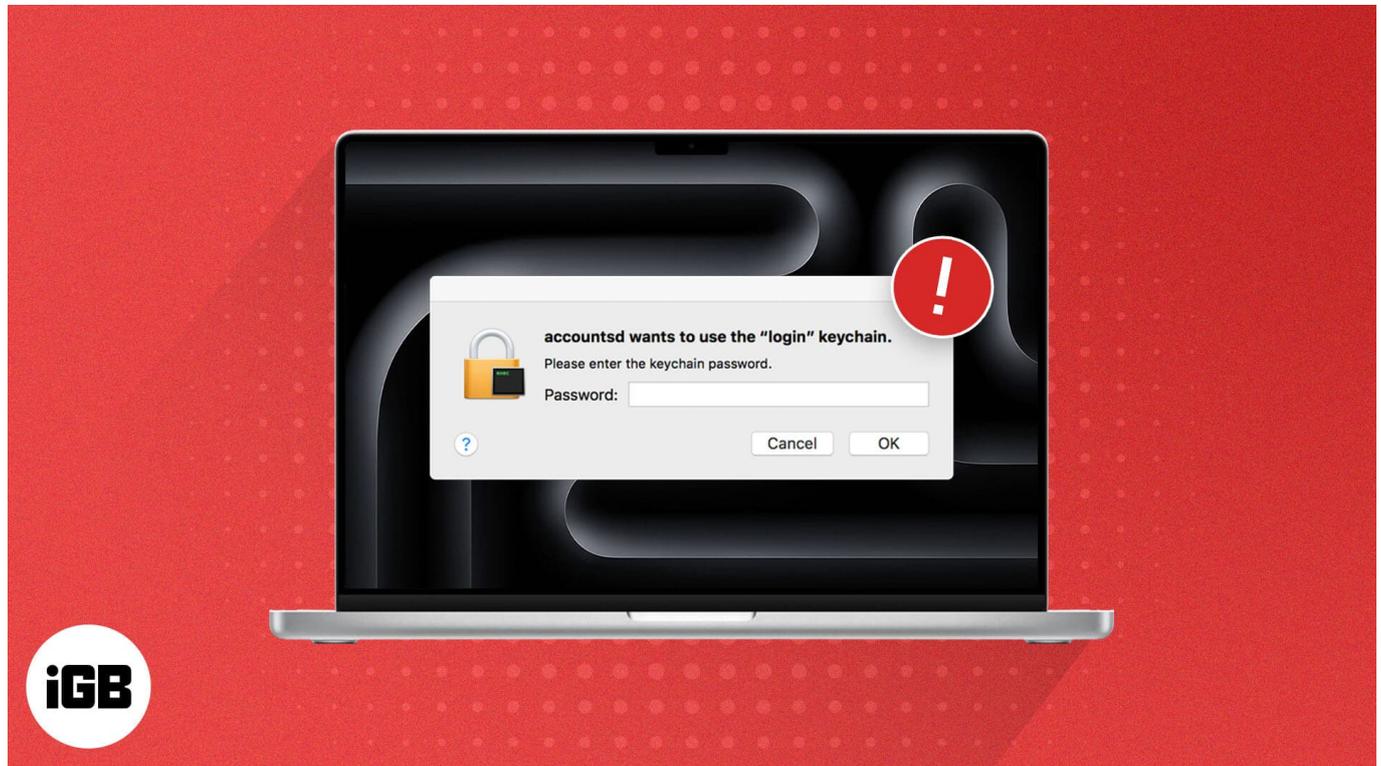


## Key takeaways



- The “accountsd wants to use the login keychain” message appears in macOS when a system process called accountsd can’t access the Login Keychain required for logging into apps.
- To fix the message on Mac, you can force stop accountsd using Terminal, re-enable iCloud Keychain, or try turning off keychain auto-lock.
- In case the basic fixes don’t help, you can try out more advanced solutions like changing the login password, creating a new login keychain, or resetting the default keychains on Mac.

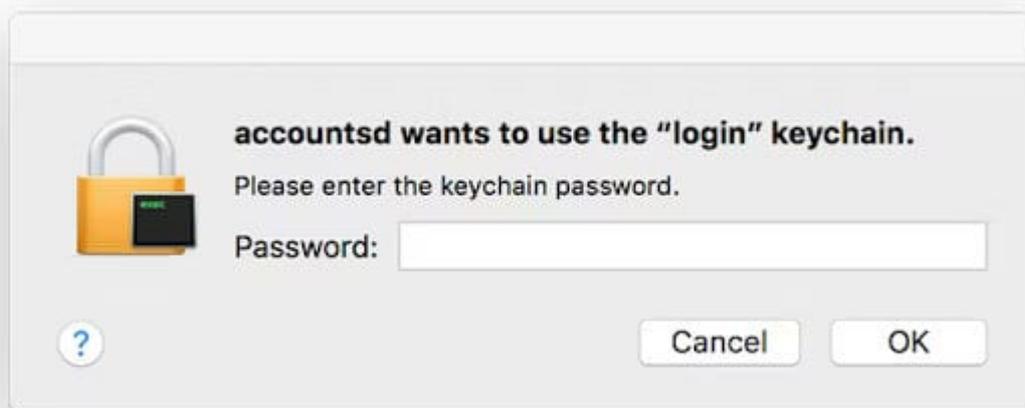
Having a cryptic message “accountsd wants to use the login keychain” frequently pop up on your Mac can be confusing, especially if you don’t recognize the process or aren’t sure why it needs to access your Keychain.

In this troubleshooting guide, I’ll help you understand what accountsd on Mac is and what triggers the Login Keychain error. Additionally, I’ll show a handful of ways you can stop this message from appearing.

## What is accountsd on Mac?

Accountsd is a system process on your Mac that's related to the Accounts framework in macOS. It makes logging into apps and websites easier. You can't interact directly with accountsd. Instead, it silently runs in the background and manages the user accounts and login credentials on your Mac.

All usernames and passwords in macOS are stored in the Keychain Access app and synced across devices using [iCloud Keychain](#). Whenever you log in to an app or website on your Mac, accountsd retrieves the necessary login information from your Keychain, so you don't have to enter it manually. This not only saves you time when logging into apps but also keeps your login credentials secure.



Besides accountsd, there are several system services, like **assistantd** and **callservicesd**, that also require access to your login keychain. While assistantd handles tasks related to Siri and Keychain Access, the callservicesd service is related to communication apps like FaceTime and Contacts.

If you're getting a Login Keychain message related to any of the three, the solutions mentioned below can help.

## What causes Login Keychain Error on Mac?

If you've been a long-time macOS user, you might be acquainted with the Keychain Access app on the Mac. This app securely stores trust certificates along with all saved passwords. However, sometimes, accounts can't access the login keychain to fetch the saved credentials.

Whenever `accountsd` or any other system services like `assistantd` and `callservicesd` are unable to access the Login Keychain in macOS, you would likely encounter the "accounts wants to use the login keychain" or similar messages on your Mac.

Given that these prompts are related to system services, it's nothing you should worry about, and it's safe to enter your Keychain password. Still, if you are curious about why these messages pop up, you can take a look at this list of potential causes:

- Synchronization issues between the user account password and the login keychain password.
- Temporary glitches related to the `accountsd` service or other system services on your Mac.
- Corruption of the Login keychain due to software issues, disk errors, or sudden shutdowns.
- Bugs in third-party apps that can interfere with the Keychain Access app on your Mac.
- Login Keychain gets locked after inactivity due to built-in security features.

## 8 Ways to fix "accounts wants to use the login keychain" message on Mac

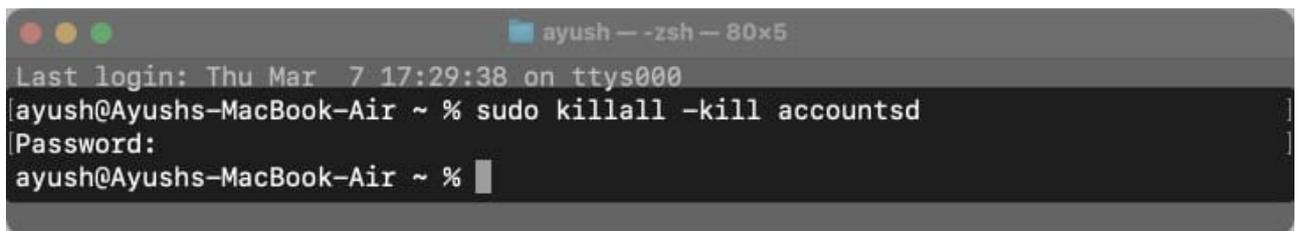
Regardless of the reason you're experiencing issues with the Login Keychain, there are a handful of methods to eliminate the error message on your Mac. Here's a list of potential solutions that can help you resolve this annoying issue once and for all:

### 1. Force stop `accountsd` with Terminal

Sometimes, temporary glitches with the `accountsd` service on your Mac can trigger the "accounts wants to use the login keychain" message.

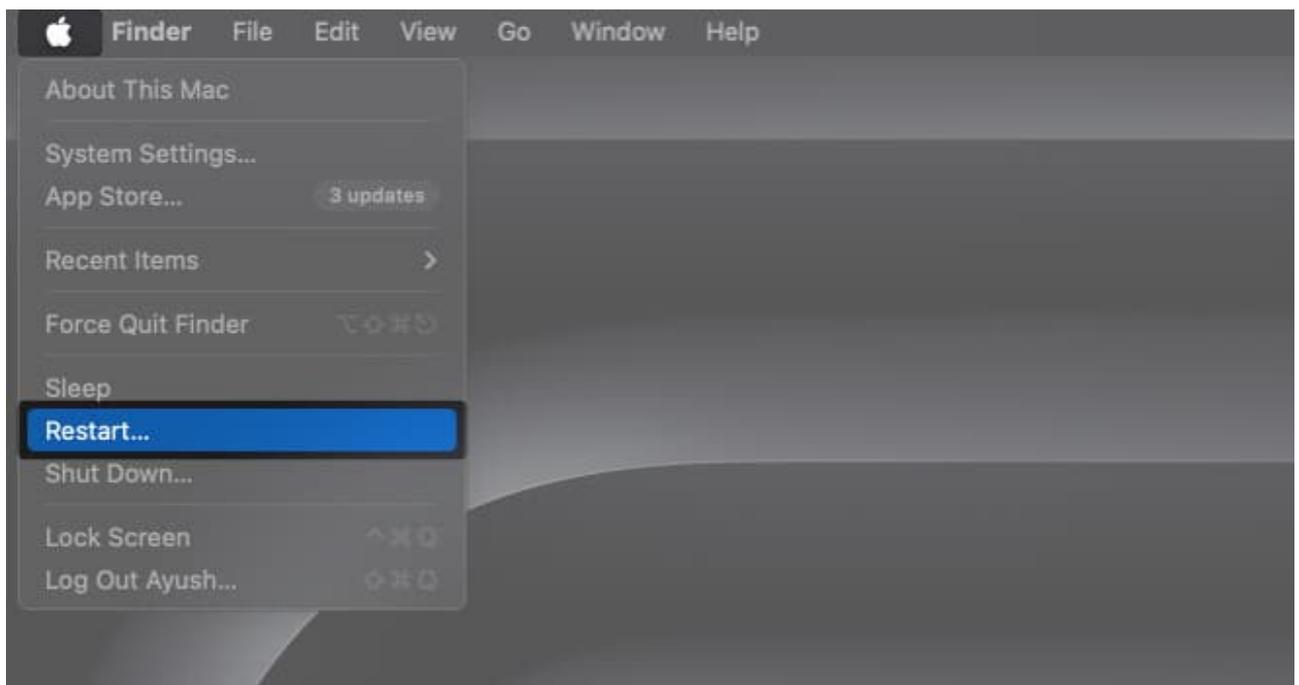
You can easily get rid of this message by quitting all processes related to `accountsd` using a simple [Terminal command](#) and restarting your Mac.

