Steps to create a new **release branch** from the **main** **branch** using Visual Studio

1. **Open your repository** in Visual Studio.
2. **Switch to the main branch**:
   * Go to the **Git Changes** window.
   * Select the **main** branch from the branch dropdown.
3. **Pull the latest changes** to ensure your local main branch is up-to-date:
   * Click on the **Pull** button in the Git Changes window.

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1. **Create a new branch**:
   * Click on the **New Branch** button in the Git Changes window.
   * Enter the name for your new release branch (e.g., release-v1).
   * Click **Create Branch**.

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1. **Push the new branch to GitHub**:
   * After creating the branch, Visual Studio will automatically switch to it.
   * Build the project.
   * Click on the **Push** button to push the new branch to GitHub.

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* + Deploy the project.

Steps to create a new **hotfix branch** from the **release-v1** **branch** using Visual Studio

1. **Open your repository** in Visual Studio.
2. **Switch to the main branch**:
   * Go to the **Git Changes** window.
   * Select the **release-v1** branch from the branch dropdown.
3. **Pull the latest changes** to ensure your local main branch is up-to-date:
   * Click on the **Pull** button in the Git Changes window.

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1. **Create a new branch**:
   * Click on the **New Branch** button in the Git Changes window.
   * Enter the name for your new hotfix branch (e.g., 1234-hotfix-blah blah).
   * Click **Create Branch**.

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1. **Fix the code**:
   * Make the necessary code changes in the **1234-hotfix-blah-blah** branch.
   * Stage and commit the changes.
   * Build and test the project to ensure the hotfix works as expected.
2. **Creating the a new release branch** **from hotfix branch** (**1234-hotfix-blah-blah)**.
   * Click on the **New Branch** button in the Git Changes window.
   * Enter the name for your new release branch (e.g., release-v2).
   * Click **Create Branch**.

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1. **Creating the a new release branch** **from hotfix branch** (**1234-hotfix-blah-blah)**.
   * After creating the branch, Visual Studio will automatically switch to it.
   * Build the project.
   * Click on the **Push** button to push the new branch to GitHub.
2. **Push the new branch to GitHub**:
   * After creating the branch, Visual Studio will automatically switch to it.
   * Build the project.
   * Click on the **Push** button to push the new branch to GitHub.

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* + Deploy the project.

Steps to merge the **1234-hotfix-blah-blah** branch into the **main** branch using GitHub:

1. **Navigate to your repository** on Github.
2. **Switch to the main branch**

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1. **Create Pull Request**

* Click on the “**Pull request”** tab.
* Click on the “**New pull request**” button
* In the “**base**” tab dropdown, select “**main**”
* In the “**compare**” dropdown, select **1234-hotfix-blah-blah**

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* Click on “**New pull request**” button

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* Review the changes to ensure everything looks as expected.
* Click on “Create pull request” button
* Add title and description

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* Click on “Create pull request”

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* Click on “Merge pull request”
* Note: double check base (i.e. main) and compare (i.e. 1234-hotfix-blah-blah) branches once again.

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* Click on “Confirm merge”

1. **Open your repository in** Visual Studio
2. **Switch to the main branch**:
   * Go to the **Git Changes** window.
   * Pull the latest changes to ensure your local main branch is up-to-date with latest release.