

LAB

Write prompts to generate specific outputs from LLMs

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Introduction

In this lab, you will write and refine prompts to generate relevant output from large language models (LLMs).

Software requirements

To complete this lab, you don't have to install any software on your computer. You only require a Google account to access Google Colab and a Replicate account to access and use various artificial intelligence (AI) models.

Objective

After completing this lab, you should be able to:

- Write prompts to generate specific outputs from LLMs

Lab steps

This lab requires you to complete the following procedures:

1. Create a GitHub account
2. Create a Replicate account
3. Sign up for Google Colab
4. Load the Jupyter notebook and initialize the model
5. Load the input dataset and write a baseline prompt
6. Refine the prompt using task-specific details
7. Refine the prompt using additional details

Estimated duration to complete

20 minutes

Scenario**Background information**

Codal Technologies is a mid-sized information technology (IT) services firm that manages a variety of projects for global retail companies. With multiple projects running simultaneously, the project management team needs clear and consistent weekly updates to stay aligned. These updates provide a structured view of what was completed, what's upcoming, and any emerging issues. This helps managers track progress accurately, identify risks early, allocate resources effectively, and ensure smooth, on-time delivery for clients.

Challenge

You are a project intern at Codal Technologies and prepare weekly project updates for the project management team. However, the information you receive is scattered across Slack messages, Jira tickets, meeting notes, and long email threads. It is often mixed with highly technical updates from clients and developers. These inputs are inconsistent, incomplete, and confusing, making it difficult to create professional and structured updates.

Solution

To improve efficiency and accuracy, you begin using IBM Granite via Replicate to generate project updates. After some experimentation, you've realized that the quality of the project updates depends on how clearly and precisely you guide the AI model. So, now, you've decided to refine your prompts step-by-step to generate consistent and professional-quality updates.

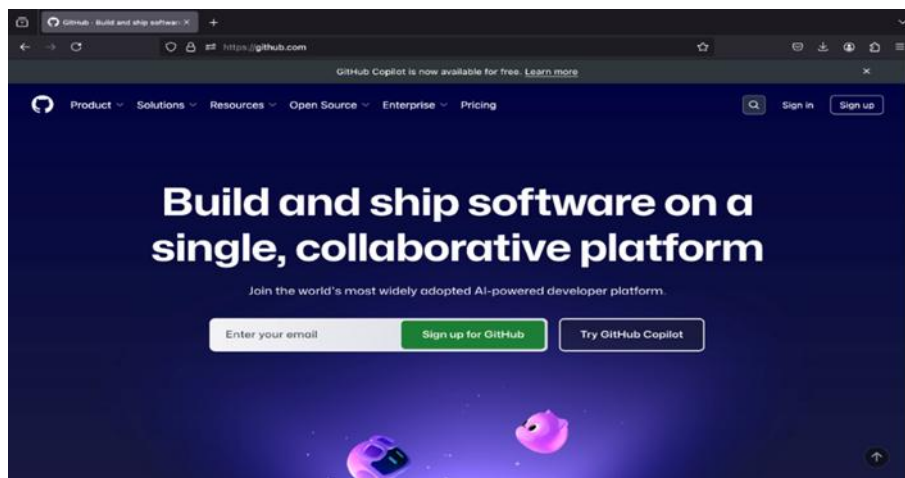
Create a GitHub account

Overview

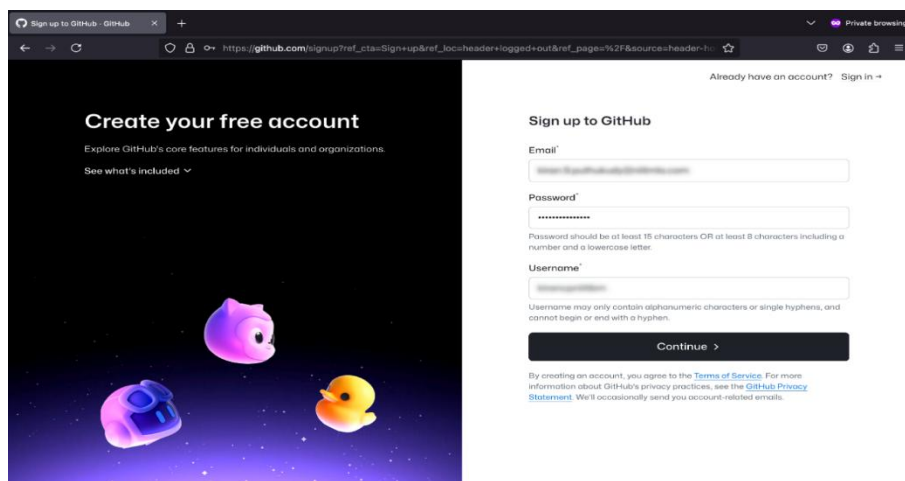
In this procedure, you'll set up a GitHub account. GitHub is a platform that helps developers store, manage, and share code, while also supporting collaboration through tools such as version control, bug tracking, and task management. Setting up a GitHub account provides access to the Replicate platform, which is required to complete the lab efficiently.

Instructions

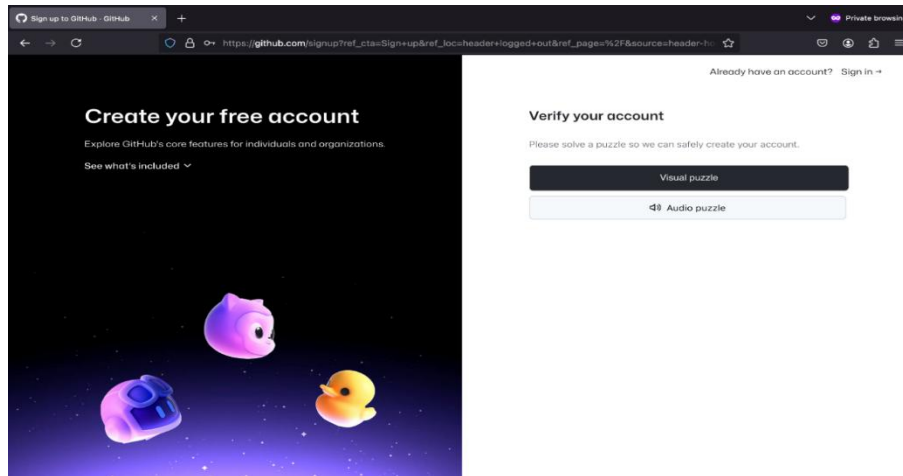
1. To create a GitHub account, go to the [GitHub](https://github.com) website.
2. Select the **Sign up for GitHub** button, as shown in the following screenshot.



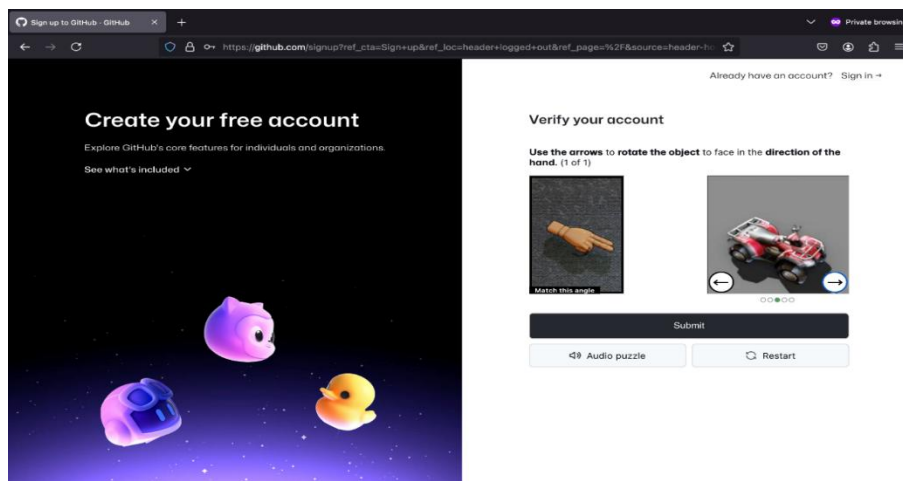
3. The following screenshot shows the "Sign up to GitHub" page. Enter your details in the **Email**, **Password**, and **Username** fields. Then, select **Continue**.



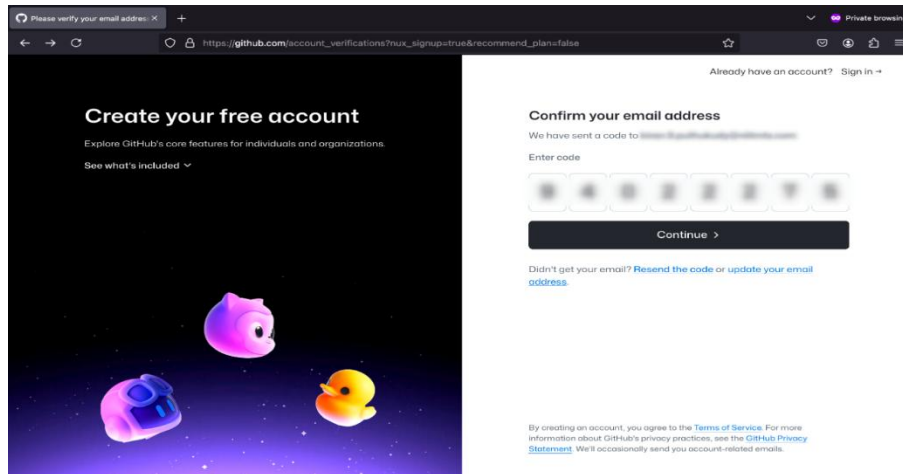
4. To verify your account, select the **Visual puzzle** button.



