

# How does "git push heroku master" know where to push to and how to push to a different repo?

Asked 8 years, 5 months ago   Active 1 year ago   Viewed 65k times

- ▲ When pushing to a repository hosted on Heroku one must execute the following command:
- 83 `git push heroku master`
- ▼ What do `heroku` and `master` indicate in this command? How does git know where to push to? (the git path)
- ★
- 64 Also, I didn't know I can use `heroku rename` to rename an app, so before, say I was using the app name `trytryheroku` and now I use `heroku create real-thing` but if I push, it still pushes to `trytryheroku`... is there a way to push to `real-thing` instead?

[git](#)[heroku](#)

edited Dec 15 '14 at 3:10



Community ♦

1 1

asked Mar 17 '11 at 11:45



[Sarah Wong](#)

416 1 5 3

## 4 Answers

- ▲
- 95 The 'heroku' part is the name of the remote that you have setup - when you create a heroku app the first time it creates a git remote call 'heroku' pointing at your application - if you type 'git remote' within your project it will show you the remote endpoints. There's nothing locking you into using 'heroku' as the name of the remote - if you have multiple environments for your application you may have remotes named production or staging for example.
- ▼

The 'master' part is the local branch you wish to push to the remote. If you develop in a feature branch for example named 'myfeature' and you want to deploy that to heroku you would do;

```
git push heroku myfeature:master
```

the additional `:master` here is saying push my local `myfeature` branch into the `master` branch on the remote - note: heroku can only deploy from the master branch.

If you rename an app the heroku git remote url will change - do a `git remote -v` which will show you the git repo your app is using, you will probably need to delete your old heroku origin and add the new one, `git remote rm heroku` then `git remote add heroku git@newgitpathfromcontrolpanel`

To learn more about Git I would recommend [this](#) book

edited Jul 23 '13 at 13:38

answered Mar 17 '11 at 20:19



Guillaume

18.8k 6 57 93



John Beynon

34.2k 6 74 90

You can update a remote's URL with `git remote set-url <remote-name> <new-url>` (Git 1.7.0 and later), or `git config remote.<remote-name>.url <new-url>`, or by editing `.git/config` (possibly via `git config -e` in Git 1.6.3 and later). – [Chris Johnsen](#) Mar 18 '11 at 5:42

3 that was very very helpful. Thank you – [Diego Urenia](#) Nov 27 '12 at 23:34

3 wow. more concise than the heroku docs! Very nice! – [Josh Brown](#) May 14 '14 at 19:59

## PART 1 : "How does git know where to push to?"

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Before executing the above mentioned command:

```
$ git push heroku master
```

There are always few other steps to execute: Installing Git and Heroku, creating a local Git repo, signing-up to heroku, log-in heroku via command-line, creating heroku handle to hosting point (*explained in PART 2*)

### 1. A local Git repository:

```
$ git init
Initialized empty Git repository in .git/
$ git add .
$ git commit -m "my first commit"
Created initial commit 5df2d09: my first commit
44 files changed, 8393 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
create mode 100644 README
create mode 100644 Procfile
create mode 100644 app/controllers/source_file
...
```

### 2. Have sign-up(ed) for Heroku and logged-in via command-line:

```
$ heroku login
Enter your Heroku credentials.
Email: user@example.com
Password:
Could not find an existing public key.
Would you like to generate one? [Yn]
Generating new SSH public key.
Uploading ssh public key /Users/adam/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

So by running `$ git push heroku master` you have pushed the code/app to Heroku.

## PART 2: but what does *heroku* and *master* indicate?

It is more of a Git question than Heroku - Heroku is a hosting platform, which depends on Git (Distributed Version Control System) for deployment.

The basic concept of 'push' is pushing some thing (file, app, ..) we have locally (in our working machine) to somewhere else, in this case to a remote repository (remote machine).

In Git before using 'push' we create a remote (handle) which acts as a reference to a remote repository (Complete URL), we do so using the following command:

```
$ git remote add <remote-name-of-our-choice> <URL-where-you-be-pushing-yourapp>
```

The basic structure of 'push' command is:

```
$ git push <remote-name> <branch>
```

So `$ git push heroku master` is actually pushing your code/app/file (from some local Git repo) to a remote repo 'heroku' .

wondering when this 'heroku' remote got created, it was added when you executed **`$ heroku create`**

```
$ heroku create
Creating stark-fog-398... done, stack is cedar
http://stark-fog-398.herokuapp.com/ | git@heroku.com:stark-fog-398.git
Git remote heroku added
```

Do notice the last line "**Git remote heroku added**".

to make it more clear, here's a Git command to check/output all the remotes: `$ git remote -v` will display something similar to the following

```
$ git remote -v
heroku      git@heroku.com:somerepo.git (fetch)
heroku      git@heroku.com:somerepo.git (push)
```

*So we can assume that the following command was executed (implicitly) somewhere, when you did `$ heroku create` , hence creating the heroku remote to some heroku repo (url)\**

```
$ git remote add heroku git@heroku.com:somerepo.git
```

answered Jun 27 '13 at 21:33



**Nabeel Ahmed**

**9,918** 3 43 45



heroku is required as part of the heroku gem to assist with the push, and master is simply the git branch you are pushing. The git knows where to push to because you create a heroku application the push is automatically setup, which you can see by typing



```
git remote -v
```

if you need to change that remove it with `git remote rm heroku` and then add your new application with `git remote add heroku git@heroku.com:your-application-15.git`

answered Mar 17 '11 at 11:51



Will Ayd

4,706 1 22 33

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note that the remote branch will *normally* be created by the same name as the branch you're pushing. This can be changed, though (`git push heroku master:mymaster` e.g., or via config file) – [sehe](#) Mar 17 '11 at 14:02

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- 2 This answer is untrue. `heroku` is the name of the remote, and is totally unconnected from the heroku gem. – [jergason](#) Sep 27 '12 at 5:26
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Just like you I also struggled to understand these nitty gritty of git and heroku and I was confused too. But now I have got bit of clarity to be able to answer your question in short.

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Assuming you have git setup on your project directory. There exist a `.git` hidden folder in your project folder that contains a file named "config" this holds all information about remotes.

Remotes are your individual repositories named individually like origin, heroku, staging, prod etc..

In your command `heroku` stands for the repository you have mapped to heroku project. Open config file you will see the URL.

When you run

```
git push heroku master
```

you're telling git to push your current origin repository's master branch to heroku repository's master branch

Rest all details are already shared in other answers so donot want to repeat. So this is just a short answer per my understanding. Hope it helps.

answered Jul 31 '18 at 18:58



Sameer

123 1 2 7