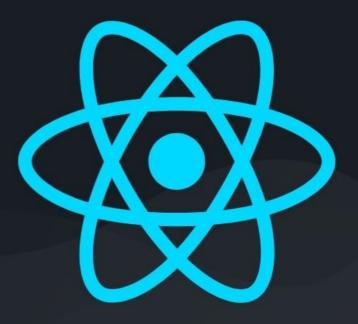
React .env File Usage

In Detail



.env File | Usage

The .env file is commonly used to store environment variables. these variables are configuration values that can be used to customize the behavior of your application depending on the environment it's running in (e.g., development, production, Keys etc...).

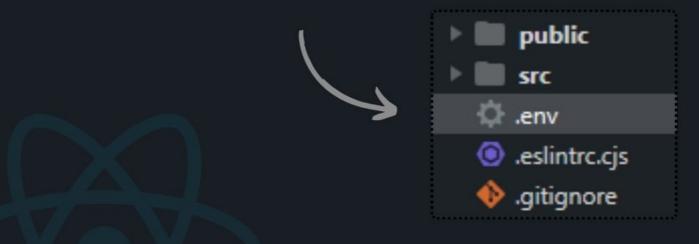
React applications often use environment variables to store sensitive information or configuration settings.

How to use an .env file



Create an .env file:

In the **root of your React project**, create a file named .env, You can also have specific environment files like .env.development, and .env.production, etc., to manage different configurations for different environments.



Add variables

Inside the **.env file**, you can define variables like this:

```
// With VITE
VITE_API_KEY=your_api_key
VITE_API_URL=https://api.example.com

// With Create React App (CRA)
REACT_APP_API_KEY=your_api_key
REACT_APP_API_URL=https://api.example.com
```

Note that variable names must start with **REACT_APP_** to be recognized by Create React App & **VITE_ by** Vite. This prefix is a safety feature to avoid accidentally exposing private keys.



Access the variables

In your React components or other parts of your code, you can access these variables like this

```
.MyComponent.jsx
// With VITE
const apiKey = import.meta.env.VITE_API_KEY;
const apiUrl = import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL;
// With Create React App (CRA)
const apiKey = process.env.REACT_APP_API_KEY;
const apiUrl = process.env.REACT_APP_API_URL;
```

Remember that these values are available at build time, so if you change them, you'll need to restart your development server or rebuild your application.



Use variables in configuration files

```
const apiUrl = import.meta.env.VITE_API_URL;
const apiKey = import.meta.env.VITE_API_KEY;
const fetchData = async () \Rightarrow {
  const response = await fetch(apiUrl, {
    headers: {
      'Authorization': `Bearer ${apiKey}`
      'Content-Type': 'application/json'
 });
  if (response.ok) {
    console.log(await response.json());
  } else {
    console.error(`Error! ${response.status}`);
};
export default fetchData;
```