

Google Open Lab - Build an AI Chat Assistant using Gemini Flash

Open Lab | Digital Summit 2025



Pre-Requisites

- Node.js (v18 or above recommended) Download: <https://nodejs.org>
- Git Download: <https://git-scm.com>
- A code editor (VS Code recommended)

Steps to Get Started

STEP 1 | Clone the github repository

- Open terminal / command prompt
- Run the following command:

git clone

- Move into the project folder:

cd

The repository contains two folders: - server (Backend – Node.js) - client (Frontend – React + Tailwind)

```
C:\Users\vnarava\Desktop\AIChatAssistant>git clone https://github.com/MiracleLabs/ds25-openlab-ai-assistant.git
Cloning into 'ds25-openlab-ai-assistant'...
remote: Enumerating objects: 39, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (39/39), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (29/29), done.
remote: Total 39 (delta 5), reused 35 (delta 4), pack-reused 0 (from 0)
Receiving objects: 100% (39/39), 69.91 KiB | 439.00 KiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (5/5), done.

C:\Users\vnarava\Desktop\AIChatAssistant>cd ds25-openlab-ai-assistant

C:\Users\vnarava\Desktop\AIChatAssistant\ds25-openlab-ai-assistant>
```

STEP 2 | Set up and run server

- Navigate to server folder:
cd server
- Install dependencies:

npm install

- Create .env file
- Inside the server folder
- Create a new file named: .env
- Add the following content to .env file:

GOOGLE_GENERATIVE_AI_API_KEY=your_google_api_key_here

- Start the server:

npm start

- Add script in package.json under scripts

"Start" : "node index.js"

- Server should start on:

<http://localhost:3000>

The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with the following details:

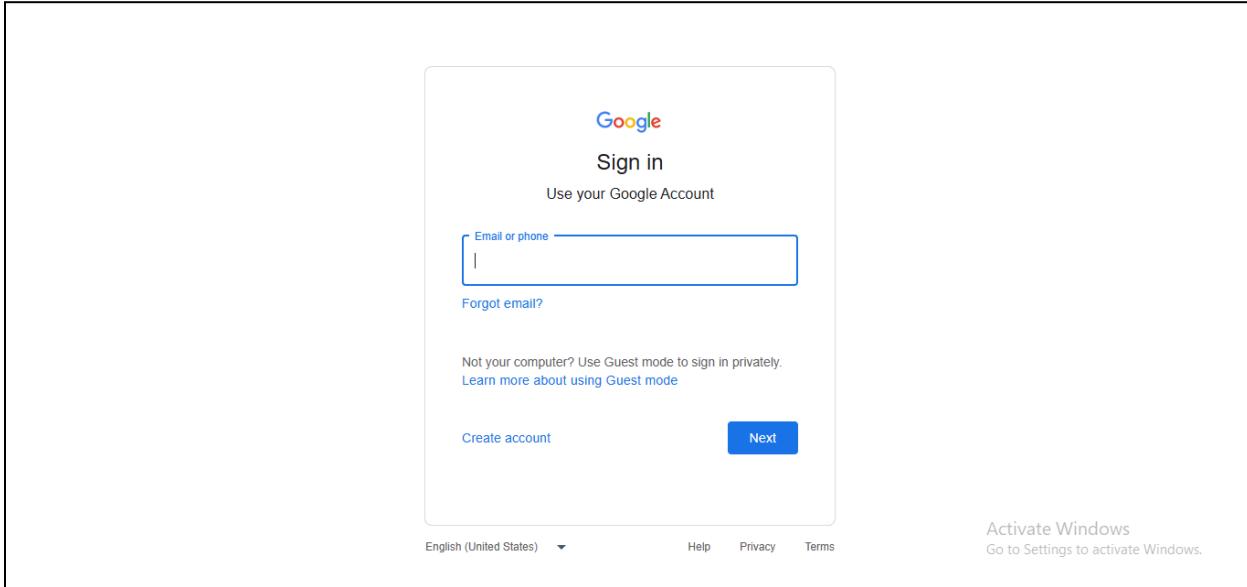
- EXPLORER:** Shows the project structure: AICHAUTISTANT > ds25-openlab-ai-assistant > client > server > node_modules > .env > index.js > package-lock.json > package.json > .gitignore > README.md.
- CODE EDITOR:** The .env file is open, showing the environment variable: GOOGLE_GENERATIVE_AI_API_KEY=your_google_api_key_here.
- TERMINAL:** The terminal window shows the command sequence:

```
C:\Users\vnarava\Desktop\AIChatAssistant\ds25-openlab-ai-assistant\server>cd ..
C:\Users\vnarava\Desktop\AIChatAssistant\ds25-openlab-ai-assistant>cd server
C:\Users\vnarava\Desktop\AIChatAssistant\ds25-openlab-ai-assistant\server>npm install
added 81 packages, and audited 82 packages in 5s
25 packages are looking for funding
  run `npm fund` for details
found 0 vulnerabilities
C:\Users\vnarava\Desktop\AIChatAssistant\ds25-openlab-ai-assistant\server>npm start
> server@1.0.0 start
> node index.js
[dotenv@17.2.3] injecting env (1) from .env -- tip: 🚧 add access controls to secrets: https://dotenvx.com/ops
server running on port 3000
```
- STATUS BAR:** Shows "Activate Windows Go to Settings to activate Windows."

