# Git - fatal: Unable to create '/path/my_project/.git/index.lock': File exists

▲

**714**

▼

★

176

I am still getting this error message, when I try to move my project tree on to git repo.

I checked the permissions of my directory with this project and these are set on 777. In terminal in the directory with `my_project` I set:

> git init

and then if I try

> git add .

or

> git commit -m "first upload"

so I'll get the error

```
fatal: Unable to create '/path/my_proj/.git/index.lock': File exists.

If no other git process is currently running, this probably means a
git process crashed in this repository earlier. Make sure no other git
process is running and remove the file manually to continue.
```

I tried also create a new repo and there to commit it, but unfortunately still the same error message.

What is the cause of problem?

git

[stackoverflow.com/questions/1367258/...](stackoverflow.com/questions/1367258/...) – Won Jun Bae Nov 10 '15 at 15:48

3   bro i had the same problem , use "sudo git add . or git commit -m "first upload" " instead of " git add . or git commit -m "first upload" " – mehdi zahrane Mar 27 '16 at 14:05

I got it fixed by changing permissions on .git file per [stackoverflow.com/questions/14127255/...](stackoverflow.com/questions/14127255/...) , refer to answer from Mahshid Zeinaly – vikramvi May 16 '17 at 15:57

## 28 Answers

Try

1540

```
rm -f ./.git/index.lock
```

In your repository directory. The error message is rather explicit as to what causes it typically, so if you have no other git processes running (which is the normal case), go ahead and delete that file.

|  | edited Aug 18 '16 at 16:19 |  |  | answered Oct 22 '11 at 16:06 |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | rogerdpack |  |  | Raphael R. |  |  |
|  | **36.6k** | 19   139   266 |  | **17k** | 1   17   17 |  |

6   It doesn't happen automatically. You need to execute the command `git push` to push your changes to the web server. Details on how this works are here: [gitready.com/beginner/2009/01/21/pushing-and-pulling.html](gitready.com/beginner/2009/01/21/pushing-and-pulling.html) – Raphael R. Oct 22 '11 at 17:03

8   I'm having the exact same problem but I can't solve it this way because the .git/index.lock file doesn't appear to exist: `touch .get/index.lock` returns `touch: .get/index.lock: No such file or directory` – emersonthis Jan 30 '13 at 17:08 ✏

20   Emerson, you seem to be looking for .get instead of .git which would not exist. – Apie Jul 22 '13 at 12:34

3   Permission denied means you need to give the user you are using Git with read/write permissions on the file. Check out chmod command (on *nix or Properties -> Security tab on WIndows) – Stijn de Witt Feb 4 '14 at 13:25

8   If your error says "Permission Denied", you have probably copied the files from somewhere else, and don't have permissions over the .git directory. Use `ls -l` to see permissions, then use `sudo chown -R username . /*` and `sudo chgrp -R username . /*` to change user and group to your own

**146**

```
cd .git
del index.lock
```

UPDATE: I have found that I don't need to do this procedure if I wait a moment after I close out the files I'm working on before I try to switch branches. I think sometimes this issue occurs due to git catching up with a slow file system. Other, more git-knowledgeable developers can chime in if they think this is correct.

edited May 10 '18 at 14:21      answered Mar 10 '14 at 15:31

ssaltman
**2,961**   1   14   19

---

122   ha. just searched for my own answer and it worked. I remembered I had this problem in the past...thanks, me. – ssaltman Jun 11 '14 at 15:34

     Brilliant, thanks for that - it worked like a charm. – codeepic Oct 2 '15 at 9:09

4   One does not simply use windows for programming ;) – Luca Steeb Nov 20 '15 at 23:11

     It works for me – Jayanth Suvarna May 24 '16 at 5:51

3   Strangely enough, I get the error about the file but then when I try to delete the file in cmd.exe, it says file not found :) Same result with absolute and relative paths. But in Git Bash, it works (with `rm -f index.lock` ) – Juha Untinen Jun 27 '16 at 7:58 ✎

---

Try quitting Xcode - since it's a git client, you have to quit Xcode to avoid problems with git on the command line.

**30**

answered Jul 23 '12 at 19:22

Jeff Grimes
**1,990**   1   19   23

---

4   Nice! Note that Xcode AND other Git clients can be culprits. In my case it took closing gitX also. – NSTJ Jan 16 '15 at 0:04

4   I found that Xcode is particularly bad about it. – bhamlin Jun 5 '15 at 19:59

     After having to delete my lock file 10 times or so this morning I finally stumbled upon this answer. Don't know how xcode opened up but it was sure trashing my workflow. Thanks for the tip! – Cloudkiller Sep 15 '15 at 14:51

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up      OR SIGN IN WITH      G Google      Facebook✕

I was having the same problem. I tried

19

```
rm -f ./.git/index.lock
```

and the console gave me an error message. Then, I tried

```
rm --force ./.git/index.lock
```

and that worked.

