

git: "Updates were rejected because the tip of your current branch is behind.." but how to see differences?



I just finished working on a piece of code. Wanted to push and got the already famous:

13



hint: Updates were rejected because the tip of your current branch is behind hint: its remote counterpart. Integrate the remote changes (e.g. hint: 'git pull ...') before pushing again.



2

Now I've seen this question posted several times here, e.g.

[Updates were rejected because the tip of your current branch is behind hint: its remote counterpart. Integrate the remote changes \(e.g. Updates were rejected because the tip of your current branch is behind](#)

According to the specific case, the solution is either to

- `git pull` , so the remote changes are *merged* on to my local work, OR
- `git push -f` , a force push to update the remote (origin) branch.

Now, it has been a while I haven't worked on this branch. I don't necessarily want to *merge* the remote changes onto my current work! Nor do I know if I can safely *force* the update on the origin branch...

How can I just see the differences and decide which is best for my case?

git

asked Jul 25 '17 at 3:11



faboolous

2,496 10 39 80

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3 Answers



in order to see the differences, first you need to fetch the commits from the origin repository:

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```
git fetch origin
```



Now you can see the diffs (Assuming you are on the master branch) `git diff HEAD..origin/master`



Now you are armed with the knowledge you seek to decide to `merge` or `rebase` before pushing your changes.

answered Jul 25 '17 at 3:54



Ben

950 12 19

- 2 Two points mixes together differences done to remote and local branches. In this case it would be better to use [three-dots diff](#) to see changes specific to either local or remote side. – [max630](#) Jul 25 '17 at 4:54



1

I had this happen to me recently when I created a new branch with `git checkout -b feature/abc`, committed some changes, and then tried `git push --set-upstream origin feature/abc` it to create a pull request for review. The error occurred because the remote branch already existed when I thought I was defining the branch locally. Deleting the remote branch resolved the issue and my push succeeded.



answered Apr 26 '18 at 21:34



djb

3,869 1 24 33

How do you delete the remote branch? – [Bluz](#) Jan 18 at 11:54

We were using BitBucket, so the BitBucket UI shows the remote branch and I just deleted from there. The git CLI should also provide a way to delete remote branches... I just don't do it that way. – [djb](#) Jan 22 at 15:00

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If you mean to **discard your local changes** you should run `git reset --hard @{u}` . Note again this is irreversible action wrt some data, so be sure before running it. Here's how:

0



To review which local commits you currently have you can use `git log HEAD --not --remotes` , to compare to any remote branch or `git log @{u}..HEAD` to see differences specific to the tracked branch.

To see the actual diff which you have committed locally, run `git diff @{u}...` . This will ignore remote progress, and show only your changes.

To see uncommitted changes, run `git diff HEAD` .

PS: You should run first `git fetch origin` OR `git remote update` to update the tracking references.

answered Jul 25 '17 at 4:46



[max630](#)

5,572 1 15 42

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