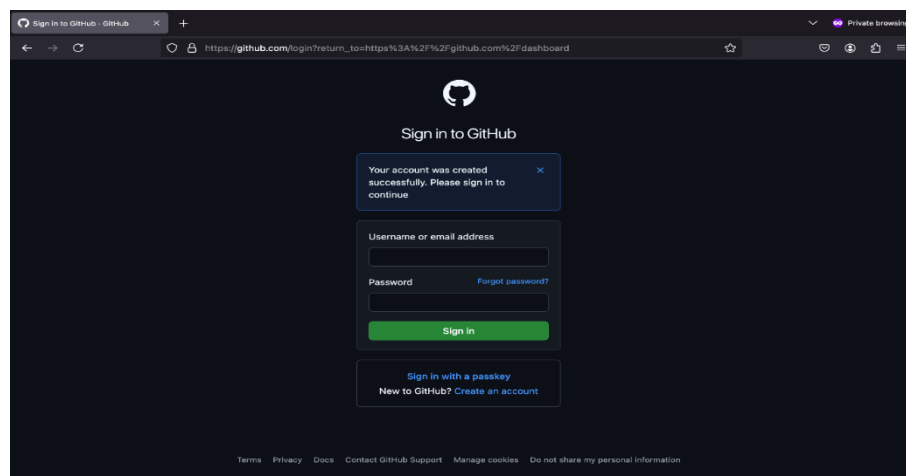
5. Solve the visual puzzle and select **Submit**.



- To confirm your email, enter the confirmation code sent to your registered email in the **Enter code** field and select **Continue**.

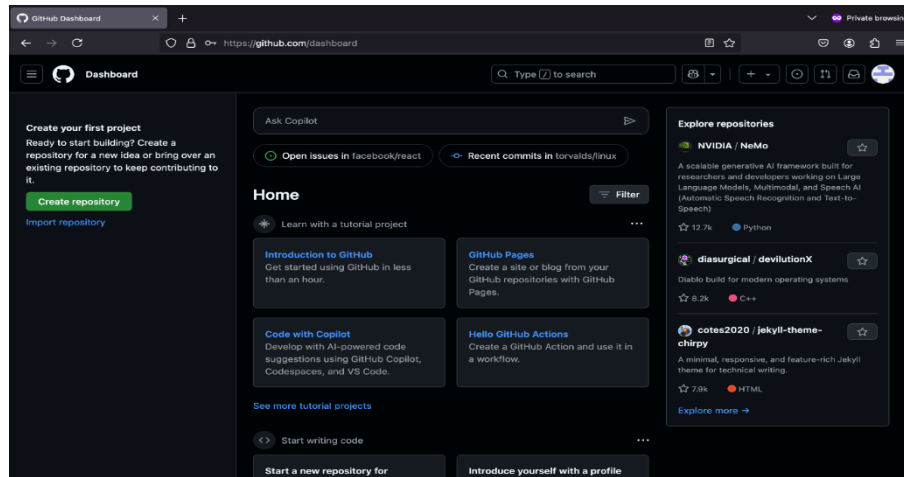


- After your GitHub account has been successfully created, a confirmation message is displayed as shown in the following screenshot.



- To sign in to your account, enter your credentials in the **Username or email address** and **Password** fields, and then select **Sign in**.

9. After you sign in, the GitHub dashboard displays as shown in the following screenshot.



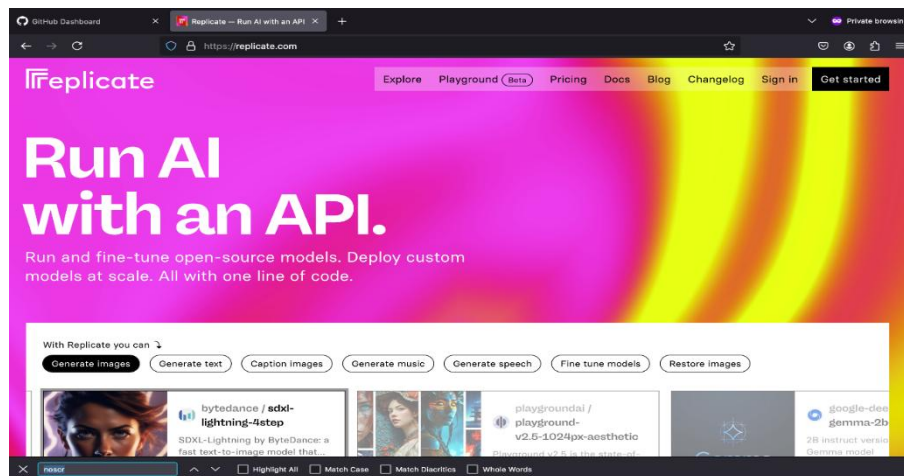
Create a Replicate account

Overview

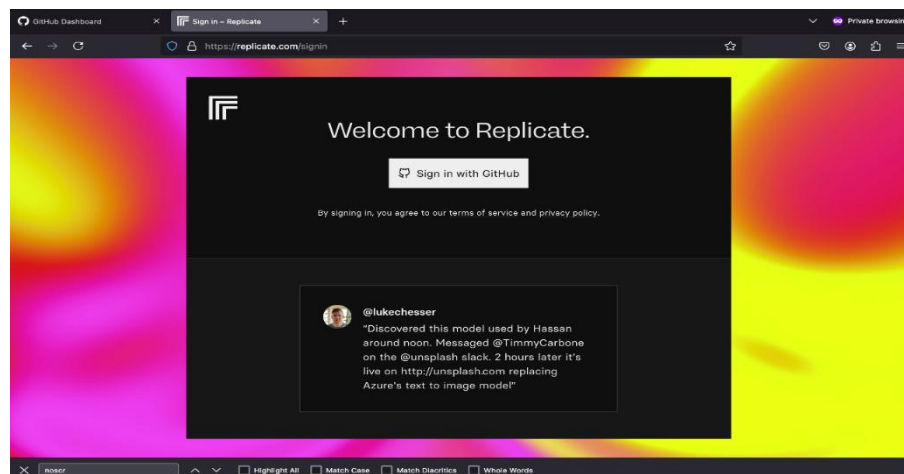
In this procedure, you'll use your GitHub account to register for a Replicate account. Replicate is a cloud-based platform that lets you use AI models such as IBM Granite without requiring advanced hardware. As part of this procedure, you'll create a Replicate token, a secure access key that allows the lab environment to authenticate with Replicate and run models from your account in Google Colab.

Instructions

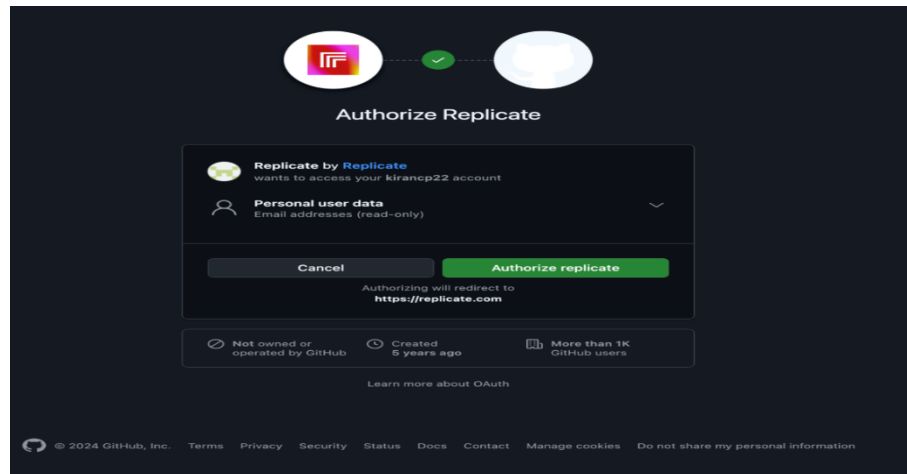
1. Go to the [Replicate](https://replicate.com) website.
2. Select **Get started**, as shown in the following screenshot.



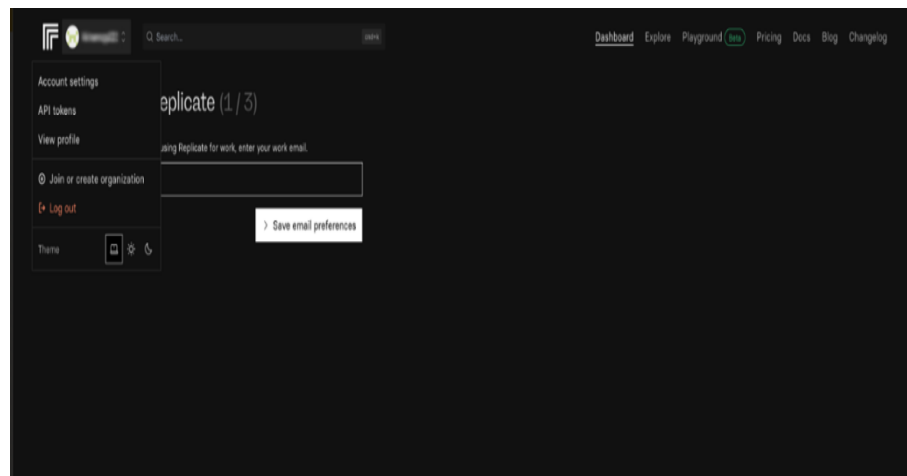
3. Select the **Sign in with GitHub** button, as shown in the following screenshot.



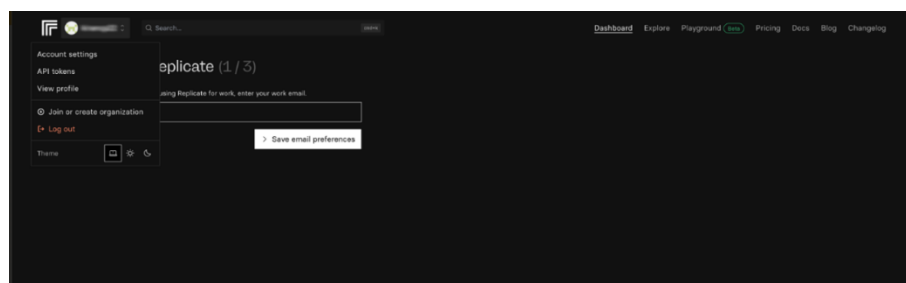
4. Select **Authorize replicate** to continue, as shown in the following screenshot.