1. Open **Terminal** on your Mac using Launchpad or Spotlight search.  
*You can also open Terminal from **Finder** → **Applications** → **Utilities**.*
2. Paste **sudo killall -kill accountsd** into the Terminal → Hit **return**.
3. Type your **Mac's password** → Then, hit **return** again to force stop accountsd.  
*You won't be able to see your password while it's being entered. So, be careful.*



```
ayush — zsh — 80x5
Last login: Thu Mar  7 17:29:38 on ttys000
ayush@Ayushs-MacBook-Air ~ % sudo killall -kill accountsd
Password:
ayush@Ayushs-MacBook-Air ~ %
```

4. Once you do that, click the **Apple logo** in the menu bar → Then, select **Restart**.

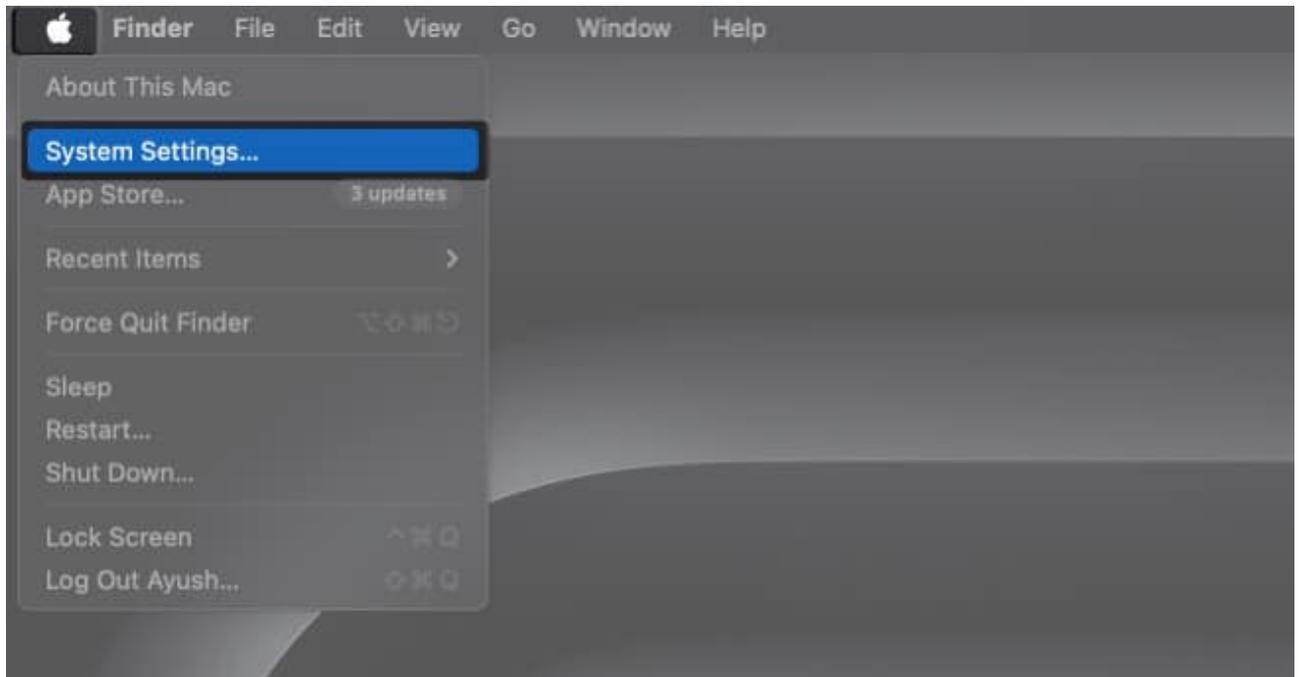


## 2. Re-enable iCloud Keychain on your Mac

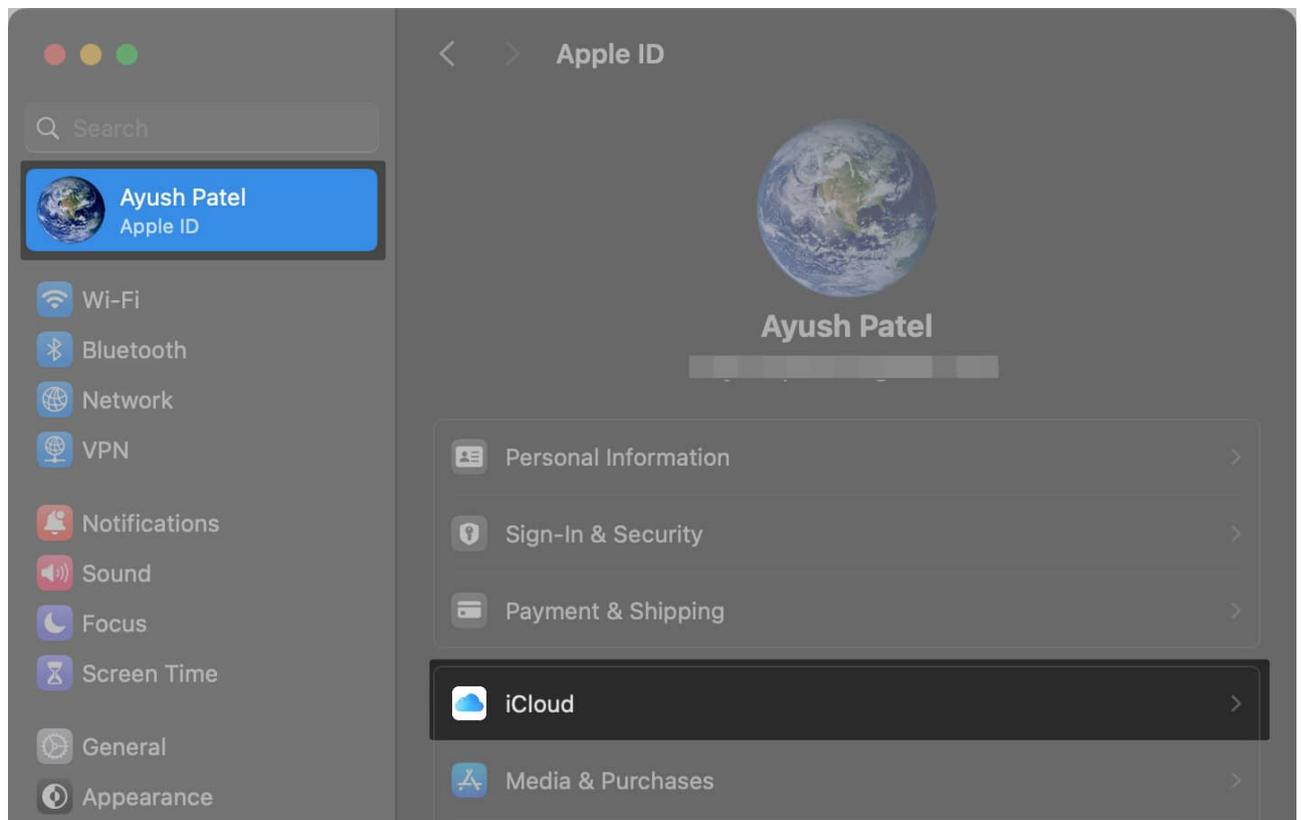
The alert message can also stem from synchronization issues between the Login Keychain on your Mac and the one stored in iCloud.

Thankfully, you can quickly fix such synchronization issues by logging out of the iCloud Keychain and re-enabling it.

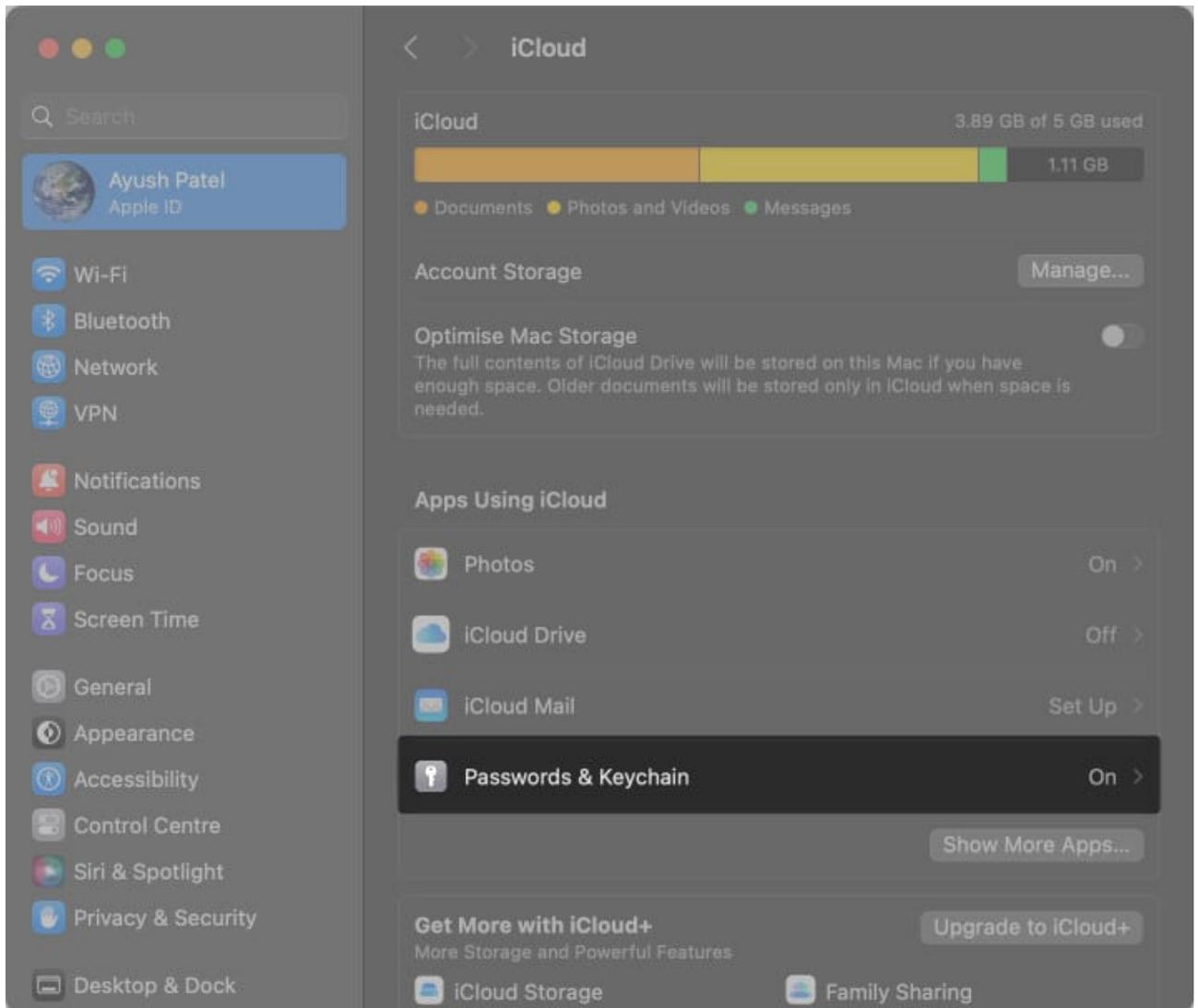
1. Click the **Apple logo** () on the menu bar → Select **System Settings**.



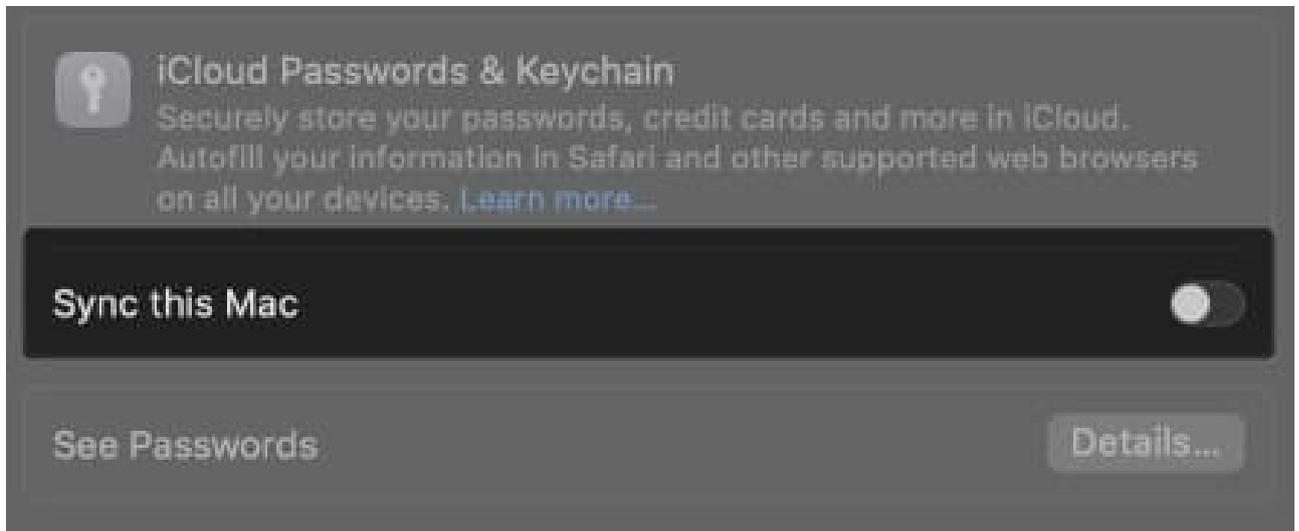
2. Select your **Apple ID** from the sidebar → Then, navigate to **iCloud**.



