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# Connecting n8n to Google Sheets

n8n Workflows

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| --- | --- | --- |
| RLX-AO-KB-900 | v2026.10.10 | Angola · English |

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# Connecting n8n to Google Sheets

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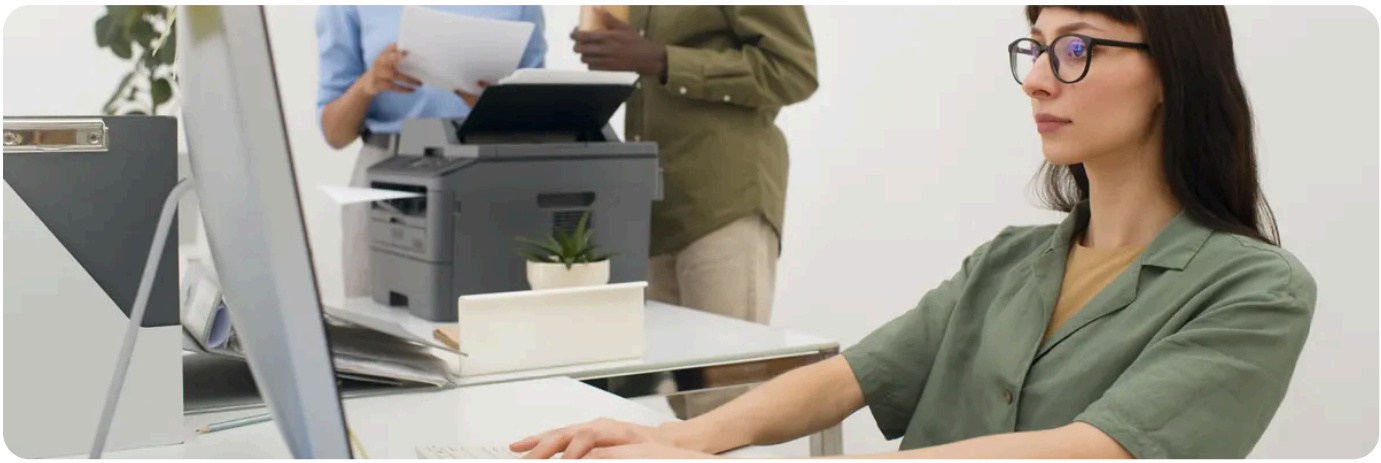

For n8n to read and write a Google Sheets spreadsheet it needs a **credential** proving to Google that n8n is allowed to touch that sheet. There are two roads: sign in with a **Google account** (OAuth), or use a **service account**, which is a robot account you share the sheet with. Google and n8n keep changing their screens, so this article explains the logic and leaves the clicks to the official documentation of both.

## Which road to take

| | Google account (OAuth) | Service account |
|---|---|---|
| **How it works** | n8n asks Google for permission on behalf of a person. | A robot account with an address of its own, added to the sheet like a collaborator. |
| **Access** | Everything that person can see, as far as the permission given. | Only the sheets you share with it. |
| **Needs n8n on HTTPS** | Yes: Google sends the person back to an address on your n8n. | No. |
| **If the person leaves the company** | The workflow stops, because the account is theirs. | Nothing changes. |

For a company, the service account is the safer and steadier choice. OAuth is quicker to set up for a personal trial.

## The flow, start to finish

1. **Have a project in Google Cloud** and enable the Google Sheets API in it. Google may also ask for the Drive one, so n8n can list the sheets: if an error says an API is not enabled, this is why.

2 **Create the credential.** For OAuth, create client credentials at Google and enter the ID and secret in n8n. n8n shows you the **redirect address** Google has to accept; copy it exactly as it is. That is why n8n needs HTTPS and must know its own address, as in **n8n behind HTTPS on your own domain**.

3 **For a service account**, Google gives you a file with the key. n8n asks for the account address and the key. Then open the sheet and share it with the service account address, the way you would with a person.

4 **Prepare the sheet.** The first row holds the headers; n8n uses them as column names. Do not rename the headers after building the workflow, or it stops finding them.

5 **Choose the operation** in the node: read rows, append a row, or update a row that has a given value in a column. To update, pick a column with unique values (an order number, say).

6 **Test on a scratch sheet** before pointing at the real one.

! **"It worked, and then it stopped".**
With OAuth, if the app at Google stays in testing mode, the permission can expire after a while and the workflow starts failing though nobody touched anything. Google explains the rules for the app status in its documentation; look there first. A service account does not have this problem.

## Care with the sheet

| Situation | What to do |
|---|---|
| **Many rows at once** | Send in batches instead of one call per row. Google limits requests per minute. |
| **Two executions at the same time** | They may write to the same row. Avoid it, or write to a separate sheet and merge afterwards. |
| **Sensitive data** | A sheet is easy to share by mistake. Limit who can see it. |

**Also write the date and the source on every row**
the workflow adds. When something looks odd, you know where it came from.

RECOMMENDED
Need a server to run n8n on?
See the VPS servers →

SEE ALSO

- n8n behind HTTPS on your own domain
- n8n webhooks: test URL and production URL
- Securing n8n: access, credentials and exposed webhooks

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