Steps to follow

Hey! Thanks for purchasing the source code. There are a few things you need to do first. If you skip these steps, you won't be able to see the site in action. Let's get started!

Node Version Used: **node v23.10.0 (npm v11.2.0)**

Running the MERN AI Invoice Generator App Project

Backend (Express.js)

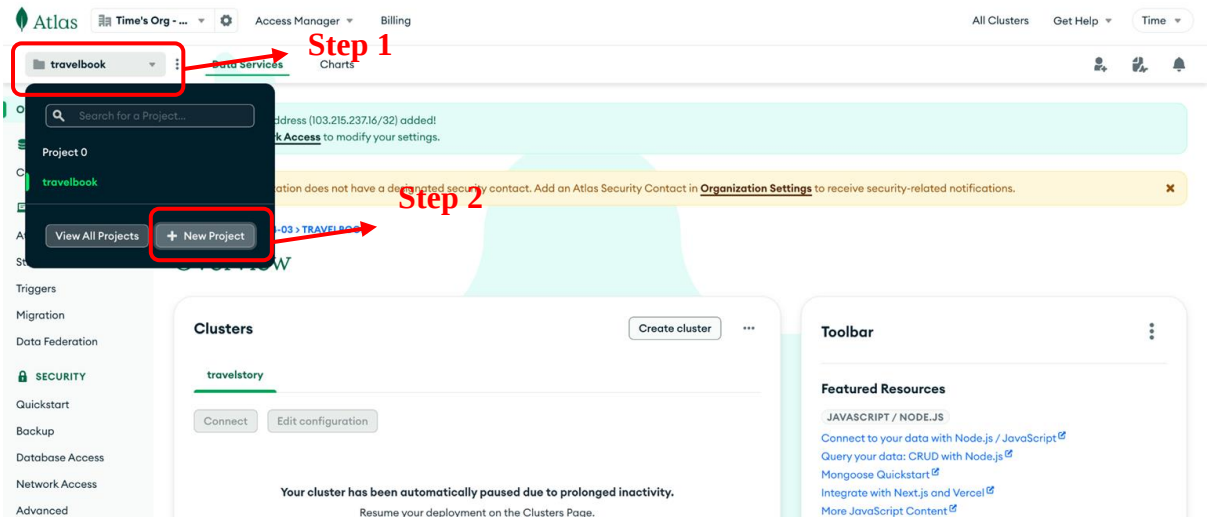
1. Navigate to the backend folder in your terminal.

