



Scopes quick reference for Slack Marketplace apps

The Slack Marketplace **requires** apps to follow the principle of least privilege. Request the minimum scopes your app needs to function. Nothing more.

1 THE BASICS

Bot token scopes vs. user token scopes

	BOT TOKEN SCOPES	USER TOKEN SCOPES
Acts as	Your app	An authenticated user
When to use	Most app functionality	Only when the app needs to act as a user
Marketplace	Preferred for most use cases	Only when bot tokens can't accomplish the task

Required vs. optional scopes

	REQUIRED SCOPES	OPTIONAL SCOPES
Purpose	Core app functionality	Enhanced features not needed for app to work
Install behavior	Granted at install time	Requested later when user accesses feature
Marketplace rule	Must cover everything app needs to function	Should enhance, not complete, core experience

Rule of thumb: If a feature doesn't work without a scope, that scope is required. If the app works without it but a specific feature is better with it, make it optional.

2 JUSTIFYING SCOPES

The review team reads every scope justification. They want to know how your app uses the scope, not what the scope does.

DO THIS	NOT THIS
We use <code>channels:read</code> to list channels so users can select where to post notifications	Allows the app to read channel information
We use <code>chat:write</code> to post daily standup summaries to a user-selected channel	Lets the app send messages

Each scope you submit must relate to functionality the reviewer can test.

3 ENHANCED SECURITY REVIEW

The following scopes flag your app for a deeper security evaluation. If you use any of these, consider whether there is a better scope to use. Plan for additional review time.

! `*:history (any)`

! `files:read`

! `canvases:read`

! `conversations.connect:write`

! `user: groups:write`

! `admin.* (any)`

! `user: groups:write.invites`

! `user: mpim:write`

An enhanced security review looks at how your app stores, accesses, and retains sensitive data.

4 Scopes & App Updates

When you add new scopes to a listed app:

- 1 You must resubmit for review
- 2 Include a video demo showing the new functionality
- 3 Explain how the new scopes are used by the new feature
- 4 Existing users may need to reinstall or reauthorize to grant new permissions
- 5 Gracefully support users who haven't yet granted the newly added scopes

Pre-Submission Checklist

- Every scope has a current, testable use case
- No legacy or restricted scopes (identity.*, read, post, etc.)
- How data is used
- Checked if scopes trigger enhanced security review
- Each scope explainable in one sentence (how you use it)
- Data retention period
- Bot token scopes preferred; user tokens only where necessary
- App doesn't enable access beyond Slack's product boundariesTest credentials and pre-populated environment ready for reviewers
- If using AI: LLM disclosures and compliance fields complete
- Contact method for data requests

! **Remember:** Over-scoped permissions are a top rejection reason. When in doubt, request fewer scopes and add more later as optional.