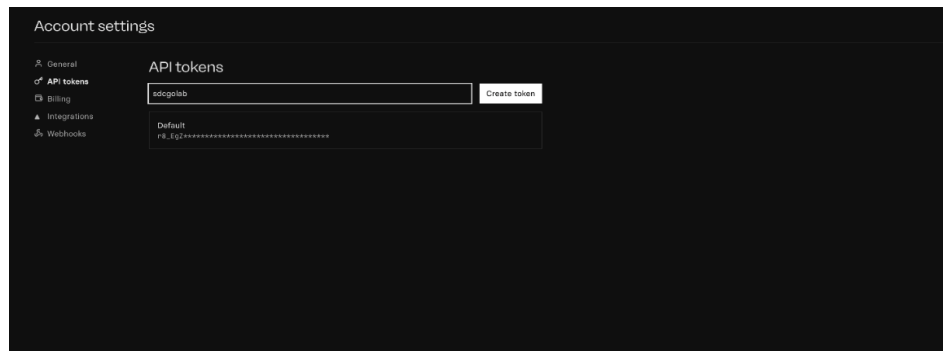
5. After your Replicate account is created, the Replicate dashboard displays as shown in the following screenshot. To create a Replicate token, select the **Account settings** option from the navigation menu.



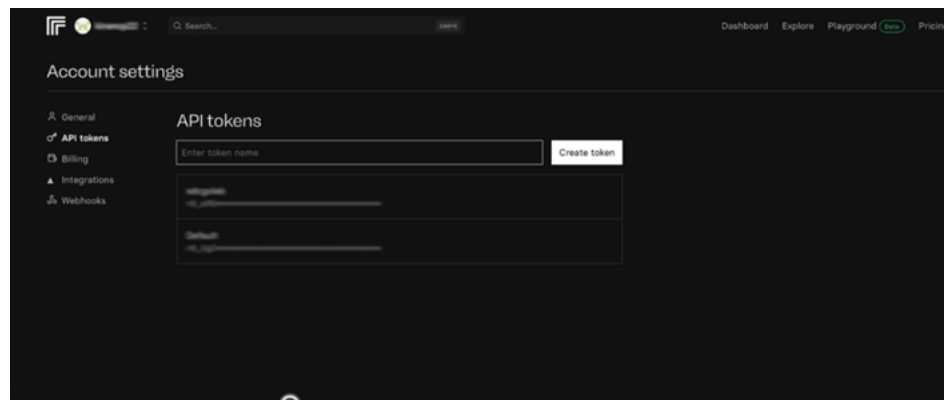
6. The following screenshot shows the Replicate dashboard. Select **API tokens** from the “Account settings” panel.



7. Enter a name for the token in the **API tokens** field and then select **Create token**, as shown in the following screenshot.

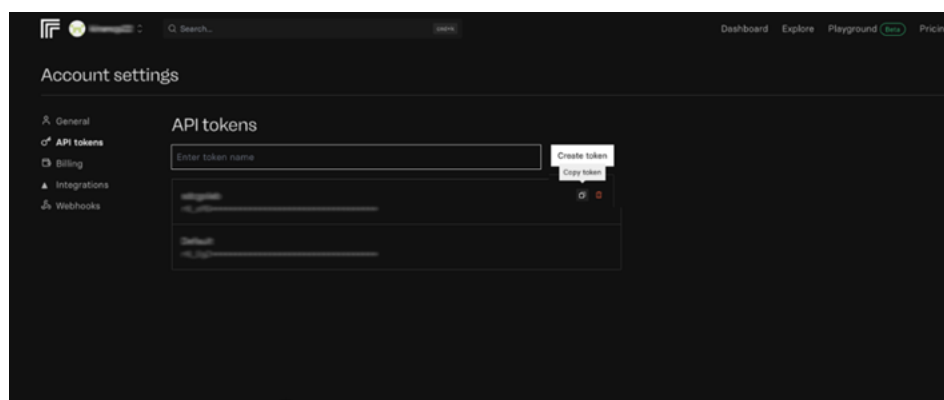


8. After your API token is created, it displays on the “Account settings” page as shown in the following screenshot.



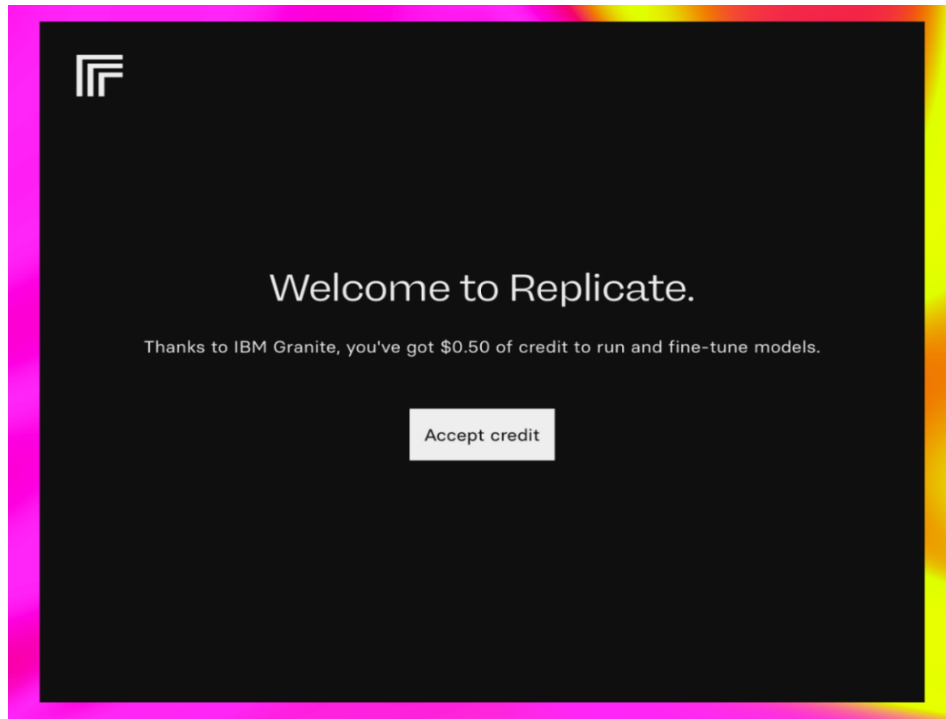
9. To copy the Replicate API, select the **Copy token** icon, as shown in the following screenshot.

Note: Save the Replicate token because you’ll need it to authenticate with the Replicate API when running code in the Google Colab environment later in this lab.

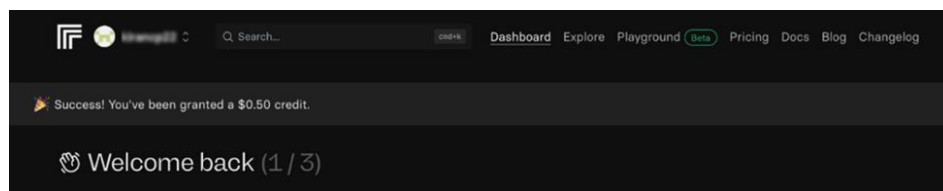


10. To run the lab without interruptions, you'll require some Replicate credits. Go to the [Replicate invite](#) link to claim your free \$0.50 credit.

11. To claim the amount, select **Accept credit**.



12. A confirmation message is displayed indicating that a \$0.50 credit has been added to your Replicate account as shown in the following screenshot.



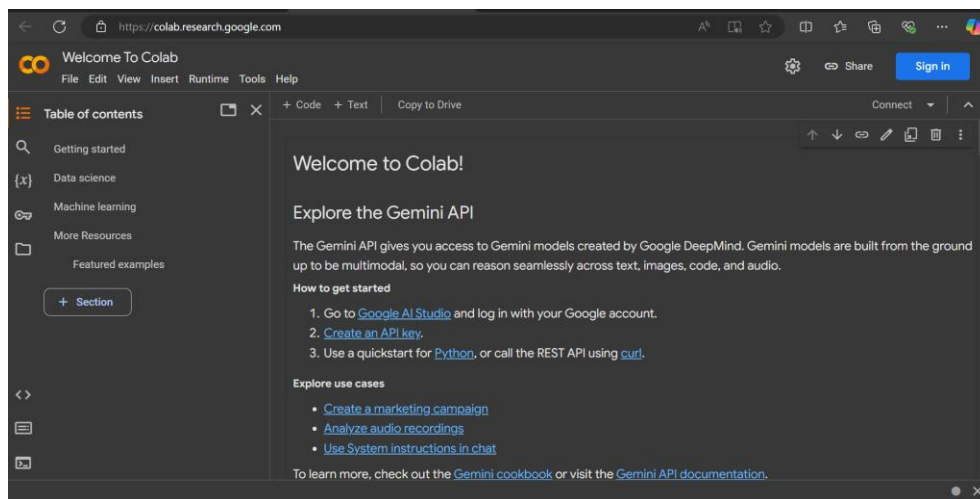
Sign up for Google Colab

Overview

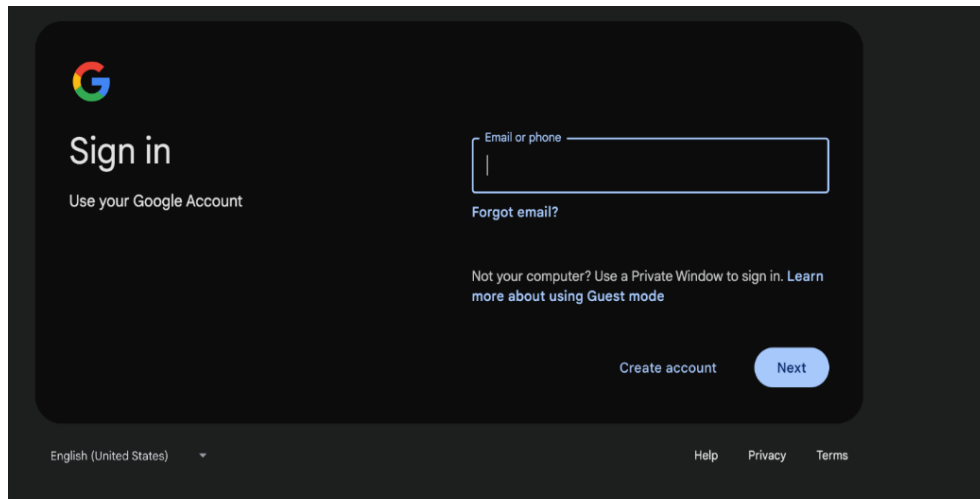
In this procedure, you'll set up a Google Colab account. Google Colab is a free cloud platform that lets you run code in notebooks, which are commonly used for machine learning, data science, and AI tasks. A Google Colab account allows you to install and use the tools needed to complete this lab.

