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Asked 6 years, 9 months ago Active yesterday Viewed 411k times

524 ▲ I am using Git. I did a pull from a remote repo and got an error message:

Please enter a commit message to explain why this merge is necessary, especially if it merges an updated upstream into a topic branch.

281 ★ I try to type a message and press `Enter` but nothing happens.

How do I tell Git/Terminal I am done typing in my message?

I am using Terminal on OS X.

`git` `macos` `git-merge` `git-commit` `git-commands`

edited Apr 12 at 19:20



pkamb

23.8k ● 18 ● 108 ● 141

asked Sep 30 '13 at 2:57



bernie2436

16.7k ● 38 ● 120 ● 217

3 ▲ It appears that your GIT is configured to open a pre-configured template and that template is getting opened through default editor (vi/vim). – [Shunya](#) Sep 30 '13 at 9:26

▲ Abort this merge & try to use git pull --rebase. – [Ankush Jain](#) Jun 8 '18 at 6:21

4 ▲ Form me "Shift ZZ" solves the issue – [papacico](#) Oct 24 '18 at 10:46

12 Answers

Active Oldest Votes

1214 ▲ It's not a Git error message, it's the editor as git uses your default editor.

To solve this:

1. press "i" (i for insert)
2. write your merge message
3. press "esc" (escape)
4. write ":wq" (write & quit)
5. then press enter

edited May 29 at 10:27



Sajid Zeb

885 ● 10 ● 22

answered Sep 30 '13 at 3:17



Saad.elzwawy


12.3k ● 1 ● 10 ● 16

7 ▲ Ok, but this is assuming his editor is `vi` or `vim`. – [Gabriele Petronella](#) Sep 30 '13 at 3:18

116 ▲ that's hella complicated – [Connor Leech](#) Aug 21 '14 at 22:32

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83  This might as well be ↑↑↓↓←→↔→BA – [Wesley Smith](#) Nov 4 '16 at 7:42



Actually it's not an error! It means you should enter some message to mark this merge. My OS is Ubuntu 14.04. If you use the same OS, you just need to do this as follows:

41

1. Type some message
2.   
3. Type the file name (such as "Merge_feature01") and press 
4.   to exit



Now if you go to .git and you will find the file "Merge_feature01", that's the merge log actually.

edited Mar 30 '18 at 20:16



[K.DAVIS](#)


8,843 ● 11 ● 30 ● 39

answered Jun 27 '15 at 7:53





[xiaohu Wang](#)

511 ● 5 ● 4

6  I wonder how someone would know this? It's so strange how this works. Thanks for answering this. – [Adrian Carr](#) Sep 27 '15 at 19:48



 @ScottyBlades why on earth should it? the question is tagged osx, and this answer concerns how Ubuntu sets up an entirely different setup for Git (using `nano` or `pico`), which is not applicable to the OS X setup. It is in no way generalizable and also doesn't provide insight into how it works, hence the comment left by @AdrianCarr. There are far better answers now. – [oligofren](#) Nov 10 '17 at 12:46 



What is the name of the editor that corresponds to this answer? – [J. Mini](#) Jun 18 at 22:01



tl;dr Set the editor to something nicer, like Sublime or Atom

28

Here *nice* is used in the meaning of an editor you *like or find more user friendly*.



The underlying problem is that Git by default uses an editor that is too unintuitive to use for most people: Vim. Now, don't get me wrong, I love Vim, and while you could set some time aside (like a month) [to learn Vim](#) and try to understand why some people think Vim is the greatest editor in existence, there is a quicker way of fixing this problem :-)



The fix is not to memorize cryptic commands, like in the accepted answer, but configuring Git to use an editor that you like and understand! It's really as simple as configuring either of these options

1. the git config setting `core.editor` (per project, or globally)
2. the `VISUAL` or `EDITOR` environment variable (this works for other programs as well)

I'll cover the first option for a couple of popular editors, but GitHub has an excellent [guide on this for many editors](#) as well.

