Environment Configuration Guide

This guide explains how to use the provided `.env.example` files to configure your environment variables.

1. Backend Environment Variables

The backend requires the following configuration, provided in `backend/.env.example`:

Required Variables

- **PORT**: The port number where the backend server will run. Default: `5000`.
- **MONGO_URI**: The MongoDB connection string. Example: `mongodb://localhost:27017/gst-automation`.
- **JWT_SECRET**: A secret key for JWT authentication. Replace `your_jwt_secret` with a secure key.
- **RAZORPAY_KEY_ID**: The Razorpay key ID for payment gateway integration.
- **RAZORPAY_KEY_SECRET**: The Razorpay key secret for payment gateway integration.
- **NODE_ENV**: The environment type (`development`, `production`, or `test`).

Steps to Configure

1. Copy the `backend/.env.example` file to `backend/.env`.
2. Replace the placeholder values with actual values:
   - Get `RAZORPAY_KEY_ID` and `RAZORPAY_KEY_SECRET` from Razorpay's dashboard.
   - Use a secure `JWT_SECRET` value.
   - Update `MONGO_URI` with your MongoDB connection string.

2. Frontend Environment Variables

The frontend requires the following configuration, provided in `frontend/.env.example`:

Required Variables

- **REACT_APP_API_URL**: The base URL for the backend API. Example: `http://localhost:5000/api`.

Steps to Configure

1. Copy the `frontend/.env.example` file to `frontend/.env`.

2. Replace the `REACT_APP_API_URL` with your backend API's URL.

3. Additional Notes

- **Environment Variables in Production**: Ensure that `.env` files are not included in production builds.

- **Sensitive Data**: Do not expose sensitive keys (e.g., `RAZORPAY_KEY_SECRET`) in frontend code.