3. Select the **Passwords & Keychain** option from the right pane.



4. Toggle off **Sync this Mac** to disable the iCloud Keychain.



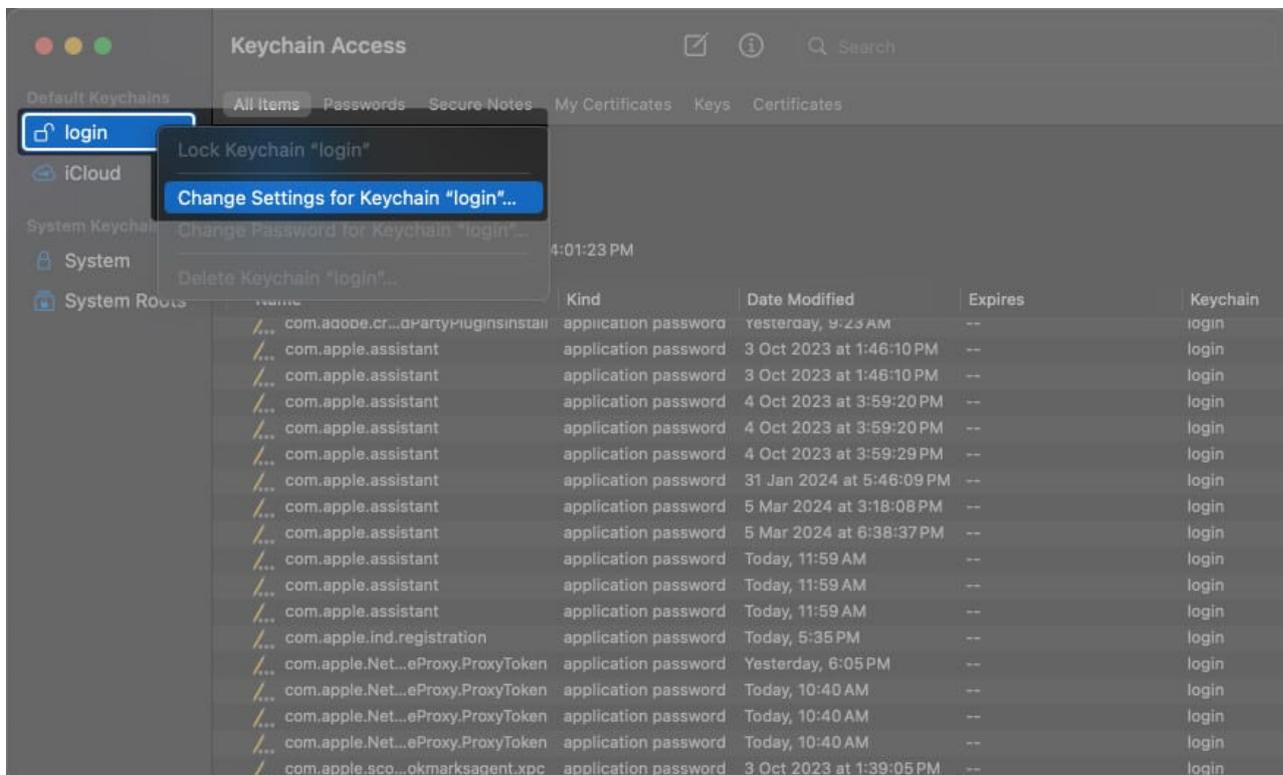
5. Then, click the **Apple logo** in the menu bar → Select **Restart**.
6. Follow **steps 1-3** again → Toggle on **Sync this Mac** → Click **Done**.

### 3. Turn off Keychain auto-lock

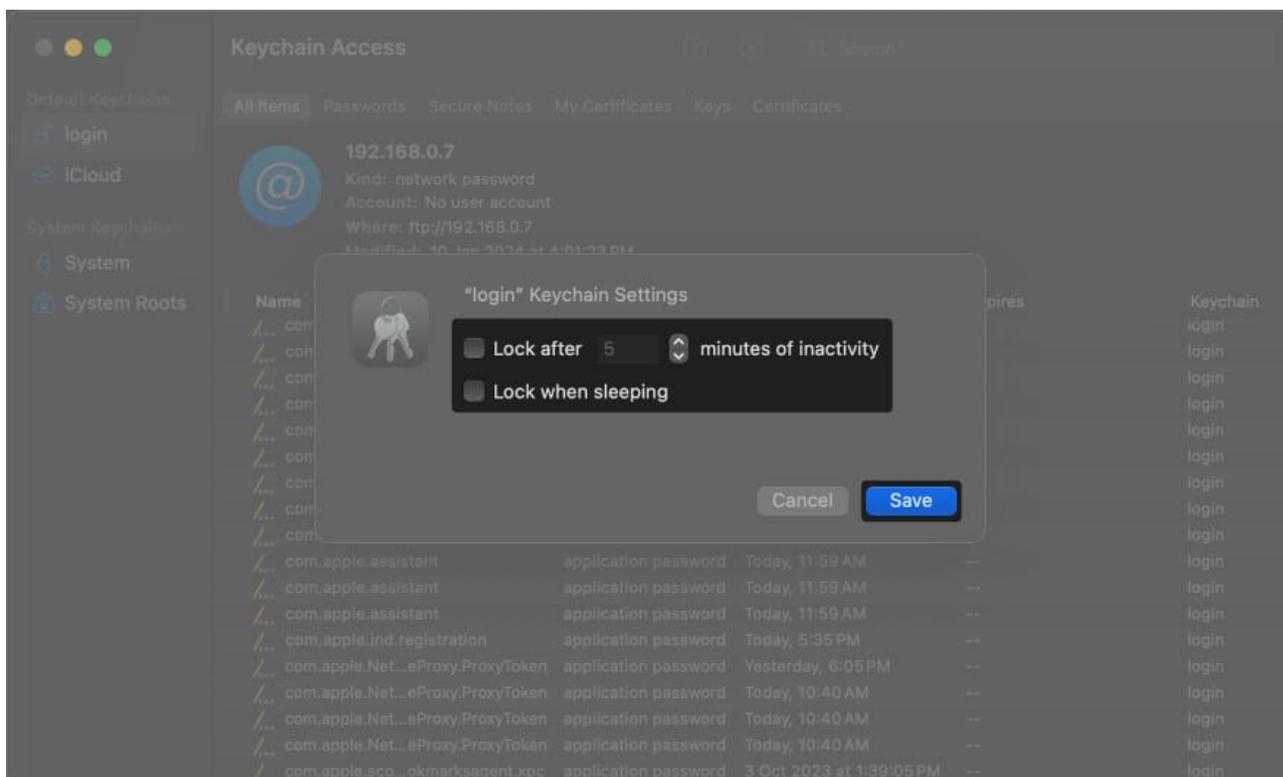
Keychain Access has a security feature that revokes access to the Login Keychain and other data after a specified duration.

To regain access, users must enter the login password and unlock the Login Keychain. You can turn off Keychain auto-lock to prevent the Login Keychain message on Mac.

1. Open **Keychain Access** using the Launchpad or Spotlight search on Mac.  
*If a confirmation box appears on the screen, click **Open Keychain Access**.*
2. Right-click on **login** → Then select **Change Settings for Keychain "login."**