Instructions

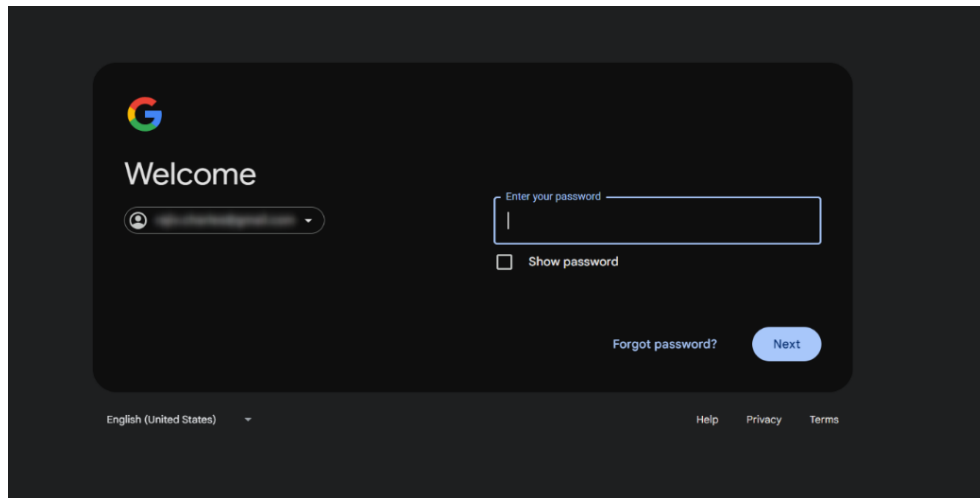
1. To sign up, go to the [Google Colab](https://colab.research.google.com) website.
2. Select **Sign in**, as shown in the following screenshot.



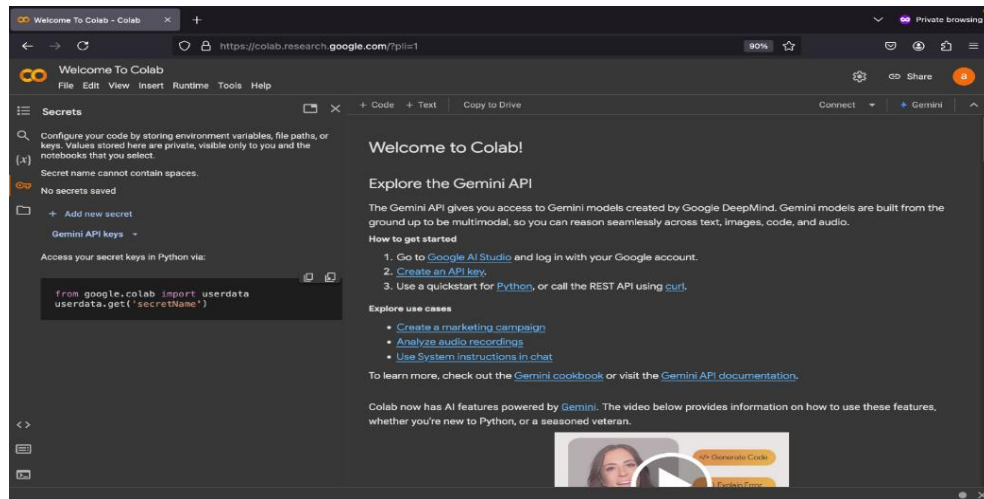
3. Enter your email or phone number in the **Email or phone** field, and then select **Next**. The following screenshot shows the Google sign-in page.



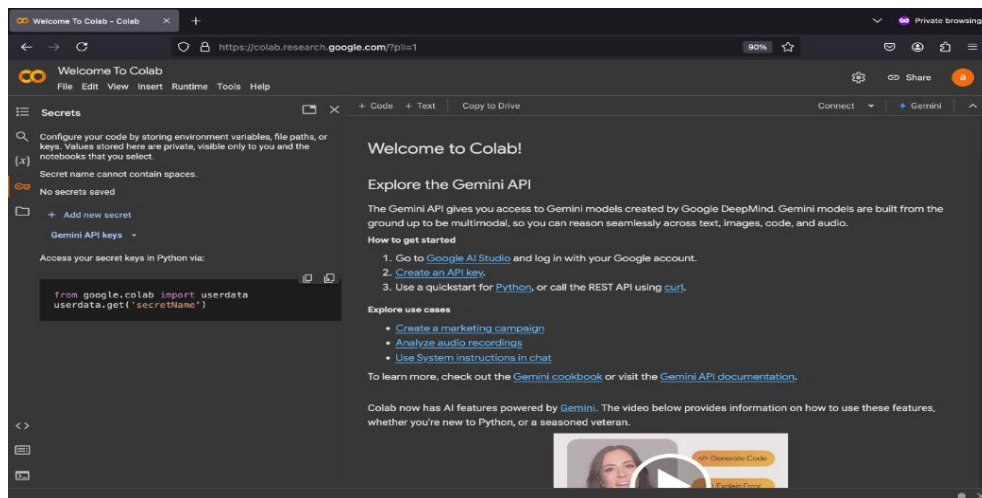
4. Enter your password in the **Enter your password** field, and then select **Next**.



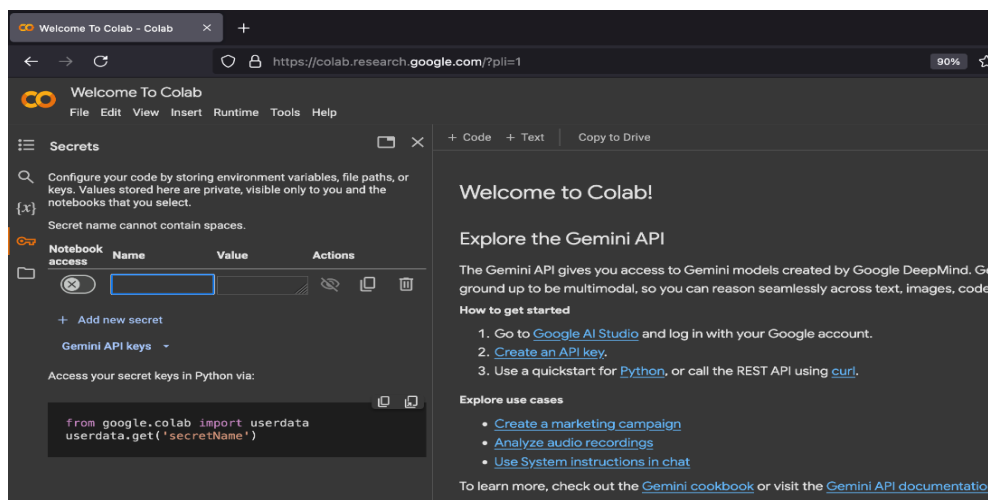
5. To store your Replicate API token, select the key icon from the Secrets tab on the Welcome to Colab page, as shown in the following screenshot.



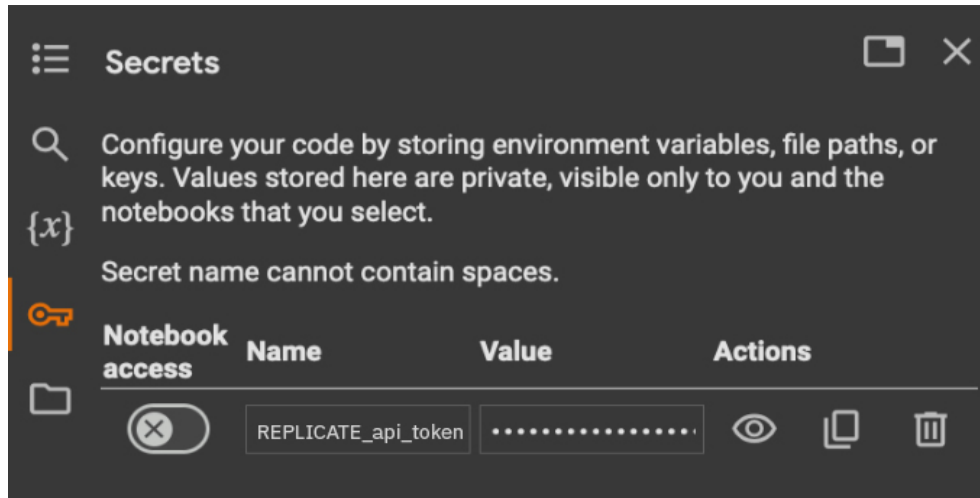
6. Select **Add new secret**.



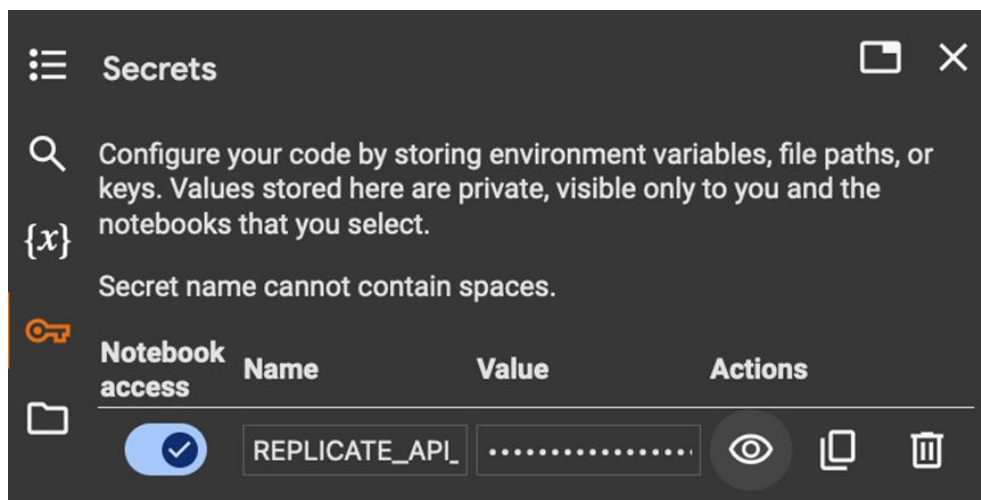
7. Type `REPLICATE_api_token` in the **Name** field.



8. Paste the Replicate API token you copied into the **Value** field, as shown in the following screenshot.



9. Set the **Notebook access** switch on, as shown in the following screenshot. Then, select the close icon to exit the configuration.



