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Codex in a project: why .codex/config.toml cannot change the provider

Codex CLI

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-3130	v2026.11.28	Angola · English

Interweb Angola
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Codex in a project: why .codex/config.toml cannot change the provider

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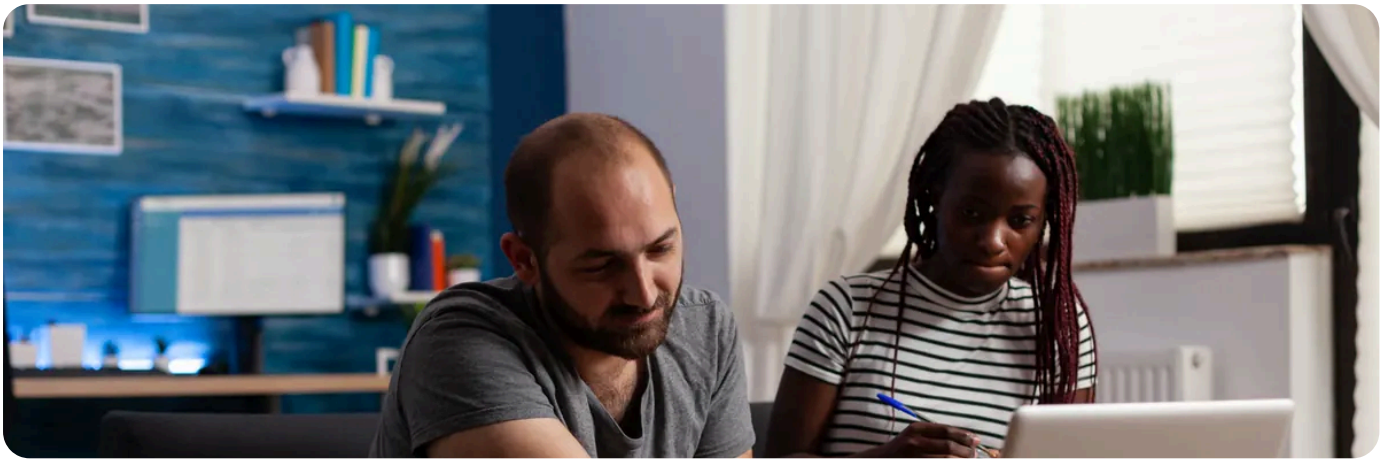

Besides your user file, Codex reads `.codex/config.toml` files inside projects. They hold the team settings. But there are keys Codex does not accept there, and the provider is one of them.

What Codex ignores in a project

According to the official documentation, a project `.codex/config.toml` cannot change `model_provider` or `model_providers`. Codex ignores them and shows a warning at start. The same goes for `openai_base_url`, `profile`, `profiles`, `notify` and `otel`, among others.

The provider and the authentication are settings of each computer. That way, a repository you cloned cannot send your requests, or your key, to another address.

Where each thing goes

File	What it can hold
`~/.codex/config.toml` **(on Windows,** `%USERPROFILE%\.codex\config.toml` **)**	The Interweb provider, with `base_url`, `env_key` and `wire_api`, and the starting model.
`.codex/config.toml`**, in the project**	The model and other project settings. No provider and no key.

Choosing the model for a project

The project can choose the model, and Codex uses it with the provider from your user file. At the project root, create `.codex/config.toml` with just this line:

```
model = "zai-org/glm-5.2"
```

Codex looks for `.codex/config.toml` from the project root down to the folder you are in. If there is more than one, the closest wins. And it only reads these files in a project marked as trusted.

The Codex order

When the same key is in several places, Codex follows this order, from the one that counts most to the one that counts least:

1. Command-line options, such as `-m` and `-c`.
2. The project `.codex/config.toml` files, the closest first.
3. The profile chosen with `--profile`.
4. Your `~/.codex/config.toml`.

! Did you see the warning that Codex ignored `model_provider`? The provider is in the wrong file. Move the `[model_providers.api]` block and the `model_provider` line to `~/.codex/config.toml` and leave only `model` in the project.

RECOMMENDED

Want to code with AI in Codex? Visit the Coding with AI page.

See Coding with AI →

SEE ALSO

- Codex CLI with All in One AI: creating config.toml, the key and the model →
- Naming the provider in Codex: the reserved names openai, ollama and lmstudio →
- Using another model for one Codex session: codex -m →
- env_key in Codex: how it reads your key from an environment variable →
- Coding with AI in All in One AI →

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