



HERMES AGENT

Self-hosted personal AI

Run Hermes in the Cloud

Railway · OpenRouter · Telegram

A step-by-step guide to a simple, always-online AI agent you can chat with from your phone — set up entirely in the browser, no terminal required.



Cloud-hosted 24/7



Many AI models



Chat from anywhere



CONCEPT

What is Hermes Agent?



Runs in the background

An open-source AI agent that stays online continuously rather than only when you open an app.



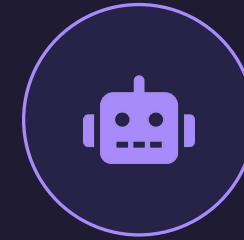
Learns & automates

Unlike a normal chatbot, it can remember context, pick up skills, and automate tasks over time.



Talk through apps

You interact with it through messaging apps like Telegram — message it like you'd message a friend.



Your always-on assistant

Remembers · Learns · Automates

It keeps working while you go about your day, and you reach it from any device.



THE STACK

Three building blocks

Each piece does one job. Together they give you a personal AI agent that's online around the clock.



Railway

THE HOME

Cloud platform that runs Hermes for you. No servers to rent or configure — a ready-made template gives you a dashboard, admin panel, and gateway in one deploy.



OpenRouter

THE BRAIN

One account, one API key, many AI models — including free and very cheap ones. Hermes calls these models to think and reply.



Telegram

THE INTERFACE

Your front-end. You create a Telegram bot, connect it to Hermes, and chatting becomes as easy as messaging that bot.



ROADMAP

The big picture — 5 steps

1

Create an OpenRouter API key

Sign up and generate a key; pick a model name.

2

Create a Telegram bot

Talk to @BotFather and copy your bot token.

3

Deploy Hermes on Railway

Use the template; set a password and attach a volume.

4

Configure inside Hermes

Paste the OpenRouter key + model and the bot token.

5

Approve yourself & chat

Approve your pairing request, then start messaging.

STEP

1



OPENROUTER

Create your account & API key

1

Go to openrouter.ai and sign up for an account.

2

In the dashboard, create a new [API key](#).

3

Pick the model name you want Hermes to use.

4

Add **credit** to your account so the key can make calls.



OpenRouter is pay-as-you-go. Add a bit of **credit** to your account — **\$10 is plenty to start.**

MODEL NAME

```
deepseek/deepseek-v4-flash
```

Keep both safe

You'll paste the API key and the model name into Hermes later, so copy them somewhere handy.