3. Uncheck the boxes for **Lock after** and **Lock when sleeping** → Click **Save**.

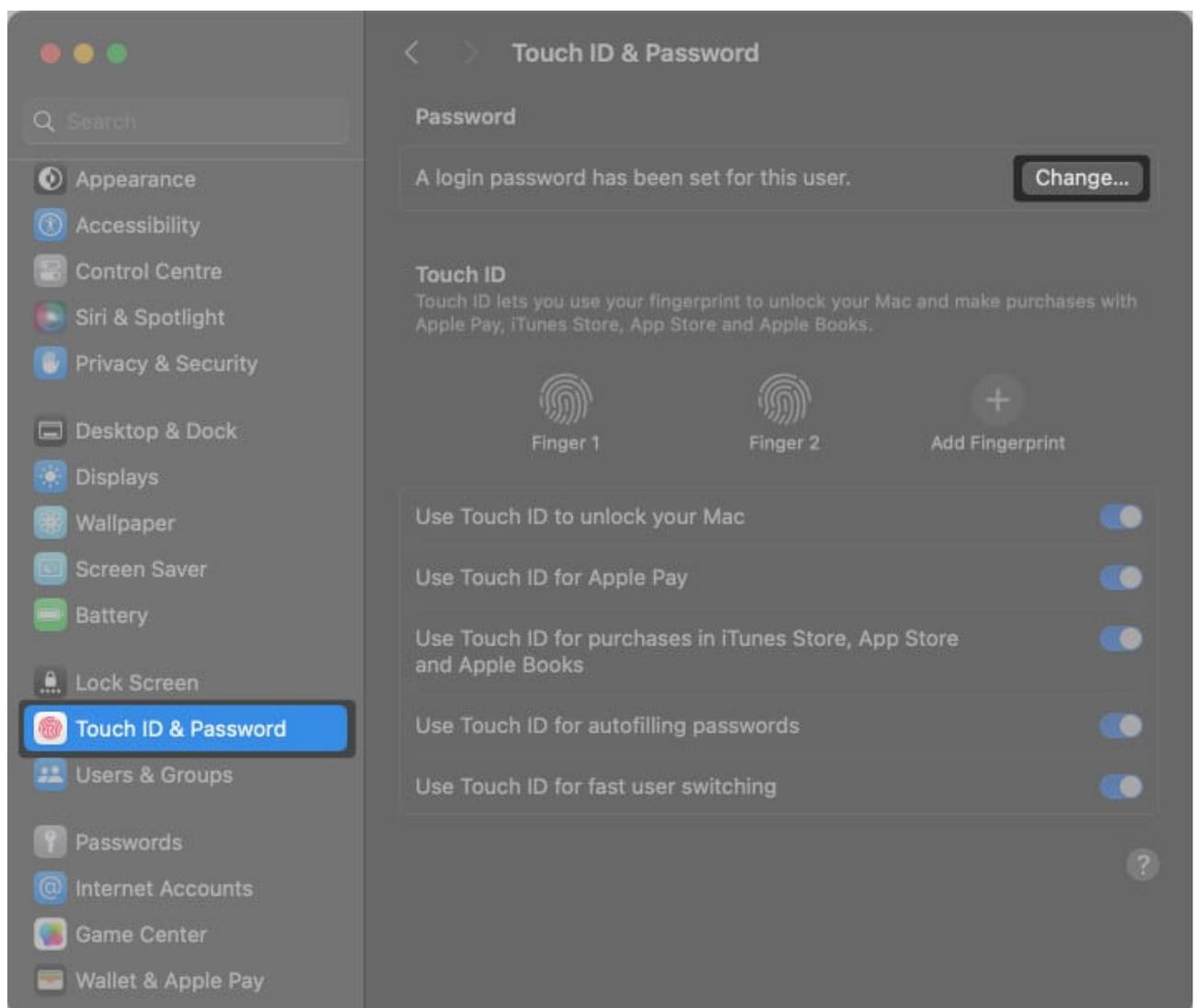


## 4. Change your login keychain password

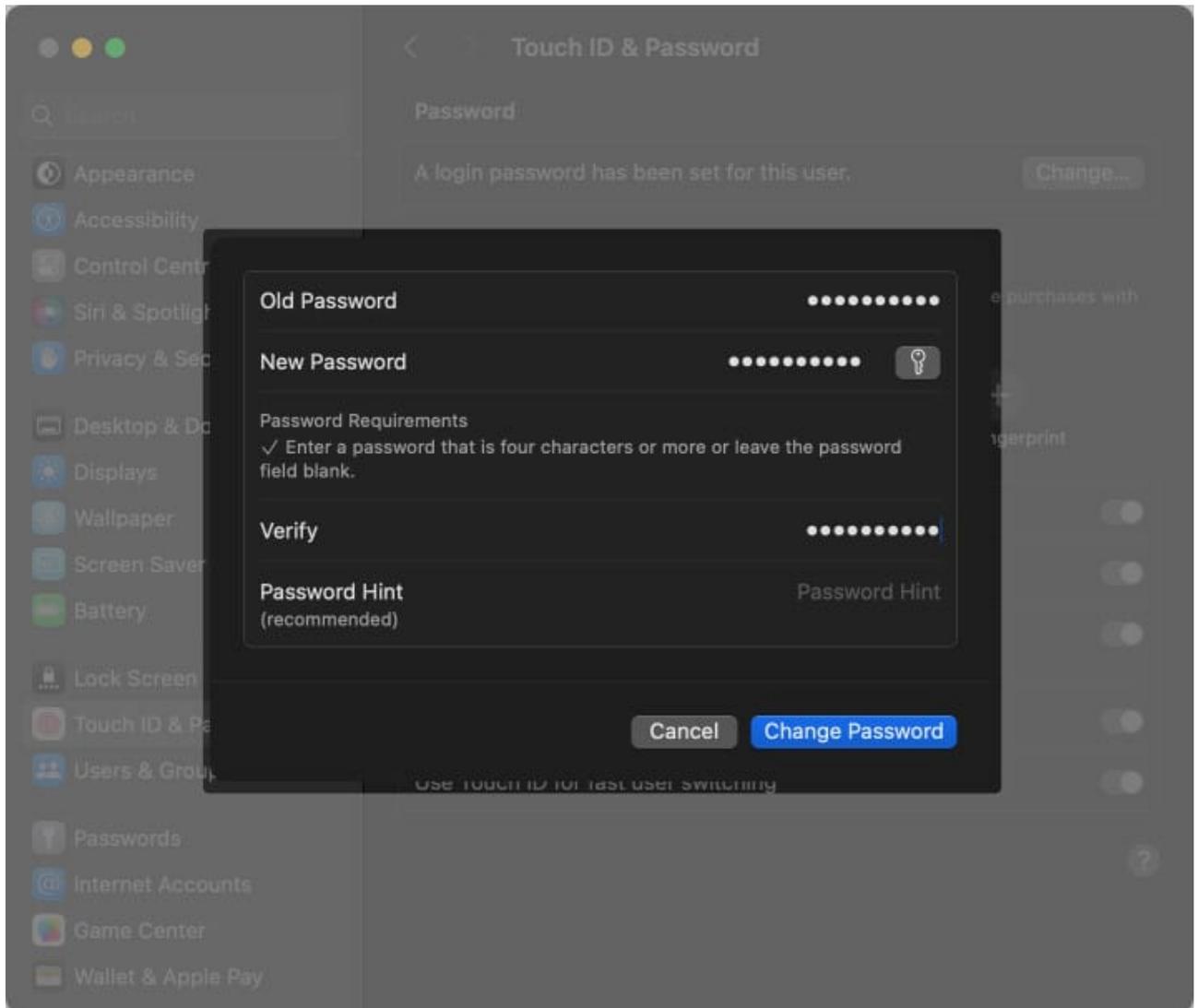
You can often get rid of the “accountsd wants to use the login keychain” message on your Mac by entering your user account password. However, this may not work due to synchronization errors between the user account password and the Login Keychain password.

You can resolve this by changing your login keychain password, which is the same as your user account password.

1. Click the **Apple logo** () found on the menu bar → Select **System Settings**.
2. Select **Touch ID & Password** from the left sidebar → Click **Change**.



3. Enter your **new login password** → Now, enter your **old login password**.  
*You can click the key icon to generate a strong alpha-numeric password.*
4. Verify your **new login password** → Then, click **Change password**.  
*You may add a password hint if you keep forgetting passwords.*

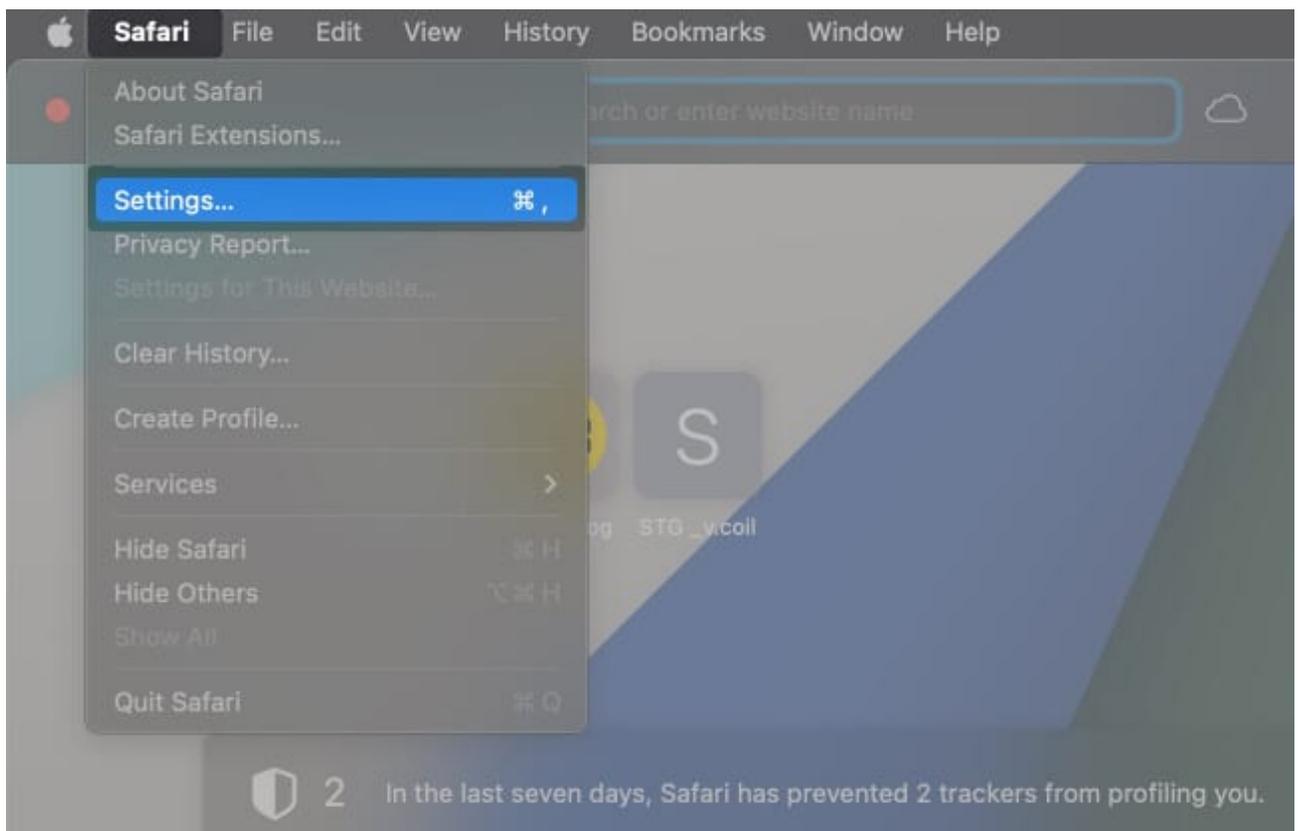


## 5. Remove accountsd from a web browser

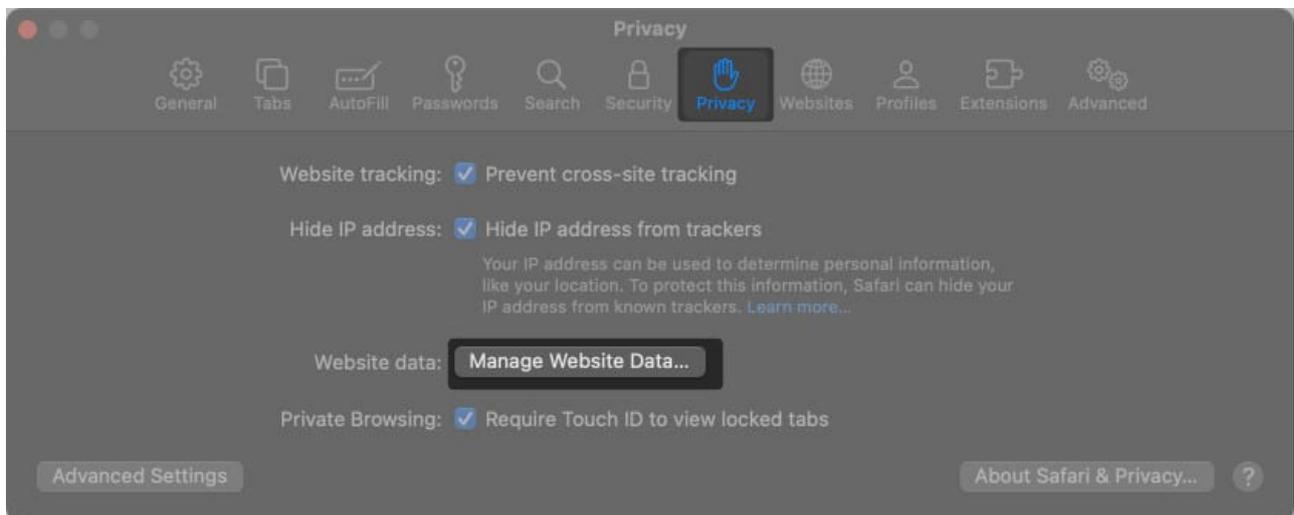
Since the accountsd process is responsible for handling login and logout events, it's possible that a glitch related to your web browser's password manager or a password management extension is triggering the message. You can fix such glitches by resetting the browser to its factory settings.

Since you can't reset Safari, you can try deleting the cached data manually to resolve glitches:

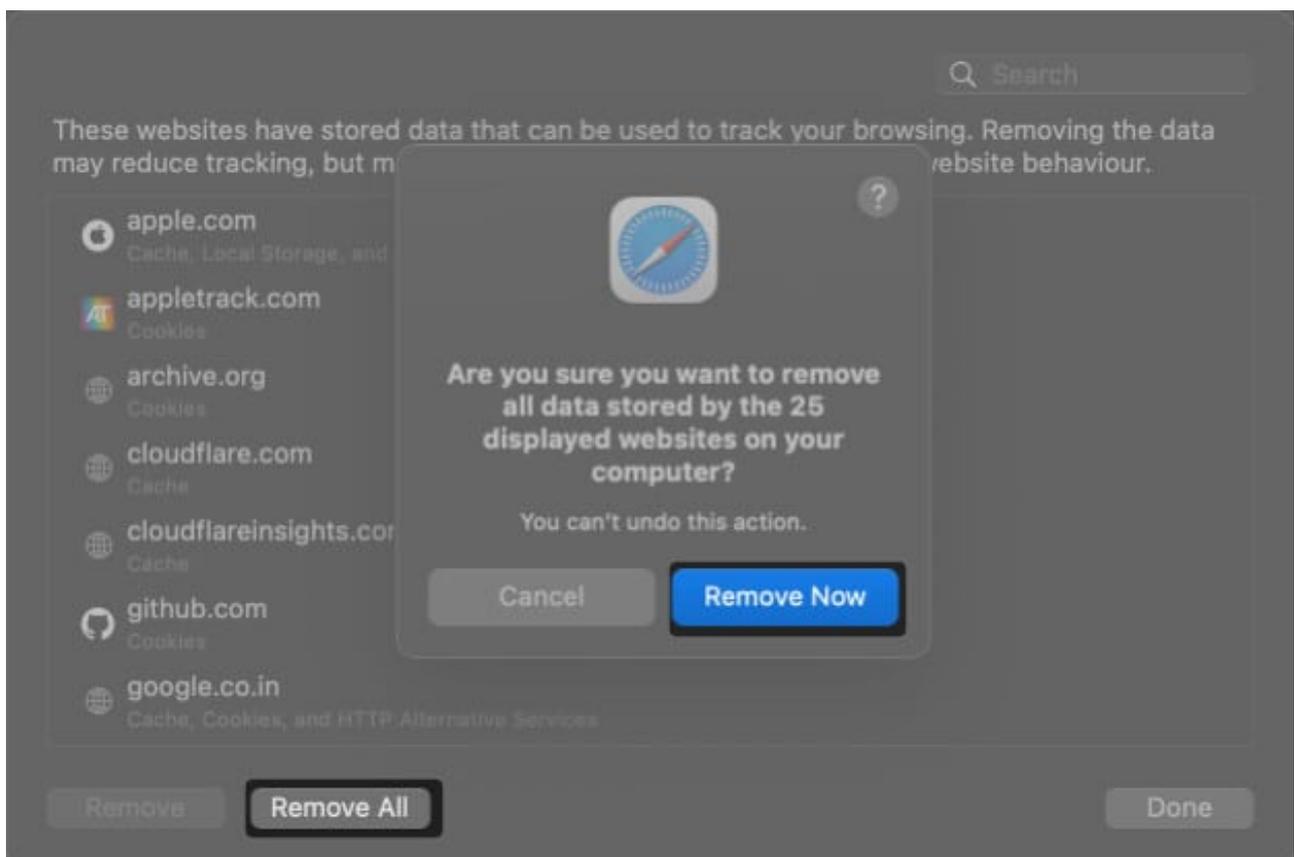
1. Locate and launch **Safari** on your Mac.
2. Click **Safari** on the Menu bar → Select **Settings**.



