# Environment Variables

You must create custom environment variables beginning with REACT\_APP\_. Any other variables except NODE\_ENV will be ignored to avoid accidentally exposing a private key on the machine that could have the same name. Changing any environment variables will require you to restart the development server if it is running.

WARNING: Do not store any secrets (such as private API keys) in your React app! Environment variables are embedded into the build, meaning anyone can view them by inspecting your app’s files.

Having access to the NODE\_ENV is also useful for performing actions conditionally:

if (process.env.NODE\_ENV !== 'production') {

analytics.disable();

}

Read more about environment variables [here](https://create-react.dev/docs/adding-custom-environment-variables/).