Model format: `provider/model-name`

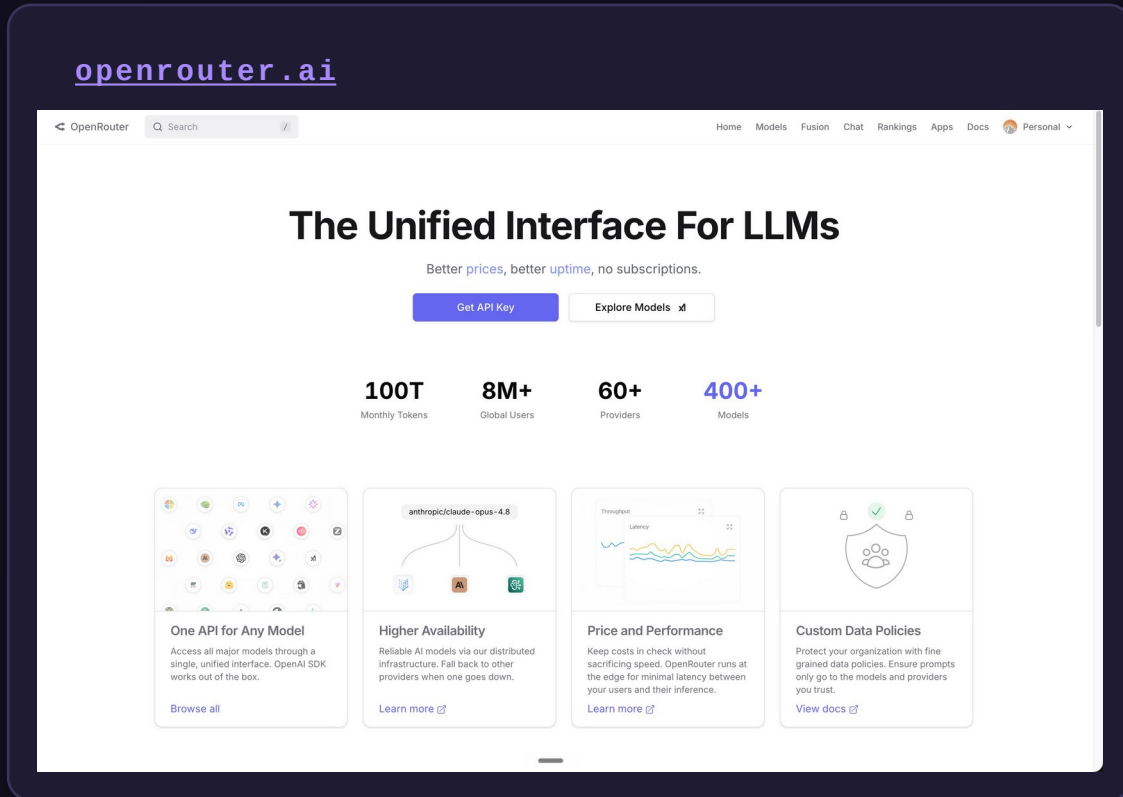
STEP

1



OPENROUTER

Create the key



Click **Get API Key** on the homepage.

OPENROUTER · CREATE KEY

1

Give the key a **Name**.

2

Leave limits blank.

3

Click **Create**.

No model name here — you'll enter it later, inside Hermes.

STEP

1



OPENROUTER

Copy your key — it shows once

OPENROUTER · API KEYS

Your new key:

sk-or-v1-19f0ba0285904dbb81ec0367671392e19c



Please copy it now and write it down somewhere safe. **You will not be able to see it again.**

You can use it with OpenAI-compatible apps, or [your own code](#)

1

Click the **copy** icon to grab the full key.

2

Paste it somewhere safe right away.



Shown only once

OpenRouter won't display this key again. If you lose it, just delete it and create a new one — it only takes a moment.

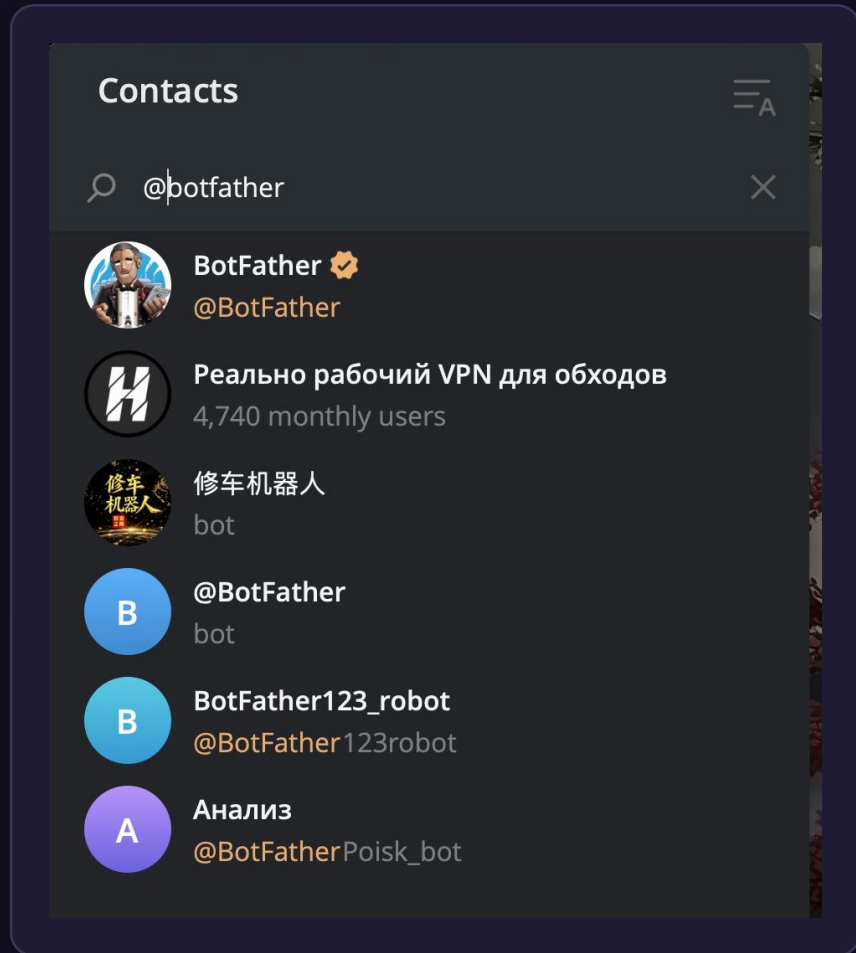
STEP

2



TELEGRAM

Find & open BotFather



1

Open Telegram.