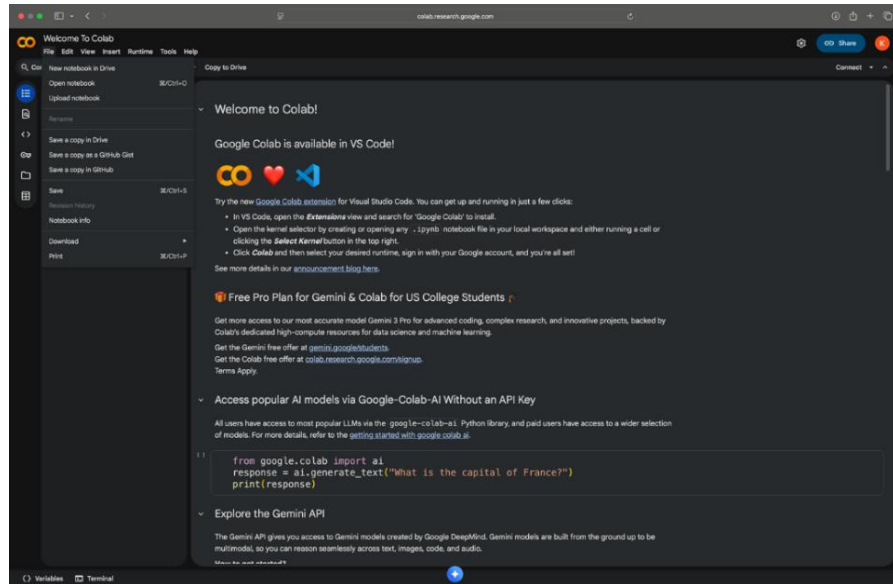
Load the Jupyter notebook and initialize the model

Overview

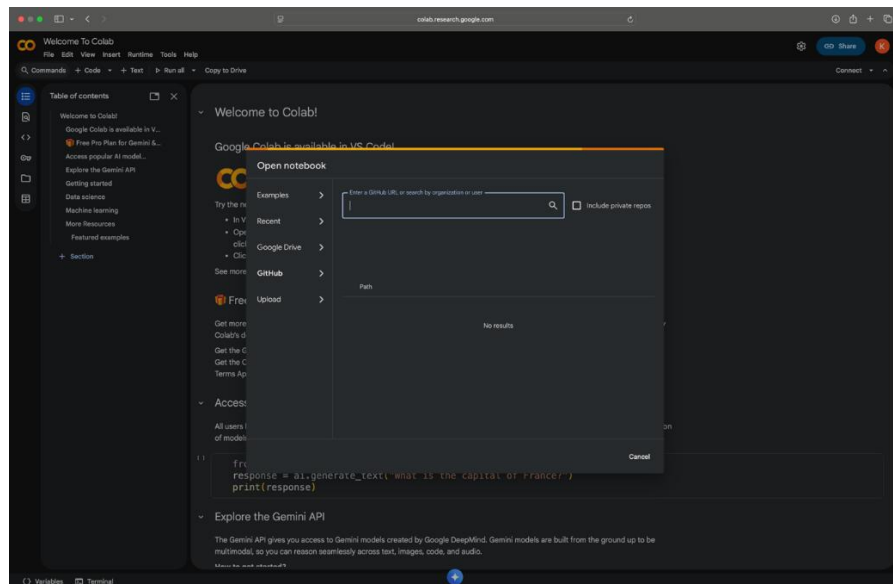
In this procedure, you'll load the Jupyter notebook and initialize the AI model. This sets up your environment before you can interact with the AI model.

Instructions

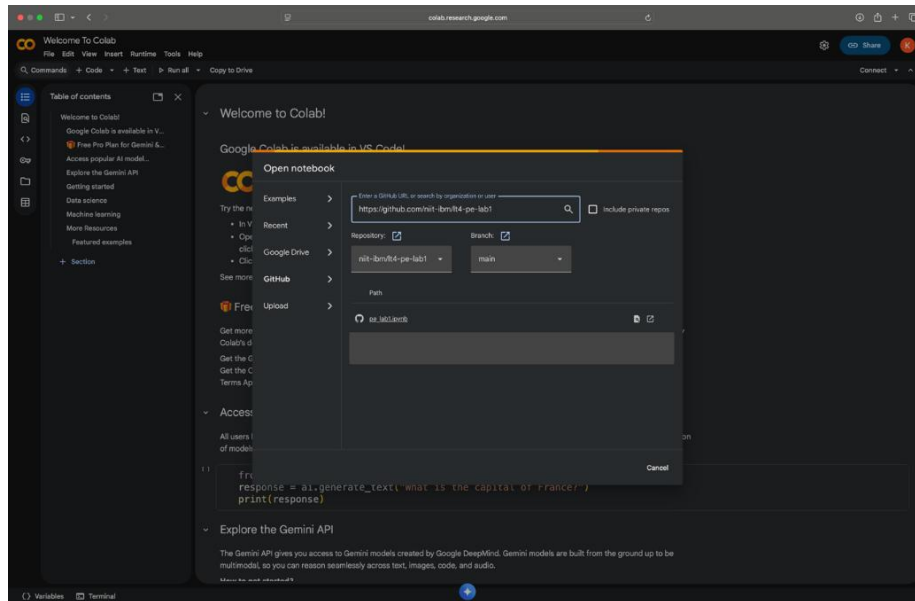
1. In your Google Colab workspace, select **File > Open notebook**.



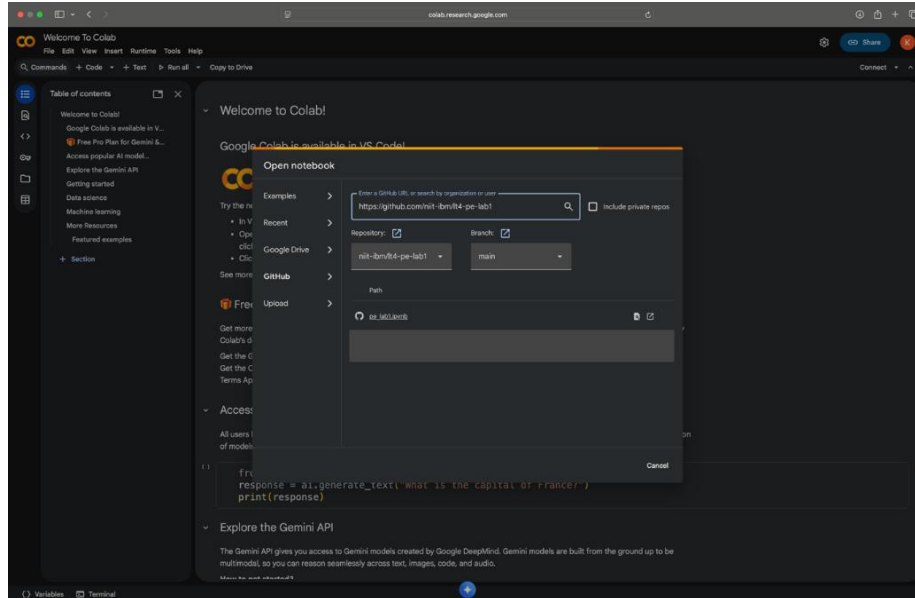
2. From the navigation menu, select **GitHub**.



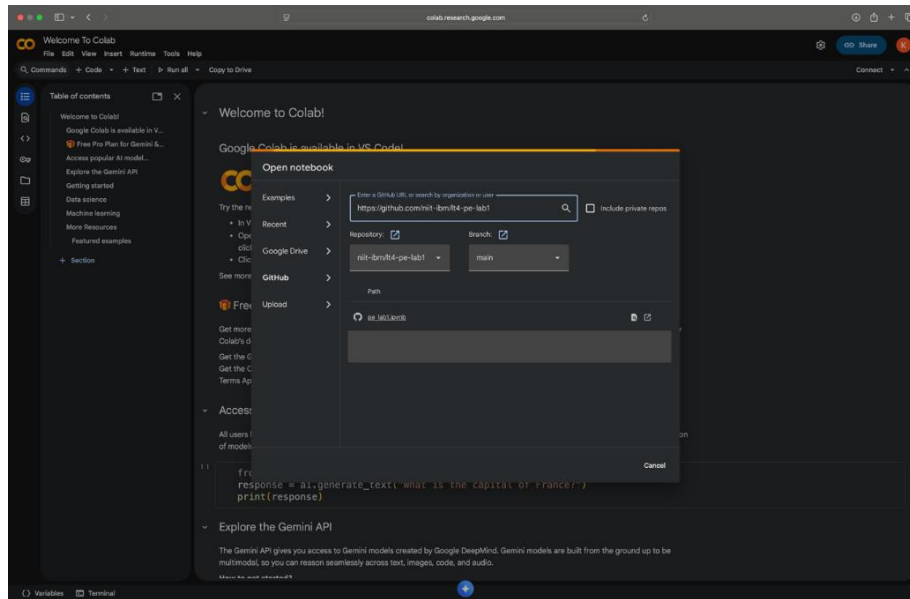
3. In the **Enter a GitHub URL or search by organization or user** field, copy and paste the following URL: <https://github.com/niit-ibm/lt4-pe-lab1> and then, select the **search** icon.



4. In the Branch section, select **main**.



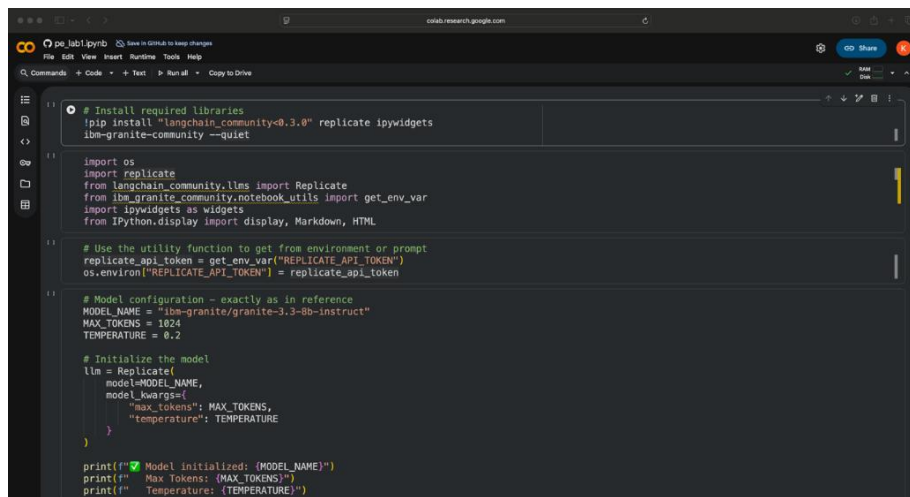
5. Select the **pe_lab1.ipynb** notebook in the Path section to open the notebook in Google Colab.



