

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.

git github branch git-branch



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asked Apr 2 '13 at 11:34



[akashivsky](#)

34.6k 11 98 113

6 Usually "work in progress" – [James Allardice](#) Apr 2 '13 at 11:35

4 Should be **work in progress** – [klaustopher](#) Apr 2 '13 at 11:35 ✎

2 Answers



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

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answered Apr 2 '13 at 11:35



[CB Bailey](#)

542k 82 568 615

Can you elaborate how this state occurs? – [shinobi](#) May 10 '16 at 8:56

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 ✎



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

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, [TravisCI](#), [CodeCov](#), and [codacy](#).

More motivation for WIP pull requests is written by [@ben straub](#) at <https://ben.straub.cc/2015/04/02/wip-pull-request/>.

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

edited Apr 20 at 5:39

answered Sep 28 '16 at 8:23



kopper

10.6k

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8 This is a more useful answer – [Jimi](#) Jun 1 '18 at 9:27