## GitHub: What is a "wip" branch?

Asked 6 years, 4 months ago Active 3 months ago Viewed 36k times



When I was browsing GitHub repositories I quite often saw "wip" branches (e.g. 3.1.0-wip). What does "wip" mean?

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I couldn't find the answer anywhere - neither on Google nor on GitHub:help.







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asked Apr 2 '13 at 11:34



akashivskyy

**34.6k** 11 98 113

- Usually "work in progress" James Allardice Apr 2 '13 at 11:35
- Should be work in progress klaustopher Apr 2 '13 at 11:35

## 2 Answers



Conventionally, "wip" stands for "work in progress".

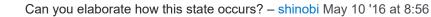
129







**542k** 82 568 615



14 It's not a state that occurs, the way I understand it. Developers mark a commit or branch as WIP to signify that the commits cannot stand on their own, that you should not check out a particular commit or revert to it and expect working code. Basically, to avoid stashing important changes that may not yet be finished, commit them to a WIP branch to store them away safely. – Harald Nordgren Jun 14 '16 at 19:17 🎤



On GitHub, pull requests are prefixed by [WIP] to indicate that the pull requestor

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- 1. has not yet finished his work on the code (thus, work in progress), but
- 2. looks for have some initial feedback (early-pull strategy), and
- 3. wants to use the continuous integration infrastructure of the project. For instance, <u>TravisCl</u>, <u>CodeCov</u>, and <u>codacy</u>.

More motivation for WIP pull requests is written by <a><u>@ben straub</u></a> at <a><u>https://ben.straub.cc/2015/04/02/wip-pull-request/</u></a>.

**New** Since Februrary 2019, GitHub offers *draft pull requests*, which make WIP more explicit: <a href="https://github.blog/2019-02-14-introducing-draft-pull-requests/">https://github.blog/2019-02-14-introducing-draft-pull-requests/</a>

edited Apr 20 at 5:39

answered Sep 28 '16 at 8:23



koppor

10.6k 4

4 71 116

8 This is a more useful answer – Jimi Jun 1 '18 at 9:27