This version of GitHub Enterprise was discontinued on 2023-03-15. No patch releases will be made, even for critical security issues. For better performance, improved security, and new features, upgrade to the latest version of GitHub Enterprise. For help with the upgrade, contact GitHub Enterprise support.

Creating and deleting branches within your repository

In this article

Creating a branch

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Further reading

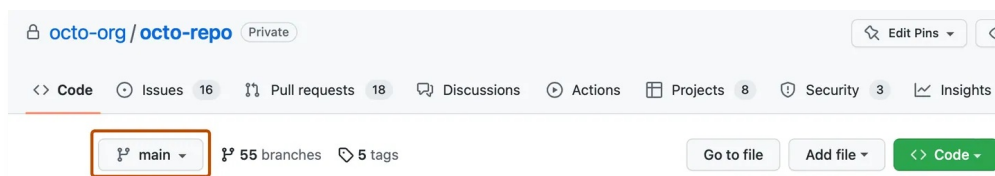You can create or delete branches directly on GitHub Enterprise Server.

Creating a branch 🔗

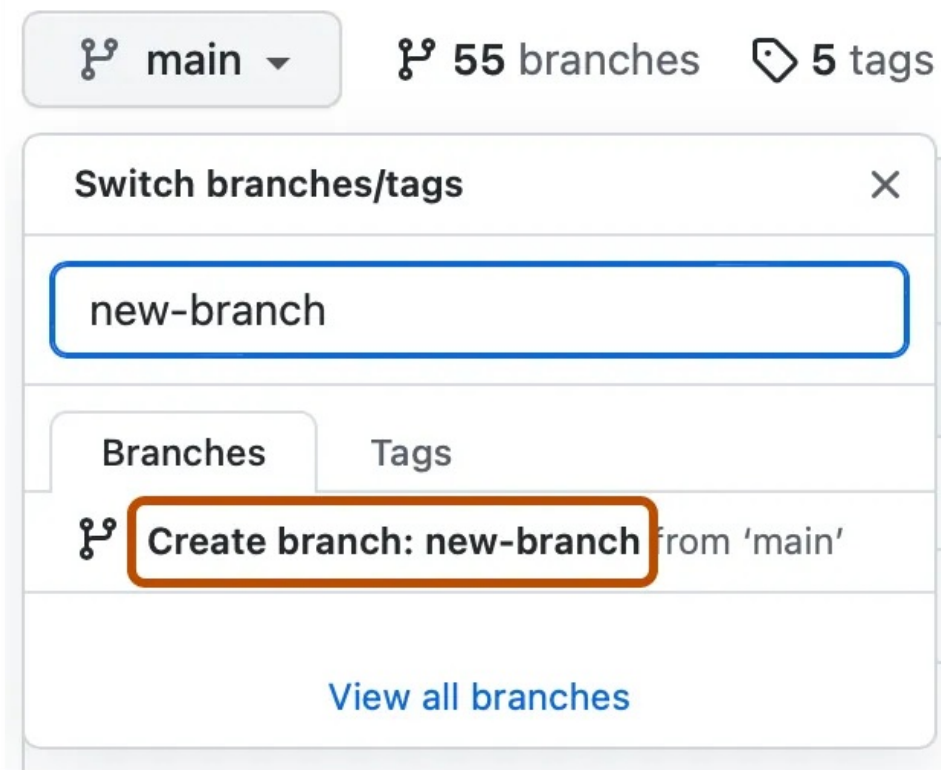You can create a branch in different ways on GitHub Enterprise Server.

> **Note:** You can only create a branch in a repository to which you have push access.

Creating a branch using the branch dropdown 🔗

1. On your GitHub Enterprise Server instance, navigate to the main page of the repository.

2. Select the branch selector dropdown menu.

3. Optionally, if you want to create the new branch from a branch other than the default branch of the repository, click another branch, then select the branch dropdown menu again.

4. In the "Find or create a branch..." text field, type a unique name for your new branch, then click **Create branch**.
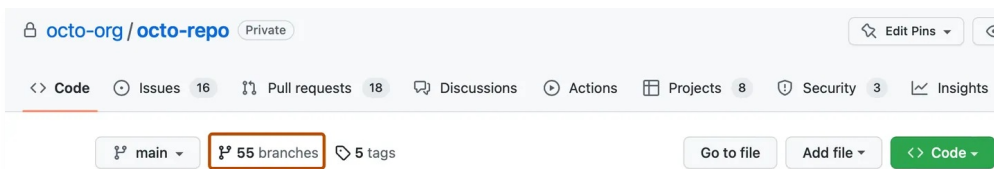
Deleting a branch 🔗

You can have head branches automatically deleted after pull requests are merged in your repository. For more information, see "[Managing the automatic deletion of branches](#)."

> **Note:** If the branch you want to delete is the repository's default branch, you must choose a new default branch before deleting the branch. For more information, see "[Changing the default branch](#)."

If the branch you want to delete is associated with an open pull request, you must merge or close the pull request before deleting the branch. For more information, see "[Merging a pull request](#)" or "[Closing a pull request](#)."

1. On your GitHub Enterprise Server instance, navigate to the main page of the repository.

2. Above the list of files, click ⑂ **Branches**.

3. Next to the branch that you want to delete, click 🗑 .

If you delete a head branch after its pull request has been merged, GitHub checks for

any open pull requests in the same repository that specify the deleted branch as their base branch. GitHub automatically updates any such pull requests, changing their base branch to the merged pull request's base branch. For more information, see "About branches."

Further reading

- "About branches"
- "Viewing branches in your repository"
- "Deleting and restoring branches in a pull request"