# 592.https://stackoverflow.com/questions/69525606/hardhat-compile-error-with-api-url-and-private-key-import

**T:**Hardhat compile error with API\_URL and Private Key import

**Q:**Tying to follow a basic NFT tutorial, and I have to say, that I am kind of a noob in Programming. The problem that I am facing is that my hardhat.config.js file needs an API\_KEY and a Private Key, which it should import from the process.env file:  
  
API\_URL = "https://ethropsten.alchemyapi.io/v2/UkW3oySI7WxvFwDwopQHPOHajHaWFZFv"PRIVATE\_KEY = "8d33c2613cb63d0dc6305e57..."  
  
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the hardhad config file looks like this:  
  
\* @type import('hardhat/config').HardhatUserConfig\*/require('dotenv').config();require("@nomiclabs/hardhat-ethers");const { API\_URL, PRIVATE\_KEY } = process.env;module.exports = { solidity: "0.8.0", defaultNetwork: "ropsten", networks: { hardhat: {}, ropsten: { url: API\_URL, accounts: [`0x${PRIVATE\_KEY}`] } },}   
  
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But whenever I try to compile it and run it tru my deploy.js file I get an error message that essentially tells me, that the import was not possible, and looks like this:  
  
 \* Invalid value undefined for HardhatConfig.networks.ropsten.url - Expected a value of type string. \* Invalid value {"accounts":["0xundefined"]} for HardhatConfig.networks.ropsten - Expected a value of type HttpNetworkConfig. To learn more about Hardhat's configuration, please go to https://hardhat.org/config/For more info go to https://hardhat.org/HH8 or run Hardhat with --show-stack-tracessimon@MacBook-Pro-von-Simon test\_fractals % npx hardhat run scripts/deploy.js --network ropstenAn unexpected error occurred:simon@MacBook-Pro-von-Simon test\_fractals % npx hardhat run scripts/deploy.js --network ropstenAn unexpected error occurred:simon@MacBook-Pro-von-Simon test\_fractals % npx hardhat run scripts/deploy.js --network ropstenAn unexpected error occurred:ReferenceError: API\_KEY is not defined at Object.<anonymous> (/Users/simon/test\_fractals/hardhat.config.js:37:12) at Module.\_compile (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1072:14) at Object.Module.\_extensions..js (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1101:10) at Module.load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:937:32) at Function.Module.\_load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:778:12) at Module.require (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:961:19) at require (internal/modules/cjs/helpers.js:92:18) at importCsjOrEsModule (/Users/simon/test\_fractals/node\_modules/hardhat/src/internal/core/config/config-loading.ts:23:20) at Object.loadConfigAndTasks (/Users/simon/test\_fractals/node\_modules/hardhat/src/internal/core/config/config-loading.ts:66:18) at main (/Users/simon/test\_fractals/node\_modules/hardhat/src/internal/cli/cli.ts:129:20)simon@MacBook-Pro-von-Simon test\_fractals % npx hardhat run scripts/deploy.js --network ropstenAn unexpected error occurred:ReferenceError: API\_KEY is not defined at Object.<anonymous> (/Users/simon/test\_fractals/hardhat.config.js:37:12) at Module.\_compile (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1072:14) at Object.Module.\_extensions..js (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1101:10) at Module.load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:937:32) at Function.Module.\_load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:778:12) at Module.require (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:961:19) at require (internal/modules/cjs/helpers.js:92:18) at importCsjOrEsModule (/Users/simon/test\_fractals/node\_modules/hardhat/src/internal/core/config/config-loading.ts:23:20) at Object.loadConfigAndTasks (/Users/simon/test\_fractals/node\_modules/hardhat/src/internal/core/config/config-loading.ts:66:1   
  
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I first thought, that my .env file was not at the right place or that the syntax was not right, but after trying everything I could think of, I still get the same error message. Any help is appreciated.

6 **Answer**

**A1:**I solved the same problem by using this in the hardhat.config.js file:  
  
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require('dotenv').config({path:\_\_dirname+'/.env'})  
  
WARN: THIS PARAGRAPH CONTAINS TAG: [CODE]   
  
Instead of:  
  
require('dotenv').config()  
  
WARN: THIS PARAGRAPH CONTAINS TAG: [CODE]   
  
For more information, you can visitdotenv file is not loading environment variables

**A2:**I ran in the same issue and I've solved it in a next way.The things back to normal when I firstly require the dotenv and only then set config params.  
  
So, the final code looks like that:  
  
const dotenv = require("dotenv");dotenv.config({path: \_\_dirname + '/.env'});const { API\_URL, PRIVATE\_KEY } = process.env;  
  
WARN: THIS PARAGRAPH CONTAINS TAG: [CODE]   
  
hope this save some time for someone =)

**A3:**This worked for me  
  
 /\*\* \* @type import('hardhat/config').HardhatUserConfig \*/ require('dotenv').config({path:\_\_dirname+'/.env'}) require("@nomiclabs/hardhat-ethers") const { API\_URL, PRIVATE\_KEY } = process.env module.exports = { solidity: "0.7.3", defaultNetwork: "ropsten", networks: { hardhat: { }, ropsten: { url: "https://eth-ropsten.alchemyapi.io/v2/your-api-key", // Replace your-api-key with your API key// Your API\_URL also stored in .env file but for simplity I have directly a string here accounts: ["klaouoq84qoir983n2nc3234xn98349nx4u2394u23998x3n3"], // This is YOUR\_PRIVATE\_KEY from Metamask which you can store in env file but for simplity I have directly a string here }, }, }

**A4:**I had this issue because I added 'export' in front of my environment variables.Once I removed "export" I was able to access them from hardhat config

**C1:**This does not provide an answer to the question. Once you have sufficient reputation you will be able to comment on any post; instead, provide answers that don't require clarification from the asker. - From Review

**A5:**> npm i dotenvrequire('dotenv').config()...module.exports = { solidity: "0.8.17", networks: { hardhat: { chainId: 80001 }, mumbai: { url: `https://polygon-mumbai.g.alchemy.com/v2/${process.env.ALCHEMY\_API\_KEY}`, accounts: [process.env.PRIVATE\_KEY\_WALLET] } }};  
  
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**A6:**To solve these problem I install dotenv extencion  
  
npm install dotenv --save  
  
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And in hardtat.config I use process.env.YOUR\_CONST  
  
 /\*\*\* @type import('hardhat/config').HardhatUserConfig\*/require('dotenv').config();require("@nomiclabs/hardhat-ethers");/\*\* @type import('hardhat/config').HardhatUserConfig \*/module.exports = { solidity: "0.8.17", defaultNetwork: "goerli", networks: { hardhat: {}, goerli: { url:process.env.API\_URL, accounts: [`0x${process.env.PRIVATE\_KEY}`] } },};  
  
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