2

At the bottom, tap **Contacts** or the search bar.

3

Search [@BotFather](#) and click the result to open the chat.



Pick the verified one

Several lookalikes show up. The real one is **BotFather** with the orange **verified checkmark** at the top — ignore copycats like BotFather123_robot.

STEP

2



TELEGRAM

Create a bot & get its token

1

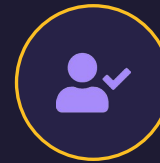
In the chat with [@BotFather](#), type `/newbot`.

2

Follow the prompts (choose a name + username).

3

Copy the **Bot Token** BotFather sends back — keep it safe.



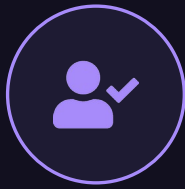
Optional: access control

Message [@userinfobot](#) to get your numeric Telegram user ID. You can use it later to control exactly who is allowed to talk to Hermes.

A bot token is a long string of letters and numbers.

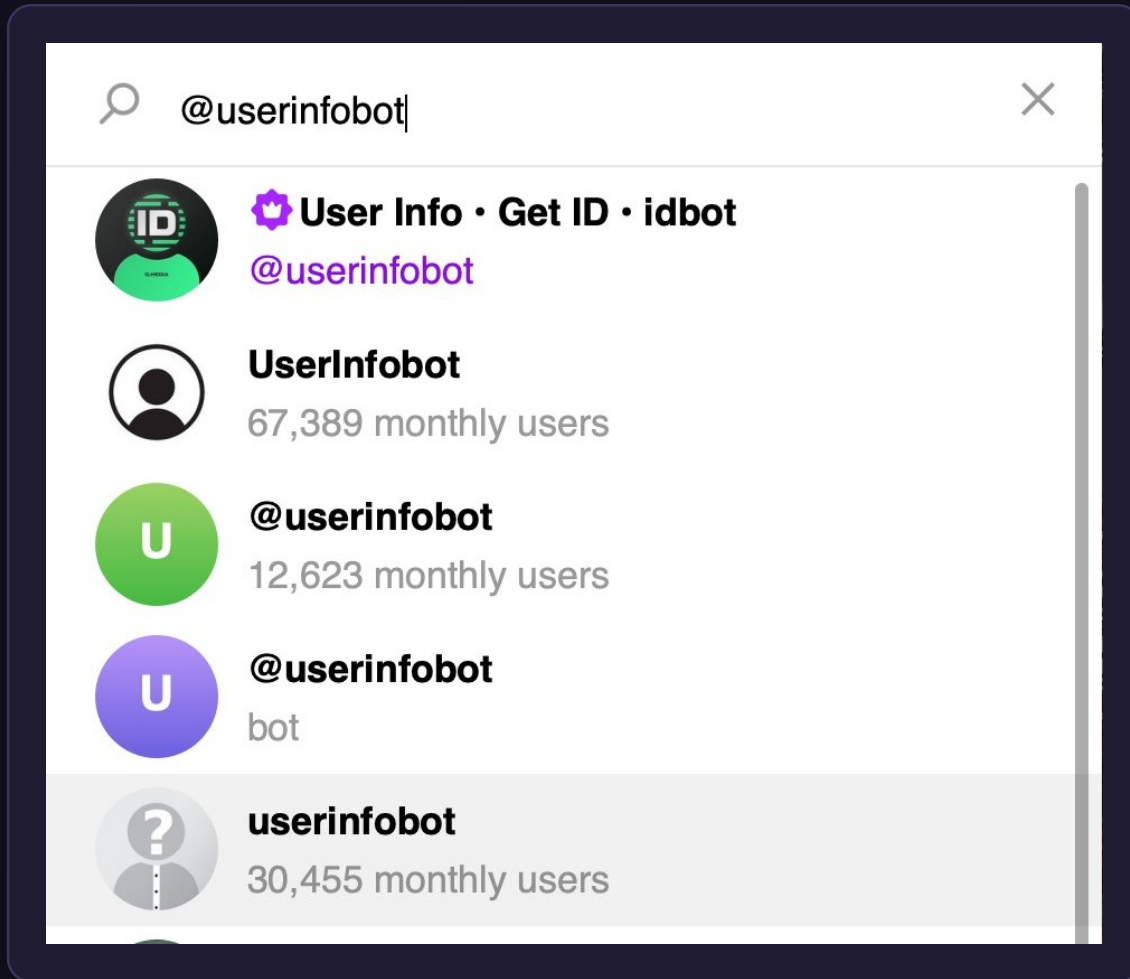
STEP

2



TELEGRAM

Get your Telegram User ID



1

Open **Telegram**.

