MARA Career Coach

Integration & Setup Guide

Version 3.0 — 05 March 2026

Technical documentation for deployment, configuration,
API integration and troubleshooting.

1. Quick Start

Get MARA up and running in 7 steps:

Step 1: Clone repository

git clone <repo-url> && cd gracious-delight-main

Step 2: Install dependencies

npm install

Step 3: Create .env file

Copy .env.example to .env and fill in all required variables (see section 3)

Step 4: Setup PostgreSQL

Create a PostgreSQL database and set DATABASE_URL in .env

Step 5: Configure Stripe

Add STRIPE_SECRET_KEY, STRIPE_PUBLISHABLE_KEY and price IDs

Step 6: Set OpenAI key

Add OPENAI_API_KEY to .env

Step 7: Start the server

npm start (or deploy to Railway)

First admin login: Set ADMIN_EMAIL and ADMIN_PASSWORD in env vars. The admin account is auto-created on first boot. Access the admin panel at /mara-beheer-7x9k.html.

2. Deployment (Railway)

MARA is designed for Railway deployment with zero-config Docker support:

Railway Setup:

- Create a new Railway project
- Add a PostgreSQL service (Railway provisions this automatically)
- Connect your Git repository or upload the ZIP
- Railway detects the Dockerfile automatically
- Set all required environment variables (section 3)
- Deploy — Railway builds and starts the container
- Add a custom domain or use the Railway-provided URL

Docker: The included Dockerfile uses Node.js 20 Alpine. The app listens on PORT (default 3000). Railway provides SSL termination via reverse proxy.

Database: PostgreSQL tables are auto-created on first boot via config/database.js. No manual migration needed.

3. Environment Variables

Variable	Status	Description
DATABASE_URL	Required	PostgreSQL connection string (auto-set by Railway)
JWT_SECRET	Required	Secret key for JWT token signing (min 32 chars)
OPENAI_API_KEY	Required	OpenAI API key for all AI features
OPENAI_MODEL	Optional	AI model name (default: gpt-4o-mini)
STRIPE_SECRET_KEY	Required	Stripe secret API key (sk_live_...)
STRIPE_PUBLISHABLE_KEY	Required	Stripe publishable key (pk_live_...)
STRIPE_WEBHOOK_SECRET	Required	Stripe webhook signing secret (whsec_...)
STRIPE_LIFETIME_PRICE_ID	Required	Stripe price ID for Lifetime plan
STRIPE_PREMIUM_PRICE_ID	Required	Stripe price ID for Premium plan
STRIPE_PRO_PRICE_ID	Required	Stripe price ID for Interview Pro add-on
STRIPE_ASSESS_PRICE_ID	Required	Stripe price ID for Assessments add-on
ADMIN_EMAIL	Required	Admin account email (auto-created on boot)
ADMIN_PASSWORD	Required	Admin account password

Variable	Status	Description
APP_URL	Required	Public URL (e.g. https://maracortex.com)
FRONTEND_URL	Optional	Frontend URL if different from APP_URL
PORT	Optional	Server port (default: 3000)
NODE_ENV	Optional	Environment (production/development)
SMTP_API_KEY	Optional	SendGrid or SMTP.com API key for emails
SMTP_FROM	Optional	From email address for system emails
GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID	Optional	Google OAuth client ID for social login
GOOGLE_CLIENT_SECRET	Optional	Google OAuth client secret
TIDYCAL_API_KEY	Optional	TidyCal API key for coaching bookings
TIDYCAL_BOOKING_URL	Optional	TidyCal booking page URL
GA_MEASUREMENT_ID	Optional	Google Analytics measurement ID
FB_PIXEL_ID	Optional	Facebook Pixel ID for conversion tracking

4. Stripe Configuration

MARA uses Stripe for all payment processing. Setup requires creating products and prices in the Stripe Dashboard:

Step 1: Create Products

- Lifetime Access (€49 one-time)
- Premium Access (€69 one-time)
- Interview Pro Add-on (€20 one-time)
- Assessments Add-on (€19.95 one-time)
- Credit packages: Starter €5, Popular €10, Power €25

Step 2: Set Price IDs

Copy each price ID (price_...) into the corresponding STRIPE_*_PRICE_ID environment variable.

Step 3: Configure Webhook

Create a webhook endpoint in Stripe Dashboard pointing to:

```
https://maracortex.com/api/payment/webhook
```

Subscribe to events: checkout.session.completed, payment_intent.succeeded, payment_intent.payment_failed

Copy the webhook signing secret (whsec_...) into STRIPE_WEBHOOK_SECRET.

5. ValeriaOS Widget Integration

The support page (contact.html) embeds the ValeriaOS AI chatbot. The SDK integration code:

```
<script src="https://cdn.valeriaos.com/sdk/v1/widget.js"></script>
<script>
  new ValeriaOS({
    apiKey: 'cos_your_api_key',
    position: 'bottom-right',
    theme: 'light',
    brandColor: '#C5A55A',
    borderRadius: 16,
    headerText: 'Hoe kunnen we helpen?',
    features: {
      chat: true,
      voice: true,
      avatar: true,
      ticket: true
    },
    autoOpen: false,
    mobileFull: true
  }).mount();
</script>
```

Setup: Replace cos_your_api_key with the API key from ValeriaOS Admin > Widget & Embed. Upload the Ghostwriter profile (MARA-ValeriaOS-Ghostwriter.md) in Admin > Ghostwriter.