Good Luck! This works super

edited May 12 at 8:25                                 answered May 13 '15 at 22:54

Matthieu Moy                                          Olivia Steger
**7,531**   1    27    46                             **234**   4    11

I dont see .git folder in my case. I only see ./ and ../ as far as hidden directory are concerns. – user5778069 Jan 2 '17 at 9:53

What type of computer are you on? – Olivia Steger Feb 8 '17 at 0:40

In my .git directory, there was no index.lock file. So, using the Git Bash shell, I ran...

15

```
cd .git
touch index.lock
```

The touch command created the file, and the problem went away.

edited Aug 15 '17 at 15:26                            answered May 25 '16 at 20:55

John Livermore
**11.1k**   33    93    163

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up        OR SIGN IN WITH        G Google        Facebook

Definitely shouldnt be downvoted, sorted my problem out. I didnt have an index.lock file, but once I created one, and subsequently removed it, the commit worked. – Bynho Mar 17 '17 at 13:01 ✎

`touch index.lock` implies John was on *NIX, but I just did the equivalent on Windows 10 (create an `index.lock` file with a text editor, delete it immediately, and profit), and the problem's gone. – ruffin Aug 14 '17 at 21:54

Yes, I used the touch command from the Git Bash shell. – John Livermore Aug 15 '17 at 15:26

---

▲

**10**

▼

Did you accidentally create the repository using the `root` user?

It just happens that I created the git repository as the `root` user.

I deleted the git repository and created it again without `sudo` and it works.

edited May 14 at 8:42             answered Sep 27 '15 at 4:53

hktang
**1,044**   16   31

---

▲

**8**

▼

i have this problem too, and i find it really a permission problem. so i do this:

```
sudo chown -R : .git #change group
sudo chmod -R 775 .git #change permission
```

then ererything is great, and gaa is success.

and then i use gp, i get another error almost the same error

```
sudo chown -R "${USER:-$(id -un)}" . #use this can fix the problem
```

edited Dec 1 '16 at 8:38             answered Dec 1 '16 at 8:12
                                                      - - -

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up      OR SIGN IN WITH      G Google      Facebook ✕

In Mac OS X do this in the command prompt from the repo directory:

**6**

```
cd .git
rm index.lock
```

edited Apr 12 '16 at 4:09          answered Apr 12 '16 at 3:29

**TR**   techraf                                    Rick Wong
         **36.5k**  18   81   121                   **63**   1   5

---

1    No such file or directory – Channox Jul 11 '18 at 3:37

---

If you are using one of `#intelliJ` IDEs and receiving this msg (i'm using `#webtorm` ), please notice that this problem can occur because of hiding one of project folders (inside settings), and this can prevent `GIT` from merging.

**5**

answered Feb 18 '15 at 12:16

neoswf
**3,440**   3   30   52

---

If after you try:

**5**

> rm -f ./.git/index.lock

you get:

> rm: cannot unlink 'index.lock': Permission denied

Try closing all software that might be using Git. I had Source Tree and Visual Studio opened and after closing both the command

**87**   2   8

In Windows, I only managed to be able to delete the lock file after Ending Task for all Git Windows (32bit) processes in the Task Manager.

**5**

**Solution** (Win 10)

1. **End Task** for all Git Windows (32bit) processes in the Task Manager

2. **Delete** the .git/index.lock file

answered Jan 23 '17 at 21:06

ChrisDeDavidMindflowA
U

**148**   2   7

In my case the solution was to wait 5 minutes. Obviously my previous operation was still running but I just didn't know it. I was using tortoise git on windows.

**4**

answered Apr 20 '15 at 9:27

rdans

**1,876**   15   32

Use This:

**4**

```
rm -Force ./.git/index.lock
```

answered Jun 16 '16 at 6:09

Manoj Tarkar

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up        OR SIGN IN WITH        G Google        Facebook ✕

4

answered Sep 16 '16 at 22:46

snorkelzebra
**368**  1  3  15

I've recently installed the Sublime Text plugin GitSavvy and had this error only since then. Thanks for the hint, @snorkelzebra – Kitze Nov 10 '16 at 13:03

---

3

I think there's a better solution than removing the file (and god knows what will happen next when removing/creating a file with sudo):

```
git gc
```

answered Dec 25 '17 at 7:20

Roy Segall
**150**  5

---

3

You have problem with `.git/index.lock` so delete it using below command.

