How to Get and Use a SerpAPI Key

1. What is SerpAPI?

SerpAPI is a real-time API that enables developers to access and scrape search engine result pages (SERPs) such as Google, Bing, Baidu, Yahoo, and more, without worrying about the complexities of web scraping or proxy management. It returns results in structured JSON format, making it easier to parse and integrate into applications.

2. How SerpAPI Works

SerpAPI provides a RESTful interface. You send a GET request to their endpoint (https://serpapi.com/search) with search parameters like your query (`q`), the engine (`engine=google`), and your API key. SerpAPI handles the search engine request, parses the result page, and sends you structured JSON data. It supports pagination, image search, location-based queries, and more.

3. How to Get a SerpAPI Key

Follow these steps to obtain your SerpAPI key:

1. Visit the official SerpAPI website: https://serpapi.com/
2. Click on the 'Get API Key' or 'Sign Up' button on the top right corner.
3. Create a free account using your email or Google/GitHub login.
4. Once logged in, navigate to your SerpAPI dashboard.
5. You will find your unique API Key listed on the dashboard under 'API Key'.
6. Copy this key and store it securely. You'll use this in your application when making API calls.

Example:
```python
params = {
    'engine': 'google',
    'q': 'OpenAI',
    'api_key': 'YOUR_SERPAPI_KEY'
}
```