

How to register a Twitter developer account and obtain an API key

A Twitter bot is a regular Twitter account, where the messages are sent programmatically by a computer program instead of being typed by a user via the web interface and/or a Twitter client.

Hence, if you want your bot to have its own handle, *even if you already have a Twitter account*, you need to register a new one, that will be used by the bot.

To do so, go to <https://twitter.com/signup> and register a new account (you can use your university email account for this, but Twitter will require you to add a phone number when registering for a developer account anyway).

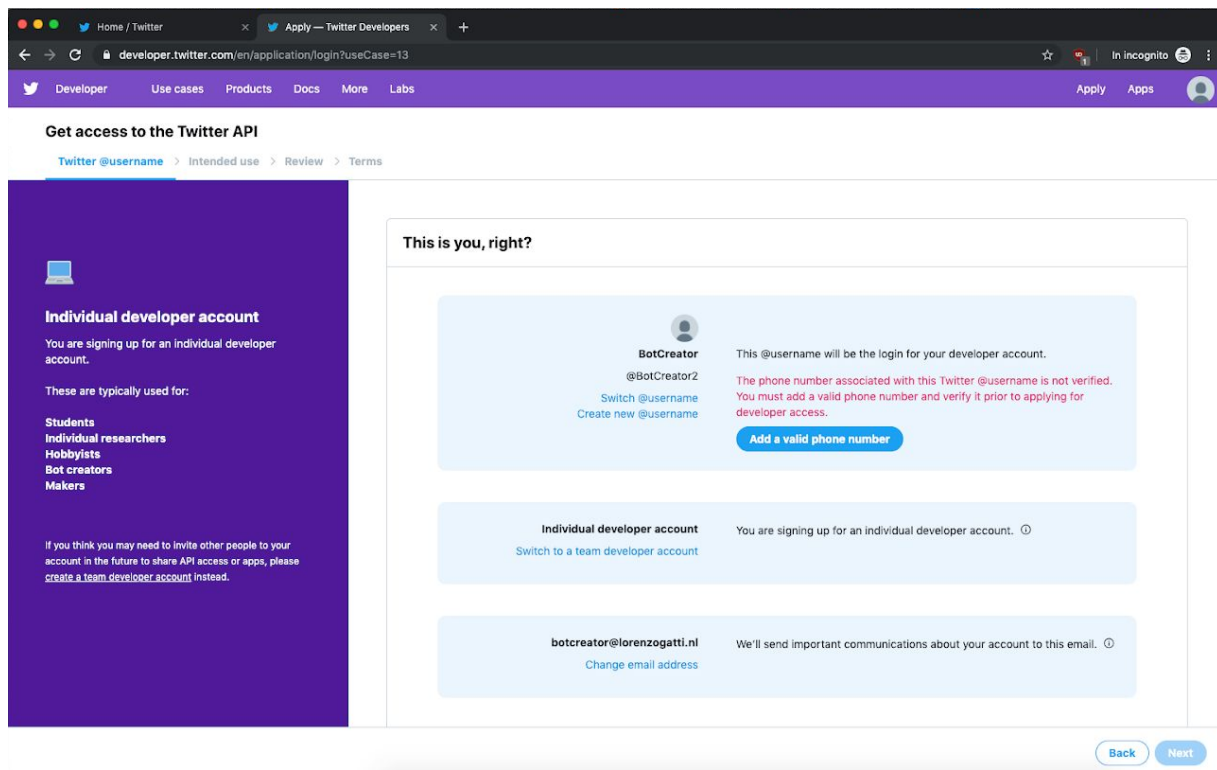
Once you have finished the registration process, you need to register your account as a developer account. Log in on Twitter with the account you just created (you probably are already logged in if you just completed the registration), and go to <https://developer.twitter.com/en/application/use-case>

Here you can apply for a student account:

The screenshot shows the Twitter Developer 'Get access to the Twitter API' page. On the left is a purple sidebar with a '#welcome' message. The main content area is titled 'What is your primary reason for using Twitter developer tools?' and includes a sub-header 'We'll help you on your path to getting the most out of Twitter APIs and data.' Below this are four columns: Professional, Hobbyist, Academic, and Other. Each column contains several options with radio buttons. In the 'Academic' column, the 'Student' option is selected, indicated by a green checkmark. A blue 'Next' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Professional ...for commercial uses	Hobbyist ...for a personal project	Academic ...for education or research	Other I don't fit any of those
<input type="radio"/> Building B2B products	<input type="radio"/> Making a bot	<input type="radio"/> Doing academic research	<input type="radio"/> Embedding Tweets on a website
<input type="radio"/> Building consumer products	<input type="radio"/> Building tools for Twitter users	<input type="radio"/> Teaching	<input type="radio"/> Doing something else
<input type="radio"/> Build customized solutions in-house	<input type="radio"/> Exploring the API	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Student	

On the next step, you'll be asked to confirm your bot name, the @username (this is how other Twitter users can tweet at your bot), and -if you haven't used it for registering the account- your phone number.



Complete the remaining fields, then go to the next page. Here you will be asked to fill in a few more fields that describe how you are going to use the APIs.

For the first field (“In your words”) you can use something like this:

I am gonna use the Twitter API for a project of the course of Foundations of Interaction Technologies at the University of Twente, under the supervision of Mariët Theune. Each student group in the class has to develop an interactive Twitter bot that reacts to user tweets.

For the specifics:

The bot is going to access the content of messages tweeted at its username to provide an appropriate answer for the user query.