2

Search a bot like [@userinfobot](#) or [@getmyid_bot](#).

3

Open the bot and tap **Start**.

4

It replies with your **numeric user ID**.



Use this ID to control who's allowed to talk to Hermes.

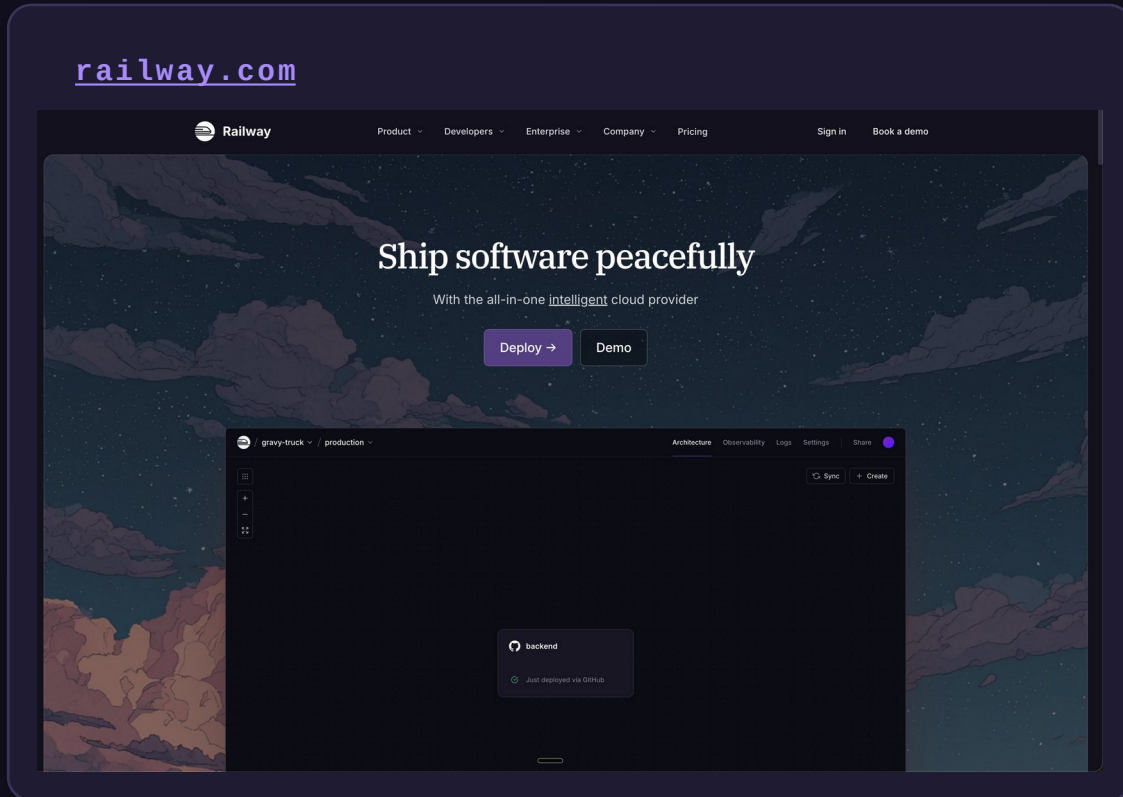
STEP

3

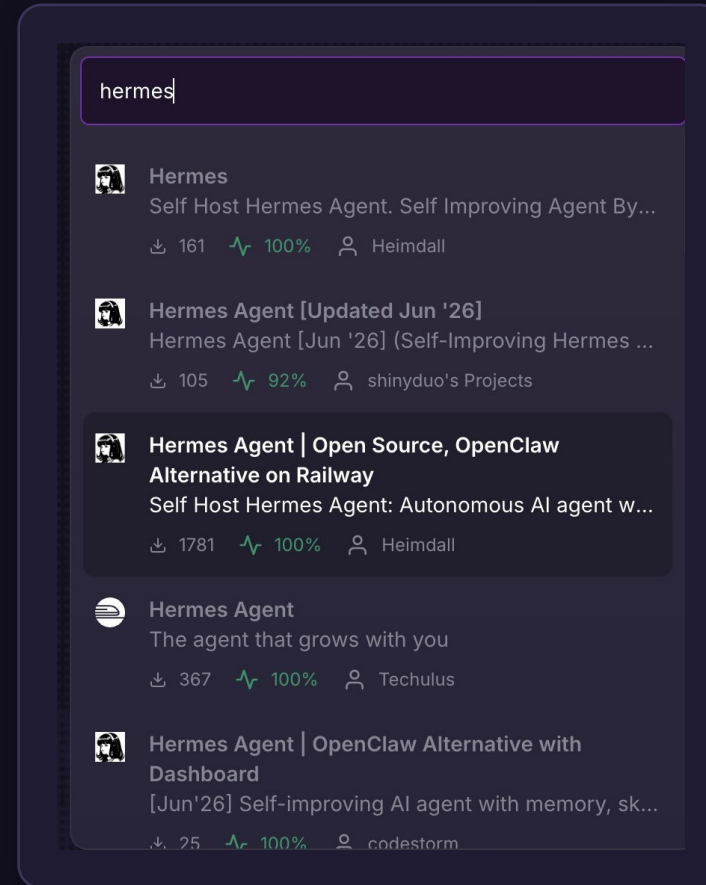


RAILWAY

Go to Railway & pick the template



Sign in with GitHub, then search the template gallery.



1

Search **hermes** in templates.

2

Choose **Hermes Agent | OpenClaw Alternative on Railway**.

By Heimdall — the most-downloaded Hermes template.

STEP

3



RAILWAY

Deploy the template

RAILWAY · TEMPLATE



Deploy Hermes Agent | Open Source, OpenClaw Alternative On Railway

This template deploys 1 service.

Please sign in to deploy this template.

Login



Hermes Agent

praveen-ks-2001/hermes-agent-template



2 variable values needed

Configure



Trying to access GitHub repository

Deploy

← Back to templates

1

Click **Login** and sign in with [GitHub](#).

2

This template deploys **1 service** — Hermes Agent.

3

Click **Configure** to set it up (next slide).



Give it a few minutes

The first build takes a few minutes. Wait until the service is live, then open the app URL.


STEP

3



RAILWAY

Configure the template

 **Hermes Agent**
praveen-ks-2001/hermes-agent-template

✓ **Repository details**
praveen-ks-2001/hermes-agent-template

✓ **Volume**
/data

✓ **Environment variables**

ADMIN_PASSWORD *

Create admin login password credential

ADMIN_USERNAME *
Admin

Create admin login username credential

> 1 Pre-Configured Environment Variable

✓ Ready to be deployed Save Config

