<https://chrisshort.net/permanently-remove-any-record-of-a-file-from-git/>

**Permanently Remove Any Record of a File From git**

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A co-worker and I needed to remove all instances of a binary blob from one of our git repos a while back. This was a lot harder than I thought it should have been, in my opinion. However, distributed version control is not really designed to easily allow folks to delete every instance of a file. But, if you ever run into a case where you do need to expunge a file in git here is how we did it.

**Get a new clone of the repo (in scratch/temp space)**

git clone REPO\_LOCATION

**Detach it from the remote origin**

git remote rm origin

**Remove the file and rewrite history**

git filter-branch --index-filter 'git rm --cached --ignore-unmatch FILENAME' HEAD

**Remove garbage and lingering files**

git reflog expire --expire=now --all && git gc --prune=now --aggressive

**IMPORTANT**

Replace the centralized repo (aka REPO LOCATION) and any copies others might be using. Everyone should re-clone the newly replaced repo.