🛠️ eBay API Tokens

🔑 What Are Tokens and Why Do We Need Them? 🔗

Tokens are **digital keys** that allow your app to speak to eBay's servers. Tokens let your app access different parts of eBay's API (like listings, orders, inventory, etc.).

Types of Tokens Explained (Plain English) 🔗

When working with eBay's API, you'll deal with **four key pieces** in the token process. Think of them as a chain of keys that unlock access step by step:

1. **Auth Code** – This is a short-lived code you get **after a user logs in and approves your app**.
   It's the first step and is used to get a **Refresh Token**.
2. **Refresh Token** – Once you have this, you don't need the Auth Code again.
   The refresh token is a **long-lived key** that you use to get new **Access Tokens** whenever needed.
3. **Access Token** – This is the **actual token you include in API requests**. It grants access to the specific data and actions your app was authorized for.
   It expires quickly (usually in 2 hours), which is why you need the Refresh Token.
4. **Application Token** – This is a special kind of access token used when **no user is involved** (like calling public eBay data). You generate it directly using your app's credentials (Client ID + Secret), without any login step.

Token Type	How You Get It	What It's Used For	Lifespan
Auth Code	User logs in and authorizes your app	One-time code used to request a **refresh token**	Short (expires in minutes)
Refresh Token	From exchanging the **auth code**	Used to get a **new access token**	Long (up to 18 months)
Access Token	From using the **refresh token**	Used in headers to call **eBay APIs**	Short (usually 2 hours)
Application Token	From client ID + secret (no user involved)	For **non-user** API calls (e.g., metadata)	Short (usually 2 hours)

🔍 What Are Scopes and Why Do They Matter? 🔗

Scopes define *what your app is allowed to do* on behalf of the user or system. Think of them as permissions or access levels that your token carries.

For example:

- If your token includes the `sell.inventory` scope, it can update item inventory.

- If it only has `sell.inventory.readonly` , it can only view inventory—not change it.

✅ Examples of Common Scopes 🔗

Scope	What It Grants Access To
`https://api.ebay.com/oauth/api_scope`	General eBay API access
`https://api.ebay.com/oauth/api_scope/sell.inventory`	Full inventory management
`https://api.ebay.com/oauth/api_scope/sell.inventory.readonly`	View inventory only
`https://api.ebay.com/oauth/api_scope/sell.fulfillment`	Manage orders and shipping
`https://api.ebay.com/oauth/api_scope/sell.marketing`	Create and manage promotions
`https://api.ebay.com/oauth/api_scope/commerce.catalog.readonly`	View product catalog (titles, specs, etc.)

> 📝 You include the scopes when requesting a token.
> eBay will only grant scopes that your app is approved for.

🧪 Sandbox vs Production 🔗

| Environment	What It's For	URL Prefix	Tokens Used
Sandbox	Testing, development (fake listings)	`api.sandbox.ebay.com`	Test refresh/access tokens
Production	Real listings, real users	`api.ebay.com`	Real refresh/access tokens
Application	Non-user data (system-level tasks)	`api.ebay.com`	Application tokens only

