Error: ssh-add: illegal option -- K

In this article

Solving the issue

Further reading

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