

## Twitter Bot User Guide

This guide is intended to give step by step instructions on setting up and hosting a Twitter bot.

The first thing that needs to be done is to set up a developer account through Twitter in order to generate API keys for your account (these allow the bot to connect to your Twitter account). Follow the steps below to set up your developer account.

1. Go to <https://developer.twitter.com/>, sign in with your Twitter account information
2. Once logged in (you may need to go back to the developer page after logging in), select the Apps button in the top right corner of the page
3. On the Apps page select Create An App, a box will pop up asking you to apply for a developer license in order to create an app. This is a free process and necessary so take some time to walk through their questions. Note: This bot DOES NOT aggregate any Twitter data or make any data available to government entities (That is brought up in the application)
4. You will receive an email after your Twitter developer account has been approved (usually happens within a business day or so)
5. We will come back to your developer account, for now we will move on to setting up a way to host your bot.

Setting up a place for your bot to live. This can be done a few different ways, I am going to go over the method I used.

1. Go to [pythonanywhere.com](https://pythonanywhere.com), create an account
2. If you want your bot to run once a day, you only need the free account, if you want it to run hourly or have it on constantly, you will need to pay for at least the first level of membership. (I do hourly bot activity and wouldn't recommend anymore to avoid spam issues on Twitter)
3. Next, go to [https://github.com/WyldWanderer/twitter\\_retweet\\_bot.py](https://github.com/WyldWanderer/twitter_retweet_bot.py) and select Download (green button, right side towards the top of the screen). This will download a zip file with all of the files you will need
4. Go back to your Python Anywhere home page and select Files from the toolbar in the upper right corner of the page
5. On the Files page, choose Upload File and upload the "retweet\_bot\_src.py" AND "old\_tweets.txt" files
6. Once those files are uploaded, copy the website URL and go back to your Twitter Developer account

Next we will set up the app in the Twitter Developer profile.

1. Go to your Twitter Developer home page

2. In the upper right is your name (or name you chose for Twitter to call you by), hover over your name and select Apps from the dropdown menu
3. Select "Create an App" from the Apps page and walk through the questions, for the website URL use the URL you copied from Python Anywhere.
4. Once the app is created, go to the Keys and Tokens section. You will see two areas, one called **Consumer API Keys** and another called **Access token & access token secret**,
5. Both should have a long password looking set of letters and numbers. If they don't click Generate to create the keys
6. Copy all the keys, should be 4 total (two from the Consumer API Keys, two from the Access token & access token secret)

Now we will go back to Python Anywhere to set up the bot to access your Twitter profile

1. Go to your Python Anywhere.com home page.
2. Select Files from the top right of the page
3. Click on the retweet\_bot\_src.py file to open it
4. Copy the API keys into their corresponding lines (lines 5,6,7 and 8) between the apostrophes (ex. CONSUMER KEY = 'your api key here' )
5. IMPORTANT- the apostrophes are part of the code DO NOT REMOVE
6. After all four of the keys are in the file, click the green save button in the top right

Now that access is set up, choose what users you want to retweet from

1. In the retweet\_bot\_src.py file, on line 15, add in the user tags for the users you want to retweet from. Example, my bot's list looks like this, user\_name = ['@polygon', '@ign', '@nerdist'], keep the same structure of apostrophe, username, closing apostrophe and comma.
2. Click the green save button in the top right after you are done entering in the usernames you want to retweet from

Last steps, set up the bot to run on auto

1. On Python Anywhere.com, select the Tasks tab from the top right corner
2. Under the Scheduled Tasks header is a line with various options. Select if you want the bot to run daily or hourly (if using the paid membership option, otherwise your only option is daily), what time you want it to run and the file path which will be /home/YOUR USER NAME/retweet\_bot\_src.py
3. Select Create after you have selected the timing and file path and YOU ARE DONE!!! The bot should run at the next time you have it set up for in the Python Anywhere tasks and automatically look for new tweets from the list you specified, retweeting the most recent if it hasn't already been retweeted by you.