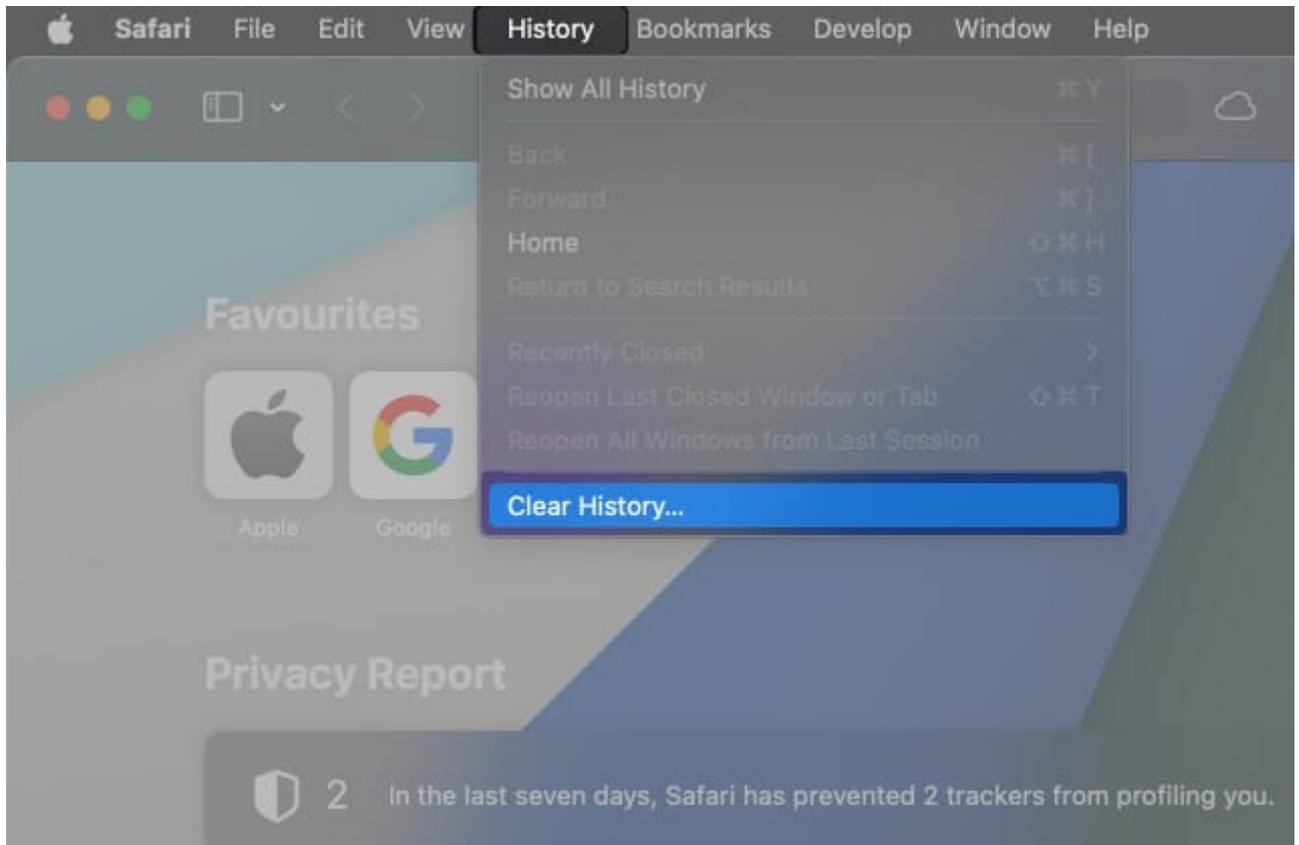
3. Go to the **Privacy** tab → Select **Manage Website Data**.



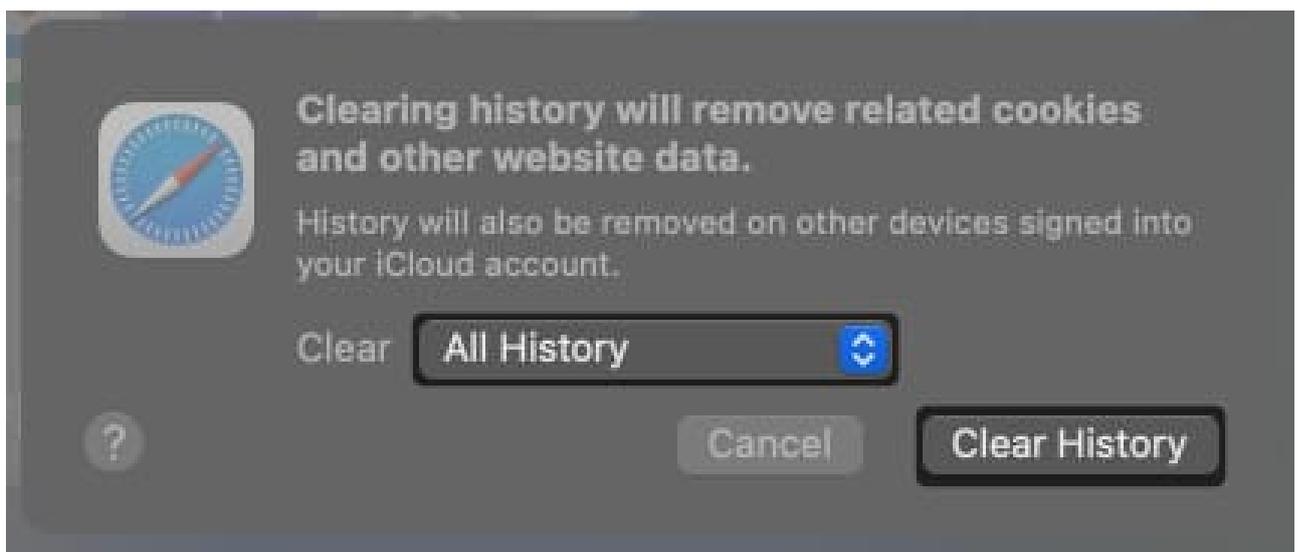
4. Now, click **Remove All** to erase all the cached data.
5. Then, click **Remove Now** to confirm your decision.