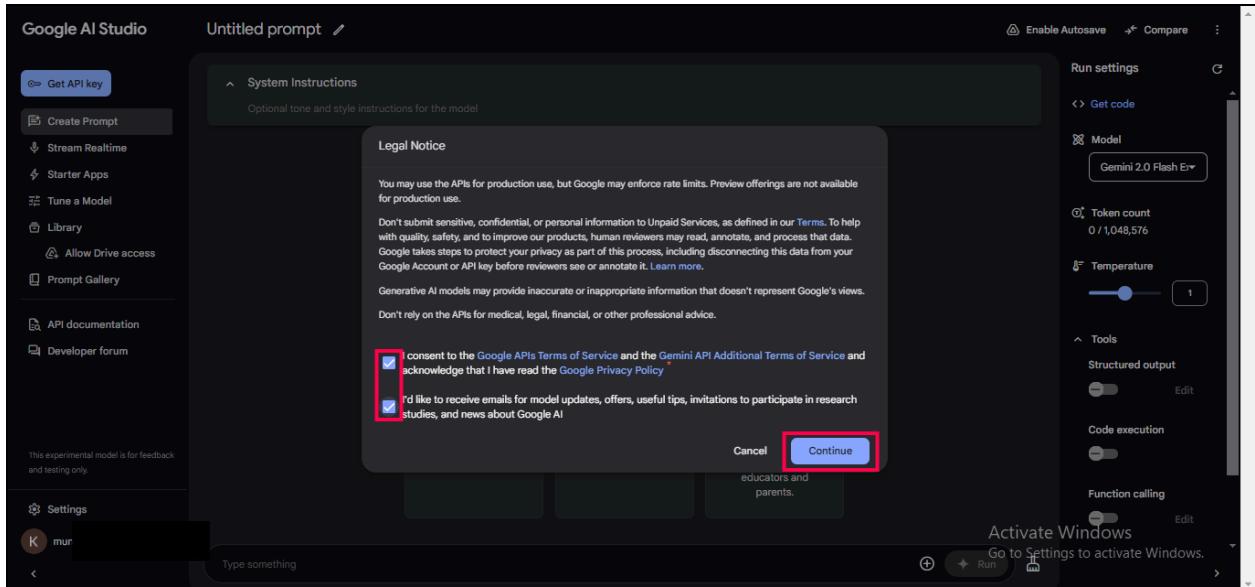
STEP 3 | Get google AI Studio API KEY

1. Access Google AI Studio

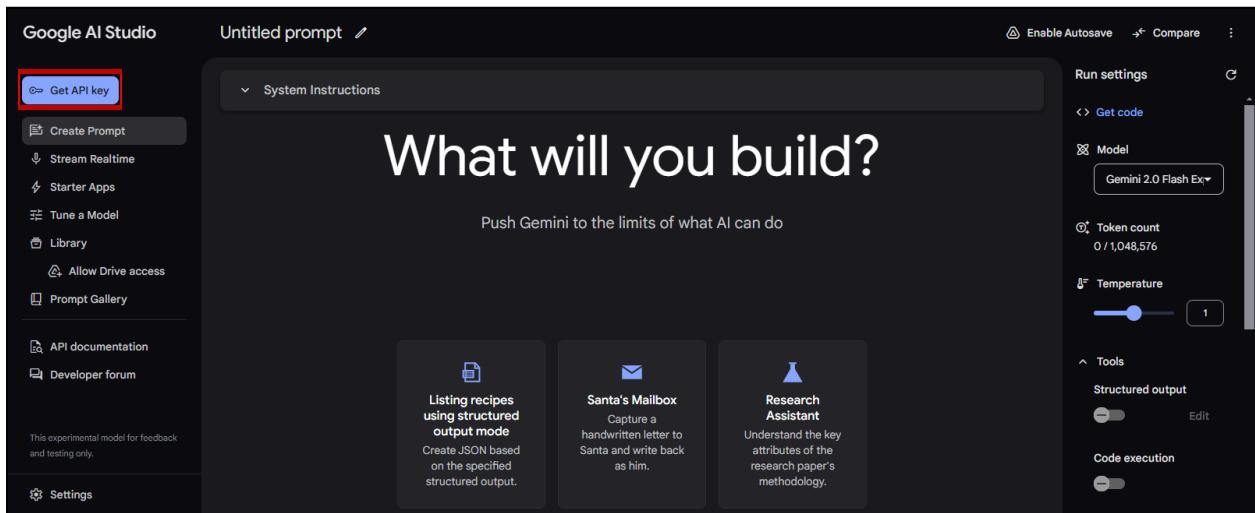
- Click on this link to login to [Google AI Studio](#)
- Log in with your Google Account credentials (If prompted) by entering your email, password and click continue.



