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Saving the Claude Code setup in settings.json so you do not set the variables every time

Claude Code

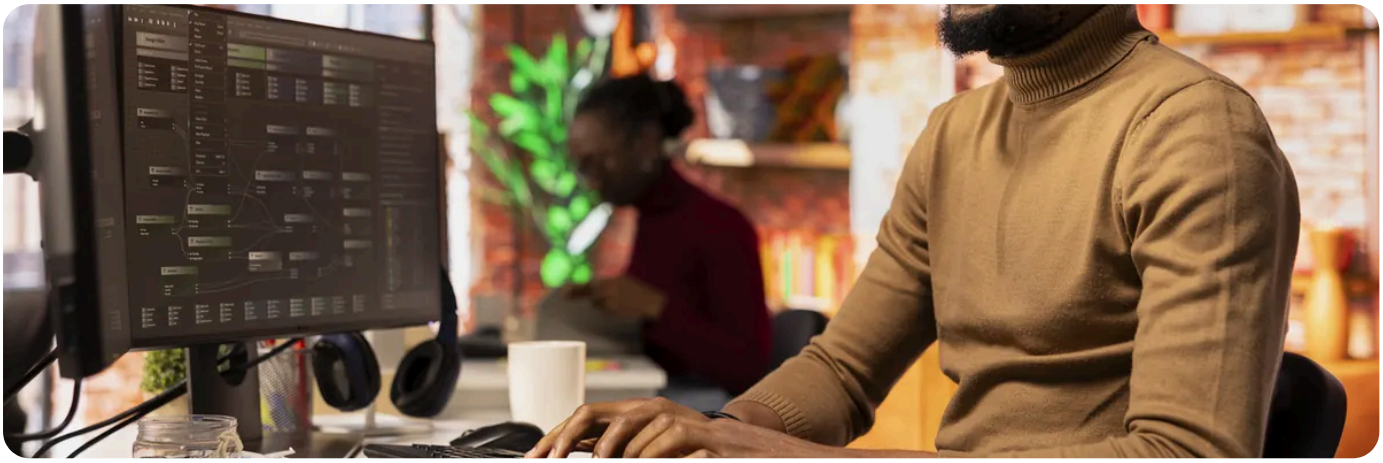
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Saving the Claude Code setup in settings.json so you do not set the variables every time

Claude Code Created on **November 28, 2026** 4 min read



With environment variables, Claude Code only talks to All in One AI in the terminal where you set them. To stop repeating them in every terminal, save them once in the Claude Code settings file, under the `env` key. From then on, just type `claude`.

Before you start

1. Create a key in the **API Center** with the `ai:read` and `ai:write` permissions. Use a `sandbox_` key to check the setup without spending and a `prod_` key to work. The fields are explained in **creating an API key**.

2. Have AI credits or an active Coding Plan in **All in One AI**.

3. Have Claude Code installed and know what each variable does. They are explained in **using Claude Code with All in One AI**.

Which file to use

File	Who it applies to	Can the key go here?
`~/.claude/settings.json`	Only you, in every project on this computer. On Windows it is `%USERPROFILE%\.claude\settings.json`.	Yes. It is the file in this article.

File	Who it applies to	Can the key go here?
`.claude/settings.local.json`	Only you, in one project.	Yes, if it stays out of Git. When Claude Code creates it, it takes care of that. If you create it by hand, add it to `.gitignore`.
`.claude/settings.json`	The whole project team, because it goes into the repository.	**No.** Anyone who clones the repository gets your key.

1. Create the folder and open the file

On Linux and macOS:

```
mkdir -p ~/.claude
nano ~/.claude/settings.json
```

On Windows, in PowerShell:

```
New-Item -ItemType Directory -Force "$HOME\.claude"
notepad "$HOME\.claude\settings.json"
```

If Notepad asks whether to create the file, answer yes. If the file already exists, do not delete what is in it: Claude Code writes to it too, for example when you change the theme.

2. Paste the env key and save

In an empty file, paste the whole block and replace `prod_...` with your key:

```
{
  "env": {
    "ANTHROPIC_BASE_URL": "https://api.interweb.co.mz",
    "ANTHROPIC_AUTH_TOKEN": "prod_...",
    "ANTHROPIC_MODEL": "moonshotai/kimi-k2.7-code",
    "ANTHROPIC_DEFAULT_HAIKU_MODEL": "deepseek-ai/deepseek-v4-flash",
    "CLAUDE_CODE_MAX_CONTEXT_TOKENS": "262144",
    "CLAUDE_CODE_MAX_OUTPUT_TOKENS": "16000",
    "CLAUDE_CODE_DISABLE_NONESSENTIAL_TRAFFIC": "1"
  }
}
```

If the file already had other settings, add only the `"env": { ... }` part, inside the outer braces and separated from the rest by a comma. Numbers go in quotes, as text. Save: in Notepad, Ctrl+S; in nano, Ctrl+O, Enter and Ctrl+X.

The file is strict JSON: a `//` comment or a comma after the last item is an error. At start, Claude Code shows "Settings Error" and lets you fix the file, exit or carry on without it.

3. Open Claude Code and check

1. Close Claude Code, if it was open, and start it with `claude`. You do not need to export anything.
2. Type `/status`. The "Setting sources" line must show "User settings": that is your file.
3. Send a short question. To check without spending, put a `sandbox_` key in the file first: the answer is always "Resposta de teste (sandbox)." Then replace it with the `prod_` key.

The file wins over the terminal

When the same variable is in the terminal and in the file's `env`, the file value applies, according to the Claude Code documentation. So an `export ANTHROPIC_MODEL=...` in the terminal no longer changes the model. To use another model for one session only, start with `claude --model zai-org/glm-5.2`. To change it for good, edit the value in the file.

The key is written in the file.
Claude Code copies the `env` values exactly as they are and does not read other variables, so `"$INTERWEB_API_KEY"` does not work here. Keep the file on your own computer only and never put it in a repository. If the key leaks, see **what to do, in the right order**.

The All in One AI skill reads the key from the `INTERWEB_API_KEY` variable, not from this file. If you use it, keep that variable too. See **the All in One AI skill for Claude Code**.

RECOMMENDED
Want to code with AI in Claude Code? Visit the Coding with AI page.
See Coding with AI →

SEE ALSO

- **Using Claude Code with All in One AI: the variables, the model and common errors**
- **Changing the model during a Claude Code session with /model**
- **ANTHROPIC_AUTH_TOKEN or ANTHROPIC_API_KEY: which one to use in Claude Code**
- **An API key or token has leaked: what to do, in the right order**
- **Coding with AI in All in One AI**

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