6. Next, click **History** on the Menu bar → Select **Clear History**.

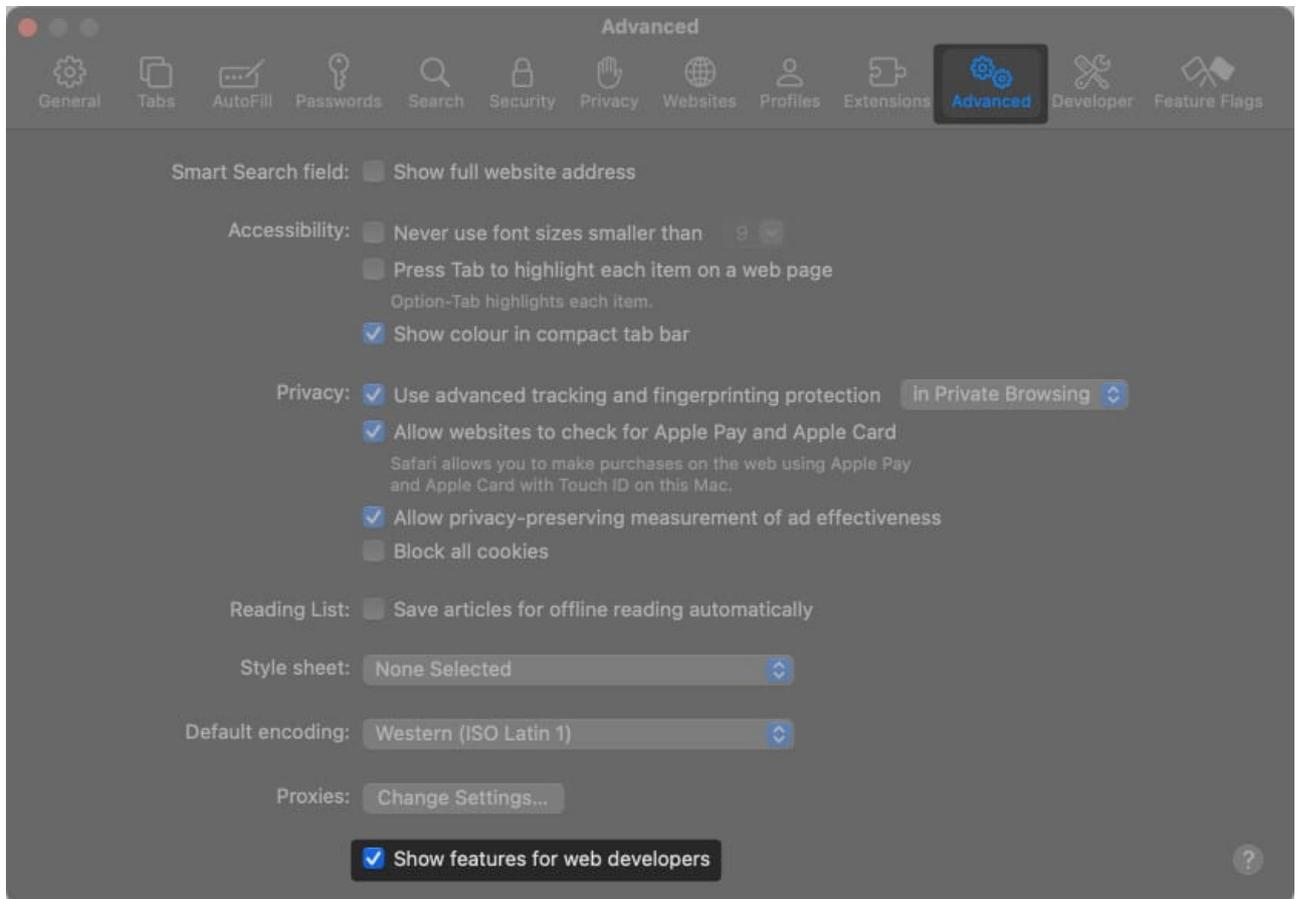


7. Select **All History** from the drop-down → Click **Clear History**.

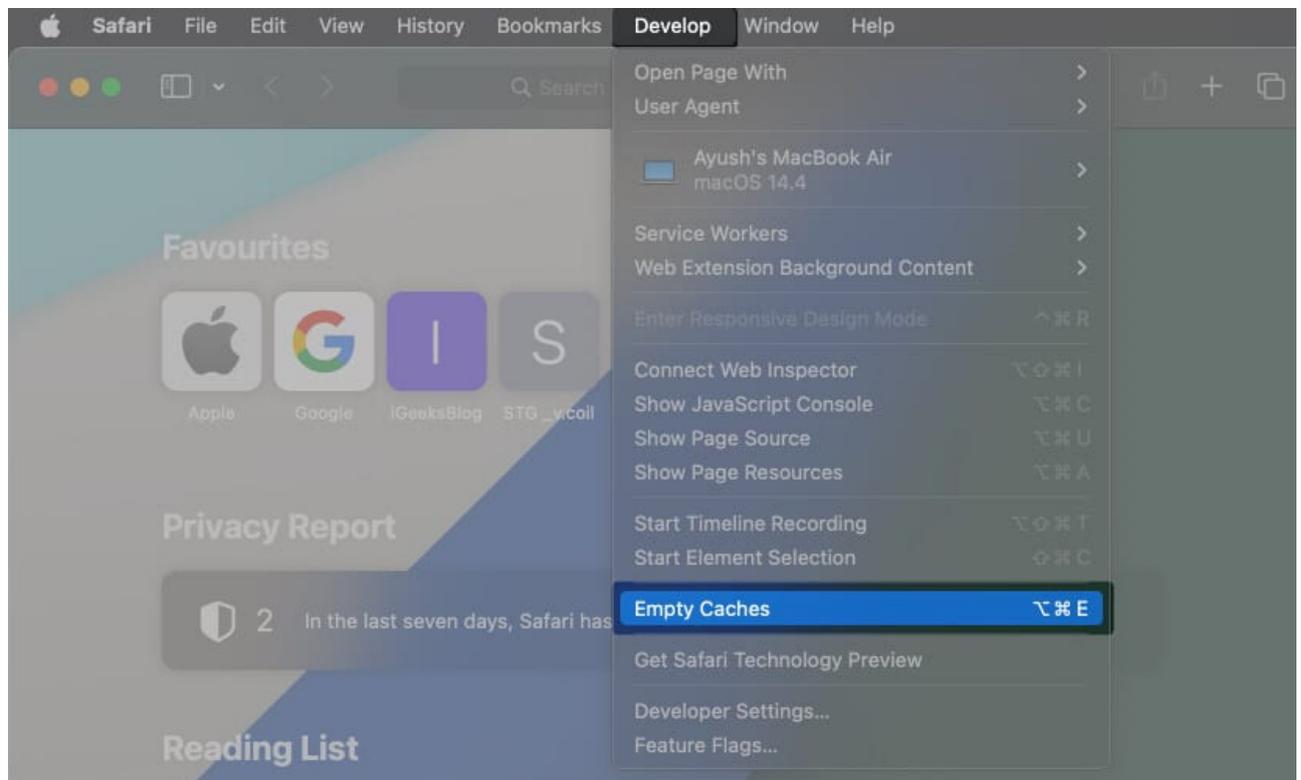


8. Once again, click **Safari** from the Menu bar → Select **Settings**.

9. Go to **Advanced** → Enable **Show features for web developers**.

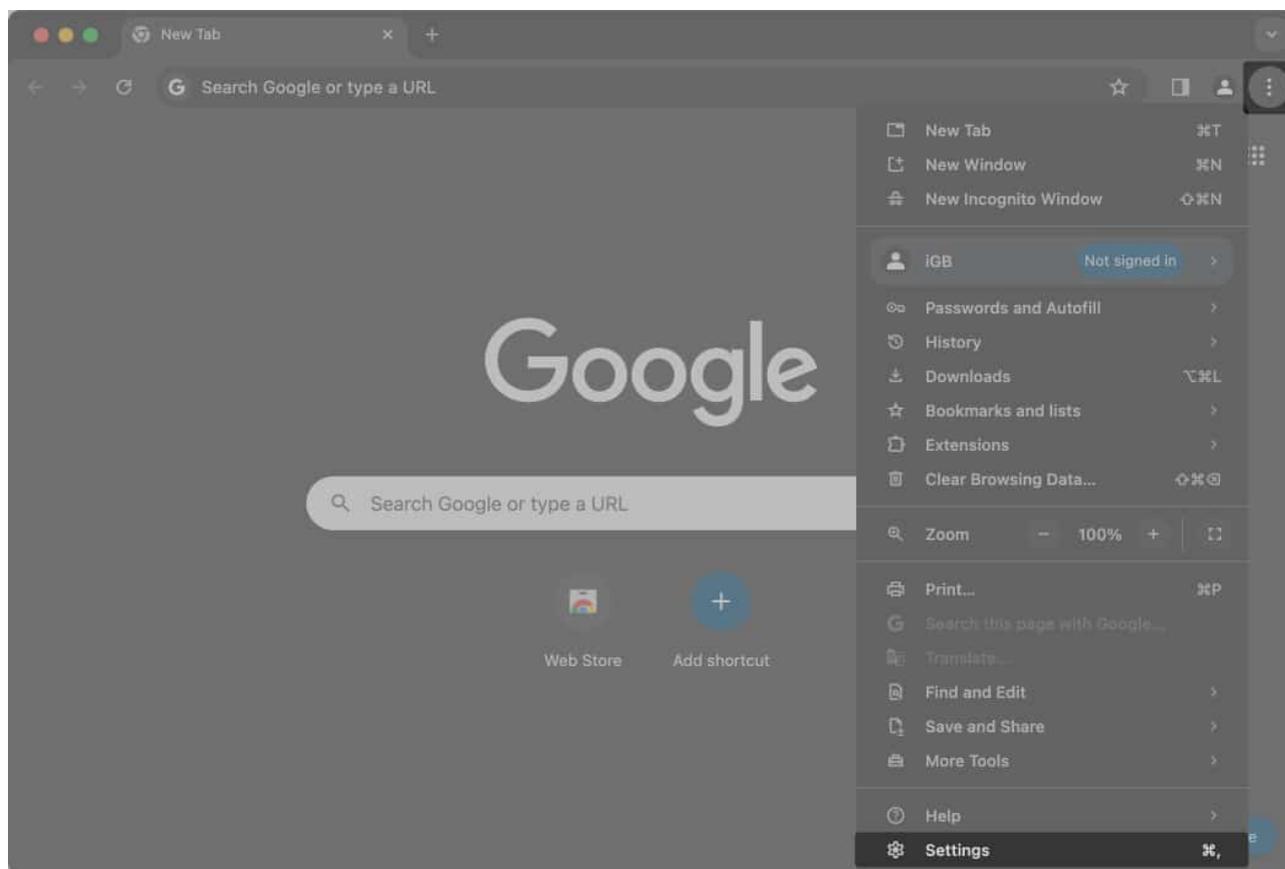


10. Then, click **Develop** from the Menu bar → Select **Empty Caches**.

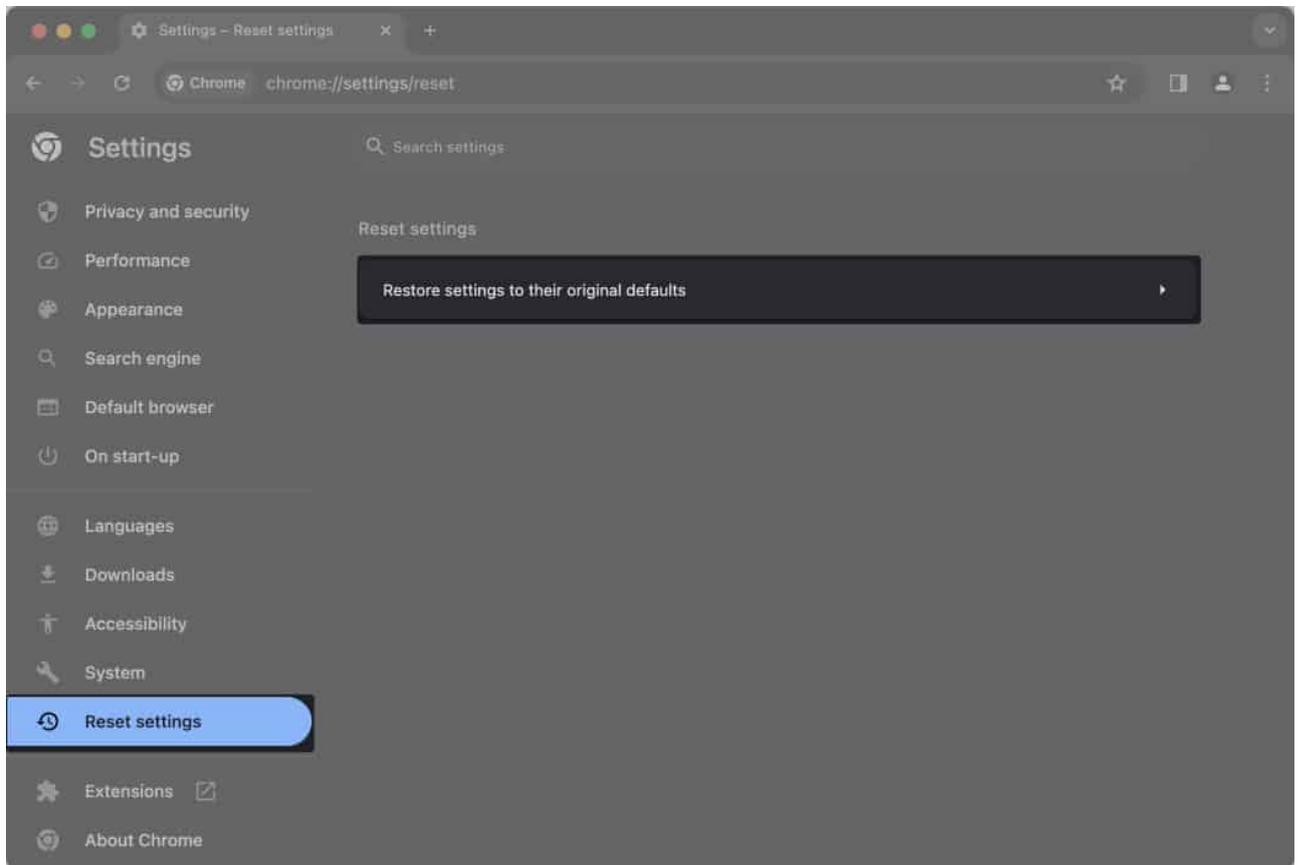


Once you do that, you must also reset Google Chrome or any other web browsers on your Mac:

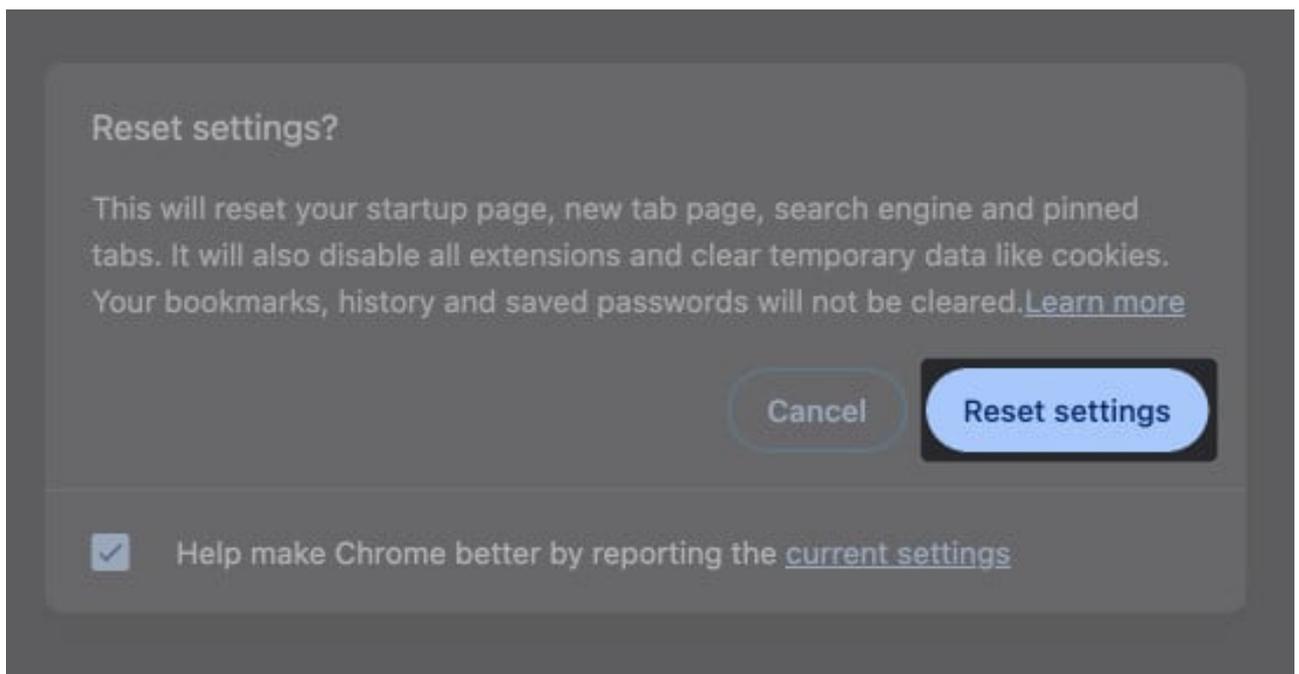
1. Locate and open **Google Chrome** on your Mac.
2. Click the **three-dot menu** in the top-right → Select **Settings**.



3. Select **Reset Settings** → **Restore settings to their original defaults**.



4. Finally, click **Reset Settings** to remove all your cookies and saved site data.



## 6. Create a new Login Keychain on Mac

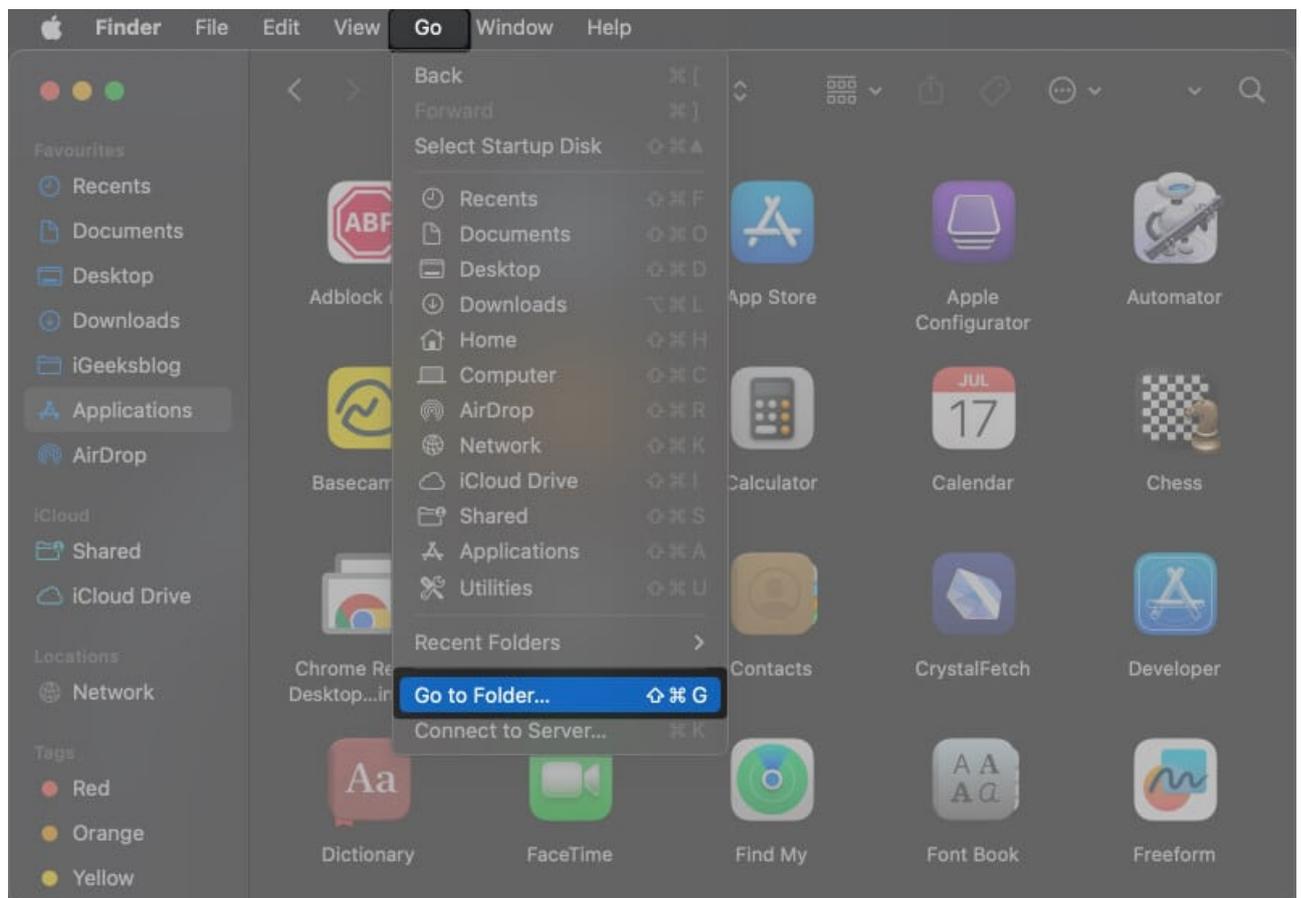
If most fixes fail, creating a new Login Keychain is the most straightforward method to get rid of the error message on your Mac. I have divided the process into three stages for better understanding.

