

Troubleshooting GitHub Copilot Chat Errors in Visual Studio 2026

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By Vipin PG | Published January 22, 2026 | Updated March 9, 2026 | Format: Guide | 3 min read

Quick answer

To fix GitHub Copilot Chat `CompositionFailedException` errors in Visual Studio 2026, first update Visual Studio, then remove any older Copilot/VS2022 extensions that may conflict. If it still fails, uninstall and reinstall the Copilot extension, and run a Visual Studio Installer Repair to restore missing components.

Key points

The article describes running into persistent GitHub Copilot Chat errors right after installing Visual Studio 2026, with the standout failure being a 'Microsoft.VisualStudio.Composition.CompositionFailedException' complaining that it "Expected 1 export(s) with contract name 'Microsoft.VisualStudio.Copilot.UI.IViewModelServices' but found 0," which points to missing or improperly registered Copilot components. The author frames this as a common integration hiccup and explains that the first, most important fix is simply making sure Visual Studio 2026 is fully updated, since updates often ship the compatibility and bug fixes Copilot Chat depends on. They specifically direct you to open Visual Studio, go to Help > Check for Updates, and install any available updates before moving on to extension management as the next troubleshooting step. Overall, it's a practical walkthrough aimed at getting Copilot Chat working again without hand-waving, starting from the most likely and least invasive remedy.

When diving into the latest Visual Studio 2026, I was eager to see how GitHub Copilot Chat would enhance my coding workflow. However, I quickly ran into some frustrating issues that seemed to plague many developers: persistent errors and integration hiccups. If you're in the same boat, don't worry-I've been there, and I've found a few solutions that might help you get back on track.

Understanding the Issue

The main problem I encountered was an error message related to a 'CompositionFailedException'. It appeared right after installing Visual Studio 2026, specifically when trying to use GitHub Copilot Chat. The error message looked something like this:

```
Microsoft.VisualStudio.Composition.CompositionFailedException: Expected 1 export(s) with contract name "Microsoft.VisualStudio.Copilot.UI.IViewModelServices" but found 0 after applying applicable constraints.
```

This error typically means that certain components required by the Copilot Chat feature are missing or not properly registered. Here's how I tackled the issue.

Steps to Resolve GitHub Copilot Chat Errors

1. Ensure Visual Studio is Up to Date

First things first, check if your Visual Studio 2026 is up-to-date. It's a simple step but crucial, as updates often include bug fixes and improvements that can resolve compatibility issues with extensions like GitHub Copilot.

1. Open Visual Studio 2026.
2. Go to Help > Check for Updates .
3. Install any available updates.

2. Inspect and Manage Extensions

Extensions from previous Visual Studio installations might interfere with the new setup. Here's what I did to clean things up:

1. Navigate to Extensions > Manage Extensions .
2. Review installed extensions and look for any GitHub Copilot-related entries.
3. If you're migrating from an older version like VS2022, uninstall these extensions as VS2026 might already include them, causing conflicts.

3. Reinstall GitHub Copilot

Reinstalling can often reset things to their default state, resolving any misconfigurations that happened during the initial setup.

1. Go to the Visual Studio 2026 Extensions menu.
2. Select Manage Extensions .
3. Find and uninstall the GitHub Copilot extension.
4. Restart Visual Studio 2026.
5. Reinstall the GitHub Copilot extension from the marketplace.

4. Repair Visual Studio Installation

If the above steps don't work, it might be time to repair your Visual Studio installation. This can fix any missing or corrupted files that might be causing the issue.

1. Close Visual Studio 2026.
2. Open the Visual Studio Installer .
3. Select the More button beside Visual Studio 2026.
4. Click on Repair .
5. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the repair.

5. Check for Known Issues and Report New Ones

Sometimes, the issue might be a known bug that Microsoft is already aware of. Check the Visual Studio forums and release notes for any updates regarding GitHub Copilot Chat.

1. Visit the Visual Studio Developer Community .
2. Search for GitHub Copilot Chat related issues.
3. If your issue is not listed, consider reporting it directly via Help > Send Feedback in Visual Studio.

Final Thoughts

While the integration of cutting-edge tools like GitHub Copilot Chat in Visual Studio 2026 promises to enhance productivity, initial setup issues can be a real headache. By ensuring your software is up-to-date, managing your extensions carefully, and being proactive about repairs and updates, you can often solve these problems without too much hassle. If you're still struggling, reaching out to the community or Microsoft support can be invaluable. Remember, you're not alone in this, and sharing solutions helps everyone make the most of these advanced tools.

References

1. developercommunity.visualstudio.com - <https://developercommunity.visualstudio.com/>