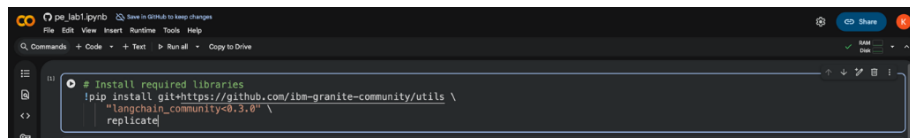
Result: A notebook titled **pe-lab1** that you need to use for this lab activity opens in the Colab Workspace. Note that each row in the notebook is referred to as a **cell**.

6. To run the code in the Jupyter notebook, you need to start a new instance in the Google Colab runtime. For this, select the **Connect** menu on the Google Colab navigation bar, and then, select the **Connect to a hosted runtime** option.

Result: A green checkmark indicates that you have successfully connected to the hosted runtime.

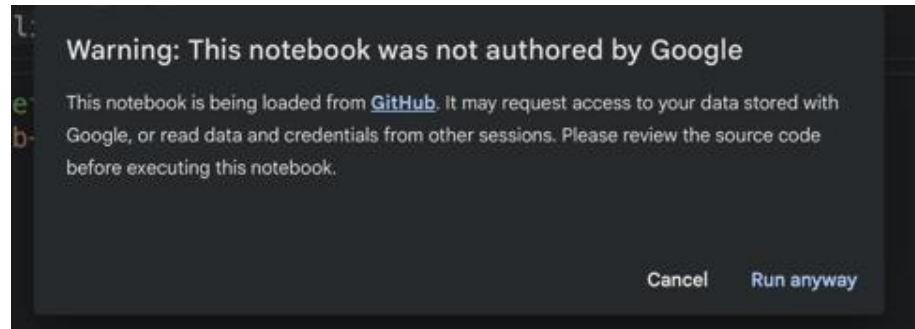


7. In the first cell of the notebook, select the **Play** button to install the required libraries from the Granite suite.

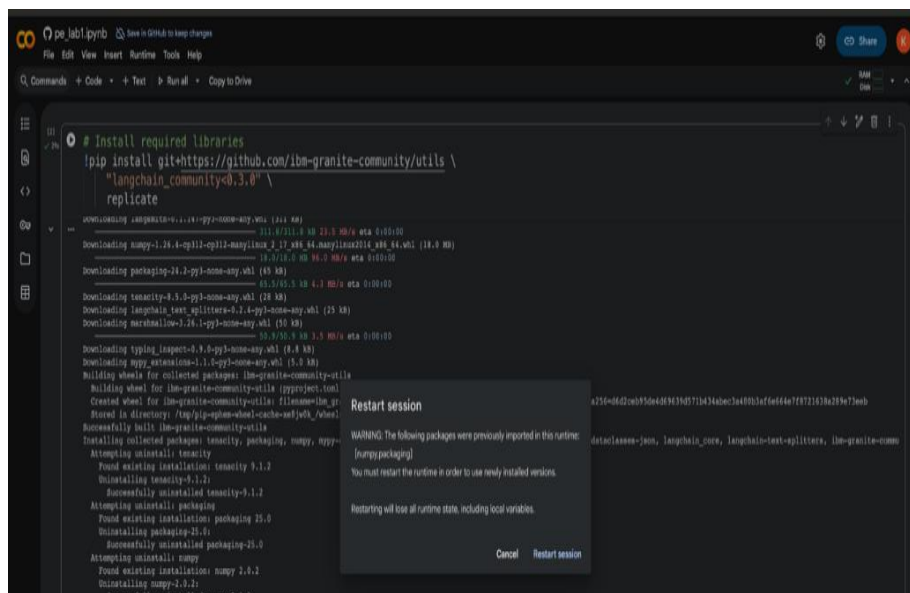


```
# Install required libraries
!pip install git+https://github.com/ibm-granite-community/utis \
"langchain_community<0.3.0" \
replicate
```

8. Select **Run anyway** to proceed loading the required libraries.



9. Once installation is complete you are prompted to restart the runtime session. Select **Restart session**.



```
# Install required libraries
!pip install git+https://github.com/ibm-granite-community/utis \
"langchain_community<0.3.0" \
replicate
```

Downloading langchain<0.3.0-py3-none-any.whl (211 kB)
11.0/11.0 MB 22.3 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Downloading numpy-1.26.4-cp312-cp312-manylinux_2_17_x86_64.manylinux2014_x86_64.whl (18.0 MB)
18.0/18.0 MB 16.2 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Downloading packaging-24.2-py3-none-any.whl (45 kB)
45.0/45.0 kB 4.3 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Downloading tenacity-8.5.0-py3-none-any.whl (28 kB)
28.0/28.0 kB 4.3 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Downloading langchain_text_splitters-0.3.4-py3-none-any.whl (25 kB)
25.0/25.0 kB 4.3 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Downloading marshmallow-3.26.1-py3-none-any.whl (50 kB)
50.0/50.0 kB 1.5 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Downloading typing_inspect-0.9.0-py3-none-any.whl (6.8 kB)
6.8/6.8 kB 4.3 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Downloading pyproject_metadata-1.0.0-py3-none-any.whl (5.0 kB)
5.0/5.0 kB 4.3 MB/s eta 0:00:00
Building wheels for collected packages: ibm-granite-community-utis
Building wheel for ibm-granite-community-utis (pyproject.toml)
Created wheel for ibm-granite-community-utis: filename=ibm_granite_community_utis-0.0.0-py3-none-any.whl
Stored in directory: /tmp/pip-ephem-wheel-cache-sdfjwh/_wheels/
Successfully built ibm-granite-community-utis
Installing collected packages: tenacity, packaging, numpy, pyproject_metadata, typing_inspect, langchain_text_splitters, langchain_community, ibm-granite-community-utis, replicate
Attempting uninstall: tenacity
Found existing installation: tenacity 9.1.2
Uninstalling tenacity-9.1.2:
Successfully uninstalled tenacity-9.1.2
Attempting uninstall: packaging
Found existing installation: packaging 25.0
Uninstalling packaging-25.0:
Successfully uninstalled packaging-25.0
Attempting uninstall: numpy
Found existing installation: numpy 1.26.4
Uninstalling numpy-1.26.4:
Successfully uninstalled numpy-1.26.4

Restart session


WARNING: The following packages were previously imported in this runtime: [numpy, packaging]

You must restart the runtime in order to use newly installed versions.

Restarting will lose all runtime state, including local variables.

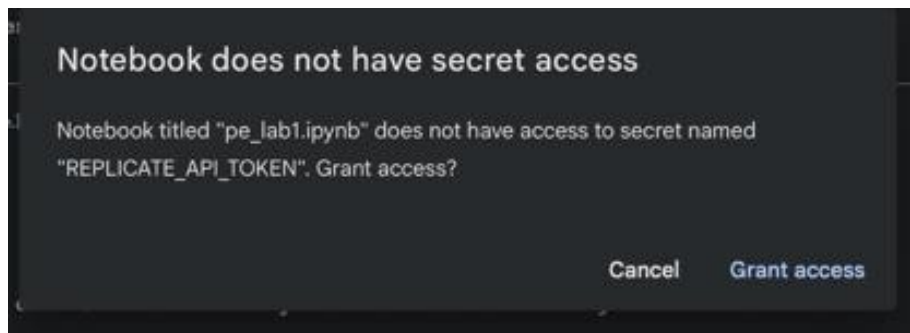
Cancel Restart session

10. Select **Run** to import the libraries.

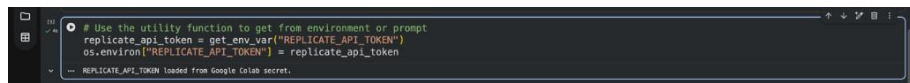


```
import os
import replicate
from langchain_community.llms import Replicate
from ibm_granite_community.notebook_utils import get_env_var
```

11. From the next cell, select **Grant access** to let the model access the Replicate API Token from the Secrets.



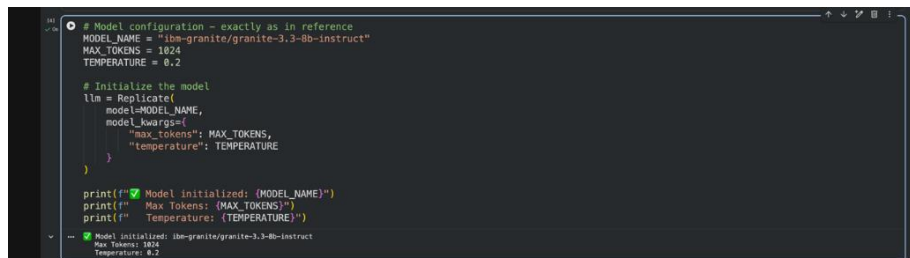
12. The following message displays at the bottom of the cell: REPLICATE_API_TOKEN loaded from Google Colab secret.



```
# Use the utility function to get from environment or prompt
replicate_api_token = get_env_var("REPLICATE_API_TOKEN")
os.environ["REPLICATE_API_TOKEN"] = replicate_api_token

... REPLICATE_API_TOKEN loaded from Google Colab secret.
```

13. Select the **Play** button to initialize the granite-3.3-8B-instruct model.



```
# Model configuration - exactly as in reference
MODEL_NAME = "ibm-granite/granite-3.3-8b-instruct"
MAX_TOKENS = 1824
TEMPERATURE = 0.2

# Initialize the model
llm = Replicate(
    model=MODEL_NAME,
    model_kwargs={
        "max_tokens": MAX_TOKENS,
        "temperature": TEMPERATURE
    }
)

print(f"Model initialized: {MODEL_NAME}")
print(f"Max Tokens: {MAX_TOKENS}")
print(f"Temperature: {TEMPERATURE}")

... Model initialized: ibm-granite/granite-3.3-8b-instruct
Max Tokens: 1824
Temperature: 0.2
```

