Step By Step Guide To Setting Up Your API Accounts and Keys

ChatGPT:

Get an OpenAI / ChatGPT API key — step-by-step

ChatGPT is offered by OpenAI
Visit https://platform.openai.com

1. Open the API keys page.

Go directly to: https://platform.openai.com/api-keys
 — this is where you create and manage secret API keys.

2. Login if you have an OpenAi account (typically the same as your ChatGPT). Or, Sign Up for an account.

3. Go to Billing → Payment methods and add a payment method.

Add billing (this is required so they can charge your card for usage as needed. It is very minimal often around $20 for credits and usually under $1-2 per month will be used up from your balance).

4. Next buy the minimum required credits needed.

5. Create a new secret key.

Next, Click Create new secret key. The dashboard will generate a key that typically starts with sk-….

6. Copy the key immediately and store it securely — the full secret is often shown only once.

You must copy your new key and keep it secure. If you lose your key you may generate a new one. Once you have stored your key safely you can install it and save in the Smart Owl Ai settings screen in the field labeled for ChatGPT.

7. In a separate browser tab, + New Tab. Go to your WordPress website where Smart Owl Ai is installed as a plugin. Make sure it is activated.

Navigate to Smart Owl Ai > Settings in your WP Dashboard menu, and select Settings.

8. Paste your ChatGPT API Key in the ChatGPT field and click Save at the bottom of the Smart Owl Ai settings screen.

Gemini:

Vertex AI is the enterprise-grade version of Gemini offered via Google Cloud Platform. It provides higher rate limits and more robust security for professional applications.

Great, now we will connect the Google Vertex AI method.

To create a Vertex AI connection for Gemini, you will primarily use the Google Cloud Console. Unlike the standard Gemini API which uses a simple text string, Vertex AI requires a Service Account JSON key.
+1

Here are the 5 specific URLs you need to visit to complete the setup:

1. Main Dashboard & Project Creation
URL: https://console.cloud.google.com/

Purpose: This is your starting point to create a new Google Cloud Project or select an existing one. You must have a project selected before you can enable any APIs.
+1

2. Enabling the Vertex AI API
URL: https://console.cloud.google.com/apis/library/aiplatform.googleapis.com

Purpose: This link takes you directly to the Vertex AI API library page. You must click Enable here to allow your project to use Gemini models.

3. Billing Management
URL: https://console.cloud.google.com/billing

Purpose: Vertex AI requires an active billing account. Use this link to add a credit card or link an existing billing profile to your project.

4. Service Account & Key Creation (The "API Key")
Service Accounts List: https://console.cloud.google.com/iam-admin/serviceaccounts

Purpose: This is where you create the "Service Account" (the digital identity for your website).

Generating the JSON Key: Once the account is created, you will click on the account email, go to the Keys tab, and select Add Key > Create New Key > JSON. This downloads the file you will paste into your plugin.
+1

5. IAM Permissions (Access Control)

URL: https://console.cloud.google.com/iam-admin/iam

Purpose: If your key doesn't work initially, use this link to ensure your Service Account has the Vertex AI User role assigned to it.

1. Open the Google Cloud Console

Go directly to the Google Cloud Console: https://console.cloud.google.com/ — this is the primary dashboard for managing all Google Cloud enterprise services.

2. Login or Sign Up

Login with your existing Google account or create a new account. New customers typically receive $300 in free credits to get started.

3. Select or Create a Project

At the top of the screen, click the Project Dropdown and select an existing project or click "New Project". Give it a name like "Smart Owl AI" and click Create.

4. Enable the Vertex AI API

In the search bar at the top, type "Vertex AI API". Select it from the results and click the blue Enable button. (This may take a minute to process).

5. Set up Billing

If you haven't already, navigate to Billing in the side menu. Ensure a valid payment method is linked to your project. Unlike AI Studio, Vertex AI is "pay-as-you-go" and bills based on your actual usage.

6. Create a Service Account Key

To connect your website, you need a Service Account:

Go to IAM & Admin > Service Accounts in the side menu.

Click + Create Service Account at the top.

Give it a name (e.g., "smart-owl-access") and click Create and Continue.

Under Select a role, choose Vertex AI User. Click Done.

Find your new service account in the list, click the three dots under "Actions," and select Manage Keys.

Click Add Key > Create New Key. Select JSON and click Create.

7. Save and Secure Your Key

A JSON file will automatically download to your computer. This is your secret key.

Note: This file contains sensitive information. Store it securely and do not share it publicly. You will need to open this file with a text editor (like Notepad or TextEdit) to copy the contents.

8. Install in Smart Owl AI

Open your WordPress Dashboard in a new tab.

Navigate to Smart Owl AI > Settings.

Locate the Vertex AI section.

Paste the entire contents of your JSON file into the field labeled for Vertex AI and click Save.

REMINDER YOU ONLY NEED 1 Method for Creating a Gemini API so choose only 1:
- Vertex (more advanced)
- Ai Studio (more basic)

As the Gemini Alternative Way To Call Gemini API with Ai Studio (this is only if you are choosing to use the AI Studio to call the Gemini API, rather than Vertex).

Ai Studio for Google Gemini API tends to be limited and times out when it is being used heavily which is why we recommend the Vertex method for Gemini API.

