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Keeping the key out of opencode.jsonc: {env:...} and setx on Windows

OpenCode

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MozOut Mozambique
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https://www.meu.mozout.co.mz/knowledgebase/3189

Keeping the key out of opencode.jsonc: {env:...} and setx on Windows

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The key should never be written in the OpenCode file. The file only holds the name of a variable, and the key stays in your system. That way you can copy, show or share the file without giving the key to anyone.

How {env:...} works

```
"apiKey": "{env:MOZOUT_API_KEY}"
```

When it reads the file, OpenCode replaces `{env:MOZOUT_API_KEY}` with the value of the `MOZOUT_API_KEY` variable. If the variable does not exist, it puts an empty value there. The request goes without a key and the API answers `401`.

1. Save the key in the variable

On Windows, open Command Prompt or PowerShell and type (with your key in quotes):

```
setx MOZOUT_API_KEY "prod_..."
```

`setx` saves the variable for the windows you open **afterwards**. Close the terminal and the tool, then open them again.

On Linux and macOS, type in the terminal:

```
export MOZOUT_API_KEY="prod_..."
```

To have the variable in every new terminal, add the same line at the end of `~/.bashrc` or `~/.zshrc`.

2. Close and open again

On Windows, this is the step people forget most. `setx` does not change the windows that are already open: an OpenCode started before it does not see the variable. Close OpenCode and the terminal completely, open a new terminal and only then start OpenCode.

3. Check that the variable exists

In a new terminal. In Windows PowerShell:

```
echo $env:MOZOUT_API_KEY
```

In Windows Command Prompt:

```
echo %MOZOUT_API_KEY%
```

On Linux and macOS:

```
echo $MOZOUT_API_KEY
```

If the key shows, OpenCode sees it too. If nothing shows (or, in Command Prompt, the name itself between percent signs), the variable does not exist in that window.

Another way: {file:...}

OpenCode can also read a value from a file, with `{file:path}`. The path can be relative to the folder of the configuration file, absolute, or start with `~/`. If the file does not exist, the value is empty.

```
"apiKey": "{file:~/.api-key}"
```

Keep that file outside the project folder, so it does not end up in Git.

If the key was ever written in the file and the file went to Git, a chat or an e-mail, revoke it and create another.

See **what to do, in the right order**.

Kilo Code is different: `{env:...}` only works in its global file. See **why the key only works in the global kilo.jsonc**.

RECOMMENDED

Want to use our models in OpenCode with your key kept safe? Visit the Coding with AI page.

See Coding with AI →

SEE ALSO

OpenCode with All in One AI: creating opencode.json from scratch, the key and the models →

- **Sharing an OpenCode setup in your repository without sharing the key**
- **An API key or token has leaked: what to do, in the right order**
- **Why the key only works in the global kilo.jsonc, and not in a project's file**
- **Coding with AI in All in One AI**

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