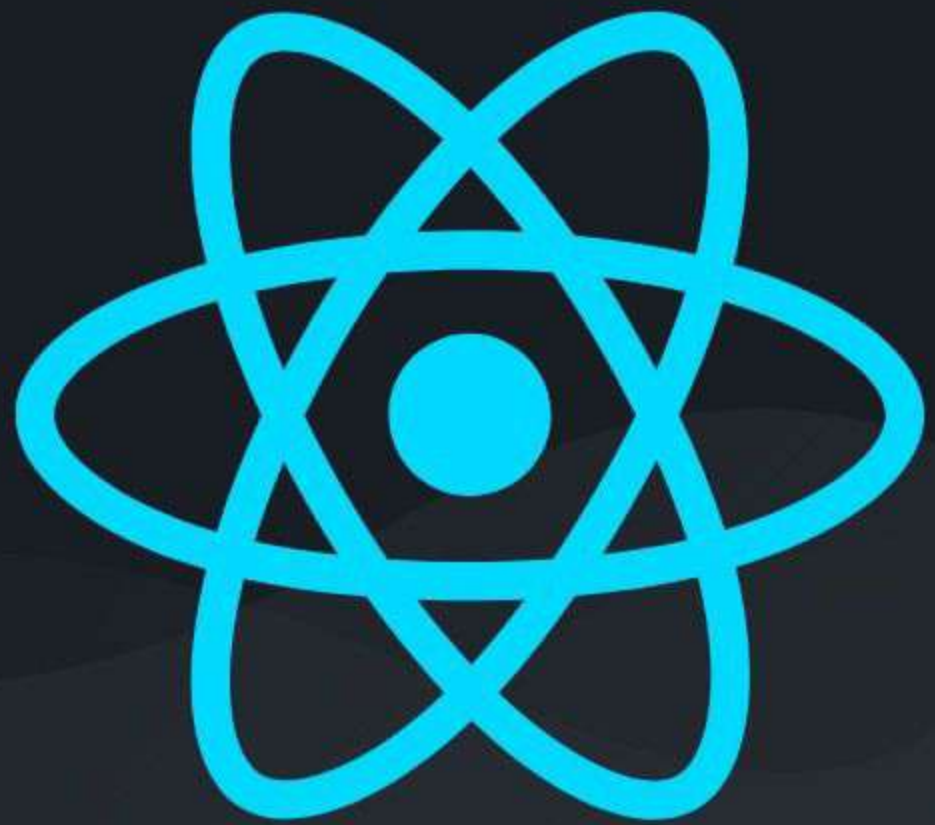


# React .env File Usage

In Detail



Mallikarjun | @CodeBustler



# **.env** File | Usage

The **.env** file is commonly used to store environment variables. these variables are **configuration values** that can be used to customize the **behavior of your application** depending on the environment it's running in (e.g., development, production, Keys etc...).

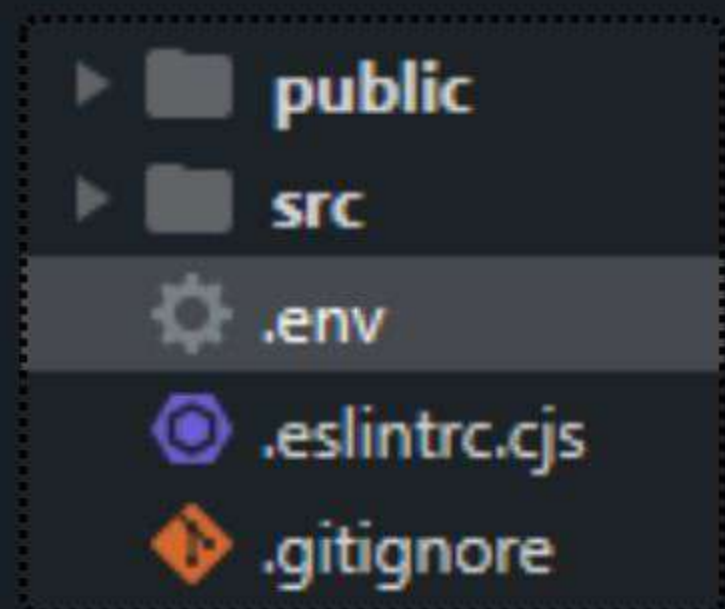
React applications often use environment variables to store **sensitive information** or **configuration settings**.



# How to use an `.env` file

## ✓ Create an `.env` file:

In the **root of your React project**, create a file named `.env`. You can also have specific environment files like `.env.development`, and `.env.production`, etc., to **manage different configurations** for different environments.





## Add variables

Inside the **.env file**, you can define variables like this:

```
.env  
  
// With VITE  
VITE_API_KEY=your_api_key  
VITE_API_URL=https://api.example.com  
  
// With Create React App (CRA)  
REACT_APP_API_KEY=your_api_key  
REACT_APP_API_URL=https://api.example.com
```

Note that variable names must start with **REACT\_APP\_** to be recognized by Create React App & **VITE\_** by Vite. This prefix is a safety feature to avoid accidentally exposing private keys.





## Access the variables

In your React components or other parts of **your code**, you can access these variables like this

```
                                .MyComponent.jsx
// With VITE
const apiKey = import.meta.env.VITE_API_KEY;
const apiUrl = import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL;

// With Create React App (CRA)
const apiKey = process.env.REACT_APP_API_KEY;
const apiUrl = process.env.REACT_APP_API_URL;
```

**Remember** that these values are available at build time, so if you change them, you'll **need to restart** your development server or rebuild your application.

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## Use variables in configuration files

```
const apiUrl = import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL;
const apiKey = import.meta.env.VITE_API_KEY;

const fetchData = async () => {
  const response = await fetch(apiUrl, {
    headers: {
      'Authorization': `Bearer ${apiKey}`,
      'Content-Type': 'application/json'
    }
  });

  if (response.ok) {
    console.log(await response.json());
  } else {
    console.error(`Error! ${response.status}`);
  }
};

export default fetchData; .MyComponent.jsx
```





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Mallikarjun | Web Developer

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