2. Install the required dependencies by running:

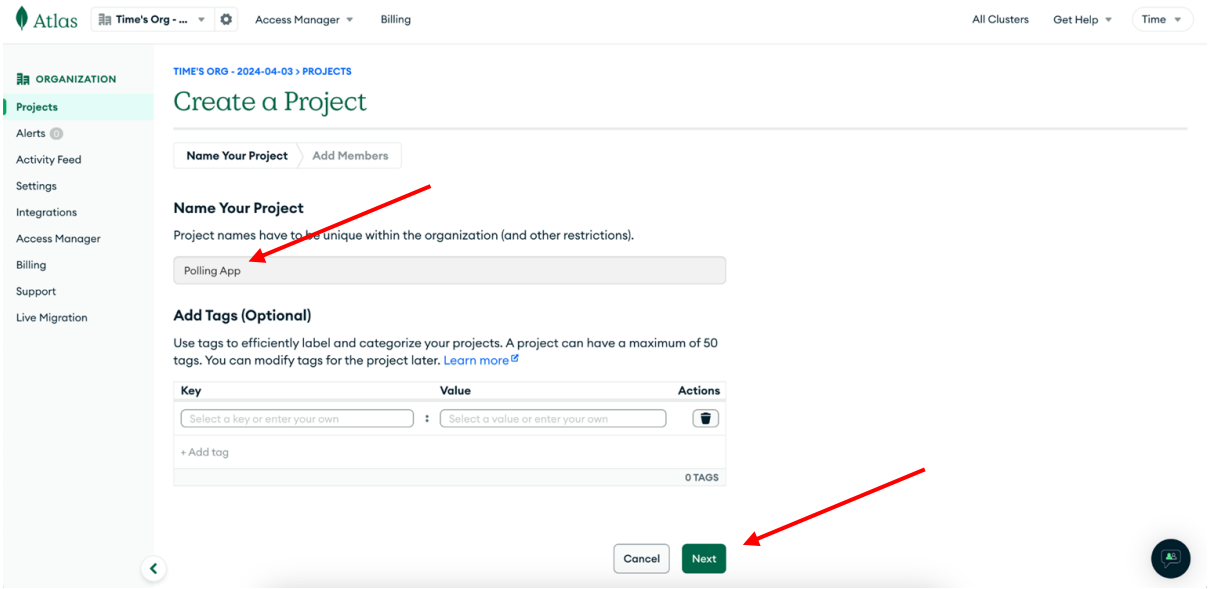
```
npm install
```

3. Connect MongoDB:

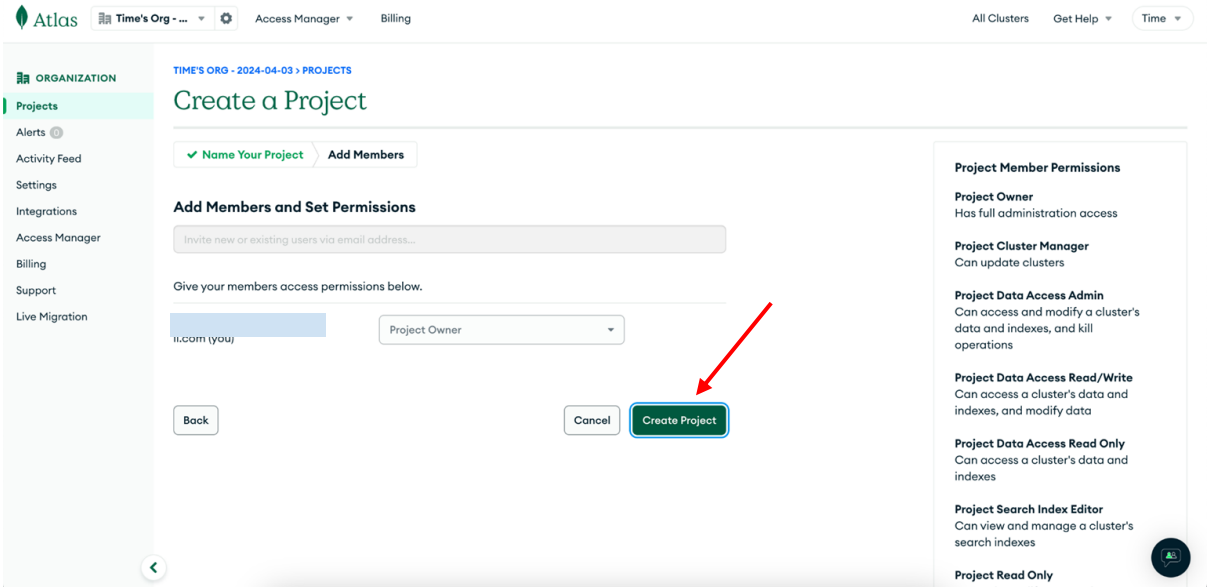
- Visit https://www.mongodb.com/
- Log in or create an account.
- Click the **"New Project"** button to create a project.



- Enter a project name and click **"Next"**.

