

Homework — Scope an `.env.example` for an AI Agent

~20 minutes · review exercise

For each variable in the `.env.example` below, (1) recommend the correct scope, (2) specify a rotation cadence, (3) decide whether it belongs in the agent at all.

Work through all eight variables before you open [answer.html](#). The point is to force yourself to make the call on each one — "belongs / doesn't belong" — before you compare to the reference.

The `.env.example` under review

Assume this file was handed to you by a developer who wants to "wire it up for the agent." For each line, answer the three questions above.

```
GITHUB_TOKEN=ghp_fake_admin_token_spanning_all_repos
AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID=AKIAFAKEADMINKEY123
AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY=fake-secret-with-full-admin
DATABASE_URL=postgres://admin:admin@prod-db.internal/main
SLACK_BOT_TOKEN=xoxb-fake-org-wide-token
OPENAI_API_KEY=sk-fake-org-default-key
STRIPE_SECRET_KEY=sk_live_fake_full_access
JWT_SIGNING_SECRET=fake-signing-secret-for-all-prod
```

For each variable, write a short answer of the form: "Scope: *<narrow scope>*.
Rotation: *<cadence>*. Belongs in agent? *<yes / no / only if ...>*."

✓ **Self-check:** you have written an answer for all eight variables; at least one of your answers is "No, does not belong in agent context"; and every "yes"

answer names a concrete narrower scope, not "scope it down" in the abstract.