

**This version of GitHub Enterprise was discontinued on 2023-03-15.** No patch releases will be made, even for critical security issues. For better performance, improved security, and new features, [upgrade to the latest version of GitHub Enterprise](#). For help with the upgrade, [contact GitHub Enterprise support](#).

# Error: ssh-add: illegal option -- K

## In this article

Solving the issue

Further reading

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This error means your version of `ssh-add` does not support macOS keychain integration, which allows you to store your passphrase in the keychain.

The `-K` option is in Apple's standard version of `ssh-add`, which stores the passphrase in your keychain for you when you add an ssh key to the ssh-agent. If you have installed a different version of `ssh-add`, it may lack support for `-K`.

## Solving the issue [↗](#)

To add your SSH private key to the ssh-agent, you can specify the path to the Apple version of `ssh-add`:

```
$ /usr/bin/ssh-add -K ~/.ssh/id_ed25519
```

**Note:** If you created your key with a different name, or if you are adding an existing key that has a different name, replace `id_ed25519` in the command with the name of your private key file.

## Further reading [↗](#)

- ["Generating a new SSH key and adding it to the ssh-agent"](#)
- [Linux man page for SSH-ADD](#)
- To view Apple's man page for SSH-ADD, run `man ssh-add` in Terminal

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