How to Register a Twitter App in 8 Easy Steps

By Ian Anderson Gray

http://iag.me/socialmedia/how-to-create-a-twitter-app-in-8-easy-steps/

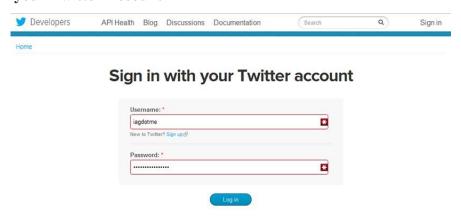
One of the reasons that Twitter is so popular, and become what it is today, is due to the huge number of developers who have built apps over the years. Why so many developers? Basically because Twitter has been very easy to work with.

#1 Visit the Twitter Developers' Site



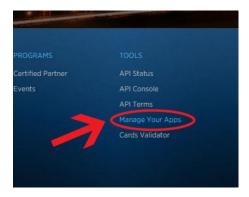
The first thing you need to do is head on down to dev.twitter.com. In order to create an account, all you need to do is click on the "Sign In" link at the top right.

#2 Sign in with your Twitter Account



Next, sign in with the Twitter account you want to associate with your app. You do have a Twitter account don't you?!

#3 Go to apps.twitter.com



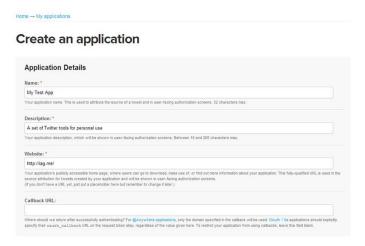
Once you're logged in, you will need to visit Twitter's app website. This can be found at apps.twitter.com (it can also be found by clicking "manage your apps" in the footer of the Twitter Developers site.

#4 Create a New Application



If you are new to the Developers site you won't see any applications registered. Either way, it's time to create our first application. To do this, click on the big "Create a new application" button.

#5 Fill in your Application Details



Name:

First of all you need to give your app a **unique name** (one that no one else has used for their Twitter app). Since we're going to be an creating app for personal use and not one that other people can register and use, just put your domain name in or perhaps even your name.

Description:

You don't have to worry much about the description- you can change this later, but it can help to distinguish this app from others that you might create in the future. I've put "a set of Twitter tools for personal use".

Website:

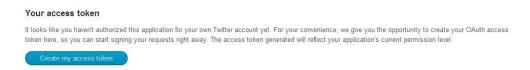
Put **your website** in the website field. It's supposed to be your application's publicly accessible home page. However, if your app is for personal use, this isn't really applicable. I would just enter the website address where the app will be hosted.

Callback URL:

I would **ignore the Callback URL field**. If you are allowing users to log into your app to authenticate themselves, you'd enter the URL where they would be returned after they've given permission to Twitter to use your app.

Once you've done this, make sure you've read the "Developer Rules Of The Road" blurb, check the "Yes, I agree" box, fill in the CAPTCHA (don't you just love them) and click the "create your Twitter Application" button. Hurrah!

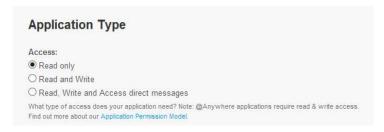
#6 Create Your Access Token



You'll then be presented with lots of information, but we're not quite done yet. We now need to authorise the Twitter app for your Twitter account. To do this, click the "Create my access token" button. This takes a few seconds, so if you don't see the access tokens on the next screen, you may have to refresh the page a few times.

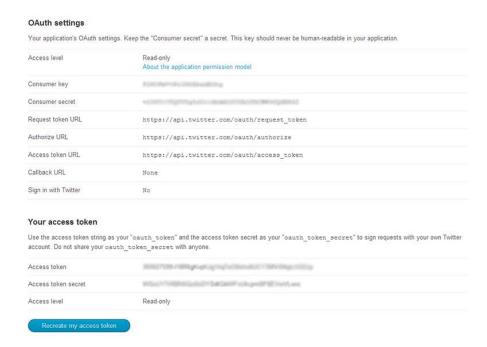
This access token will allow your Twitter application to read Twitter information. You'll be able to get data of your tweets, mentions, lists and more. However, if you want to do more advanced stuff like sending tweets or deleting, you'll need to change your access type.

#7 Choose what Access Type You Need



As I mentioned, the default access type when you create a Twitter app is read only. My recommendation is to keep it like this unless you really want to be able to have the app delete or write data (for example sending tweets or deleting direct messages). For our first Twitter app we will only need read only access.

#8 Make a note of your OAuth Settings



Once you've done this, make a note of your OAuth settings. You will need these long horrible strings of characters for your Twitter app. The ones you will need are:

- Consumer Key
- Consumer Secret
- OAuth Access Token
- OAuth Access Token Secret

It goes without saying that you should keep these secret. If anyone was to get these keys, they could effectively access your Twitter account.