Git Errors Cheatsheet

When Disaster Strikes

As you are learning Git, you will inevitably run into some confusing and possibly even infuriating errors. These errors get even the best of developers, so it's important that you learn how to read Git errors and understand how to fix them.

Lucky for you, we've created this handy cheatsheet that outlines common Git errors and how to solve them!

Common Git Errors and How to Fix Them

not a git command

This error happens when you misspell a git command. For example, typing git stauts instead of git status will display the following error:

```
git: 'stauts' is not a git command. See 'git --help'.
Did you mean this?
      status
```

How to fix: Make sure you type your commands correctly!

nothing specified, nothing added

Git is not a mind-reader. If you run the git add command without specifying a file or directory, it won't know what you want to add.

```
Nothing specified, nothing added.
Maybe you wanted to say 'git add .'?
```

How to fix: Always specify a file or a directory when using the git add command, or use a . to add all files and directories.

Git Errors Cheatsheet

not a git repository

Oops! You just tried to add a file or run a Git command, and Git is confused because your current directory is not a Git repository.

How to fix: Make sure you are in the correct directory. Also make sure you initialize a Git repository using the git init command.

repository not found

If you try to run the git push command and see this error, it means that Git doesn't know where you are trying to push to. You are either not being specific enough, or the location you specified does not exist.

How to fix: If you are trying to push up to a remote repository, make sure the repository has been added using the git remote -v command. If you need to add the remote, use the git remote add origin command.

Also be sure to specify the location you want to push to, for example, git push origin master.

git push rejected

If your local repository and the remote repository are out of sync and you try to push commits, Git will yell at you and reject your push attempt.

How to fix: You have to first pull down any changes from the remote repository to merge them into your local repository, and then trying pushing again.

Git Errors Cheatsheet

merge conflicts

Before you can push your code up to your remote repository, you have to pull down any changes and merge them into your local repository. If the same lines in the same file have been changed in both locations, Git doesn't know which changes are authoritative and can't merge the two copies of the file together.

How to fix: When this happens, Git adds text to the conflicting files so that you can edit them and choose which code to keep. The added text looks like this:

```
<<<<<<< HEAD
changes made on branch you are merging into
=======
changes made on branch you are merging
>>>>>>>
```

The easiest way to fix merge conflicts is to open the files in conflict, find the text that Git added, and choose which code to keep. After you save the file, you'll need to commit and push to completely fix the merge conflicts.

More Information about Git & GitHub

For more information about Git, check out the Git documentation.

For more information about GitHub, check out GitHub's help guide.