CSP: index.html CSP already includes cdn.valeriaos.com in script-src and connect-src.

6. API Reference

All endpoints require the /api prefix. Authentication uses JWT Bearer tokens unless noted.

Authentication

Endpoint	Description	Auth
POST /api/auth/register	Create new account	No
POST /api/auth/login	Login, returns JWT	No
GET /api/auth/me	Get current user info	Yes
GET /api/auth/verify-email	Verify email token	No
POST /api/auth/forgot-password	Send reset link	No
POST /api/auth/reset-password	Reset with token	No
GET /api/auth/google/callback	Google OAuth callback	No
POST /api/auth/apple/callback	Apple OAuth callback	No

Career Tools

Endpoint	Description	Auth
POST /api/cv/analyze	Analyze uploaded CV	Yes
POST /api/cv/optimize	Generate ATS-optimized CV	Yes
POST /api/cv/tailor	Tailor CV to job posting	Yes
POST /api/linkedin/optimize	Optimize LinkedIn profile	Yes
POST /api/interview/generate	Generate interview questions	Yes
POST /api/interview/evaluate	Evaluate text answer	Yes
POST /api/soar/generate	Generate SOAR story	Yes
POST /api/star/generate	Generate STAR story	Yes
POST /api/marketing-bio/generate	Generate marketing bio	Yes
POST /api/elevator-pitch/generate	Generate elevator pitch	Yes

Interview Pro

Endpoint	Description	Auth
POST /api/interview-audio-pro/evaluate	Transcribe + analyze audio (15 credits)	Yes

Endpoint	Description	Auth
GET /api/interview-audio-pro/info	Get audio pro feature info	Yes
POST /api/interview-video-pro/analyze	Analyze video interview (35 credits)	Yes
GET /api/interview-video-pro/history	Get interview history	Yes

Credits & Payments

Endpoint	Description	Auth
GET /api/credits/balance	Get credit balance	Yes
GET /api/credits/packages	List credit packages	Yes
POST /api/credits/checkout	Create Stripe checkout for credits	Yes
POST /api/payment/create-checkout	Create plan checkout session	Yes
POST /api/payment/webhook	Stripe webhook handler	No*
GET /api/payment/status	Get subscription status	Yes

* Webhook is authenticated via Stripe signature verification.

Assessments

Endpoint	Description	Auth
GET /api/assessments	List all assessments	Yes
GET /api/assessments/:type	Get assessment questions	Yes
POST /api/assessments/:type/submit	Submit answers, get results	Yes
GET /api/assessments/:type/results	Get saved results	Yes
POST /api/assessments/:type/download	Download PDF report	Yes

Admin

Endpoint	Description	Auth
POST /api/admin/login	Admin login (separate auth)	No
GET /api/admin/stats	Platform statistics	Admin
GET /api/admin/users	List all users	Admin
PUT /api/admin/users/:id/plan	Change user plan	Admin
DELETE /api/admin/users/:id	Delete user (GDPR)	Admin
GET /api/admin/dashboard	Dashboard data	Admin
POST /api/credits/admin/adjust	Manual credit adjustment	Admin

7. Troubleshooting

Problem	Cause	Solution
App crashes on start	Missing DATABASE_URL	Set DATABASE_URL in Railway env vars
502 Bad Gateway	Rate limiter + proxy	Ensure trust proxy is set in Express config
Modals not opening	JS event delegation conflict	app-events.js must handle open-modal in capture phase
Stripe webhooks failing	Wrong webhook secret	Copy whsec_... from Stripe Dashboard to STRIPE_WEBHOOK_SECRET
Emails not sending	Missing SMTP config	Set SMTP_API_KEY and SMTP_FROM in env vars
Google login fails	OAuth misconfigured	Verify GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID/SECRET and callback URL in Google Console
Credits not deducting	Credit service not initialized	Check that creditService is attached to app.locals in server.js

Problem	Cause	Solution
Broken accents in UI	Encoding corruption	Ensure all i18n strings use proper Unicode escapes for accented chars
Admin panel 403	Wrong credentials	Check ADMIN_EMAIL and ADMIN_PASSWORD env vars match
Assessment locked	Plan check failing	Verify user plan in database, must be premium for assessments
CSP blocking scripts	Missing domain in CSP	Add required domains to Content-Security-Policy in index.html
ValeriaOS not loading	Wrong SDK URL or API key	Use cdn.valeriaos.com/sdk/v1/widget.js and valid API key

8. Useful Commands

Health check:

```
curl -s https://maracortex.com/api/auth/me -H "Authorization: Bearer <token>"
```

Check server logs (Railway):

```
railway logs --tail
```

Database access:

```
railway connect postgres
```

Verify Stripe webhook:

```
stripe listen --forward-to localhost:3000/api/payment/webhook
```

Test credit balance:

```
curl -s https://maracortex.com/api/credits/balance \
  -H "Authorization: Bearer <token>"
```

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