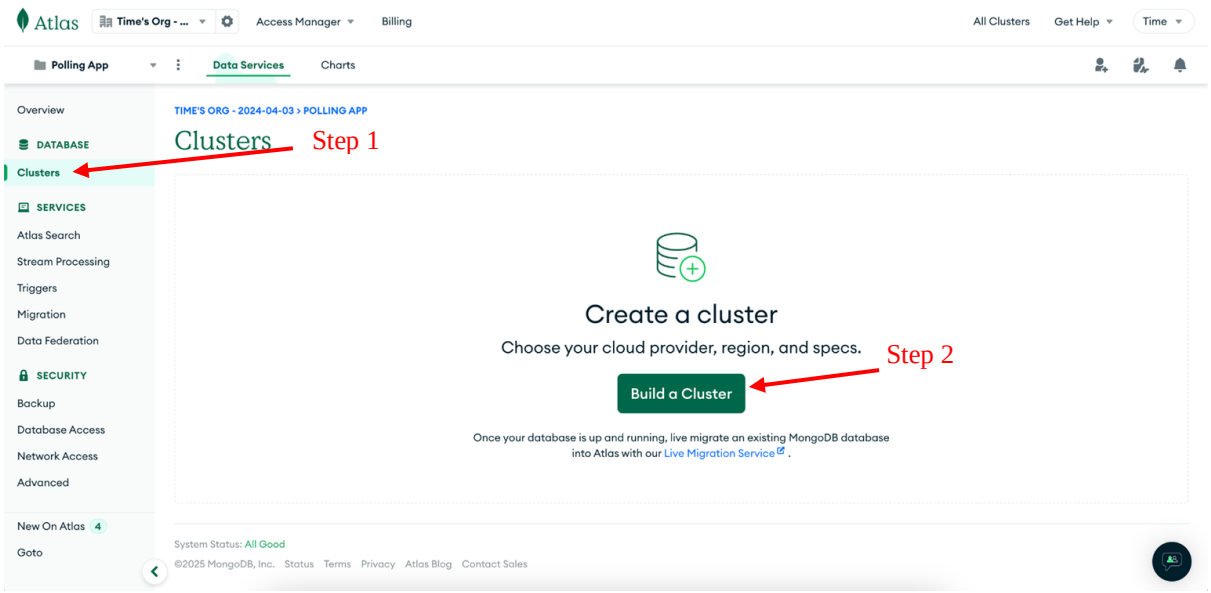


- (Optional) Add team members, then click **"Create Project"**.

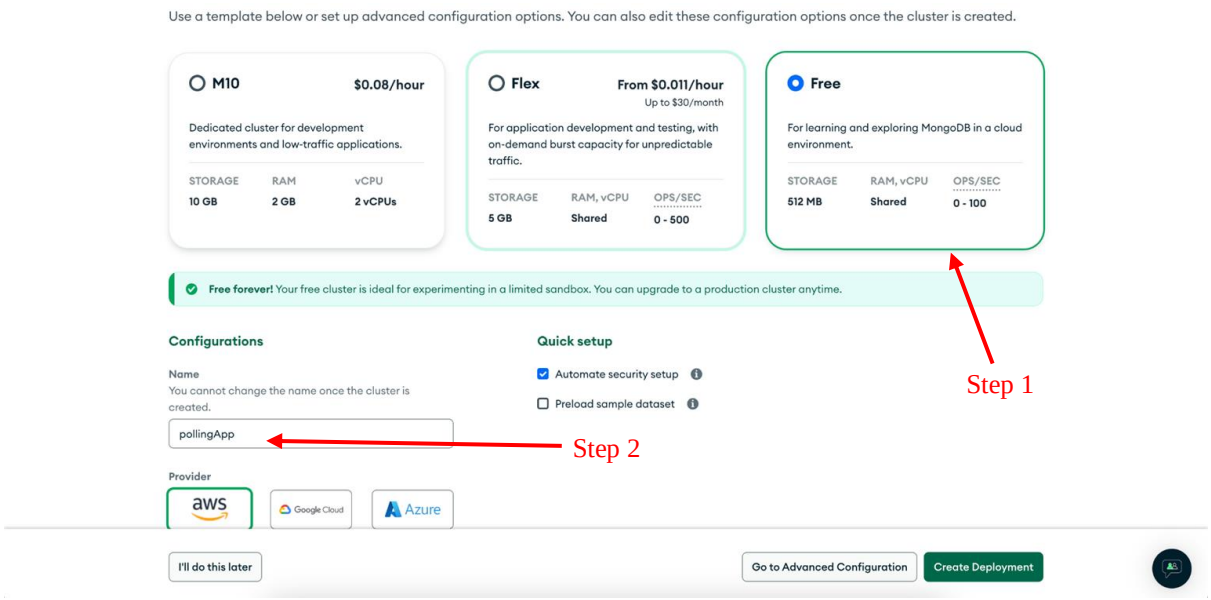


- Click on the "**Clusters**" option in the side menu.

