

How to remove a directory from git repository?

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I have 2 directories on my GitHub repository. I'd like to delete one of them. How could I do that without deleting and re-creating entire repository?

[git](#) [github](#) [bitbucket](#) [delete-file](#) [git-bash](#)

edited Dec 28 '16 at 8:29



[eirenaio5](#)

8,699

11

44

70

asked Jun 10 '11 at 23:54



[Sahat Yalkabov](#)

11k

32

89

151

protected by [Vamsi Prabhala](#) Aug 26 '17 at 22:58

This question is protected to prevent "thanks!", "me too!", or spam answers by new users. To answer it, you must have earned at least 10 [reputation](#) on this site (the [association bonus](#) does not count).

Are there any files in the directories? – [Fred Foo](#) Jun 11 '11 at 0:14

2 @larsmans: Yes 6 files. Both directories are identical except one is uppercase, another is lowercase. – [Sahat Yalkabov](#) Jun 11 '11 at 0:21

12 Answers

Remove directory from git and local

You could checkout 'master' with both directories;

```
git rm -r one-of-the-directories
git commit -m "Remove duplicated directory"
git push origin <your-git-branch> (typically 'master', but not always)
```

Remove directory from git but NOT local

As mentioned in the comments, what you usually want to do is remove this directory from git but not delete it entirely from the filesystem (local)

In that case use:

```
git rm -r --cached myFolder
```

edited Apr 19 '16 at 19:23



vektor_proc
33 5

answered Jun 11 '11 at 0:37



karmakaze
18.8k 1 16 21

-
- 7 I had same exact situation. When I tried `git rm -r myFolder` it worked, but also deleted everything from "MyFolder" directory. Had to revert everything in the "MyFolder" directory and then commit. – Justin Oct 25 '12 at 13:12
-
- 191 @Justin To only remove from git and leave filesystem as-is, use `git rm -r --cached myFolder` – karmakaze Nov 16 '12 at 6:28
-
- 1 @acoder don't know of a direct web way, there might be an API, otherwise clone the repo `git rm -r myFolder` and push – karmakaze Apr 5 '16 at 0:22
-
- 1 figured it out, click the trashcan – a coder Apr 5 '16 at 4:32
-
- 13 Error message I get is: fatal: pathspec 'directory' did not match any files. – user2441441 Sep 8 '16 at 21:14
-

To remove folder/directory only from git repository and not from the local try 3 simple commands.

Steps to remove directory

```
git rm -r --cached FolderName
git commit -m "Removed folder from repository"
git push origin master
```

Steps to ignore that folder in next commits

To ignore that folder from next commits make one file in root named **.gitignore** and put that folders name into it. You can put as many as you want

.gitignore file will be look like this

```
/FolderName
```

```
Designer-PC@PC-2 /c Remove folder/directory only from git repo. and not from local
$ cd apache24

Designer-PC@PC-2 /c/apache24
$ cd htdocs

Designer-PC@PC-2 /c/apache24/htdocs
$ cd phryxus

Designer-PC@PC-2 /c/apache24/htdocs/phryxus (master)
$ git rm -r --cached nbproject
rm 'nbproject/project.properties'
rm 'nbproject/project.xml'

Designer-PC@PC-2 /c/apache24/htdocs/phryxus (master)
$ git commit -m "projectfiles removed from server"
[master 2d63b4a] projectfiles removed from server
2 files changed, 19 deletions(-)
delete mode 100644 nbproject/project.properties
delete mode 100644 nbproject/project.xml

Designer-PC@PC-2 /c/apache24/htdocs/phryxus (master)
$ git push origin master
Password for 'https://eirenaio@bitbucket.org':
Counting objects: 3, done.
Delta compression using up to 2 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (2/2), done.
Writing objects: 100% (2/2), 237 bytes | 0 bytes/s, done.
Total 2 (delta 1), reused 0 (delta 0)
To https://eirenaio@bitbucket.org:
6ac2321..2d63b4a master -> master

Designer-PC@PC-2 /c/apache24/htdocs/phryxus (master)
$
```

edited Jan 3 '17 at 12:03

answered Dec 3 '14 at 12:34



eirenaio5

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- 1 You will also need to do the `git rm -r --cached FolderName` `git commit -m "Removed folder from repository"` on your other computer and then do a pull to keep it in synch. – [Simon](#) Oct 6 '15 at 17:07

