

Git worktrees

CREATE

```
git worktree add ../dir
```

New worktree, new branch named after the directory

```
git worktree add ../dir branch
```

New worktree for an existing branch

```
git worktree add -b branch ../dir main
```

New worktree, new branch, from a chosen start point

INSPECT

```
git worktree list
```

Every worktree, its path, HEAD and branch

```
git worktree list --porcelain
```

Machine-readable list, for scripts

REMOVE

```
git worktree remove ../dir
```

Remove the directory and its bookkeeping; refuses if dirty

```
git worktree remove --force ../dir
```

Remove, discarding uncommitted changes

```
git worktree prune
```

Clean the records after a directory was deleted by hand

MAINTAIN

```
git worktree move ../dir ../newdir
```

Relocate a worktree without recreating it

```
git worktree lock ../dir
```

Protect a worktree (removable drive) from pruning

```
git worktree repair
```

Fix the links after moving the main repository

THE TWO ERRORS

fatal: 'branch' is already used by worktree at '...'

A branch can only be checked out in one worktree at a time. Work in the worktree that has it (`git worktree list` shows where), remove that worktree, or take a new branch: `git worktree add -b branch-2 ../dir branch`.

error: cannot delete branch 'x' used by worktree at '...'

A branch can't be deleted while a worktree has it checked out, and `-D` won't override it. `git worktree remove ../dir` first (or `prune` if the directory is gone), then delete.

RULES OF THUMB

- Keep worktrees as siblings of the main checkout: `repo/`, `repo-review/`. Never nest them.
- Name the directory after the task, not the branch; the branch shows in `git worktree list`.
- One worktree per coding agent. Remove it when the branch merges.
- Untracked files are per-worktree: each needs its own `node_modules` or build directory.
- After an `rm -rf`, run `git worktree prune` so the records match the disk.

REVIEWING AN AGENT'S WORKTREE

```
git diff main... --stat
```

The shape of the change, from inside the worktree

```
git diff main...
```

Everything the branch changed since it split off

```
git log --oneline main..
```

The branch's commits, step by step

Meridian, the native Mac Git client

A window per worktree, `mrd` opens it from the terminal, and Markdown, CSV and JSON diffs render as documents. One-time purchase, no subscription.

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