Visit https://aistudio.google.com/app/apikey

1. Open the API keys page.

Go directly to: https://aistudio.google.com/app/apikey

— this is where you create and manage secret API keys.

2. Login if you have a Google account. Or, Sign Up for an account.

3. Go to Billing → Payment methods and add a payment method.

4. Next buy the minimum required credits needed.

5. Create a new secret key.

Next, Click Create API Key. The dashboard will generate a key.

6. Copy the key immediately and store it securely — the full secret is often shown only once.

You must copy your new key and keep it secure. Once you have stored your key safely you can install it and save in the Smart Owl Ai settings screen in the field labeled for Gemini.

7. In a separate browser tab, + New Tab. Go to your WordPress website where Smart Owl Ai is installed as a plugin. Make sure it is activated.

Navigate to Smart Owl Ai > Settings in your WP Dashboard menu, and select Settings.

8. Paste your Gemini API Key in the Gemini field and click Save at the bottom of the Smart Owl Ai settings screen.

Grok:

Great now we will connect the next API.

Grok is offered by xAI
Visit https://console.x.ai/

1. Open the API keys page.

Go directly to: https://console.x.ai/
 — this is where you create and manage secret API keys.

2. Login if you have an xAI/X account. Or, Sign Up for an account.

3. Go to Billing → Payment methods and add a payment method.

4. Next buy the minimum required credits needed.

5. Create a new secret key.

Next, Click Create API Key. The dashboard will generate a key.

6. Copy the key immediately and store it securely — the full secret is often shown only once.

You must copy your new key and keep it secure. Once you have stored your key safely you can install it and save in the Smart Owl Ai settings screen in the field labeled for Grok.

7. In a separate browser tab, + New Tab. Go to your WordPress website where Smart Owl Ai is installed as a plugin. Make sure it is activated.

Navigate to Smart Owl Ai > Settings in your WP Dashboard menu, and select Settings.

8. Paste your Grok API Key in the Grok field and click Save at the bottom of the Smart Owl Ai settings screen.

DeepSeek:

Great now we will connect the next API.

DeepSeek is offered by DeepSeek
Visit https://platform.deepseek.com/

1. Open the API keys page.

Go directly to: https://platform.deepseek.com/
 — this is where you create and manage secret API keys.

2. Login if you have a DeepSeek account. Or, Sign Up for an account.

3. Go to Billing → Payment methods and add a payment method.

4. Next buy the minimum required credits needed.

5. Create a new secret key.

Next, Click Create new API Key. The dashboard will generate a key.

6. Copy the key immediately and store it securely — the full secret is often shown only once.

You must copy your new key and keep it secure. Once you have stored your key safely you can install it and save in the Smart Owl Ai settings screen in the field labeled for DeepSeek.

7. In a separate browser tab, + New Tab. Go to your WordPress website where Smart Owl Ai is installed as a plugin. Make sure it is activated.

Navigate to Smart Owl Ai > Settings in your WP Dashboard menu, and select Settings.

8. Paste your DeepSeek API Key in the DeepSeek field and click Save at the bottom of the Smart Owl Ai settings screen.

Anthropic (Claude):

Great now we will connect the next API.

Anthropic (Claude) is offered by Anthropic
Visit https://console.anthropic.com/

1. Open the API keys page.

Go directly to: https://console.anthropic.com/
 — this is where you create and manage secret API keys.

2. Login if you have an Anthropic account. Or, Sign Up for an account.

3. Go to Billing / Plans & Billing and add a payment method.

4. Next buy the minimum required credits needed.

5. Create a new secret key.

Next, Click "Create API Key". The dashboard will generate a key.

6. Copy the key immediately and store it securely — the full secret is often shown only once.

You must copy your new key and keep it secure. Once you have stored your key safely you can install it and save in the Smart Owl Ai settings screen in the field labeled for Anthropic (Claude).

7. In a separate browser tab, + New Tab. Go to your WordPress website where Smart Owl Ai is installed as a plugin. Make sure it is activated.

Navigate to Smart Owl Ai > Settings in your WP Dashboard menu, and select Settings.

8. Paste your Anthropic (Claude) API Key in the Claude field and click Save at the bottom of the Smart Owl Ai settings screen.

Perplexity:

Great now we will connect the next API.

Perplexity is offered by Perplexity
Visit https://perplexity.ai/api-platform

1. Open the API keys page.

Go directly to: https://perplexity.ai/settings/api
 — this is where you create and manage secret API keys.

2. Login if you have a Perplexity account. Or, Sign Up for an account.

3. Go to Billing → Payment methods and add a payment method.

4. Next buy the minimum required credits needed.

5. Create a new secret key.

Next, Click "Generate New Key". The dashboard will generate a key.

6. Copy the key immediately and store it securely — the full secret is often shown only once.

You must copy your new key and keep it secure. Once you have stored your key safely you can install it and save in the Smart Owl Ai settings screen in the field labeled for Perplexity.

7. In a separate browser tab, + New Tab. Go to your WordPress website where Smart Owl Ai is installed as a plugin. Make sure it is activated.

Navigate to Smart Owl Ai > Settings in your WP Dashboard menu, and select Settings.

8. Paste your Perplexity API Key in the Perplexity field and click Save at the bottom of the Smart Owl Ai settings screen.