For the Tweet:

The Twitter bot I am developing should be able to interact with users, so it will either tweet a message and wait for someone to reply, or tweet a response to a user that mentions the bot

The remaining two fields (aggregate data and government entities) can be deactivated. The rest of the activation process is intuitive, and after the confirmation email you should be able to obtain an API key for your code.

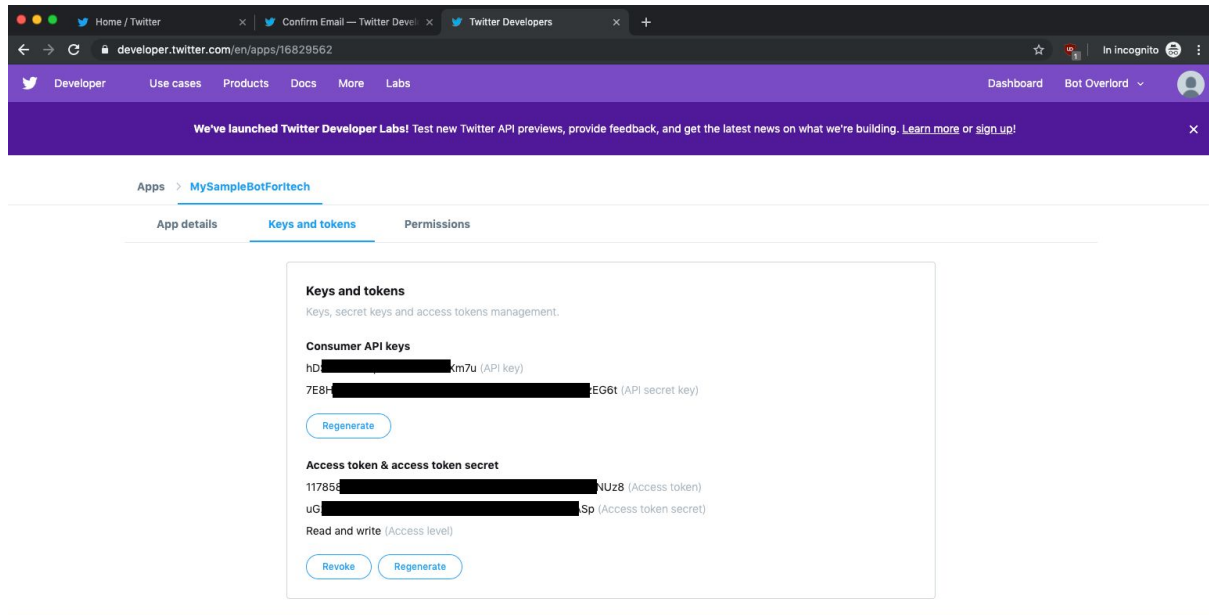
To do so, go to <https://developer.twitter.com/en/apps/create> and input the name of your bot as the app name, a description of what your bot is/does (e.g. “A sample bot for Foundations of Interaction Technologies”). For the required url, you can use your own website (if you have one), Facebook/Twitter/Instagram page, or the link to the course (<https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/master/programmes/interaction-technology/programme/courses/#courselink:201800234>). You do not need to “Enable Sign in with Twitter”.

For the final field, you can write something like this:

This API key is for a Twitter bot. The Twitter bot I am developing should interact with users, so it will either tweet a message and wait for someone to reply, or tweet a response to a user that mentions the bot.

If you already know what your bot will do, you can add it here.

After creating the app, you can click on the “Keys and tokens” tab to see the API key that has to be used in your code, and to generate your “Access token & access token secret”



These four strings are the ones that should be put in the Python code:

```
Open [icon] twitt
~/Desktop/phd/teach

#!/usr/bin/python

'''
USE AT YOUR OWN PERIL <3
fill in your API keys before running the script
written in Python3 by Judith van Stegeren, @jd7h
'''

'''
before running the script, do this:
1. create a virtual environment
$ python -m venv venv
$ source venv/bin/activate
2. install the dependencies
$ pip install python-twitter
3. obtain API keys from twitter
4. fill them in in the script below
'''

import twitter #for docs, see https://python-twitter.readthedocs.io/en/latest/twitter.html

def twitter_demo():
    # connect to api with apikeys
    # if you don't have apikeys, go to apps.twitter.com
    api = twitter.Api(consumer_key='twitter consumer key',
                     consumer_secret='twitter consumer secret',
                     access_token_key='twitter access token key',
                     access_token_secret='twitter access token secret')

    # get followers
    print("Getting a list of accounts I follow on Twitter...")
    friends = api.GetFriends()
    friend_ids = [friend.id for friend in friends]
    for friend in friends:
        print("Friend: ", friend.name, friend.screen_name, friend.id)

    # get a list of accounts that are following me
    print("Getting a list of followers from Twitter...")
    followers = api.GetFollowers()
    followers_ids = [user.id for user in followers]
    for follower in followers:
        print("Follower: ", follower.name, follower.screen_name, follower.id)

    # look up the user_id of a single user
    print("Looking up the details of screenname @jd7h...")
    print(api.UsersLookup(screen_name=["jd7h"]))

    print("Looking up the details of screenname @jd7h...")
    print(api.UsersLookup(screen_name=["jd7h"]))
    # this should output: [User(ID=222060384, ScreenName=jd7h)]

    #tweeting
    body = "This is a tweet. Chirp chirp. Hello world!"
    print("Posting tweet...")
    result = api.PostUpdate(body)
```