

Personal Access Tokens (PATs) for API Authentication

How to use PAT authorization for API access.

Document generated 03/26/2025

[PDF VERSION](#)

Tags | [API](#) | [PAT](#) | [authentication](#) |

Applies to: Free Basic Business Enterprise

Enterprise users can access their documentation [here](#). [Find your plan](#).

Overview

Stack Overflow for Teams Basic and Business use personal access tokens (PATs) to authorize API requests. Stack Overflow for Teams Basic supports read-only access; Teams Business supports read-only and read/write access.

You can create multiple PATs, with different parameters, for various teams and purposes. You can use the same PAT for [API v2.3](#) and [API v3](#) requests. Each token's write permissions scope (read-only or read/write) applies to both APIs.

If you authenticate and use the interactive API documentation (Swagger UI), it will create a dedicated PAT that you'll see in your PAT list. Learn more about [Swagger UI](#).

THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO STACK OVERFLOW FOR TEAMS BASIC AND BUSINESS ONLY.

Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise users should read [this article](#) instead. [Find your plan](#).

Personal access token (PAT)

A PAT authorizes an external API application to access data on your behalf, and it grants access only to the data that you can see as a user. A PAT with read-only permissions, for example, can view the same content (questions, answers, comments) as you, and only in the team specified on creation.

To create and manage your PATs, click your **avatar** (profile picture) at the top of the page. Click **Account settings**, then **Personal access tokens** (under the "API" heading). The Personal access tokens (PATs) page appears, listing the description, team, scope, created date, and expiration date (if any) for each token. Click the **Delete** link next to any token to delete it.

Global account settings

These settings apply to your whole account and all of your Teams

[Back to your Team](#)

EMAIL SETTINGS

Edit email settings

Tag watching & ignoring

Teams digests

SITE SETTINGS

Preferences

ACCESS

Your Teams

Your logins

INTEGRATIONS

Slack integrations

Microsoft Teams integrations

API

Personal access tokens

Personal access tokens (PATs)

PATs are used to access your Team's content using the Teams API

[Create a new PAT](#)

Description	Team	Scope	Created ▲	Expiry ⇅	
API sandbox (dev 3)	Business Test Team	Read-write	5 secs ago	on Jul 16	Delete
Test PAT #2	Basic Test Team	Read-only	1 min ago	Non expiring	Delete
My first API PAT	Basic Test Team	Read-only	3 mins ago	in 7 days	Delete
Basic reporting API	Business Test Team	Read-only	12 mins ago	on Jun 16	Delete
Created by Swagger UI	Business Test Team	Read-write	6 hours ago	in 17 hours	Delete

To create a new token, click **Create a new PAT**. The "Create a personal access token" box appears with the following fields:

PAT Description

Enter a unique description to help you identify the token.

Team scope

Select the team that this PAT can access. Each PAT can access only one team.

Expiration Date

Set a date this token will expire. You can choose 7, 30, 60, or 90 days, or no expiration. For security, we recommend setting an expiration for all PATs.

Enable write access (Business only)

Check this box to give the PAT permission to write as well as read data.

Create a personal access token (PAT) ×

PAT Description
Description helps you identify different PATs in a list

Engagement reporting API

Team scope
Choose the Team this PAT can access

Business Test Team

Expiration Date
For better security, set an expiration date for your PAT

30 days

Enable write access
By default PATs only have read access

Create Cancel

After you've entered your PAT information, click **Create** to create the token. The new token will appear in the PAT list with its unique code displayed in blue.

Make sure to copy your PAT code below - you won't be able to access it again.

Description	Team	Scope	Created ▲	Expiration
Engagement reporting API	Business Test Team	Read-write	just now	on Jul
API sandbox (dev 3)	Business Test Team	Read-write	3 days ago	on Jul

Click on the code to copy it to your computer's clipboard. Save the code to a document or password manager for safekeeping as *it will not be displayed again*. If you forget to copy the token code or lose it, you'll need to delete the token and create a new one.

Need help? Submit an issue or question through our [support portal](#).