**Command:**

> sudo rm -rf .git/index.lock

edited Feb 6 '18 at 9:27

Ronnie Oosting
**1,011**  7  28

answered Jan 2 '18 at 9:26

Pramod Kharade
**666**  8  22

---

The resolution for this problem is copying the three xcode/project files in the directory and then creating new directory (Whereever else)

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up    OR SIGN IN WITH    G Google    Facebook ✕

**Also we can just kill git process.** I receive the same issue via GUI app for git, something goes wrong and git makes some work infinitely. Killing process will freeze application that works with git, just restart it and everything will be ok.

2

answered Jul 4 '14 at 11:12

kaspartus
**1,185**    14    32

In case, for whatever reason, you are doing a rebase from a folder that's being sync'd by a cloud service (dropbox, drive, onedrive, etc), you should pause or turn off syncing as it will interfere with permissions during the rebase.

2

answered Apr 10 '16 at 22:55

Dmase05
**854**    11    17

For me it was

```
rm -r .git-credentials.lock
```

2

answered May 29 '16 at 21:47
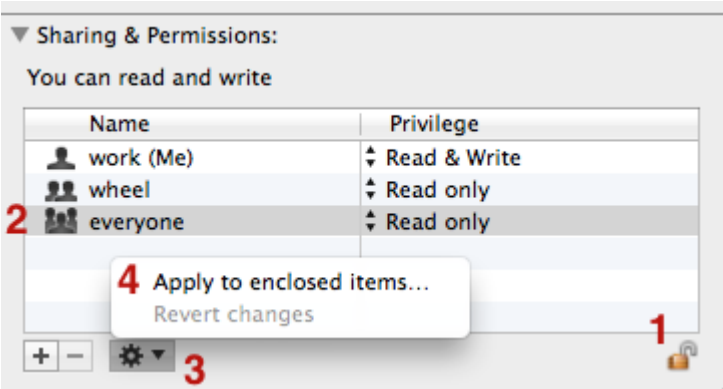
N Jay
**1,289**    1    15    34

I had changed my directory permission so I knew it could be permission related. In my case I removed unwanted (_www) users and then applied read/write permission to everyone by apply changed to all contents. This is on Mac

answered Nov 4 '16 at 7:07

Hammad Khan
**9,594**    12    89    112

---

▲

**2**

▼

All the remove commands didn't work for me what I did was to navigate there using the path provided in git and then deleting it manually.

answered Oct 10 '17 at 17:49

Aaron Rabinowitz
**192**    1    17

---

▲

**2**

▼

DO NOT USE the **Atom** `platformio-atom-ide-terminal` Plugin to do this. USE THE TERMINAL OF YOUR DISTRO DIRECTLY.

I kept getting this error while rebasing/squishing commits and didn't know why because I had done it before several times.

Didn't matter how many times I would delete the `index.lock` file, every time it would fail.

Turns out it was because I was using the **ATOM EDITOR** terminal plugin. Once I used the terminal that ships with Ubuntu it worked like a charm.

answered Nov 16 '17 at 14:03

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up        OR SIGN IN WITH        G Google        Facebook ✕

If it's a submodule, try this instead on your repository directory :

**2**

```
rm -f ../.git/modules/submodule-name/index.lock
```

change submodules-name to your submodule name.

answered Mar 12 '18 at 10:12

Kharda
**630**   6    17

---

In case someone is using git svn, I had the same problem but could not remove the file since it was not there!. After checking permissions, touching the file and deleting it, and I don't remember what else, this did the trick:

**1**

- checkout the master branch.

- git svn rebase (on master)

- checkout the branch you were working on

- git svn rebase

answered Jan 8 '18 at 12:52

cauchy
**679**   7    34

---

A little adding because I had to use different answers to get the actual solution (for me).

**1**

**This did it for me:**

1. Open branch you are working on

2. Open terminal (I use terminal in Git GUI)

answered Feb 6 '18 at 9:02

Ronnie Oosting
**1,011**   7   28

---

I tried it with many methods several times but this one worked for me (I used PyCharm's terminal) :

1

```
$ cd .git/
$ rm -f index.lock
```

Then I tried again to create an empty git repo :

```
$ git init
$ git add .
$ git commit -m "commit msg"
```

answered Feb 9 '18 at 16:07

rust
**3,265**   1   14   23

---

simply go to D:/project/androidgc/.git/ this directory and delete index.lock this worked for me.

1

answered Mar 6 '18 at 11:00

avez raj
**832**   1   9   22

---

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up      OR SIGN IN WITH      G Google      Facebook ✕

**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up          OR SIGN IN WITH          G Google          Facebook