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

Asked 8 years, 1 month ago Active 1 month ago Viewed 478k times



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

753

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
```



190

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

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Falknn

206 1 8



user984621

36.1k 63 189 340

- 1 I had this issue because I logged in with su in a different terminal, switching back to the first everything went fine – [maazza](#) Dec 26 '13 at 15:29
- [stackoverflow.com/questions/1367258/...](https://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/...](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/14127255/) , refer to answer from Mahshid Zeinaly – [vikramvi](#) May 16 '17 at 15:57

29 Answers

Try

1637 `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



rogerdpack

40.5k 21 153 277

answered Oct 22 '11 at 16:06




Raphael R.

18k 1 18 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 – [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

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for all files in the project. – [chech](#) Jan 2 '15 at 9:46 



All the solutions are right:

0

Just remove `.git` from your corrupted repository,



then copy this file if back from another clone (if you don't have it in another machine, just clone it).

Finally, what made the difference to me:

- Avoid using **`sudo`** to unzip or copy the new `.git` folder. Git won't have access to the `.git` folder if you use superuser rights to create it

[edited Oct 22 at 11:29](#)

answered Oct 22 at 11:19



[Javi](#)

45 1 3



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

13

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](#)

1,219 17 31

1 Yeap, that's it. Thanks – [Natassia Tavares](#) Jul 22 at 23:26



I was having the same problem. I tried

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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



[Matthieu Moy](#)

8,564 2 29 49

answered May 13 '15 at 22:54



[Olivia Steger](#)

264 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



155



In Windows, do this in the command prompt from the repo directory:

```
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](#)

3,106 1 14 20

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

In my case, I executed "Fetch" after a couple of restarts of Sourcetree and worked. – [maxivis](#) Jun 18 '18 at 12:54

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

3

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



change submodules-name to your submodule name.

answered Mar 12 '18 at 10:12



[Kharda](#)

698 7 18



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

2



answered Mar 6 '18 at 11:00



[avez raj](#)

1,177 1 9 23



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

2

```
$ 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](#)

3,333 4 10 24

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

3

Command:

```
sudo rm -rf .git/index.lock
```

edited Feb 6 '18 at 9:27



Ronnie Oosting

1,100 8 30

answered Jan 2 '18 at 9:26



Pramod Kharade

764 1 8 22



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)
3. Typ in command: `cd .git`
4. Typ in command: `rm -f index.lock`

Some may have to use `-Force` instead of `-f` . You can check the command lines of your terminal by executing a command in your terminal something like: `git help` .

answered Feb 6 '18 at 9:02



Ronnie Oosting

1,100 8 30



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)

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answered Jan 8 '18 at 12:52

[cauchy](#)

1,004 9 37

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):

3

`git gc`

answered Dec 25 '17 at 7:20

[Roy Segall](#)

160 5

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

2

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

[juliangonzalez](#)

2,737 20 36

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.

2

answered Oct 10 '17 at 17:49

[Aaron Rabinowitz](#)

257 2 18

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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](#)

22.3k 33 98 171

Why is this downvoted? I received the similar error message as OP. This fixed me, and maybe could help others. – [John Livermore](#) Sep 8 '16 at 12:33

- 1 I experienced a slight variant of this: (1) I experienced the error message and experimented with different 'fixes'; (2) I found that `index.lock` did not exist; (3) I used the above `touch` command; (4) my git client stopped functioning normally (at best, it slowed to a crawl); (5) I deleted `index.lock`; (6) the repository began functioning normally again. – [clarpaul](#) Dec 26 '16 at 14:46

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



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

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

9

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

then everything 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

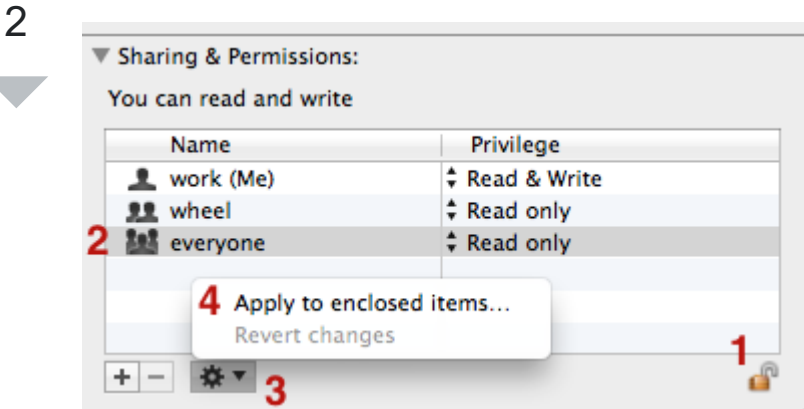
answered Dec 1 '16 at 8:12

 马长昆 michael bergman

152 1 4

brilliant, what does this do? "\${USER:-\$(id -un)}" – Nick Jun 3 '17 at 6:55

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

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▲ 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 worked.

answered Oct 13 '16 at 8:39



Boos

117 2 8

▲ The solution that worked for me was closing sublime text because the running git process was initiated by the editor.

4

answered Sep 16 '16 at 22:46



snorkelzebra

613 1 5 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

▲ Use This:

4

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

answered Jun 16 '16 at 6:00

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▲ For me it was

2

▼
`rm -r .git-credentials.lock`

answered May 29 '16 at 21:47



[N Jay](#)

1,636

1

17

34

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

7

▼
`cd .git`
`rm index.lock`

edited Apr 12 '16 at 4:09



[techraf](#)

40.8k

20

100

129

answered Apr 12 '16 at 3:29



[Rick Wong](#)

73

1

5

1 No such file or directory – [Channox](#) Jul 11 '18 at 3:37

▲ 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](#)

939

11

17

▲ In mv case the solution was to wait 5 minutes. Obviously mv previous operation was still running but I just didn't know it. I was using

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answered Apr 20 '15 at 9:27



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



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



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

2

answered Jul 22 '13 at 17:51



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

31

answered Jul 23 '12 at 19:22



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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

protected by [Robin Green](#) Sep 6 '16 at 8:33

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