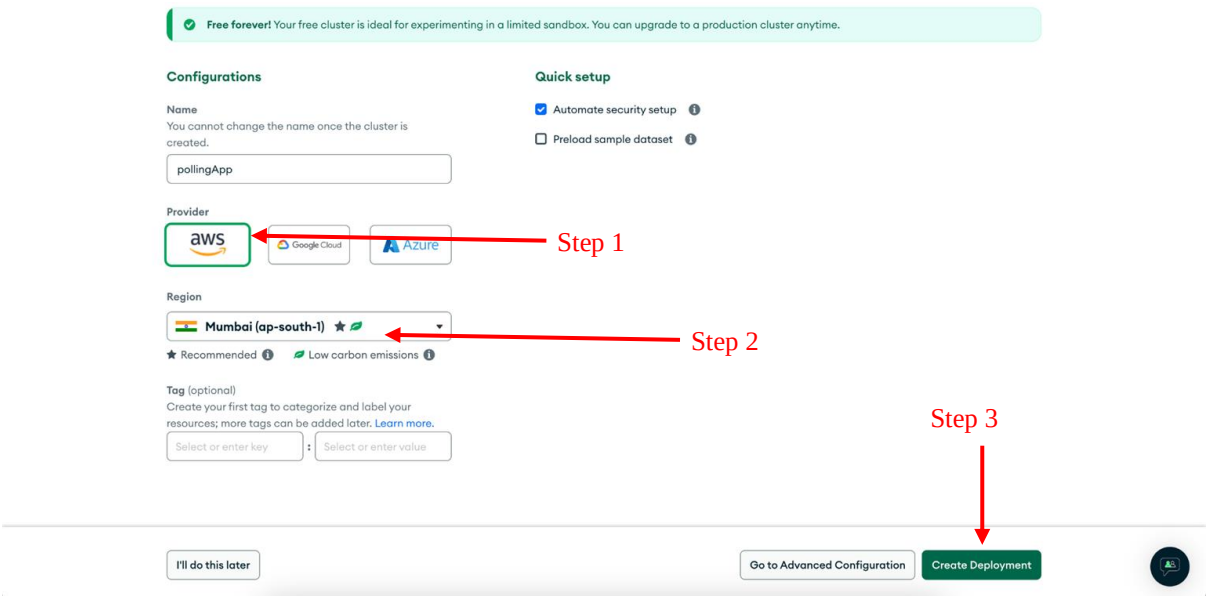
- Click "**Build a Cluster**".



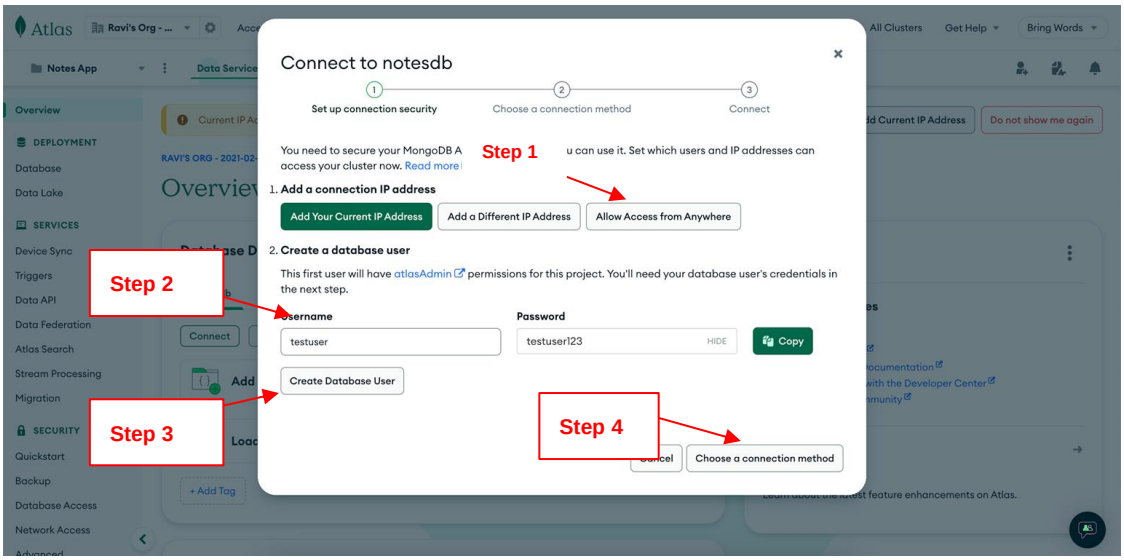
- Select the **Free Tier**, enter a cluster name.



