

API Key Setup & Configuration

Step 3: Secure API Authentication Setup

Obtaining OpenAI API Key

- Sign up or log in at `platform.openai.com`.
- Navigate to your dashboard profile menu: "View API keys".
- Click "+ Create new secret key".
- Copy the key immediately. You won't be able to see it again for security reasons.

Configuration

Set the key as an environment variable to keep it secure.

```
# Windows (Command Prompt)
set OPENAI_API_KEY=your_key_here

# macOS / Linux (Bash/Zsh)
export OPENAI_API_KEY=your_key_here
```

Or use a `.env` file with Python for project-specific keys:

```
# 1. In your project, create a .env file:
OPENAI_API_KEY="your_key_here"

# 2. In your Python script:
# pip install python-dotenv
import os
from dotenv import load_dotenv

load_dotenv()
api_key = os.getenv('OPENAI_API_KEY')
```