

[myusuf3](#) / **delete_git_submodule.md**

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How effectively delete a git submodule.

 `delete_git_submodule.md`

To remove a submodule you need to:

- Delete the relevant section from the .gitmodules file.
- Stage the .gitmodules changes `git add .gitmodules`
- Delete the relevant section from .git/config.
- Run `git rm --cached path_to_submodule` (no trailing slash).
- Run `rm -rf .git/modules/path_to_submodule` (no trailing slash).
- Commit `git commit -m "Removed submodule "`
- Delete the now untracked submodule files `rm -rf path_to_submodule`

[Load earlier comments...](#)**lecksfrawen** commented on Oct 29, 2021

Thanks!

BenjaminWolfe commented on Dec 19, 2021

Thank you! Not all heroes wear capes!

berkayyaman commented on Dec 23, 2021

Thanks!

wiratana commented on Jan 1, 2022

Thanks bro!

LW-Ho commented on Jan 11, 2022

Thanks!

vincent-picaud commented on Jan 19, 2022

If you use [Magit](#) (under Emacs), go to your project root and then:

```
M-x magit-list-submodules
```

then

```
M-x magit-submodule-remove
```

you will be asked which submodule you want to remove. That's it :)

Icy-Thought commented on Mar 22, 2022 • edited ▼

If you use [Magit](#) (under Emacs), go to your project root and then:

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you will be asked which submodule you want to remove. That's it :)

Alternatively: Launch magit from your project (does not matter if you are nested inside sub-directories of your project or not)

- > ' to select the submodules option.
- > -f (force) + k (removal) to prevent local changes error.
- > Select the submodule you ought to remove from your repository.
- > Done!

Why? Because I was, oddly enough, unable to find my repository's submodules by following the steps you had mentioned in your comment.

vincent-picaud commented on Mar 22, 2022

@**Icy-Thought** that's curious, what is your magit version? mine is

```
Magit v3.3.0-199-g036f5cb7, Git 2.35.1, Emacs 27.1, gnu/linux
```

Icy-Thought commented on Mar 22, 2022 • edited ▼

@Icy-Thought that's curious, what is your magit version? mine is `Magit v3.3.0-199-g036f5cb7`, `Git 2.35.1`, `Emacs 27.1`, `gnu/linux`

`Magit 4e29d582`, `Git 2.35.1`, `Emacs 28.0.91`, `gnu/linux` (using `doom-emacs`)

Godsmith commented on Apr 6, 2022

FYI, removing a git submodule is much simpler now with a modern Git version in 2022. Just run `git rm <path-to-submodule>` and commit.

Taken from here: <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/1260748/how-do-i-remove-a-submodule>

min-hinthar commented on May 14, 2022

It works. Thanks for the share! Have fun coding.

RecoX commented on May 23, 2022

This seems to be a more modern version (copied from <https://stackoverflow.com/a/36593218/2066118>):

```
# Remove the submodule entry from .git/config
git submodule deinit -f path/to/submodule

# Remove the submodule directory from the superproject's .git/modules
directory
rm -rf .git/modules/path/to/submodule

# Remove the entry in .gitmodules and remove the submodule directory
located at path/to/submodule
git rm -f path/to/submodule
```

We should upvote this answer

Done!

psytron commented on May 26, 2022

I think above can be simplified using following commands.

```
git submodule deinit <path_to_submodule>
git rm <path_to_submodule>
git commit-m "Removed submodule "
rm -rf .git/modules/<path_to_submodule>
```

| true works efficiently. Thnks

Excellent!

slo-addy commented on Jun 1, 2022

Life saver! Thank you.

jairusjoer commented on Aug 11, 2022

Thanks 🙌

coeneivan commented on Sep 18, 2022



panozzaj commented on Sep 22, 2022

Building on the answers above...

If you're doing this a lot, you can create an executable script discoverable in your PATH named `git-submodule-remove` with the following contents: <https://github.com/panozzaj/conf/blob/master/common/bin/git-submodule-remove>

Then you can run `git submodule-remove path/to/submodule` to quickly remove it.

Sasino97 commented on Oct 21, 2022

`rm -rf` is Linux/UNIX only, you shouldn't assume that we're all using Linux

dptsolutions commented on Oct 24, 2022

@**Sasino97** - If you're not on a *NIX environment you are likely on Windows then, and you can use my Powershell variant I shared earlier in this thread.

stevenbarragan commented on Oct 24, 2022

Thank you!

JSAssassin commented on Nov 2, 2022

Thank you. This is really helpful.

barrientosvctor commented on Dec 2, 2022

This gist is very helpful, thanks a lot!

johannes-steurer commented on Dec 15, 2022

Just perfect. Thank you

michaelmontero commented on Jan 24

amazing

jonlowrey commented on Feb 17

Thank You!

elquchiri commented on Feb 27

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# Remove the entry in .gitmodules and remove the submodule directory
located at path/to/submodule
git rm -f path/to/submodule
```

We should upvote this answer

For those of us on Windows, here's the equivalent in Powershell:

```
# Remove the submodule entry from .git/config
git submodule deinit -f path\to\submodule

# Remove the submodule directory from the superproject's .git/modules directory
rm .git\modules\path\to\submodule -r -fo
```

```
# Remove the entry in .gitmodules and remove the submodule directory located at  
path/to/submodule  
git rm -f path\to\submodule
```

Good response, Thank's man.

cgair commented on Mar 14

Every time I want to remove a submodule, I come back to this Gist and follow the instructions. It's crazy how difficult it is to work with submodule. Many thanks!

- 111111111111111111....

ravikul505 commented on Jul 15

thank you so much

nvcastet commented on Jul 18

Thank you!

harlesty commented on Jul 26

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Then you can run git submodule-remove path/to/submodule to quickly remove it and play [uno online](#) card game

Good response, Thank's man.