일반적인 text editor에서 수정하는 경우 정상적으로 수정되지 않을 수도 있으니 주의하여야 한다. Visual Studio 2010에서는 수정 가능하다.

In my case though the .project file was in the default location, but for some reason Eclipse had created a .location file anyway. To get around the issue and allow the projects to be opened from their new location, I simply had to delete the .location files for the affected projects.

This will only work however for projects that have the same name as the project directory. If the project name is different, you will need to create a new project from the existing source, by using the File > Import... option.