ENV variables for Lambda functions

All modern computer operating systems utilize a set of key-value pairs called **Environment Variables** to store configuration data that applications may require access to during their runtime, allowing developers to set certain settings and values without embedding them directly into the code. This is especially useful when managing sensitive information such as database credentials, API keys, or authentication tokens whereby instead of hard-coding these details into your application, we can simply store them as environment variables that your application can reference during execution.

Though we do not have control over the hardware infrastructure using which Amazon in its infinite wisdom (*sarcastic*) decides our Lambda function will be run, Amazon does provide us with the ability to set the environment variables which might be referenced by our function.

Do remember however that when we create or update Lambda functions that use environment variables, AWS Lambda encrypts them using the AWS Key Management Service (often shortened to KMS, will be discussed deeply in later sections) with the intention of decrypting them and making said values available to the Lambda code whenever the function is invoked.