



# How to tell Git which SSH Key to use



Czar Pino [Follow](#)

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It is not possible to tell Git which SSH credentials to use — strictly speaking. But you can use SSH config to effectively achieve the same result.

Suppose you have a private key `~/.ssh/special_id_rsa` and you are trying to clone the repository

`git@github.com:username/reponame.git`. You would need to add a new host entry to your SSH config that uses the desired private key.

```
# ~/.ssh/config
Host your.hostname.com
    Hostname github.com
    User git
    IdentityFile ~/.ssh/special_id_rsa
```

If the SSH config file `~/.ssh/config` does not exist, simply create it and add the host info. You then clone the repository by replacing the repo url domain with the host defined in the SSH config.

Git Ssh

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