

# Error: Bad file number

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This error usually means you were unable to connect to the server. Often this is caused by firewalls and proxy servers.

When running remote Git commands or SSH, your connection might time out:

```
$ ssh -vT git@github.com
> OpenSSH_8.1p1, LibreSSL 2.7.3
> debug1: Connecting to github.com [207.97.227.239] port 22.
> debug1: connect to address 207.97.227.239 port 22: Connection timed out
> ssh: connect to host github.com port 22: Connection timed out
> ssh: connect to host github.com port 22: Bad file number
```

## Solving the issue [↗](#)

### Use HTTPS [↗](#)

Often, the simplest solution is to simply avoid SSH entirely. Most firewalls and proxies allow HTTPS traffic without issue. To take advantage of this, change [the remote URL](#) you're using:

```
$ git clone https://github.com/USERNAME/REPO-NAME.git
> Cloning into 'reponame'...
> remote: Counting objects: 84, done.
> remote: Compressing objects: 100% (45/45), done.
> remote: Total 84 (delta 43), reused 78 (delta 37)
> Unpacking objects: 100% (84/84), done.
```

### Test from a different network [↗](#)

If you can connect the computer to another network that doesn't have a firewall, you can try testing your SSH connection to GitHub. If everything works as it should, contact your network administrator for help on changing the firewall settings to allow your SSH connection to GitHub to succeed.

### Using SSH over the HTTPS port [↗](#)

If using HTTPS is not an option, and your firewall admin refuses to allow SSH connections, you can try using [SSH over the HTTPS port](#) instead.

## Further reading [↗](#)

- ["Troubleshooting connectivity problems"](#)

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