Git FAQ

difference between git pull and git fetch?

**git fetch**:

* Retrieves updates (new commits, branches, or tags) from the remote repository and stores them in your local copy without affecting your working directory or current branch. It updates your local view of the remote branches (e.g., origin/master), but it doesn’t modify your working branch (e.g., master).
* It allows you to see what changes exist on the remote without incorporating them yet, so you can review them first.

**git pull**:

* Combines git fetch and git merge (or git rebase, depending on configuration) in a single step. It retrieves updates from the remote repository and immediately merges them into your current branch.
* This command changes your working directory right away, updating your branch with new commits from the remote.

**Summary**

| **Command** | **Retrieves Remote Changes** | **Updates Current Branch** | **Automatic Merge** | **Use Case** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| git fetch | Yes | No | No | Safe way to review changes |
| git pull | Yes | Yes | Yes | Quick update with merging |