- Choose a cloud provider and region close to you, then click "**Create Deployment**".

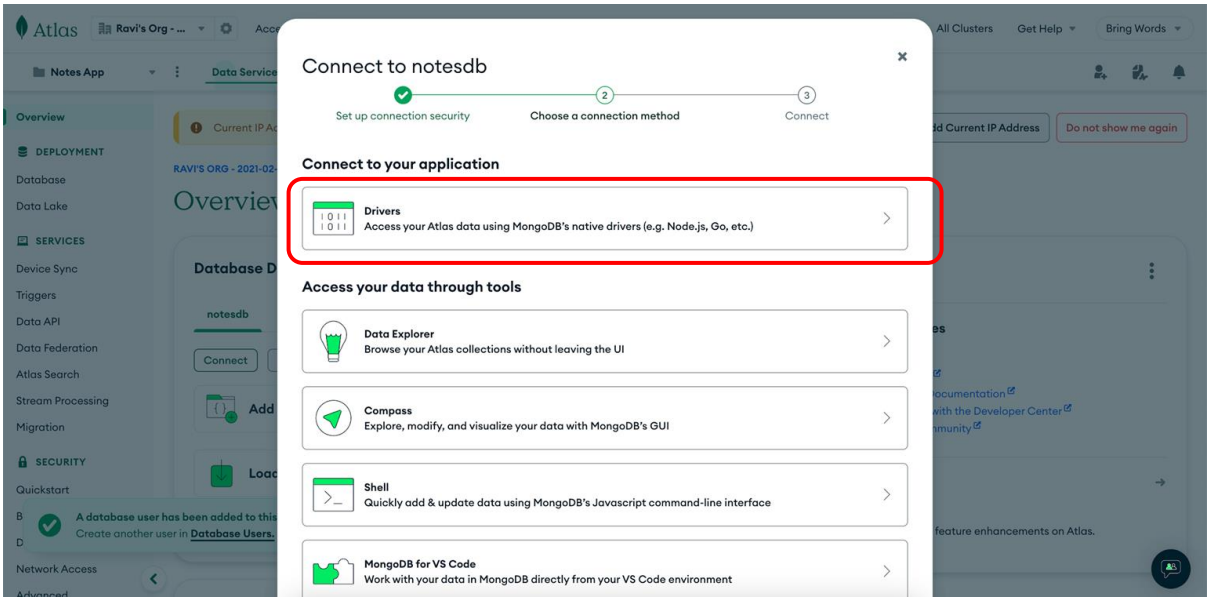


- Once deployment starts, you'll be directed to the connection setup.
- Add your IP address for access (use "Allow Access from Anywhere" if unsure).

