Checking out pull requests locally

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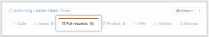
When someone sends you a pull request from a fork or branch of your repository, you may want to merge it locally to resolve a merge conflict or to test and verify the changes on your local computer before merging on GitHub.

> **Note:** You can ask the person who created the pull request to allow anyone with push access to the upstream repository to push commits to their pull request to help their work merge faster. For more information, see "Allowing changes to a pull request branch created from a fork."

Modifying an active pull request locally

1 Under your repository name, click **Pull requests**.



2 In the list of pull requests, click the pull request you'd like to merge.

3 Near the bottom of the pull request, in the merge box, click **command line instructions**. Follow the sequence of steps to bring down the proposed pull request.

Modifying an inactive pull request locally

An inactive pull request is one whose owner has either stopped responding, or, more likely, has deleted their fork. If a fork was deleted, the pull request can still be merged. However, if you want to make changes to a pull request and the author is not responding, you'll need to perform some additional steps to update the pull request.

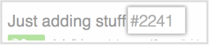
Once a pull request is opened, GitHub stores all of the changes online for you. In other words, commits in a pull request are available in a repository even before the PR is merged. That means you can fetch an open pull request and recreate it as your own.

Anyone can work with a previously opened pull request to continue working on it, test it out, or even open a new pull request with additional changes. However, only collaborators with push access can merge pull requests.

1 Under your repository name, click **Issues** or **Pull requests**.

2 In the "Pull Requests" list, click the pull request you'd like to merge.

3 Find the ID number of the inactive pull request. This is the sequence of digits right after the pull request's title.



Just adding stuff #2241

4 Open Terminal.

5 Fetch the reference to the pull request based on its ID number, creating a new branch in the process.

```
$ git fetch origin pull/ID/head:BRANCHNAME
```

6 Switch to the new branch that's based on this pull request:

```
[master] $ git checkout BRANCHNAME
Switched to a new branch 'BRANCHNAME'
```

7 At this point, you can do anything you want with this branch. You can run some local tests, or merge other branches into it, including `master`. Make modifications as you see fit!

Article versions

GitHub.com
GitHub Enterprise 2.13
GitHub Enterprise 2.12
GitHub Enterprise 2.11

8. When you're ready, you can push the new branch up:

```
[pull-inactive-pull-request] $ git push origin BRANCHNAME
Counting objects: 32, done.
Delta compression using up to 8 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (26/26), done.
Writing objects: 100% (29/29), 74.94 KiB | 0 bytes/s, done.
Total 29 (delta 8), reused 0 (delta 0)
To https://github.com/username/repository.git
 * [new branch]      BRANCHNAME -> BRANCHNAME
```

9. Create a new pull request with your new branch.

Error: Failed to push some refs

The remote `refs/pull/` namespace is *read-only*. If you try to push any commits there, you'll see this error:

```
! [remote rejected] HEAD -> refs/pull/1/head (deny updating a hidden ref)
error: failed to push some refs to 'git@github.local:USERNAME/REPOSITORY.git'
```

> **Tip:** When you remove or rename a remote reference, your local `refs/pull/origin/` namespace will not be affected by calls to `git-remote`.

Contact a human