

# CMPT 276 – Student Group Agreement for Voluntary Use of Paid APIs

Name Group#24 - Horizons Date July 4, 2025

This Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into between the **CMPT 276 Teaching Team** and **all members of student project group #24 – Horizons** who choose to use **any paid third-party API services** as part of their coursework project. The purpose of this document is to **set clear expectations, outline risks, and waive liability** from the teaching team and university regarding any costs, technical issues, or service limitations related to such usage.

## Important Notice

The use of **paid API services is strictly optional**. Students are **not required** to purchase or subscribe to any third-party API in order to complete course requirements or receive a high grade.

Free-tier tools, open-source alternatives, or self-hosted options are fully supported and encouraged.

## Purpose of the Agreement

This Agreement ensures that:

- Students understand the **risks and responsibilities** of using paid APIs in a learning context.
- Students voluntarily assume financial liability if they decide to use paid APIs.
- The CMPT 276 Teaching Team and the University are **not responsible** for financial, technical, or legal outcomes arising from such usage.

## Scope

This Agreement applies to:

- Any student or group in CMPT 276 using a **paid third-party API** for project work (e.g., OpenAI GPT, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure, Hugging Face APIs, etc.).
- Any instance where a credit card or payment method is linked to an external service used for the project.

## API Selection and Alternatives

The API being used is a paid service.

- **Free Alternatives Considered:** **Yes** / No (circle one)  
If no free alternatives are available, justification must be documented in the project notes.

## User Responsibility and Signup

All participating group members agree to the following:

### a. Voluntary Participation

- Use of a paid API is a **group's own decision** and is **not incentivized nor required** by the course.
- Students confirm that the **same project learning goals can be achieved without incurring cost**, if they choose to do so.

### b. Account and Billing Responsibility

- The group must designate a **Billing Lead** to manage payment methods and monitor API usage.
- All group members must understand the service's **pricing model and usage limitations** before starting.
- The group is solely responsible for managing any **subscriptions, quotas, overages, or invoices**.

### c. Risk of Overuse

- Paid APIs often have usage-based billing; overuse may lead to **unexpected charges**.
- Students agree to set **usage alerts, spending limits**, or caps when available.
- Common sources of overage include: API misuse, lack of throttling, or bugs in code that loop requests.

- **Who is signing up for the API:**  
Toma Ozarchevici
- **Organization or Account under which the API is registered:**  
Google account made specifically for this project

### Billing and Payment Details

- **Will a credit card be on file:** Yes / **No**
- **If yes, whose credit card is being used:**
- Not Applicable as no card is being used
- **What happens when the card is charged:**  
Not Applicable as no card is being used

### Spending Cap

- **Defined Monthly Cap:**  
\$0 – Free tier
- **Spending Limit Monitoring Plan:**  
Usage will be monitored via API dashboard or billing alerts. Team will ensure usage stays under the defined cap.

### Contingency Plan for Unexpected Charges

In the event that the group's paid account incurs unexpected charges:

- **Pause or disable API usage immediately**
- **Notify all group members and the Billing Lead**
- **Contact the API provider's support team directly** to attempt resolution
- **Teaching staff will not intervene** in billing disputes or reimbursement processes

The group is required to establish a clear **cost-sharing agreement** among members in advance. Please fill out the following section:

**Billing Lead Name:** Uttam Sharma

**Billing Account Holder (e.g., name on credit card):** Not Applicable

**API(s) Used and Provider(s):**

- API Name: Gemini
- Provider: Google
- Pricing Plan / Tier: Free Tier

**Group Cost-Sharing Model**

Describe how costs will be divided if charges occur (e.g., equal split, usage-based, maximum cap per member):

In the event that charges occur, we will discuss and split the cost equally among the members in the group.

**Contingency Agreement**

Describe your plan in case of accidental overuse or if a group member is unable to pay:

If a group member cannot pay, the remaining balance will be split equally among others.

<b>Data Privacy and Security</b>
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Students agree to:

- Keep all **API keys secure and private**
- Avoid uploading personally identifiable or sensitive data to third-party APIs unless necessary and legally permitted
- Follow the **terms of service and acceptable use policies** of the selected API provider

## Acknowledgement and Release of Liability

By signing this agreement, the responsible party **acknowledges** and **accepts** the **full financial responsibility** for any charges incurred through the paid API.

The **CMPT 276 Teaching Team** is not responsible for any charges, account issues, data loss, or technical failures related to the use of paid APIs.

The **University shall not be held** liable for any consequences arising from a group's independent decision to use external paid services.

No academic advantage or special accommodations will be granted based on a group's use of a paid API.

## Best Practices for Mitigating Risk

To reduce the chance of issues, students are encouraged to:

- Start with a **free-tier or trial account**
- Use APIs with **transparent pricing models**
- Assign one person to manage the account and track usage
- Limit the number of developers with access to the API key
- Regularly review usage dashboards and logs





## Disclosure

*The CMPT 276 teaching team and Simon Fraser University will not be held accountable for any charges incurred due to the use of the paid API. All costs and responsibilities fall solely on the individual or team signing up for and managing the API service.*

<b>Signatures</b>
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By signing below, each group member confirms they:

- Have read and understood this Agreement
- Accept full responsibility for all costs and usage associated with any paid API
- Acknowledge that use of paid services is not required or endorsed by the course
- Waive any claim against the CMPT 276 Teaching Team or the University for financial or technical issues

Full Name	Signature	Date
Toma Ozarchevici		Jul. 4, 2025
Simone Motwani		Jul. 4, 2025
Uttam Sharma		Jul 4, 2025
Chance Wijewardena		Jul 4, 2025

### Submission Instructions

Please submit a signed copy (PDF or scanned) to the course team **before your group begins using any paid API services**. Your group is **not permitted to proceed** with development involving paid services until this agreement is submitted and acknowledged.