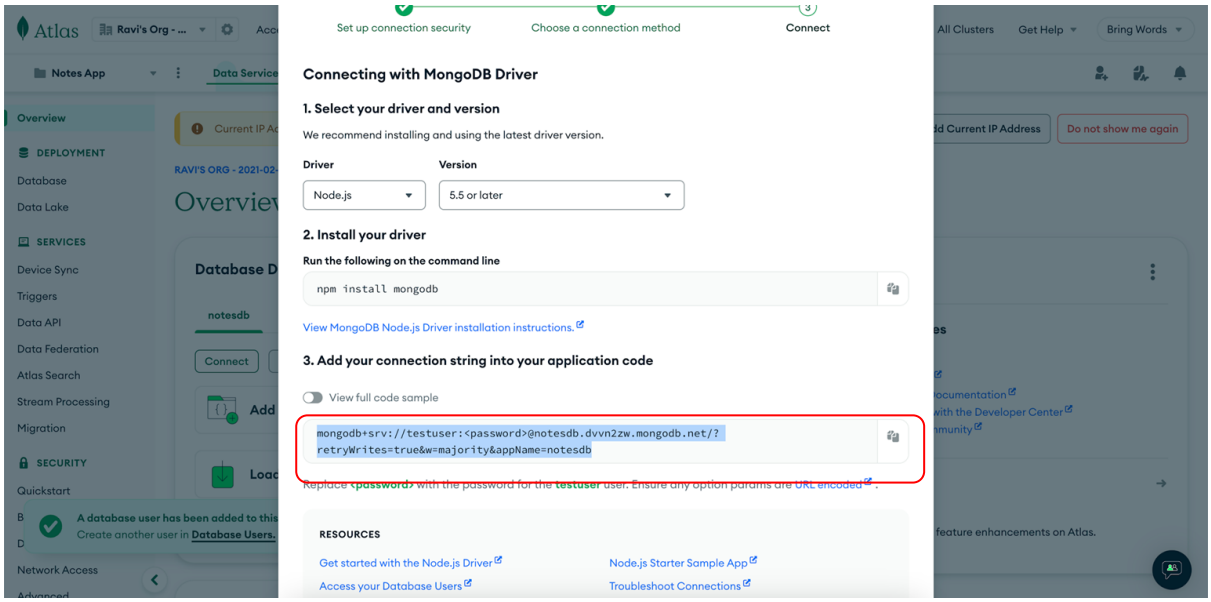


- Create a database user with a username and password.
- Click "**Choose a connection method**".

- Select the "**Drivers**" option.



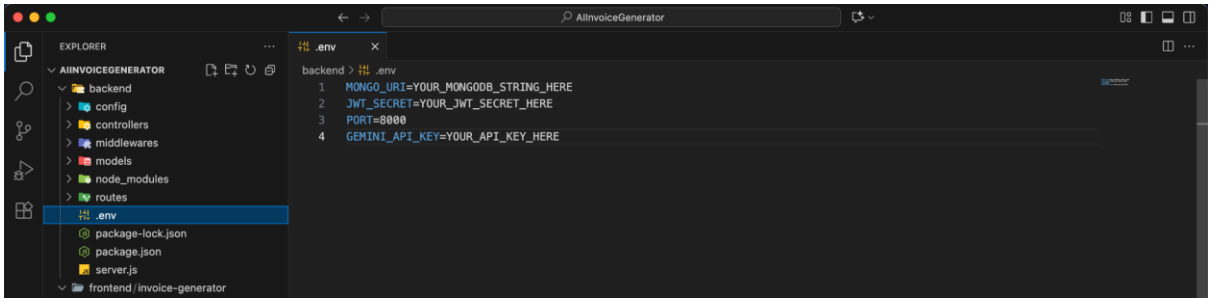
- Copy the Node.js connection string.



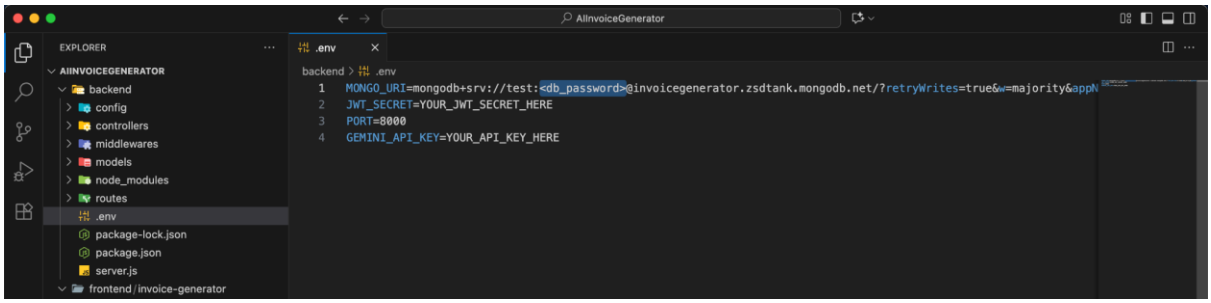
4. Update .env File:

- Paste the connection string into your .env file.

