

Smoking Poly OpenRouter API FAQ

Practical FAQ for AI Confluence users who want to use OpenRouter safely and predictably.

What is the OpenRouter API used for?

The OpenRouter API key is only used by AI Confluence. It lets the model committee review trade candidates before execution. The bot can still run without it if AI Confluence is disabled.

Where is the API key stored?

The key is stored locally by the bot, not uploaded to the repository. On Windows it uses the local Windows protection path. On Linux and WSL it uses local encrypted storage backed by a local key file in the app data folder.

Do users need `AI_OPENROUTER_API_KEY` in `.env`?

Not necessarily. Users can enter the key from the dashboard. If the dashboard field is already masked, that usually means a key is already stored locally.

What happens if no OpenRouter key is set?

AI Confluence will not be able to call OpenRouter models. The rest of the bot can still work normally, especially copy trading, whale trading, and paper trading flows.

What does Web Search mean in practice?

When web search is enabled for a model slot, the bot asks OpenRouter to give that model web access during the committee review. This is separate from snapshot-only analysis and can change cost behavior.

Does web search cost money?

Usually yes. Users should assume web-enabled model calls may increase cost, even when the underlying model choice looks cheap. This is especially important for users trying to stay in a free or low-cost setup.

How should users start?

- Start with one model slot and `log_only` mode.
- Confirm the key works.
- Review Recent AI Decisions before enabling enforcement.
- Add more model slots only after cost and decision quality are understood.

What should support ask first when OpenRouter seems broken?

- Is the API key saved in Settings?
- Is AI Confluence enabled?

- Which model IDs are configured?
- Is the failure about authentication, insufficient credits, unsupported model behavior, or missing web evidence?