- After logging into your **Google Account**, you'll be redirected to the AI Studio Dashboard, where you need to accept the **Terms of Service** and click "**Continue**" to proceed.



You will then be redirected to the Dashboard.



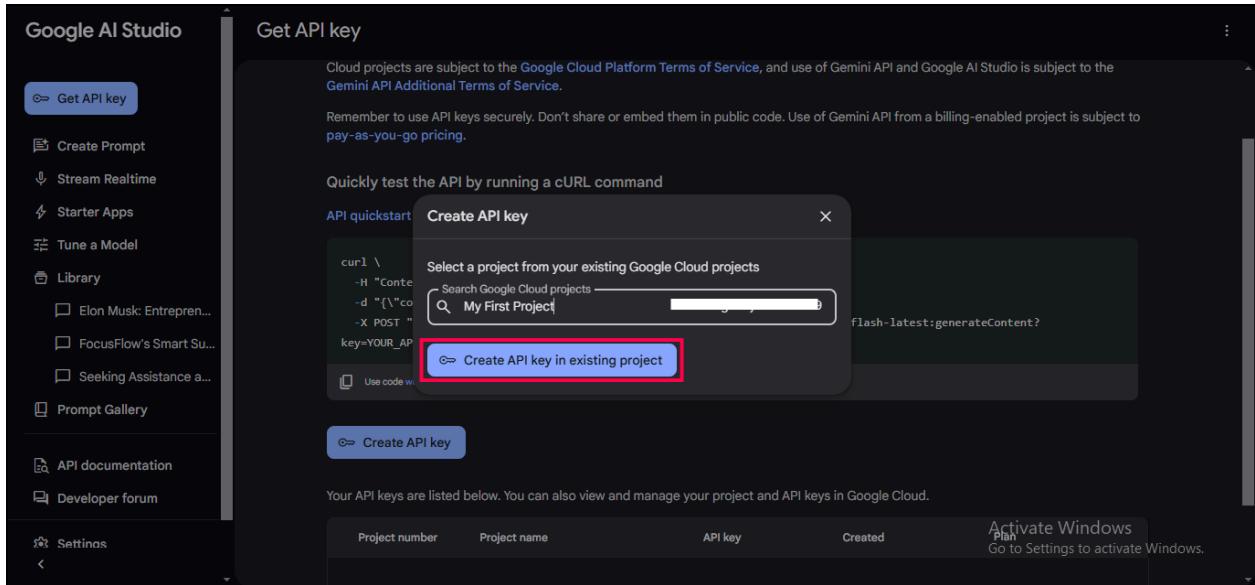
Click on '**Get API Key**' in the top left corner to proceed to the screen shown below.