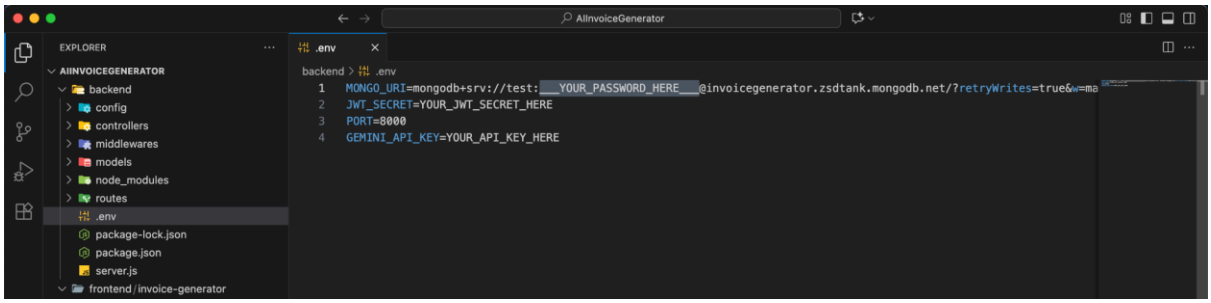
  Before:



After:



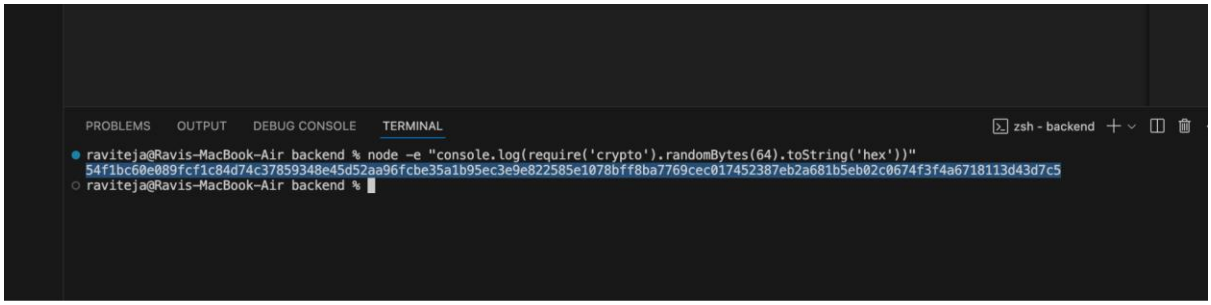
- Replace `<db_password>` with the password of the database user created earlier.



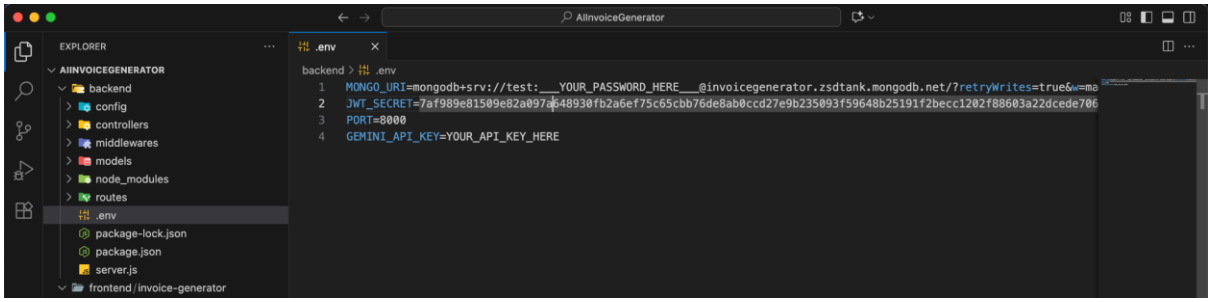
5. Generate JWT Secret:

- Run the following command in your terminal:

node -e "console.log(require('crypto').randomBytes(64).toString('hex'))"