Deploy

HERMES SETUP GUIDE



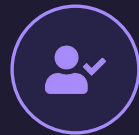
Volume

Keep it set to /data so your config survives redeloys.



ADMIN_PASSWORD

Set a strong password — you'll log in to Hermes with it.



ADMIN_USERNAME

Your admin login name (e.g. Admin).

When it reads **Ready to be deployed**, click **Save Config**, then **Deploy**.

STEP

4



HERMES ADMIN

Open the dashboard

RAILWAY · DEPLOYMENT

hermes-production-450f.up.railway.app

US West 1 Replica

ACTIVE



Make RAILWAY.md opening sections more conversational

3 minutes ago via GitHub

View logs



Deployment successful



Initialization

(02:42)



Build

(02:42)



Deploy

(00:12)



Network

(00:01)



Post-deploy

Not started



Once it's **Deployment successful**, click the app link **above the service card** (e.g. `hermes-production-450f.up.railway.app`) to open Hermes.

STEP

4



HERMES ADMIN

Sign in to continue

1

The `hermes /admin` sign-in screen loads.

2

Enter your `username` and `password`.

3

Click **Sign in** — no terminal required.

`hermes /admin`
SIGN IN TO CONTINUE

USERNAME
admin

PASSWORD
.....

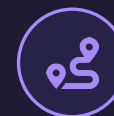
Sign in

Credentials are the `ADMIN_USERNAME` and `ADMIN_PASSWORD` Railway service variables.



REFERENCE

The Setup screen at a glance



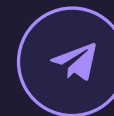
LLM Provider

Provider dropdown, API key, and model name live here.



Configured providers

Saved providers show with an API-key-set badge.



Messaging channels

Tick at least one channel to receive messages.



Save & Start

Bottom-right button starts the gateway.