Load the input dataset and write a baseline prompt

Overview

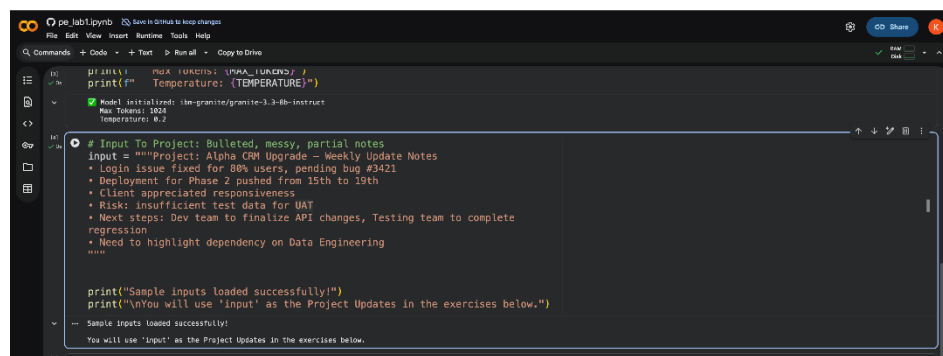
In this procedure, you'll upload the input dataset and write a baseline prompt or the initial instruction. You'll use the zero-shot prompting technique, a technique that includes providing minimal detail to generate an output from the LLM.

Instructions

1. Begin by uploading the inputs related to the project updates you've received from project leads. These inputs provide all the relevant project information to the Granite model. Without these inputs, the model might generate inconsistent or inaccurate project summaries.

To do this, copy the following code, paste it into a new code cell, and then select the **Play** icon to execute it.

```
# Input A: Bulleted, messy, partial notes
Input = """Project: Alpha CRM Upgrade - Weekly Update Notes
Login issue fixed for 80% users, pending bug #3421
Deployment for Phase 2 pushed from 15th to 19th
Client appreciated responsiveness
Risk: insufficient test data for UAT
Next steps: Dev team to finalize API changes, Testing team to
complete regression
Need to highlight dependency on Data Engineering
"""
```



2. Next, enter the baseline prompt. To do this, copy the following code, paste it into a new code cell, and then select the **Play** icon to execute it.

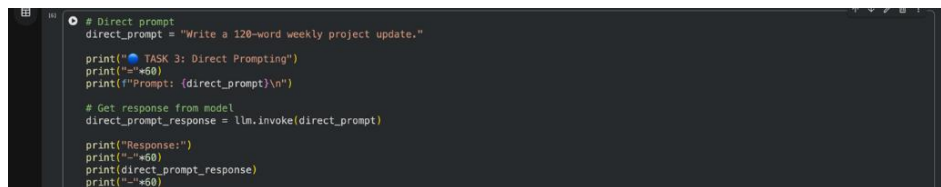
```
# Direct prompt
direct_prompt = "Write a 120-word weekly project update."
```

```
print("TASK 3: Direct Prompting")
print("*"*60)
print(f"Prompt: {direct_prompt}\n")

# Get response from model
direct_prompt_response = llm.invoke(direct_prompt)

print("Response:")
print("*"*60)
print(direct_prompt_response)
print("*"*60)
```

The following screenshot shows the code pasted into the code cell.



```
# Direct prompt
direct_prompt = "Write a 120-word weekly project update."

print("TASK 3: Direct Prompting")
print("*"*60)
print(f"Prompt: {direct_prompt}\n")

# Get response from model
direct_prompt_response = llm.invoke(direct_prompt)

print("Response:")
print("*"*60)
print(direct_prompt_response)
print("*"*60)
```

Result: After you enter the baseline prompt, the LLM generates an output as shown in the following screenshot.



```
# Direct prompt
direct_prompt = "Write a 120-word weekly project update."

print("TASK 3: Direct Prompting")
print("*"*60)
print(f"Prompt: {direct_prompt}\n")

# Get response from model
direct_prompt_response = llm.invoke(direct_prompt)

print("Response:")
print("*"*60)
print(direct_prompt_response)
print("*"*60)
```

... TASK 3: Direct Prompting

Prompt: Write a 120-word weekly project update.

Response:

Subject: Weekly Project Update - Week of December 02, 2023

Dear Team,

I hope this update finds you well. This week, we've made significant strides in our project timeline. The front-end development team successfully integrated the new UI components, enhancing user experience. Our QA team has been diligently testing these new features, identifying and reporting a few minor bugs. They're working closely with the development teams to rectify these issues promptly. Additionally, we're looking ahead, we'll focus on refining the user interface based on feedback and finalize the testing phase before the anticipated launch next week.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Let's keep up the momentum!

Best,
[Your Name]

Note that the output is insufficient; the model has not generated a structured project update. So, you will now refine the prompt.

Refine the prompt using task-specific details

Overview

In this procedure, you'll give the model task-specific prompts, that is, instructions designed to guide LLMs to perform a defined task. These prompts have a defined focus and often include additional context or examples to help the AI models generate accurate and relevant responses.

Instructions

1. Now refine the baseline prompt by adding some task-specific details such as the “current status” of the project and “risks” related to the project. To do this, copy the following code, paste it into a new code cell, and then select the **Play** icon to execute it.

```
# Task-specific prompt with structure
def create_structured_prompt(project_input):
    prompt = f"""Create a 120-word weekly project update for
internal
stakeholders.
Include: current status, completed tasks, risks, and next
steps.
Based on this input:
{project_input}
"""

    return prompt
# Let's use Input A for this task
structured_prompt = create_structured_prompt(input)

print("TASK 3: Task-Specific Prompt with Structured
Instructions")
print("="*60)
print("Prompt:")
print(structured_prompt)
print("\nGenerating response...\n")

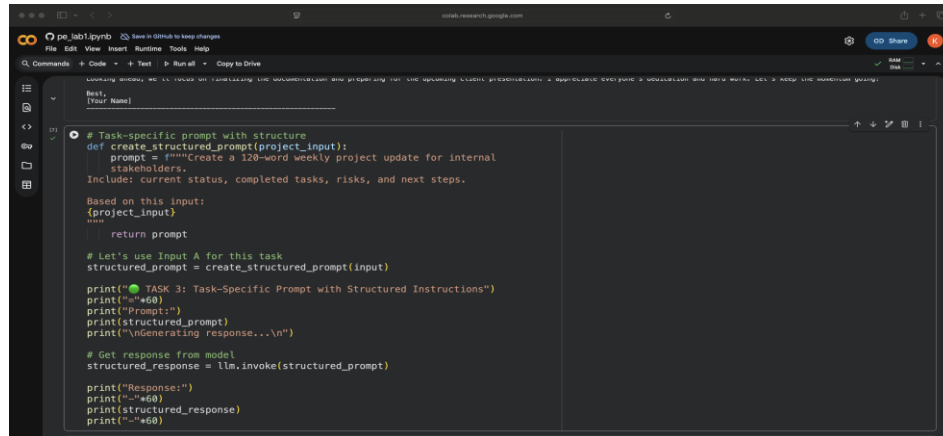
# Get response from model
structured_response = llm.invoke(structured_prompt)

print("Response:")
print("="*60)
```



```
print(structured_response)
print("="*60)
```

Result: The following screenshot shows the code pasted into the code cell.



```
Best,
[Your Name]

# Task-specific prompt with structure
def create_structured_prompt(project_input):
    prompt = """Create a 120-word weekly project update for internal
    stakeholders.
    Include: current status, completed tasks, risks, and next steps.

    Based on this input:
    {project_input}
    """
    return prompt

# Let's use Input A for this task
structured_prompt = create_structured_prompt(input)

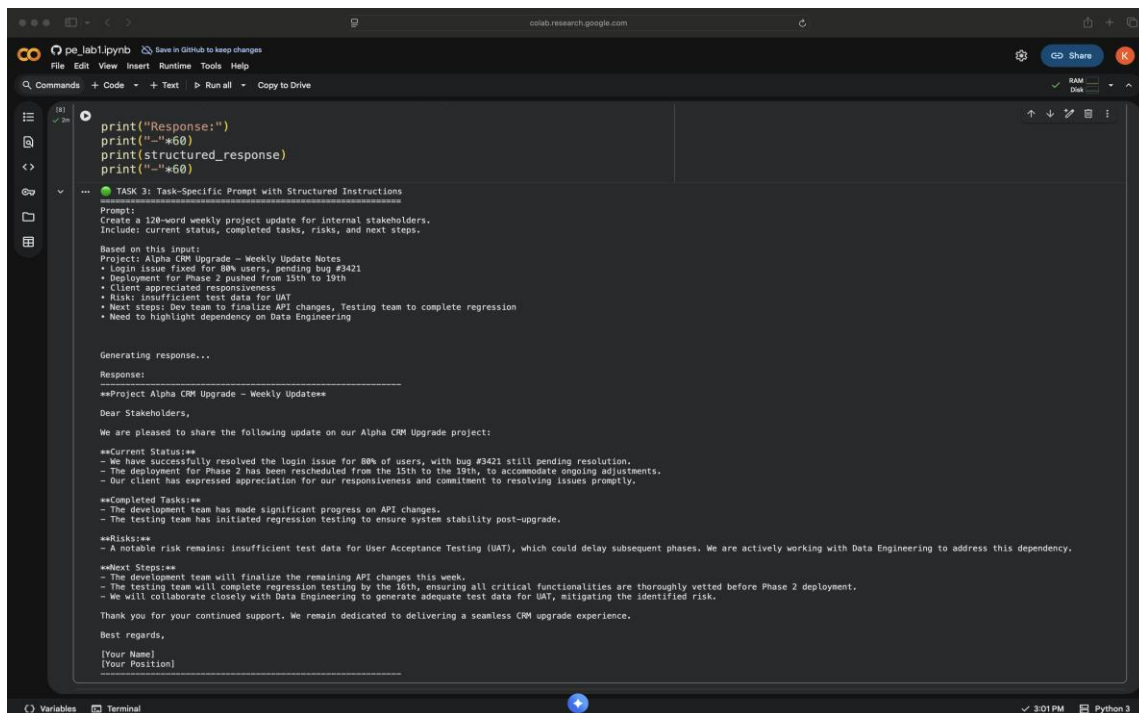
print("\nTASK 3: Task-Specific Prompt with Structured Instructions")
print("="*60)
print("Prompt:")
print(structured_prompt)
print("\nGenerating response...\n")

# Get response from model
structured_response = llm.invoke(structured_prompt)

print("Response:")
print("="*60)
print(structured_response)
print("="*60)
```

After you enter the refined prompt, the LLM generates an output as shown in the following screenshot.

