

# What is Git pruning?

Asked 3 years, 4 months ago   Active 4 months ago   Viewed 46k times



I've accidentally pruned some remote branches and I don't really know what the consequence of this is (I clicked the "Prune remote branches" button in Git Extensions, thinking it would delete a remote branch).

63



The official documentation says "git-prune - Prune all unreachable objects from the object database ". I don't really understand what this means. I'm guessing this might have removed merged branches but I'm not really sure.



4

git

git-extensions

edited Feb 19 '18 at 17:21



1615903

19.1k 6 43 71

asked Mar 18 '16 at 11:05



Daniel Ball

493 1 5 12

Possible duplicate of [stackoverflow.com/questions/4040717/...](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/4040717/...) – Raghavan Mar 18 '16 at 11:09

May be worth looking at `git gc : git-scm.com/docs/git-prune` too. – swdon Mar 6 '18 at 7:36

## 4 Answers



"Prune remote branches" in Git Extensions executes `git remote prune` command, which removes your local remote tracking branches where the branch no longer exists on the remote.

66



See here: <https://git-scm.com/docs/git-remote#git-remote-empruneem>

edited Jul 5 '17 at 13:47

answered Mar 18 '16 at 11:51



1615903

19.1k 6 43 71

so it basically gives priority to your remote and adjust your local to match your remote branches? – Honey Oct 2 '17 at 14:04

1 @Honey no, it just removes the local **remote tracking branches**, normal branches are not touched. 1615903 Oct 3 '17 at 4:10

1 [@money no](#), it just removes the local **remote tracking branches**, normal branches are not touched. — [1010900](#) Oct 3 '17 at 4:19



This just garbage collects your branches.

25

Thats means, if an object (a commit) cannot be reached in any of your branch's ancestors, it will be removed for the git database, and as such couldn't be reach anymore.



This just cleans up a little the git repository and make it lighter.

answered Mar 18 '16 at 11:09



[blue112](#)

31.7k 2 33 49

According to the documentation, for house keeping tasks such as this it may be better to do a `git gc` rather than a `git prune` which will essentially do a `git prune` as well. — [swdon](#) Mar 6 '18 at 7:36



It's important to know that **prune is repo-bound**. Not everyone knows that you can link your local repo to multiple remotes. It comes in handy when, for example, you work with an open-source project and is enforced to work via forks.

2

So, prune command requires a repo name. In most cases it's `git remote prune origin`, but you can call your repo anything, it doesn't have to be `origin`.



answered Apr 5 at 12:59



[yuranos87](#)

2,063 2 25 30



There may be remote feature branches which are removed after we merge them into master. We might have deleted the feature branches as a way of cleaning up. But if you had checked out the deleted branch to the local system and set to status as tracking, git

1

pull will not delete those local branches (because those are already disconnected from the server). To clean up that kind of local orphan branches, `git prune` command will come handy to help.



answered Mar 18 '16 at 12:00



[Santhosh J](#)