🧾 History of eBay Tokens and Swedemom 🔗

Before Swedemom's EbayTokensService, we had to manually re-generate Refresh Tokens and Access Tokens for testing. If we wanted to test application functionality in eBay's Sandbox, we had to...
1. "Sign in to your eBay Developers Program account"
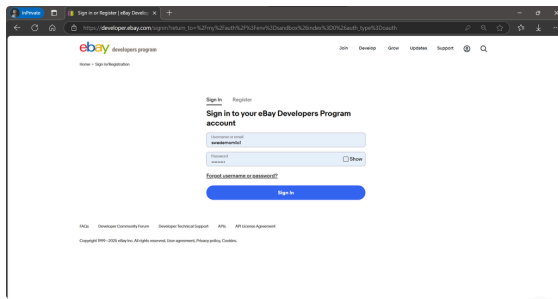
2. "Sign into Sandbox for OAuth"
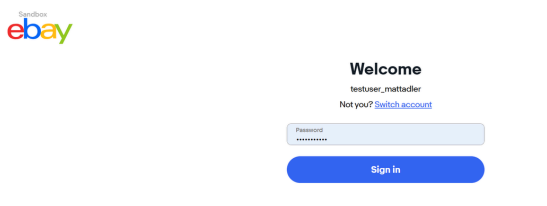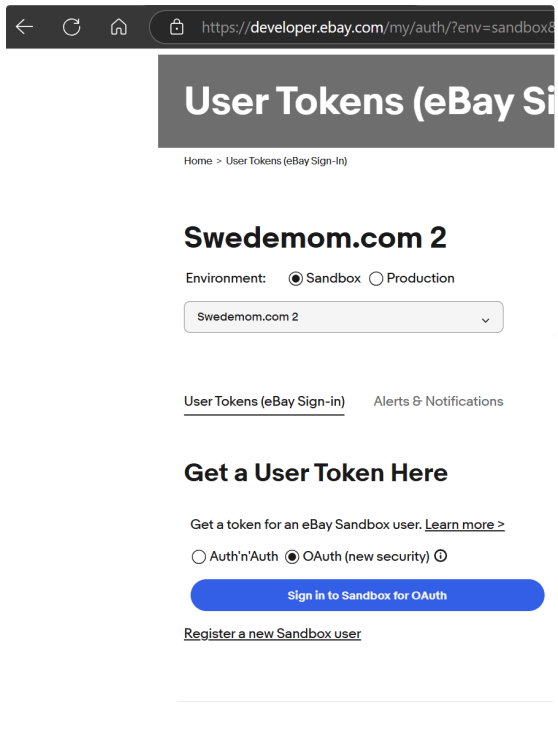
3. And finally copy the generated OAuth token and paste it into our test suite. This was tedious and made the testing process slow and cumbersome. The new EbayTokensService has now automated this process.

Get a User Token Here

Get a token for an eBay Sandbox user. Learn more >

○ Auth'n'Auth   ● OAuth (new security) ⓘ

✓ Use your keyset and token to send API requests on behalf of the user. Try the Trading API's
  GetUser call in the API Explorer.

[Sign in to Sandbox for OAuth]

Register a new Sandbox user

Expires: Thu, 17 Apr 2025 21:26:03   ⬇ Copy Token to Clipboard
GMT

v^l.1#i^l#r^0#p^3#I^3#f^0#t^H4slAAAAAAAA/+VZe2wbdx2P82hUuq5iG49RoN6VCZXM9r3sexCbObbTOInjJHaTNmgy
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Upon manually copying the access token, we had to paste it into our testing suite and pass it to various Services that toook it as an argument in the constructor. Now, with a new EbayTokensService, we dont ahve to pass tokens in constructors anymore, we can just call the new EbayTokensService when a new access token is needed.

🔄 Getting a new Refresh Token 🔗
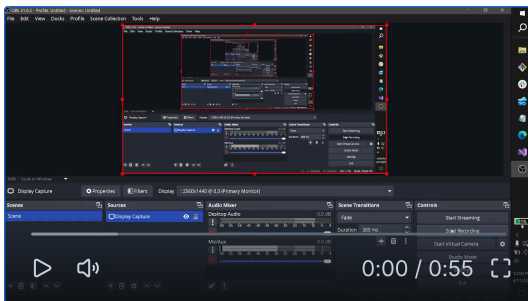
1. Open EbayTokensPage.cshtml

2. Click on "Get new sandbox refresh token"

3. You will be redirected to the application's Ebay URI/endpoint. Copy the AuthCode in the URL

4. Paste the Auth code in the Manual Refresh Token Request input box

5. Click on "Get New Sandbox Refresh Token"