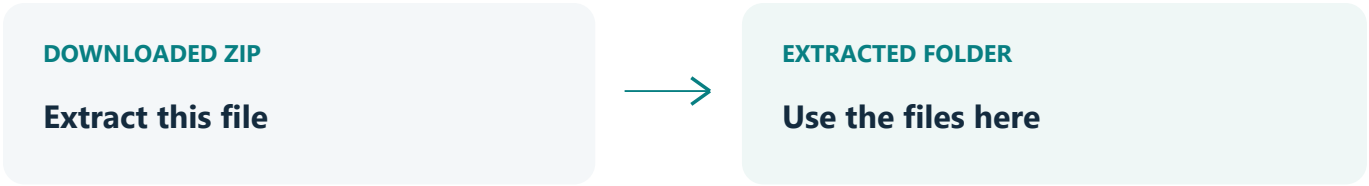
Set up ShadowCursor.

Download the app, add your access key, and check that it has started.

01 Download and extract the app

1. Open the ShadowCursor website or the download link you received. Choose **Get for Windows** or **Download for Windows**.
2. Wait for the download to finish. If you receive a ZIP file, right-click it, choose **Extract All**, and open the extracted folder.



Always set up and run the app from the extracted folder, rather than from inside the ZIP.

02 Get your personal access key

1. Sign in to your ShadowCursor account and open your **dashboard**.
2. Find the **Access key** section. If a key is already available, use it. Otherwise, choose the option to **generate an access key**.
3. Use the **Copy** button to copy the complete key. You will paste it into the app's .env file on the next page.

Your key connects the app to your account

The desktop app reads your key from a file named **.env**. Keep this file in the same extracted folder as the app file ending in **.exe**. Your dashboard also shows your available requests or credits.

Add the key and start.

Use the same extracted folder for both the app and its .env file.

03 Paste your key into .env

Open **.env** with Notepad. Find the line beginning with **APP_ACCESS_KEY=**. Replace the value after the equals sign with the access key you copied.

```
APP_ACCESS_KEY=PASTE_YOUR_ACCESS_KEY_HERE
```

The text after **=** above is a placeholder. Replace it with your own key, without extra spaces. Leave other supplied settings unchanged. Press **Ctrl + S** to save.

No .env file? Open Notepad and add the line above with your own key. Use **Save As**, set the filename to **.env**, choose **All files** and **UTF-8**, then save it in the app folder. Check that it is not named **.env.txt**.

04 Double-click the app to run it

Close Notepad. In the extracted folder, double-click the app file ending in **.exe**. The app runs in the background, so a normal app window may not appear.

05 Press the Windows key once

Start menu stays closed

This is the expected behavior in this build. It suggests that the app's keyboard controls are active.

Start menu opens

The app may not have started. Recheck the file setup, then try launching the app again.

This is a quick local check. It does not verify your access key or account balance. A valid key and available requests or credits are needed to send questions.

Quick checklist: extracted folder, .env beside the .exe, correct key saved, filename exactly .env.

To close the app: press **Ctrl + Shift + Esc**, or open **Task Manager**. The app will automatically stop running in the background.