

# III. Config

## What is an environment variable?

- An **environment variable**, often shortened to *env vars* or *env*, is a dynamic-named value that is stored in the **environment** where an app runs.
- For example, a running process can query the value of the `TEMP` environment variable to discover a suitable location to store temporary files, or the `HOME` variable to find the directory structure owned by the user running the process.

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## What is an environment variable?

- Env vars are **easy to change** between deploys **without changing any code**.
- Unlike config files, there is **little chance of them being checked** into the code repo accidentally.

```
DATABASE_DRIVER="postgres"  
DATABASE_URL="root:secret@localhost:5432"  
DATABASE_NAME="app"
```