While this process can be tedious as you need to add your login credentials manually, it's much better than resetting the default Keychains on your Mac.

**Note:** If you create a new Login Keychain, you'll be logged out of your Apple ID and third-party apps.

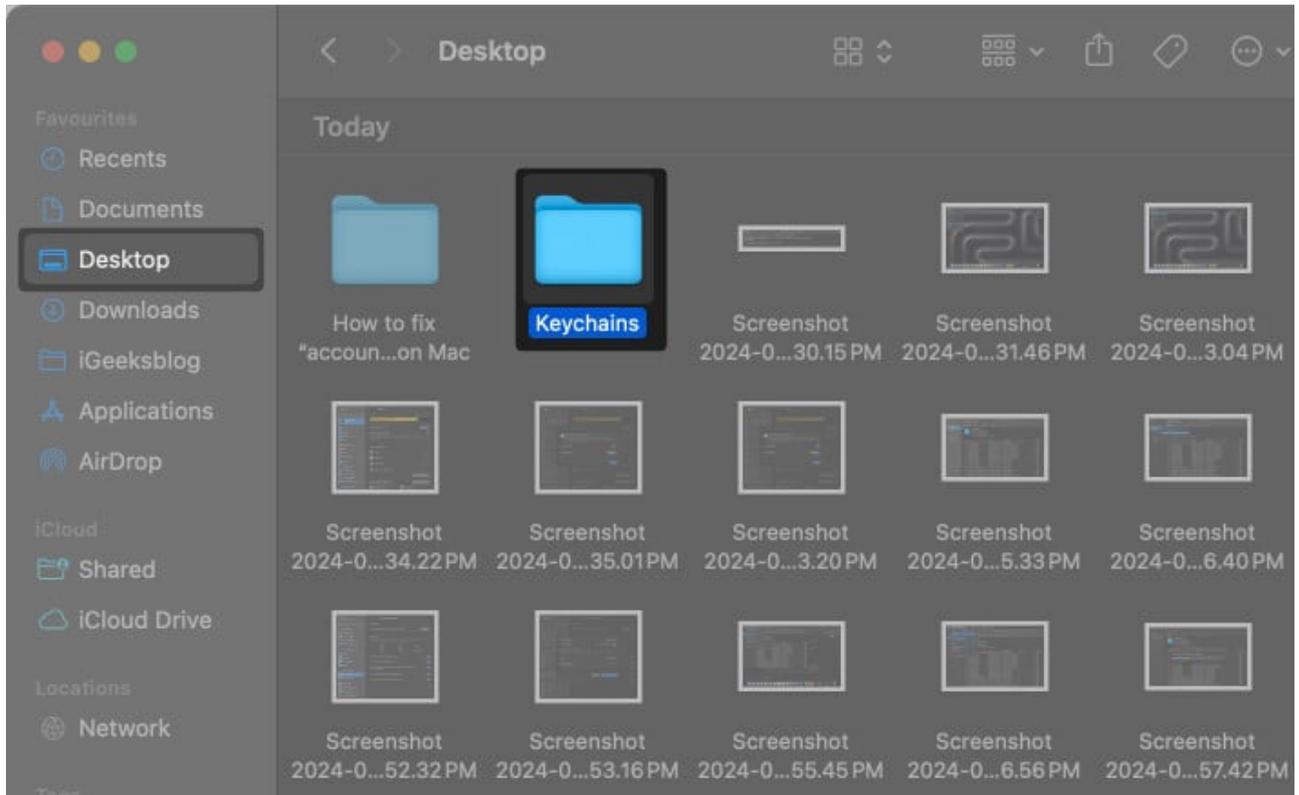
### Create a backup of the Login Keychain

1. Launch **Finder** from the Dock on your Mac.
2. Click **Go** from the menu bar → Select **Go to Folder**.



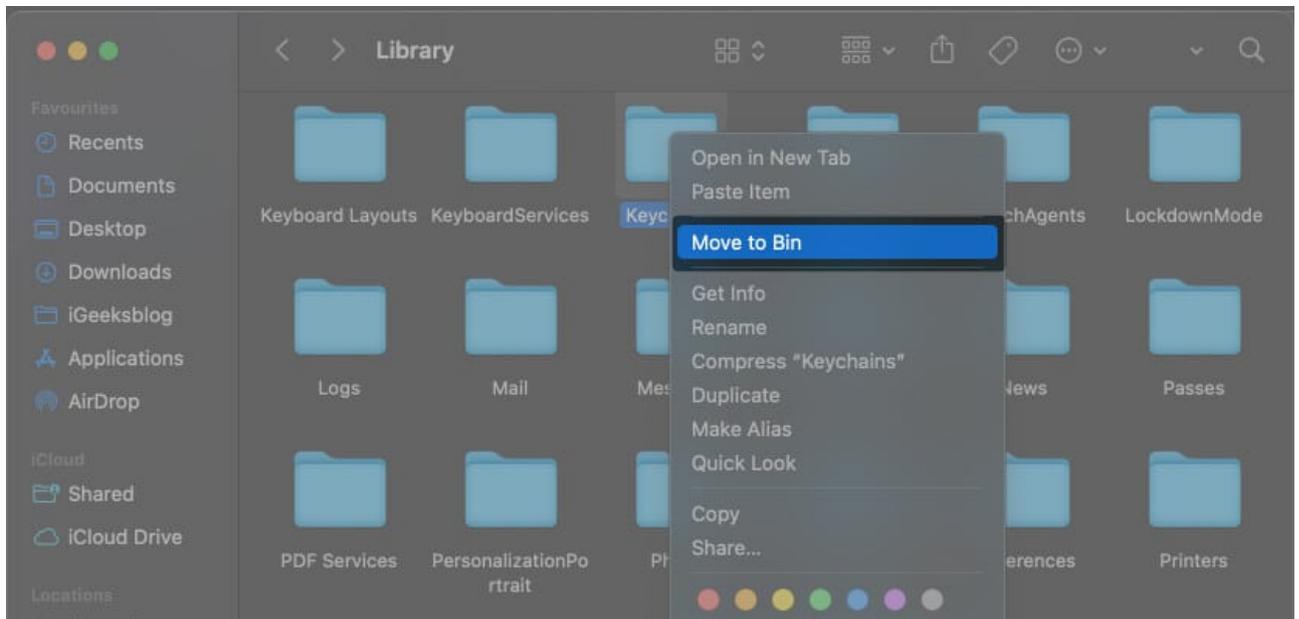
3. Type `~/Library/` in the text field → Then, hit **return**.

4. Copy and paste the **Keychains folder** to the Mac's Desktop.  
*This file will be useful when you restore your login keychain.*

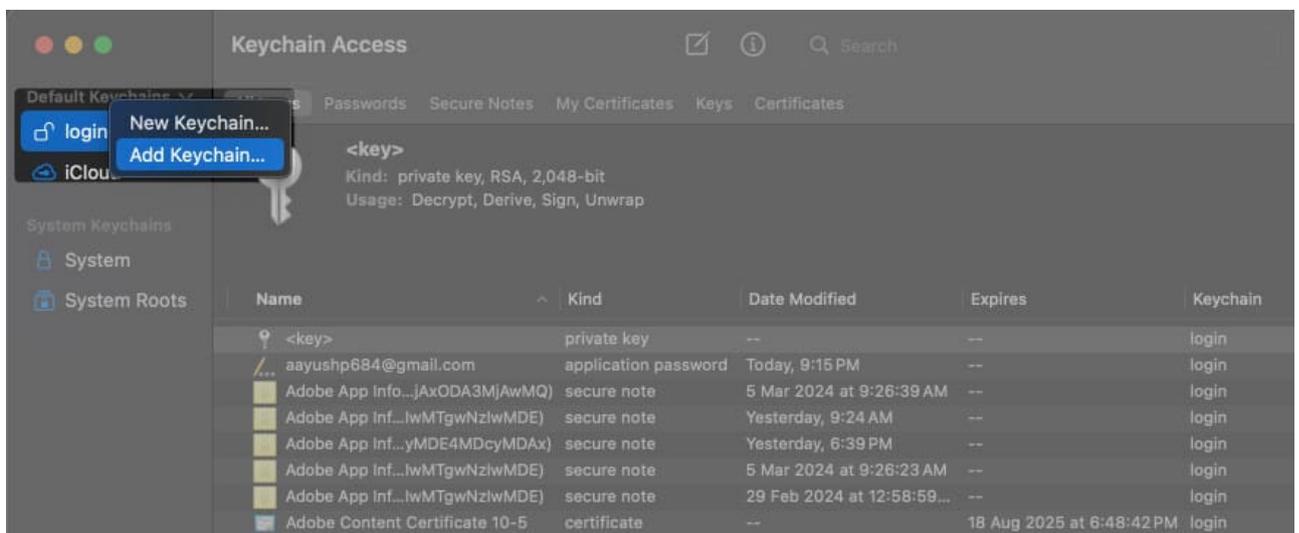


## Create a new Login Keychain

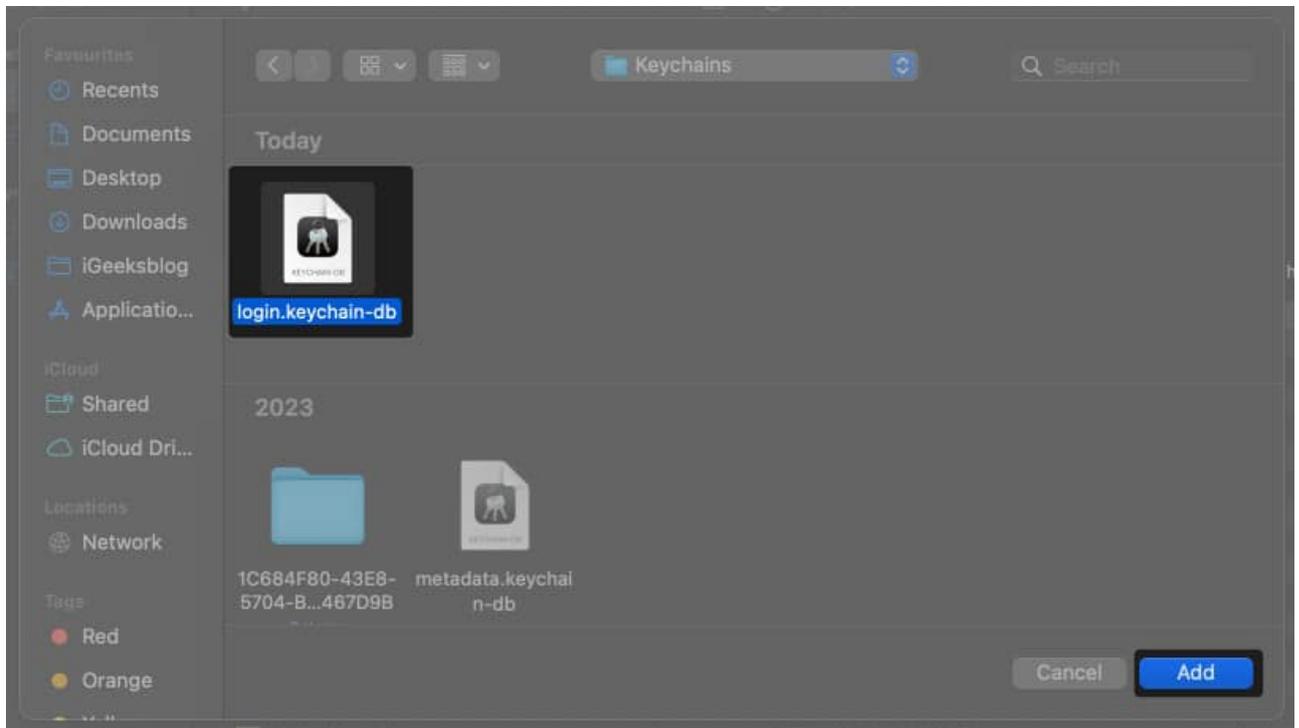
1. Right-click the **Keychains folder in library** → Select **Move to Bin**.  
*You may use the step 1, 2, and 3 from the last section to open library.*



2. Then, click the **Apple logo** in the menu bar → Select **Restart**.  
*When you restart your Mac, a new login keychain will be created.*
3. Open **Keychain Access** using the Launchpad or Spotlight search.
4. Right-click **Keychain Access app's sidebar** → Select **Add Keychain**.

