

Build Your First WhatsApp AI Agent with n8n

Create a self-hosted, intelligent AI chatbot that communicates directly with your WhatsApp Business or personal number — complete with memory, AI logic, and smooth conversational flow.

Created by Chinmay Kaitade | MERN Stack Developer | AI Enthusiast



What You'll Build Today



Intelligent Responses

AI-powered replies that understand context and respond naturally to user queries



Conversation Memory

Maintains context across messages for coherent, personalized interactions



24/7 Automation

Handles customer interactions automatically, anytime, anywhere



Your Own Number

Works seamlessly with your existing WhatsApp Business or personal account

Step 1: Set Up the WhatsApp API

01

Create CloudStation Project

Sign up for a free trial and create a new project (e.g., "WhatsApp Buddy")

02

Deploy Evolution API

Add New → Evolution API Template → Deploy. Wait for Redis, Postgres, and Evolution API to show green status

03

Copy Server Details

Open Evolution API service → Connect → copy the Server URL for later use

04

Access Manager Panel

Paste Server URL in browser → Pretty Print → copy Manager Link

05

Log In with API Key

Open Manager link and enter your Authentication API Key from CloudStation variables

Step 2: Link Your WhatsApp Number



Create Instance

In Evolution Manager, click Instance and add your Instance Name (e.g., "whatsapp buddy")

Enter Phone Number

Add your number with country code, no plus sign or spaces. Example: 919876543210

Scan QR Code

Tap Settings → Get QR Code. Open WhatsApp → Linked Devices → Scan QR Code to connect



Pro Tip: Once linked, all messages will route through the Evolution API, enabling your AI agent to respond automatically.



Step 3: Connect n8n to Evolution API

1 Add Webhook Trigger

Create workflow → Webhook Node → Set Method to POST → Define custom Path (/whatsappbuddy) → Copy Production URL

2 Integrate with Manager

Manager → Integrations → Add Webhook → Paste n8n URL → Enable **message-upserts** event → Save and activate

3 Install Evolution API Node

Settings → Community Nodes → Search "evolution-api-node" → Install in your n8n instance

4 Configure Credentials

Add Server URL and Authentication API Key from CloudStation → Test connection to verify setup

Step 4: Build the AI Logic

Core Components

- **AI Agent Node**

Place between Webhook and Evolution API. Connect user message from Webhook JSON body.

- **System Message**

Define bot's role: "You are a friendly assistant. Reply helpfully to every query."

- **Chat Model**

Connect OpenAI, Gemini, or any LLM node for natural language responses.



Add Conversation Memory



Key Configuration: Set the Session ID as the user's WhatsApp number (Remote JID) to maintain personalized context for each conversation.

Configure the Reply System

Evolution API Node Setup

- **Operation:** Send Text (enviarTexto)
- **Instance:** Your created instance name (e.g., "whatsapp buddy")
- **Destination Number:** Sender's Remote JID from webhook
- **Message:** Output from AI Agent node

Prevent Infinite Loops

Add an **If Node** after Webhook: If fromMe is True → do nothing. If False → pass to AI Agent. This prevents your bot from replying to its own messages.





Your AI Agent is Live!

Receives Messages

Captures all incoming WhatsApp messages automatically

Processes with AI

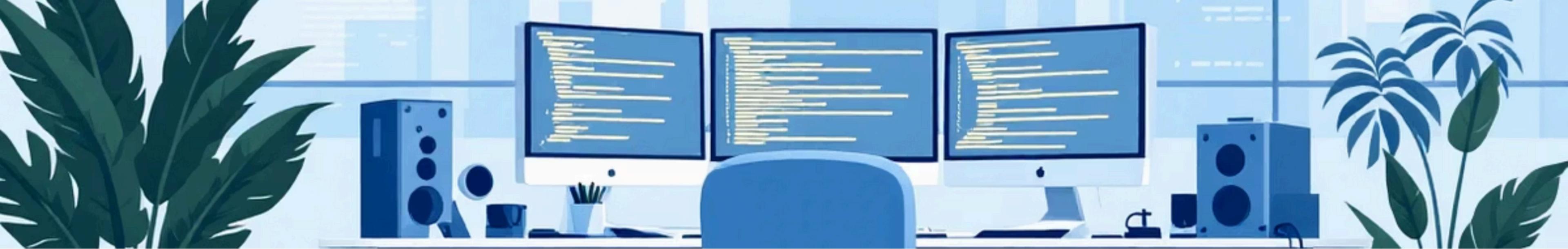
Understands context and generates intelligent responses

Sends Instant Replies

Delivers natural, conversational responses in real-time

Congratulations! You've built a fully functional WhatsApp AI agent that can handle conversations 24/7. Now you can scale customer support, automate responses, and create personalized experiences effortlessly.

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Connect with Me!

If you found this helpful, let's stay connected! I'm sharing my AI learning journey every day and would love for you to follow along. Feel free to reach out with questions or just say hello!



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