To use Atom

Straight [from its docs](#), enter this in a terminal: `git config --global core.editor "atom --wait"`

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For the same reasons as in the Atom case, you need a special flag to signal to the process that it shouldn't fork to the background:

```
git config --global core.editor "subl -n -w"
```

edited May 1 '18 at 10:01

answered Nov 10 '17 at 12:42



[oligofren](#)

13.5k ● 10 ● 64 ● 122

▲ Vim doesn't take a month. it takes two days and you never forget as long as you keep a handy cheat sheet you'll need from time to time, at first. – [user264431](#) Jun 17 '19 at 16:14 ✎

▲ Just Do,

23

CTRL + X

CTRL + C

It will ask you to save file, Press **Y**, then you are done.

edited May 10 '18 at 12:32

answered May 10 '18 at 7:39



[Developer Guy](#)

1,888 ● 5 ● 15 ● 30



[Mandeep Singh](#)

455 ● 5 ● 11

▲ This is if your default editor is "pico" or "nano" The above comments should be used if your default editor is vim.
✎ – [JackKeown](#) Oct 17 '19 at 17:07

▲ Here its asking you for a message which connect with your merge for future reference why you done this merge.

7

```
press "i"  
on top above on #lines write your message  
press "esc" button  
write ":wq" (it will write in bottom automatically)  
press enter
```

answered May 14 '18 at 8:05



[Vivek Singh](#)

475 ● 5 ● 9

▲ Instead, you could git **Ctrl Z** and retry the commit but this time add "-m" with a message in quotes after it, then it will commit without prompting you with that page.

6

edited Mar 30 '18 at 20:16

answered Jul 12 '17 at 13:05



[K.DAVIS](#)

8,843 ● 11 ● 30 ● 39




[hgrov52](#)

69 ● 1 ● 4

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 `commit --message "message"`, still the editor pop ups from time to time, requesting a message. Does anybody knows why the "-m" switch is ignored? – [pglpm](#) Aug 2 '18 at 11:36

▲
4

Since your local repository is few commits ahead, git tries to merge your remote to your local repo. This can be handled via merge, but in your case, perhaps you are looking for rebase, i.e. add your commit to the top. You can do this with

▼

`git rebase` OR `git pull --rebase`



Here is a good article explaining the difference between `git pull` & `git pull --rebase`.



<https://www.derekgourlay.com/blog/git-when-to-merge-vs-when-to-rebase/>

answered Jun 8 '18 at 6:25



[Ankush Jain](#)

3,487 ● 3 ● 18 ● 37

▲
0

It's not a Git error message, it's the editor git uses your default editor.

▼

To solve this:



1



1. press "i"
2. write your merge message
3. press "esc"
4. write ":wq"
5. and press enter

Explanation

The way you remember this is that "i" is for "insert", "esc" is the exit the insertion, and ":wq" is just "write" and "quit".

[edited Apr 6 at 5:30](#)

answered Apr 6 at 5:24



[Vipin Kumar Shakya](#)

1 ● 3

▲
0

In my case i got this message after merge. **Decision:** press esc, after this type :qa!

▼



answered yesterday



[Vladimir](#)

11 ● 1



Is this really a helpful answer after over 6 years?... – [mate00](#) yesterday



I think so, because i because I ran into these yesterday – [Vladimir](#) 7 hours ago

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- Step two - Enter you message after "#"
- Step three- Press "esc"
- Step four- at the very bottom write ":wq"
- Step five- Press "Enter"

You are all done with your merge. Then you can continue working on either pull to your local after or create a new branch.

answered Mar 21 '19 at 17:05



[NelsonRoberts](#)

143 ● 8

this is not an error. you have to add a massege for this merge

to solve this:

1. press "i" to insert your massege
2. write your massege
3. press "esc"
4. write ":wq" (write and quit for saving the massege and exit)
5. press "enter"

answered Apr 12 at 19:08



[ehsan asarzadeh](#)

39 ● 4

I found the error because i was new to git you must check whether you have entered the correct syntax

i made a mistake and wrote `git commit`

and got the same error

use `git commit -m 'some comment'`

and you wont be seeing the page with

answered Apr 30 at 20:33



[AyushPayasi](#)

9 ● 1