STEP

5



CONFIGURE

Choose OpenRouter as the provider

1

In the **Setup** tab, open the **Provider** dropdown.

2

Select **OpenRouter** from the list.



Many providers supported

Hermes works with DeepSeek, Anthropic, Google, xAI and more — but this guide uses OpenRouter.

HERMES ADMIN · SETUP

PROVIDER

✓ — Select provider —

OpenRouter

DeepSeek

Qwen Cloud

GLM / Z.AI

Kimi

MiniMax

HuggingFace

NVIDIA NIM

NovitaAI

Arcee AI

OpenRouter sits at the top of the dropdown — highlighted here in pink.

STEP

5



CONFIGURE

Set the OpenRouter provider

1

Open the **Setup** tab in the admin dashboard.

2

Choose **OpenRouter** from the Provider dropdown.

3

Paste your **API key** and enter the model name.

4

Click **Save & Start**.

HERMES ADMIN · SETUP

PROVIDER
OpenRouter

API KEY
.....

LLM MODEL
deepseek/deepseek-v4-flash

Check your provider's docs for model names. OpenRouter format: provider/model-name

Configured providers appear below with a **Remove** button. The **API key set** badge confirms OpenRouter is connected.

MODEL TO START

deepseek/deepseek-v4-flash

API KEY FORMAT

starts with **sk-**

STEP

6



CONFIGURE

Enable the Telegram channel

1

Scroll to **Messaging Channels**.

2

Tick the box for **Telegram**.

3

Paste the **Bot Token** from BotFather.

4

Save the configuration.

MESSAGING CHANNELS — AT LEAST ONE REQUIRED

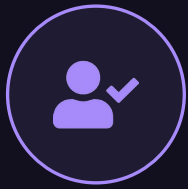
MESSAGING CHANNELS — at least one required

- Telegram
- Discord
- Slack
- Email
- Mattermost
- Matrix
- WhatsApp pairing via gateway logs on first run

Telegram, Discord, Slack, Email, Mattermost, Matrix and WhatsApp are all supported — pick at least one. Telegram is the simplest to start with.

STEP

7



GO LIVE

Start the gateway & approve yourself

1

Click **Save & Start** to launch the gateway.

2

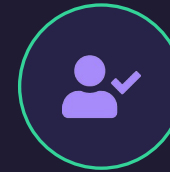
Send any message to your Telegram bot.

3

In the dashboard, open the **Users** section.

4

Approve your new pairing request.



Pairing approval

When you first message the bot, Hermes registers a pairing request. Approving it tells Hermes that user is allowed to chat — your built-in access control.

Look for the green **running** status.

STEP

8



DONE

Start chatting with Hermes

1

Open Telegram and message your bot.

2

Ask questions or hand it tasks.

3

Hermes replies — running on Railway 24/7.

Your config persists on the /data volume, so the agent stays available.



You're live!

A personal cloud AI agent you can message
from anywhere — phone or desktop.



TROUBLESHOOTING

Bot not responding? Check these



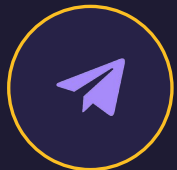
Read the Railway logs

Open your Hermes service logs and scan for obvious errors during startup or message handling.



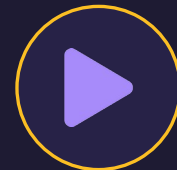
Verify OpenRouter

Confirm the API key is valid and the model name is spelled exactly as the provider lists it.



Re-check the bot token

Make sure the Telegram Bot Token in the admin dashboard matches the one from BotFather.



Confirm the gateway is running

Look for the running status — if it's stopped, hit Save & Start again.



RECAP

A cloud AI agent, no terminal needed



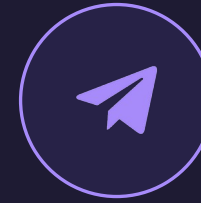
OpenRouter

Provides the AI brain — one key, many models.



Railway

Keeps Hermes running in the cloud, around the clock.



Telegram

Your chat interface to the agent, from any device.



Create the key, make the bot, deploy the template, fill in the settings — and you have an AI agent you can message from anywhere.



REFERENCE

All the links you'll need



OpenRouter

Sign up & manage models

openrouter.ai



OpenRouter — API Keys

Create your key here

openrouter.ai/settings/keys



Telegram

The messaging app

telegram.org



BotFather

Create your bot + token

t.me/BotFather



userinfobot

Get your Telegram user ID

t.me/userinfobot



Railway

Deploy & host Hermes

railway.com