

# Moving a file to a new location

## In this article

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You can move a file to a different directory on GitHub Enterprise Server or by using the command line.

Mac Windows Linux


In addition to changing the file location, you can also [update the contents of your file](#), or [give it a new name](#) in the same commit.

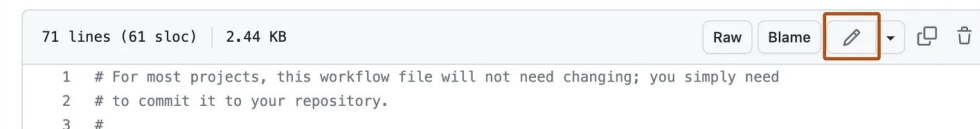
## Moving a file to a new location on GitHub Enterprise Server

### Tips:

- If you try to move a file in a repository that you don't have access to, we'll fork the project to your personal account and help you send [a pull request](#) to the original repository after you commit your change.
- Some files, such as images, require that you move them from the command line. For more information, see "[Moving a file to a new location](#)".
- If a repository has any protected branches, you can't edit or upload files in the protected branch using GitHub. For more information, see "[About protected branches](#)."

You can use GitHub Desktop to move your changes to a new branch and commit them. For more information, see "[Committing and reviewing changes to your project in GitHub Desktop](#)."

- 1 In your repository, browse to the file you want to move.
- 2 In the upper right corner of the file view, click  to open the file editor.



- 3 In the filename field, change the name of the file using these guidelines:
  - To move the file **into a subfolder**, type the name of the folder you want, followed by `/`. Your new folder name becomes a new item in the navigation breadcrumbs.
  - To move the file into a directory **above the file's current location**, place your cursor at the beginning of the filename field, then either type `../` to jump up one full directory level, or type the `backspace` key to edit the parent folder's name.

- 4 In the "Commit message" field, type a short, meaningful commit message that describes the change you made to the file. You can attribute the commit to more than one author in the commit message. For more information, see "[Creating a commit with multiple authors](#)."
- 5 Below the commit message fields, decide whether to add your commit to the current branch or to a new branch. If your current branch is the default branch, you should choose to create a new branch for your commit and then create a pull request. For more information, see "[Creating a pull request](#)."

☐ Commit directly to the `main` branch.

☒ Create a new branch for this commit and start a pull request. [Learn more about pull requests.](#)

`octocat-patch-1`

[Propose changes](#) [Cancel](#)

- 6 Click **Commit changes** or **Propose changes**.

## Moving a file to a new location using the command line [↗](#)

You can use the command line to move files within a repository by removing the file from the old location and then adding it in the new location.

Many files can be [moved directly on GitHub Enterprise Server](#), but some files, such as images, require that you move them from the command line.

This procedure assumes you've already:

- [Created a repository on GitHub Enterprise Server](#), or have an existing repository owned by someone else you'd like to contribute to
- [Cloned the repository locally on your computer](#)

- 1 On your computer, move the file to a new location within the directory that was created locally on your computer when you cloned the repository.
- 2 Open TerminalTerminalGit Bash.
- 3 Use `git status` to check the old and new file locations.

```
$ git status
> # On branch YOUR-BRANCH
> # Changes not staged for commit:
> #   (use "git add/rm <file>..." to update what will be committed)
> #   (use "git checkout -- <file>..." to discard changes in working
directory)
> #
> #       deleted:    /OLD-FOLDER/IMAGE.PNG
> #
> # Untracked files:
> #   (use "git add <file>..." to include in what will be committed)
> #
> #       /NEW-FOLDER/IMAGE.PNG
> #
> # no changes added to commit (use "git add" and/or "git commit -a")
```

- 4 Stage the file for commit to your local repository. This will delete, or `git rm`, the file from the old location and add, or `git add`, the file to the new location.

```
$ git add .  
# Adds the file to your local repository and stages it for commit.  
# To unstage a file, use 'git reset HEAD YOUR-FILE'.
```

- 5 Use `git status` to check the changes staged for commit.

```
$ git status  
> # On branch YOUR-BRANCH  
> # Changes to be committed:  
> #   (use "git reset HEAD <file>..." to unstage)  
> #  
> #    renamed:    /old-folder/image.png -> /new-folder/image.png  
# Displays the changes staged for commit
```

- 6 Commit the file that you've staged in your local repository.

```
$ git commit -m "Move file to new directory"  
# Commits the tracked changes and prepares them to be pushed to a remote  
repository.  
# To remove this commit and modify the file, use 'git reset --soft HEAD~1'  
and commit and add the file again.
```

- 7 [Push the changes](#) in your local repository to your GitHub Enterprise Server instance.

```
$ git push origin YOUR_BRANCH  
# Pushes the changes in your local repository up to the remote repository  
you specified as the origin
```

## Legal