Observe that the response is now more organized. But does it have the professional tone expected in stakeholder updates?



```
print("Response:")
print("="*60)
print(structured_response)
print("="*60)

TASK 3: Task-Specific Prompt with Structured Instructions
Prompt:
Create a 120-word weekly project update for internal stakeholders.
Include: current status, completed tasks, risks, and next steps.

Based on this input:
Project: Alpha CRM Upgrade - Weekly Update Notes
• Login issue fixed for 80% users, pending bug #3421
• Deployment for Phase 2 pushed from 15th to 19th
• Client appreciated responsiveness
• Risk: Insufficient test data for UAT
• Next steps: Dev team to finalize API changes, Testing team to complete regression
• Need to highlight dependency on Data Engineering

Generating response...
Response:
==Project Alpha CRM Upgrade - Weekly Update==
Dear Stakeholders,

We are pleased to share the following update on our Alpha CRM Upgrade project:

==Current Status==
- We have successfully resolved the login issue for 80% of users, with bug #3421 still pending resolution.
- The deployment for Phase 2 has been rescheduled from the 15th to the 19th, to accommodate ongoing adjustments.
- Our client has expressed appreciation for our responsiveness and commitment to resolving issues promptly.

==Completed Tasks==
- The development team has made significant progress on API changes.
- The testing team has initiated regression testing to ensure system stability post-update.

==Risks==
- A notable risk remains: Insufficient test data for User Acceptance Testing (UAT), which could delay subsequent phases. We are actively working with Data Engineering to address this dependency.

==Next Steps==
- The development team will finalize the remaining API changes this week.
- The testing team will complete regression testing by the 16th, ensuring all critical functionalities are thoroughly vetted before Phase 2 deployment.
- We will collaborate closely with Data Engineering to generate adequate test data for UAT, mitigating the identified risk.

Thank you for your continued support. We remain dedicated to delivering a seamless CRM upgrade experience.

Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Position]
```

Refine the prompt using additional details

Overview

In this procedure, you'll further refine your prompt by adding additional details to define the tone and specify a structure of the required output.

Instructions

1. To refine the prompt, copy the following code, paste it into a new code cell, and then select the **Play** icon to execute it.

```
# Advanced prompt with role, tone, and format

def create_advanced_prompt(project_input):
    prompt = f"""You are a project reporting assistant for an IT
services
company.
Task: Generate a 120-word weekly project update for internal
stakeholders.
Tone: Concise and professional.
Format: Use bullet points for the following sections:
- Current Status
- Completed Tasks
- Risks/Issues
- Next Steps

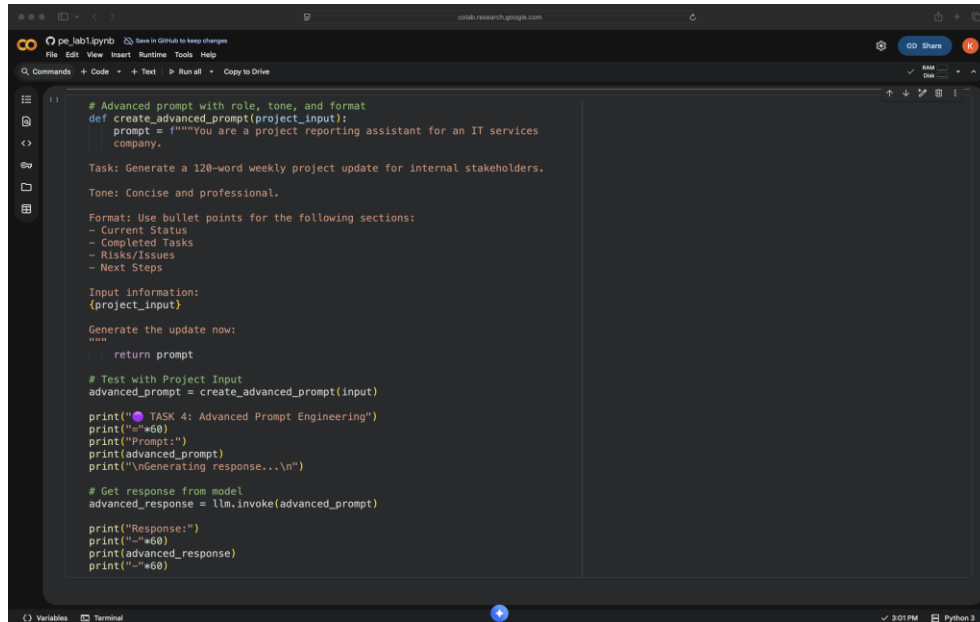
Input information:
{project_input}

Generate the update now:
"""
    return prompt

# Test with Project Input
advanced_prompt = create_advanced_prompt(input)
print("TASK 4: Advanced Prompt Engineering")
print("="*60)
print("Prompt:")
print(advanced_prompt)
print("\nGenerating response...\n")

# Get response from model
advanced_response = llm.invoke(advanced_prompt)
print("Response:")
print("="*60)
```

```
print(advanced_response)
print("="*60)
```



```
# Advanced prompt with role, tone, and format
def create_advanced_prompt(project_input):
    prompt = f"""You are a project reporting assistant for an IT services
company.

Task: Generate a 120-word weekly project update for internal stakeholders.

Tone: Concise and professional.

Format: Use bullet points for the following sections:
- Current Status
- Completed Tasks
- Risks/Issues
- Next Steps

Input information:
{project_input}

Generate the update now:
"""
    return prompt

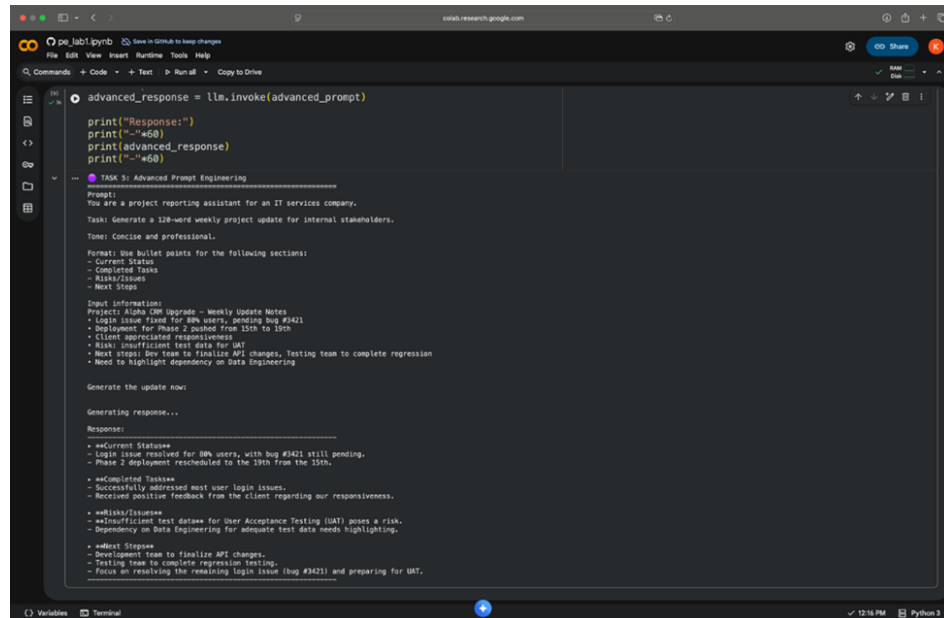
# Test with Project Input
advanced_prompt = create_advanced_prompt(input)

print("\nTASK 4: Advanced Prompt Engineering")
print("="*60)
print("Prompt:")
print(advanced_prompt)
print("\nGenerating response...\n")

# Get response from model
advanced_response = llm.invoke(advanced_prompt)

print("Response:")
print("="*60)
print(advanced_response)
print("="*60)
```

Result: The LLM generates an output as shown in the following screenshot. Observe that the response provides an update which is both professional and structured. The update includes the complete and relevant details of the status, completed tasks, risk, and next steps of the project.



```
advanced_response = llm.invoke(advanced_prompt)

print("Response:")
print("="*60)
print(advanced_response)
print("="*60)
```

TASK 3: Advanced Prompt Engineering

Prompt:

You are a project reporting assistant for an IT services company.

Task: Generate a 120-word weekly project update for internal stakeholders.

Tone: Concise and professional.

Format: Use bullet points for the following sections:

- Current Status
- Completed Tasks
- Risks/Issues
- Next Steps

Input information:

Project: Alpha CRM Upgrade - Weekly Update Notes

- Login issue fixed for 80% users, pending bug #3421
- Deployment for Phase 2 pushed from 15th to 16th
- Client expressed appreciation
- Risk: Insufficient test data for UAT
- Next steps: Dev team to finalize API changes, Testing team to complete regression
- Need to highlight dependency on Data Engineering

Generate the update now:

Generating response...

Response:

- **Current Status**
 - Login issue resolved for 80% users, with bug #3421 still pending.
 - Phase 2 deployment rescheduled to the 16th from the 15th.
- **Completed Tasks**
 - Successfully addressed most user login issues.
 - Received positive feedback from the client regarding our responsiveness.
- **Risks/Issues**
 - Insufficient test data for User Acceptance Testing (UAT) poses a risk.
 - Dependency on Data Engineering for adequate test data needs highlighting.
- **Next Steps**
 - Development team to finalize API changes.
 - Testing team to complete regression testing.
 - Focus on resolving the remaining login issue (bug #3421) and preparing for UAT.

Conclusion

Congratulations! You have learned how to write and refine prompts to generate specific, professional, and structured output from LLMs. By combining task description, context, output format, role, and tone, you produced polished, stakeholder-ready project updates. You have helped project management by providing them with consistent and systematically organized project updates.