# API key

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An application programming interface (API) key is a unique identifier used to authenticate and authorize a user, developer, or calling program to an API.[1] However, they are typically used to authenticate and authorize a project with the API rather than a human user.[1][2]

## Usage [edit]

The API key often acts as both a unique identifier and a secret token for authentication and authorization, and will generally have a set of access rights on the API associated with it.[3]

#### HTTP APIS [edit]

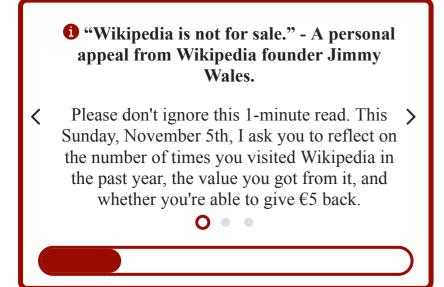
API keys for HTTP-based APIs can be sent in multiple ways: [4]

In the query string:

POST /something?api key=abcdef12345 HTTP/1.1

As a request header:

GET /something HTTP/1.1 X-API-Key: abcdef12345



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In 2017, Fallible, a Delaware-based security firm examined 16,000 android apps and identified over 300 which contained hard-coded API keys for services like Dropbox, Twitter, and Slack.<sup>[5]</sup>

## References [edit]

- 1. ^ a b "API Key What is an API Key?" . Last Call RapidAPI Blog. Retrieved 2019-09-20.
- 2. ^ a b "Why and when to use API keys | Cloud Endpoints with OpenAPI" 2. Google Cloud. Retrieved 2019-09-20.
- 3. A "Generating API Keys" 2. www.ibm.com. 2018-06-12. Archived from the original 2 on 2021-09-23. Retrieved 2023-04-03.
- 4. ^ a b "API Keys" . Archived r from the original on 2019-10-17.
- 5. \* "Hundreds of popular Android apps contain hard-coded secret keys" Z. ZDNet. Retrieved 2022-06-20.

#### Book sources [edit]

• De, Brajesh (2017). API management: an architect's guide to developing and managing APIs for your organization ☑ (1st ed.). New York: Apress. ISBN 978-1-4842-1305-6. OCLC 978273106 ☑.

## External links [edit]

Why and When to Use API Keys ☑



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