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Collaborating with issues and pull requests / **Syncing a fork**

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Syncing a fork

MAC | **WINDOWS** | **LINUX**

Sync a fork of a repository to keep it up-to-date with the upstream repository.

Before you can sync your fork with an upstream repository, you must configure a remote that points to the upstream repository in Git.

Article versions

GitHub.com
GitHub Enterprise 2.14
GitHub Enterprise 2.13
GitHub Enterprise 2.12

1 Open Terminal.

2 Change the current working directory to your local project.

3 Fetch the branches and their respective commits from the upstream repository. Commits to `master` will be stored in a local branch, `upstream/master`.

```
$ git fetch upstream
remote: Counting objects: 75, done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (53/53), done.
remote: Total 62 (delta 27), reused 44 (delta 9)
Unpacking objects: 100% (62/62), done.
From https://github.com/ORIGINAL_OWNER/ORIGINAL_REPOSITORY
 * [new branch]      master     -> upstream/master
```

4 Check out your fork's local `master` branch.

```
$ git checkout master
Switched to branch 'master'
```

5 Merge the changes from `upstream/master` into your local `master` branch. This brings your fork's `master` branch into sync with the upstream repository, without losing your local changes.

```
$ git merge upstream/master
Updating a422352..5fdff0f
Fast-forward
 README                    |    9 -------
 README.md                 |    7 ++++++
 2 files changed, 7 insertions(+), 9 deletions(-)
 delete mode 100644 README
 create mode 100644 README.md
```

If your local branch didn't have any unique commits, Git will instead perform a "fast-forward":

```
$ git merge upstream/master
Updating 34e91da..16c56ad
Fast-forward
 README.md                 |    5 +++--
 1 file changed, 3 insertions(+), 2 deletions(-)
```

> **Tip**: Syncing your fork only updates your local copy of the repository. To update your fork on GitHub, you must push your changes.

 Contact a human

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