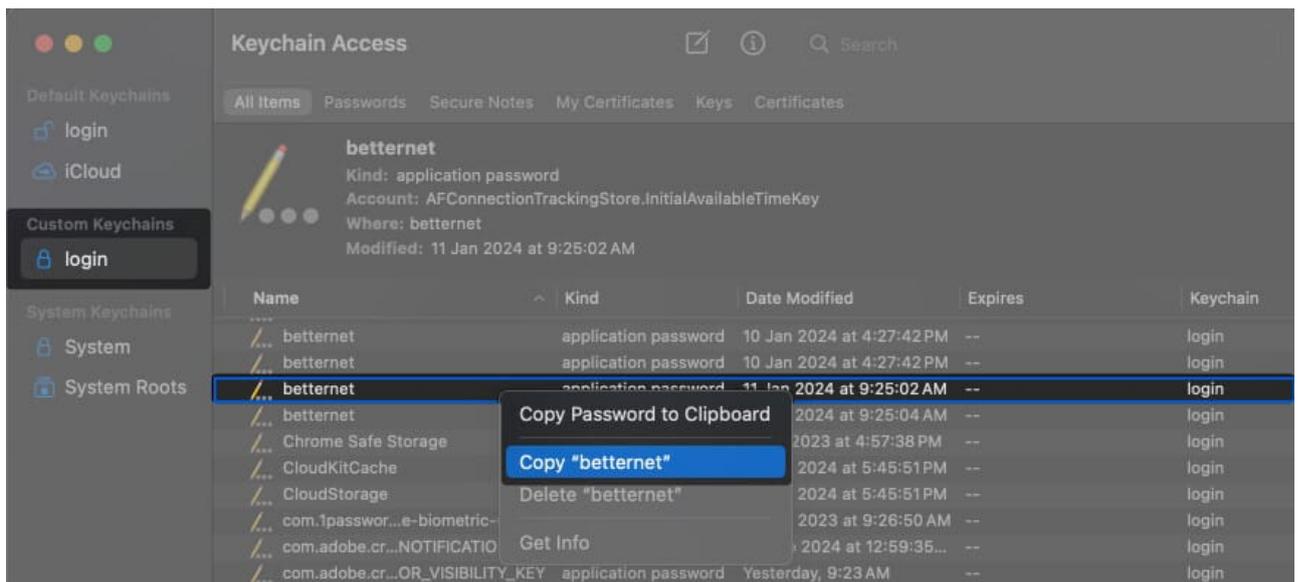


5. Now, navigate to the **Keychains folder** you copied to the Desktop.
6. Select **login.keychain-db** → Then, click on **Add** from bottom-right.

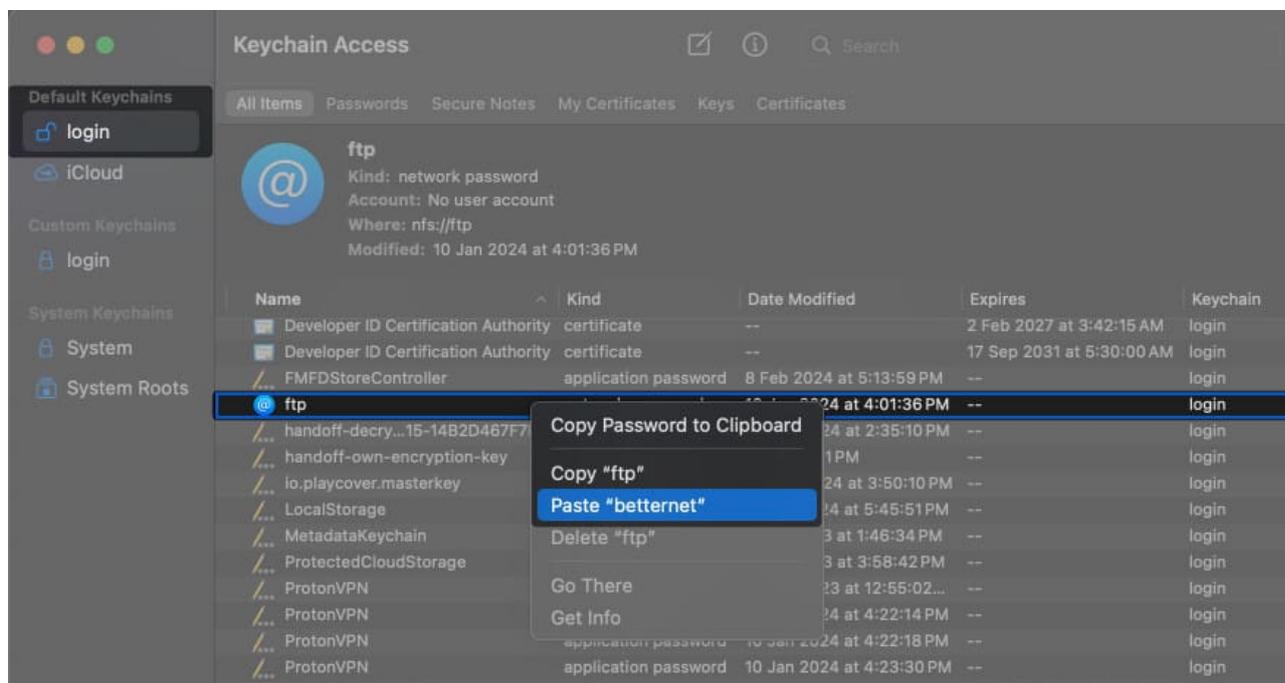


## Restore your credentials from the backup

1. Select the **Login keychain** that appeared under custom keychains.
2. Right-click on a **Password item** you want to restore → Select **Copy**.



3. Select the **Login Keychain** option located under Default keychains.
4. **Right-click** the area with a striped background → Select **Paste**.



5. Enter the **Keychain's password** → Click **OK** to restore the item.
6. Repeat the steps 1-5 until all default items are restored.

## 7. Use Keychain First Aid (macOS Catalina or older)

If you're using macOS Catalina or older, Keychain Access has a built-in First Aid utility that can potentially help you eliminate the "accountsd wants to use the login keychain" message on your Mac. Using Keychain First Aid, you can [run diagnostics](#) on the login keychain and resolve glitches.

1. Open **Keychain Access** using the Launchpad or Spotlight search on Mac.  
*You can also open keychain access from **Finder** → **Applications** → **Utilities**.*
2. Click **Keychain Access** on the Menu bar → Select **Keychain First Aid**.
3. Enter your **username** and **password** → Select **Verify and Start**.

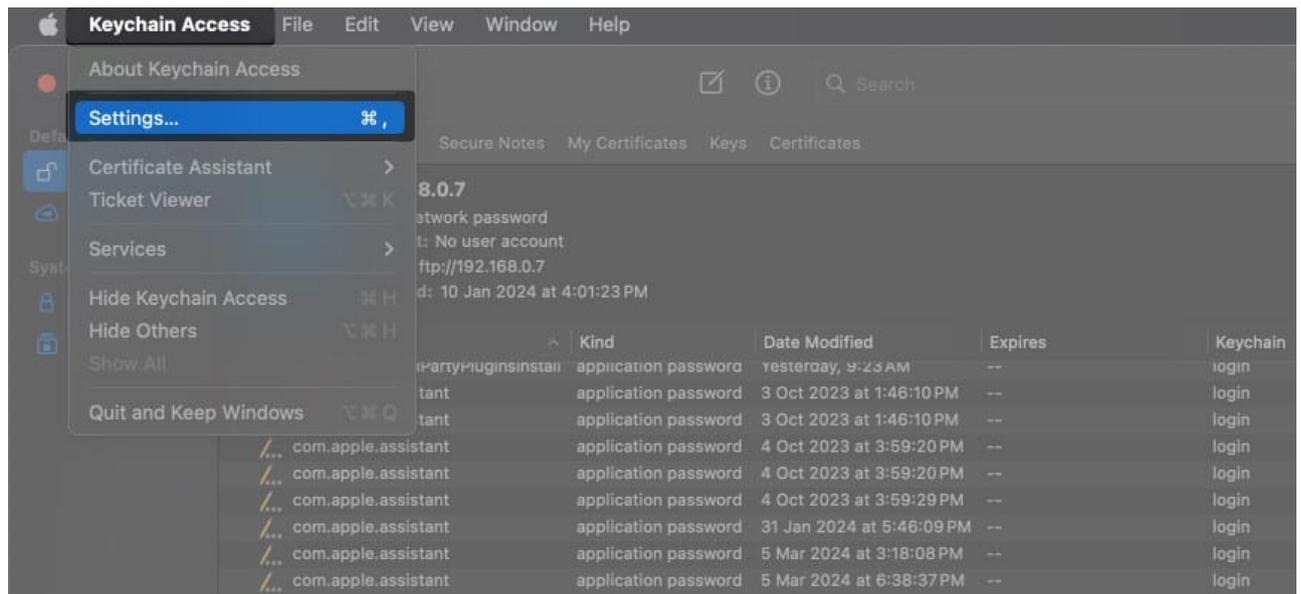
## 8. Reset the default keychains on Mac

A corrupted Login keychain due to software issues, disk errors, or unexpected shutdowns can also cause several issues on your Mac. If you suspect this is what's happening with you, the best course of action would be to reset the default keychains on your Mac. Here are the steps for the same:

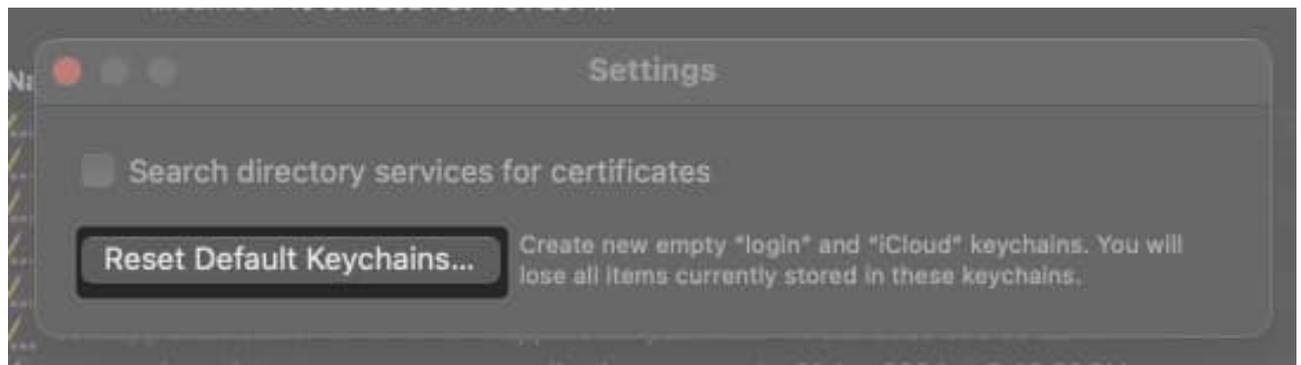
**Note:** This will delete all of the credentials you saved on your Mac, so it should be your last

resort.

1. Open **Keychain Access** on your Mac using Launchpad or Spotlight Search.
2. Select **Keychain Access** from the Menu bar → Then, click **Settings**.



3. Click **Reset Default Keychains** → Enter your **Mac's password**.



## Wrapping up...

There's nothing to be alarmed about the "accountsd wants to use the login keychain" message on Mac. It's a pretty common message that shows up when system services can't access your login keychain due to inactivity or temporary glitches. And you can easily stop it from appearing on your Mac.

If you have any other queries, leave them in the comments section. I'd be happy to help!

## Read More :

- [How to fix “an error occurred while preparing the installation” issue on Mac](#)