

How to tell Git which SSH Key to use



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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.