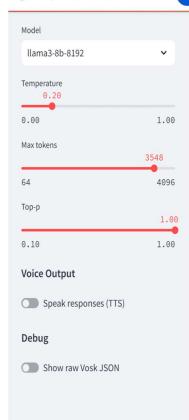


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👤 what is an api key

An API key is a unique string of characters that identifies an application or user as a valid client of an Application Programming Interface (API). It's like a digital ID card that allows an application to access a specific API and use its services.

Here's how it works:

- 1. An API provider (e.g., Google Maps, Facebook, or Twitter) creates an API that allows other applications to access its data or services
- 2. The API provider issues API keys to authorized applications or users, which are used to authenticate and authorize access to the API.
- 3. When an application wants to access the API, it sends its API key along with the request.
- 4. The API checks the API key against a list of authorized keys. If the key is valid, the API grants access to the requested data or services.

API keys can be used for various purposes, such as:

- 1. Authentication: Verifying the identity of an application or user.
- 2. Authorization: Granting access to specific resources or services.
- 3. Tracking: Monitoring usage and analytics for the API.