

[AI & Machine Learning Products](https://cloud.google.com/products/machine-learning/) (<https://cloud.google.com/products/machine-learning/>)

[Cloud Vision API](https://cloud.google.com/vision/) (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/>)

[Documentation](https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/) (<https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/>) [Guides](#)

# Before you begin

Before you can use the Cloud Vision API, you must enable it for your project:

1. [Sign in](https://accounts.google.com/Login) (<https://accounts.google.com/Login>) to your Google Account.

If you don't already have one, [sign up for a new account](https://accounts.google.com/SignUp)

(<https://accounts.google.com/SignUp>).

2. In the Cloud Console, on the project selector page, select or create a Google Cloud project.

★ **Note:** If you don't plan to keep the resources that you create in this procedure, create a project instead of selecting an existing project. After you finish these steps, you can delete the project, removing all resources associated with the project.

[GO TO THE PROJECT SELECTOR PAGE](https://console.cloud.google.com/projectselector) ([HTTPS://CONSOLE.CLOUD.GOOGLE.COM/PROJECTSELECTOR](https://console.cloud.google.com/projectselector))

3. Make sure that billing is enabled for your Google Cloud project. [Learn how to confirm billing is enabled for your project](https://cloud.google.com/billing/docs/how-to/modify-project) (<https://cloud.google.com/billing/docs/how-to/modify-project>).
4. Enable the Cloud Vision API.

[ENABLE THE API](https://console.cloud.google.com/flows/enableapi?apiid=vision.googleapis.com) ([HTTPS://CONSOLE.CLOUD.GOOGLE.COM/FLOWS/ENABLEAPI?APIID=VISION.GOOGLE.COM](https://console.cloud.google.com/flows/enableapi?apiid=vision.googleapis.com))

5. Set up authentication:

- a. In the Cloud Console, go to the **Create service account key** page.

[GO TO THE CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT KEY PAGE](https://console.cloud.google.com/iamaccounts/keys) ([HTTPS://CONSOLE.CLOUD.GOOGLE.COM/](https://console.cloud.google.com/iamaccounts/keys))

- b. From the **Service account** list, select **New service account**.

- c. In the **Service account name** field, enter a name.

- d. From the **Role** list, select **Project > Owner**.

★ **Note:** The **Role** field authorizes your service account to access resources. You can view and change this field later by using the [Cloud Console](https://console.cloud.google.com/) (<https://console.cloud.google.com/>). If you are developing a production app, specify more granular permissions than **Project > Owner**. For

more information, see [granting roles to service accounts](https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/granting-roles-to-service-accounts) (<https://cloud.google.com/iam/docs/granting-roles-to-service-accounts>).

- e. Click **Create**. A JSON file that contains your key downloads to your computer.
6. Set the environment variable **GOOGLE\_APPLICATION\_CREDENTIALS** to the file path of the JSON file that contains your service account key. This variable only applies to your current shell session, so if you open a new session, set the variable again.

▼ **Example:** Linux or macOS

Replace **[PATH]** with the file path of the JSON file that contains your service account key.

For example:

▼ **Example:** Windows

Replace **[PATH]** with the file path of the JSON file that contains your service account key, and **[FILE\_NAME]** with the filename.

With PowerShell:

For example:

With command prompt:

---

*Except as otherwise noted, the content of this page is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), and code samples are licensed under the [Apache 2.0 License](https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0) (<https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0>). For details, see our [Site Policies](https://developers.google.com/terms/site-policies) (<https://developers.google.com/terms/site-policies>). Java is a registered trademark of Oracle and/or its affiliates.*

*Last updated September 9, 2019.*