The screenshot shows the Google AI Studio interface with the 'Get API key' page open. On the left, there's a sidebar with various options like 'Create Prompt', 'Stream Realtime', 'Starter Apps', 'Tune a Model', 'Library', 'Allow Drive access', 'Prompt Gallery', 'API documentation', 'Developer forum', and 'Settings'. The main area has a title 'API keys' and a section about Gemini API terms. It includes a 'curl' command example and a 'Create API key' button. Below that, it says 'Your API keys are listed below. You can also view and manage your project and API keys in Google Cloud.'

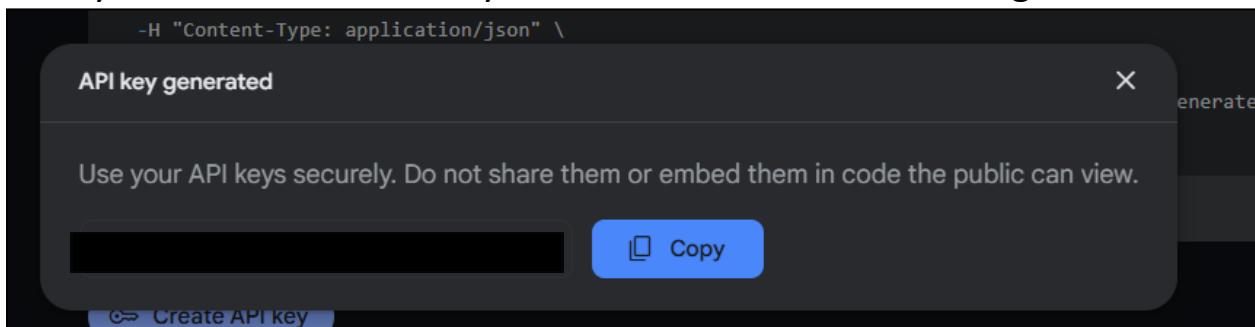
Click on '**Create API Key**' and choose the default or any available project as shown below.

This screenshot shows the 'Create API key' dialog box overlaid on the 'Get API key' page. The dialog has a search bar 'Search Google Cloud projects' with the placeholder 'Q |'. Below it, a list of projects is shown: 'My First Project' (selected), 'test-bhqi', and 'knowledgeqa-mltw'. The main page background shows the same API key creation steps as the first screenshot.

Click on '**Create API Key**' in an existing project to generate a key.



Now you will see the API Key like the one in the below image.



- Paste the API key into the .env file created earlier:

GOOGLE_GENERATIVE_AI_API_KEY=PASTE_KEY_HERESTEP

STEP 4 | Set up and Run Client (Frontend)

- Open a new terminal window
- Navigate to client folder:

cd client

- Install dependencies:

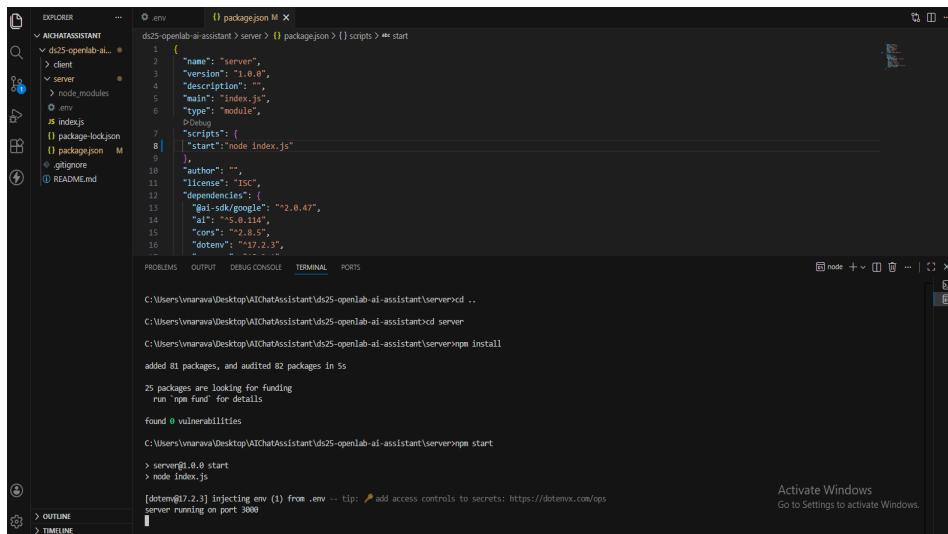
npm install

- Start the React application:

npm run dev

- Open browser and go to:

<http://localhost:5173>



The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with the following details:

- Explorer View:** Shows the project structure under "AICHAUTANT". It includes a "client" folder, a "server" folder which contains "index.js", and a "node_modules" folder.
- Terminal View:** Displays the command-line output of the "npm install" and "npm start" commands. The "npm install" command shows 81 packages added and audited. The "npm start" command shows the server running on port 3000.
- Status Bar:** Shows "Activate Windows" and "Go to Settings to activate Windows".

STEP 5 | Verify Application

- The header with logos should be visible
- Chat input box should appear at the bottom
- Type a message and press Send
- AI response should be displayed

Hello

Hello! How can I help you today?

Tell me the definition of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. These processes include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and understanding language. Here's a breakdown of the key aspects: 1. **Simulation of Human Intelligence:** AI systems are designed to mimic cognitive functions that we associate with the human mind, such as learning from experience, recognizing patterns, making decisions, and solving problems. 2. **By Machines/Computer Systems:** The "artificial" part means it's not natural or biological intelligence, but rather intelligence created and exhibited by non-living entities, typically software running on computers. 3. **Core Capabilities:** *Learning*: Acquiring information and rules for using the information. This often involves Machine Learning (ML), where systems learn from data without explicit programming. *Reasoning*: Using rules to reach approximate or definite conclusions. *Problem-solving*: Finding solutions to specific challenges. *Perception*: Interpreting sensory input (like images, sound, text) to understand the environment. *Language Understanding*: Processing and generating human language (Natural Language Processing - NLP). 4. **Goals of AI:** To automate tasks that typically require human intelligence. To enhance human capabilities by providing intelligent tools. To create systems that can make decisions and act autonomously. 5. **Types of AI (Common Distinction):** *Narrow AI (or Weak AI)*: This is most of the AI we encounter today. It's designed and trained for a specific task (e.g., virtual assistants like Siri/Alexa, recommendation engines, self-driving cars, medical diagnosis systems, playing chess). It excels at its particular task but lacks general human cognitive abilities. *General AI (or Strong AI)*: This is hypothetical AI that would possess human-level intelligence across a broad range of tasks, capable of understanding, learning, and applying its intelligence to any problem, much like a human being. *Superintelligence*: A hypothetical AI that far surpasses human intelligence across virtually all fields. In essence, AI is a broad field of computer science dedicated to building machines that can think and act in ways that are typically considered "intelligent."

Activate Windows

Go to Settings to activate Windows

Send

Ask something...

COMMON ISSUES & FIXES

- “API key not found”
 - Check .env file exists inside server folder
 - Restart server after updating .env
- Server not responding
 - Make sure server is running on port 3000
- Client cannot connect to server
 - Verify API URL in frontend code
 - Check CORS configuration