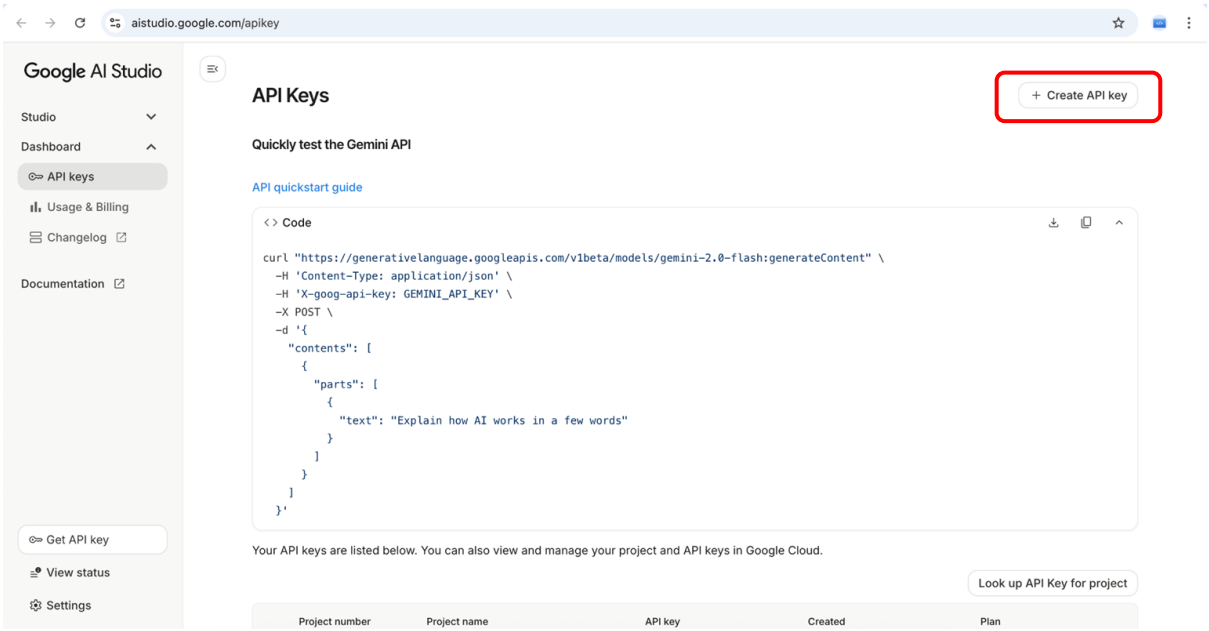


- Copy the output and set it as `JWT_SECRET` in your `.env` file.

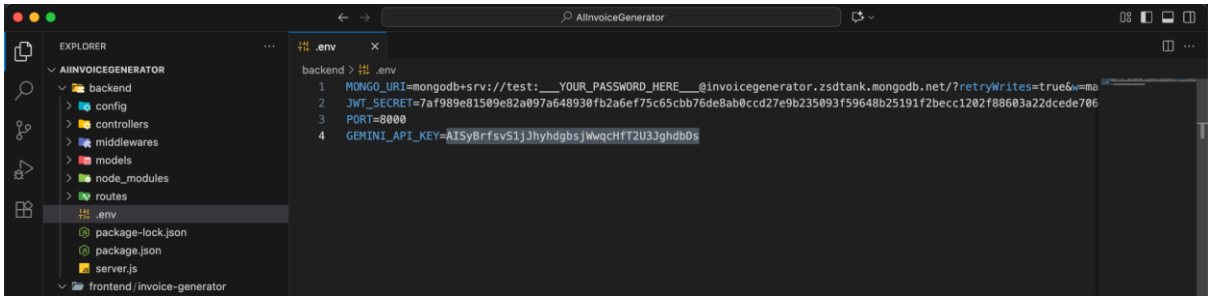


6. Set Up Gemini API Key:

- Go to [Google AI Studio]
- Click "**Get API Key**" and then "**Create API Key**".



- Copy the API key and paste it into your `.env` file.



- Now, start the server by running:

```
npm run dev
```

Frontend

1. Navigate to the `frontend/invoice-generator` folder.

```
cd frontend/invoice-generator
```

2. Run the following command to install the required dependencies:

```
npm install
```

3. After the installation is complete, start the React development server by running:

```
npm run dev
```

This will start the frontend server and open the app in your default web browser.