Brock's Don't Panic – Dev Error Survival Manual

Working Directory of "oh shit" moments → triage, quick fixes, and when to move on

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Philosophy (90s Kid NetOps Mode)

• If the command completed and produced the output you needed → move on.

• Warnings aren't failures. Red text ≠ broken system.

• Ship the summary, not the noise. Investigate only what blocks the next step.

• Automate receipts: logs + summaries prove success even when the shell whines.

Rapid Triage — 3 Questions

• 1) Did the run finish? ■ Ignore if yes.

• 2) Did I get the artifact (file/commit/output)? ■ Ignore if yes.

• 3) Will this block the next command? ■ Only then fix it.

macOS / Launchd / Terminal

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note
getcwd: Operation not permitted	launchd/TCC starting in a protected dir	OK to ignore	Harmless; use WorkingDirectory or cd $HO
shell-init: error retrieving current directory	Same as above (TCC sandbox)	OK to ignore	Job still runs; add cd "$HOME" at script st
launchctl list shows -15	Prior instance terminated (kickstart)	OK to ignore	It's a signal, not a failure
launchctl print shows no PID	Agent idle (not currently running)	OK to ignore	It's loaded; will run at schedule

Git

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note
nothing to commit, working tree clean	No staged changes	OK to ignore	You're up to date
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'	Remote and local match	OK to ignore	Perfect state
Untracked files present	New files not added yet	Investigate	Use git add if you want them tracked
warning: LF will be replaced by CRLF	Line endings normalization	OK to ignore	Cosmetic; configure .gitattributes if desired
fatal: not a git repository	You're outside a repo	OK to ignore	Just cd into the repo and retry

Bash / Zsh / Shell

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note

command not found	Tool isn't in PATH or not installed	Investigate	Install or add to PATH; for launchd also se
No such file or directory (on /tmp/.../logs)	Log hasn't been written yet	OK to ignore	Appears after first scheduled run
Permission denied (find, ls)	Protected directories	OK to ignore	Append 2>/dev/null; doesn't affect rest

Python

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note
ModuleNotFoundError	Package missing in environment	Investigate	pip install <pkg> or use venv; verify interpr
IndentationError / SyntaxError	Typos/formatting	Investigate	Fix file; linters help
pip warning: script installed in ...Binary not on PATH	Binary not on PATH	OK to ignore	Add path to shell rc for convenience

JavaScript / Node

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note
npm WARN	Non-fatal advisory	OK to ignore	Unless install breaks, proceed
node: command not found	Node not installed or PATH issue	Investigate	Install via nvm; reload shell
ESLint warnings	Style issues	OK to ignore	Fix later unless CI blocks

Docker

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note
Cannot connect to the Docker daemon	Daemon not running	Investigate	Launch Docker Desktop / start service
WARNING: No swap limit support	Kernel cgroup limitation warning	OK to ignore	Usually harmless for dev

Homebrew / apt / pkg managers

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note
brew doctor warnings	Environment advisory	OK to ignore	Only fix if installs fail
apt-get: command not found (on macOS)	Wrong manager for OS	OK to ignore	Use brew on macOS
dpkg/journalctl: command not found (on macOS)	Linux-only tools	OK to ignore	Use netstat/Console on mac

Networking

Error	Meaning	OK to Ignore?	Quick fix / Note
ss: command not found (macOS)	Linux-only	OK to ignore	Use netstat -anv on macOS
Operation not permitted (port scan)	Privileged action blocked	Investigate	Use sudo or change method; ensure you

Rule of thumb: If the run finished and produced the artifact you needed, keep moving. Save deep dives for blockers.