coinbase x402

# x402 - The internet-native payment protocol

Frictionless, autonomous payments for APIs and AI Agents

## An open standard for AI-first payments

x402 is an open payment standard that lets AI agents and APIs pay per use—no accounts, subscriptions, or API keys required. By leveraging HTTP 402 "Payment Required", x402 enables real-time, pay-as-you-go monetization with cryptocurrency, including stablecoins like USDC, unlocking frictionless, AI-native payments.

SEAMLESS AI PAYMENTS, ONE LINE OF CODE

**Instant payments with near-zero fees**
unlocking microtransactions under 1 cent.

**AI agents pay per API call autonomously**
without pre-funded accounts or API keys.

**Blockchain-agnostic**
supporting any stablecoin or network (e.g., USDC on Base).

**Natively supported in Coinbase's AgentKit**
simplifying AI-native payments.

**Integrate in seconds with one simple function:**
paymentMiddleware(amount: "0.10", address: "0x...")

HOW AI AGENTS & APIS USE X402

**AI Agents Accessing APIs**
AI tools pay per use for data, compute, or cloud services.

**Pay-Per-Use AI Models**
AI services charge per run, no subscription needed.

**On-Demand Content**
Users pay per article, video, or dataset, no subscription needed.

**Machine-to-Machine Payments**
IoT & autonomous systems pay for services automatically.

**Monetize APIs and AI-driven commerce—seamlessly, with one line of code.**

Learn more at x402.org

# How AI agents make payments

## EXISTING PROCESS

**1 USER ACTION**

Create account with new API provider (Time-consuming setup)

**2 USER ACTION**

Add payment method to API provider (KYC required → Delays access, requires approval)

**3 USER ACTION**

Buy credits / subscription (Prepaid commitment → Overpay or run out of funds)

**4 USER ACTION**

Manage API key (Security risk → Must store & rotate keys)

**5 USER ACTION**

Make payment (Slow transactions, chargebacks, fees)

## PROCESS WITH X402

**1 AGENTIC ACTION**

AI agent sends HTTP request and receives 402 (Payment Required) (No account setup, instant onboarding)

**2 AGENTIC ACTION**

AI agent pays seamlessly with stablecoins, no signups or approvals required

**3 AGENTIC ACTION**

API access granted (No manual approvals, no API key management)

**x402 eliminates friction, allowing AI agents to pay per use with zero manual steps.**

## Get started

📌 x402 Docs  💻 GitHub Repository  🚀 Try the Demo