

✅ Day 4: Manage Environment Variables & Secrets Securely on Netlify

👤 Created by: Deep Ghinaiya

💼 *Software Developer*

🔗 linkedin.com/in/deep-ghinaiya

🔒 Why Environment Variables?

Environment variables are used to store sensitive data like:

- API keys
- Database URLs
- Access tokens
- Project-specific configs

Keeping them **outside your codebase** ensures better security and easier environment management (e.g., dev, staging, prod).

⚙️ How to Add Environment Variables in Netlify

1. Go to your site on **Netlify Dashboard**
2. Navigate to → **Site settings** > **Environment variables**
3. Click "**Add variable**"
4. Enter name and value
 - Example: `REACT_APP_API_KEY = abc123xyz`
5. Click **Save**

🌱 These values will be available at **build time** for your frontend apps.

🧠 Using Environment Variables in React (CRA)

1. Add the variable with REACT_APP_ prefix:

REACT_APP_API_URL=https://api.example.com

2. Access it in your code:

```
const apiUrl = process.env.REACT_APP_API_URL;
```

🔄 Rebuild Required!

Whenever you change an environment variable, you **must trigger a new deploy** for changes to take effect.

Go to → Deploys tab → Click "Trigger deploy" > Deploy site

✅ Best Practices

- Never commit secrets or API keys to GitHub
- Use separate variables for each environment (e.g., staging vs production)
- Rotate keys regularly
- Use .env.local locally for dev environment

🔒 Bonus: Use Netlify CLI for Local Builds with .env

You can use the Netlify CLI to run builds locally using your .env files before pushing code.

📁 Series Repository:

🔗 github.com/Ghinaiya-Deep/Skill-Stack-by-DeepLogic-Labs

👏 If you're excited about this series, don't forget to star 🌟 the repo and share it with your dev network!