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How to Delete a Git Branch Both Locally and Remotely



In most cases, it is simple to delete a Git branch. You'll learn how to delete a Git branch locally and remotely in this article.

TL;DR version

```
// delete branch locally  
git branch -D localBranchName
```

When to Delete branches

It is common for a Git repo to have different branches. They are a great way to work on different features and fixes while isolating the new code from the main codebase.

Repos often have a `master` branch for the main codebase and developers create other branches to work on different features.

Once work is completed on a feature, it is often recommended to delete the branch.

Deleting a branch LOCALLY

Git will not let you delete the branch you are currently on so you must make sure to checkout a branch that you are NOT deleting. For example: `git checkout master`

Delete a branch with `git branch -d <branch> .`

For example: `git branch -d fix/authentication`

The `-d` option will delete the branch only if it has already been pushed and merged with the remote branch. Use `-D` instead if you want to force the branch to be deleted, even if it hasn't been pushed or merged yet.

The branch is now deleted locally.

Deleting a branch REMOTELY

For example: `git push origin --delete fix/authentication`

The branch is now deleted remotely.

You can also use this shorter command to delete a branch remotely:

```
git push <remote> :<branch>
```

For example: `git push origin :fix/authentication`

If you get the error below, it may mean that someone else has already deleted the branch.

```
error: unable to push to unqualified destination: remoteBranchName The destin
```

Try to synchronize your branch list using:

```
git fetch -p
```

The `-p` flag means "prune". After fetching, branches which no longer exist on the remote will be deleted.

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