Will this delete the directory from the point it was added to repository till now? Or is it just to remove the directory and recommit it to the .git repo? – [alpha_989](#) Jan 21 at 18:15

Why not just do a `rm -rf FolderName`; `git add -A`; `git commit -m 'removed FolderName ?'` – [alpha_989](#) Jan 21 at 18:18

If, for some reason, what karmakaze said doesn't work, you could try deleting the directory you want to delete (through your file system browser), issuing the command

```
git add -A
and then
git commit -m 'deleting directory'
and then
git push origin master .
```

edited Aug 6 '13 at 8:30



Louis Kottmann

12.5k

3

43

79

answered Jun 11 '11 at 2:14



cmcculloh

21.9k

33

85

119

You can try this: `git rm -rf <directory_name>`

It will force delete the directory.

answered Oct 23 '13 at 10:21



Breen ho

893

7

19

If you remove the files in the directory (with `git rm` as the other answers explain), then the directory no longer exists as far as git is concerned. You cannot commit an empty directory, nor can you remove one.

This is unlike subversion where you have to explicitly `svn rm emptyfolder/`, and is incidentally why the `man` page for git describes itself as "the stupid content tracker"

An answer on "[How do I add an empty directory to a git repository](#)" links to the [FAQ on this subject](#):

Currently the design of the git index (staging area) only permits files to be listed, and nobody competent enough to make the change to allow empty directories has cared enough about this situation to remedy it.

Directories are added automatically when adding files inside them. That is, directories never have to be added to the repository, and are not tracked on their own.

You can say "`git add <dir>`" and it will add files in there.

If you really need a directory to exist in checkouts you should create a file in it. `.gitignore` works well for this purpose; you can leave it empty, or fill in the names of files you expect to show up in the directory.

edited May 23 '17 at 12:26



Community ♦

1 1

answered Aug 6 '13 at 9:01



dbr

111k 50 244 308

You can use Atlassian Source Tree (Windows)

(<https://www.atlassian.com/software/sourcetree/overview>). Just select files from tree and push button "Remove" at the top. Files will be deleted from local repository and local git database. Then Commit, then push.

answered Sep 1 '15 at 18:04



Sergey Groshev

21 3

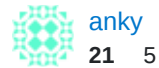
This is what I do as well. Has made it really easy to do, though, learning git commands is a good thing to know. –
[Micah Montoya](#) Mar 26 at 12:46

Go to your git Directory then type the following command: **`rm -rf <Directory Name>`**

After Deleting the directory commit the changes by: **git commit -m "Your Commit Message"**

Then Simply push the changes on remote GIT directory: **git push origin <Branch name>**

answered Jul 13 '16 at 11:53



You can delete the folder locally and then push, as follow:

```
git rm -r folder_name
git commit -m "your commit"
git push origin master
```

answered Feb 26 '16 at 18:59

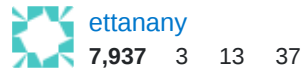


I usually use `git add --all` to remove files / folders from remote repositories

```
rm -r folder_name
git add --all
git commit -m "some comment"
git push origin master
```

master can be replaced by any other branch of the repository.

answered Sep 5 '16 at 15:41



One of my colleague suggested [BFG Repo-Cleaner](#) which I think powerful. It is not only delete unwanted data but also clean your repository from any related commit information.

answered Nov 16 '16 at 14:28



thanh.h.le

21 3

To add new directory:

```
mkdir <YOUR-DIRECTORY>
```

But now Git is not aware by this new directory, because Git keep tracks of file not directories
DIRECTORY

```
git status
```

git won't be aware with the change we've made, so we add hidden `.keep` file to make Git aware by this new change.

```
touch /YOUR-directory/.keep
```

Now If you hit `git status` Git will be aware with the changes.

And If you want to delete the directory, you should use this command.

```
rm -r <YOUR-DIRECTORY>
```

and If you checked by using `git status` , you will see the directory has been removed.

answered Oct 22 '17 at 15:22



Abo3atef

1,492 1 18 26

First git command need to know who you are before deleting anything

1. `git init`
2. `git config user.name "someone"`
3. `git config user.email "someone@someplace.com"`
4. `git rm -r`

15/04/2018

github - How to remove a directory from git repository? - Stack Overflow

5. git commit -m "deleting dir"

6. git push origin master

answered Jul 6 '17 at 21:27



Zeus

1 1