

DEVSPACE · THE HONEST READ

The tool is *real*. The pitch is *not* what you think.

DevSpace lets ChatGPT read and edit your local code. That part works and matters. But "*doubles your rate limits*" is the spin, not the spec.

WHAT IS TRUE

Self hosted MCP bridge
ChatGPT ↔ your code
Real privacy on your machine

WHAT IS HYPE

Doubled rate limits
3 step install
Never gets shut down

FIRST, THE THING ITSELF

DevSpace is a *bridge*, not a hack

DevSpace is a self hosted MCP server by a developer called Waishnav. It lets ChatGPT read, edit, search, and run code in your local projects, through a tunnel you control, secured by a password only you have.¹

How it *actually* works

You run DevSpace on your laptop. It exposes a few MCP tools, read file, edit file, run shell, search. You point a tunnel like Cloudflare or ngrok at it.²

In ChatGPT, you turn on **Developer Mode** and add a custom app pointing at the tunnel URL. Approve with the owner password. ChatGPT can now open one of your approved folders as a workspace.^{3,4}

What this *unlocks*

The real value sits in three places, none of which the reel leans on:

Your code never uploads. ChatGPT reads it through MCP. Files stay on your disk.

You can plan in chat, build in Codex. Use ChatGPT to think, hand off to Codex CLI, Cursor, or Claude Code to write.¹

ChatGPT becomes a code reviewer. Show it your diff. It explains, critiques, suggests fixes.

QUICK WORD ON THE RENAME

On **17 December 2025**, OpenAI renamed "connectors" to "apps."⁵ If you read older guides, treat the two as the same thing. DevSpace appears as a custom app in ChatGPT's Apps settings.

THE HEADLINE CLAIM, UNPACKED

It does not *"double"* anything

A similar project, CodexPro, says it directly in its README: it **"does not bypass, avoid, increase, pool, resell, or modify ChatGPT, Codex, OpenAI, or third party model limits."**⁶ That is the honest framing.

What is *really* happening with the buckets

WHAT YOU USE	WHICH QUOTA IT DRAWS FROM
Codex CLI	Codex 5 hour rolling bucket ⁷
Codex IDE extension	Same Codex 5 hour bucket ⁷
Codex web and app	Same Codex 5 hour bucket ⁷
ChatGPT chat with DevSpace MCP	ChatGPT chat limits, a different meter⁸

So yes, ChatGPT chat and Codex are two separate meters. The reel got that part right.⁸ What the reel got wrong is the word "double." You are not getting twice the Codex quota. You are **switching the work to a different product** that has its own ChatGPT chat allowance.

THE HONEST VERSION

TRUE

When your Codex bucket runs dry, you can use ChatGPT chat with DevSpace as a partial backstop on the same Plus subscription. That is a real workflow win, especially mid project.

THE HYPE VERSION

SPIN

"Doubles every developer's rate limits" reads like quota pooling. It is not. You are draining one of two different meters, not the same meter twice.

DO THIS IN ORDER

The setup, *without the shortcuts*

1 Confirm you have ChatGPT Plus or Pro

Developer Mode requires Plus, Pro, Business, Enterprise, or Edu. Free and Go accounts cannot use this at all.⁹ In India, that is ₹1,999 a month for Plus.

2 Install Node 22 LTS

DevSpace needs Node 20.12 or later, under Node 27. Use nvm, fnm, or mise to switch cleanly.¹

3 Install and initialise DevSpace

Run `npx @waishnav/devspace init`, answer the prompts, copy the owner password it prints, keep it private.²

4 Set up an HTTPS tunnel

DevSpace does not create a tunnel for you. Use Cloudflare Tunnel, ngrok, Pinggy, or Tailscale Funnel. Point it at port 7676.²

5 Tell DevSpace the public URL

`npx @waishnav/devspace config set publicBaseUrl https://your-tunnel-url`. Then run `serve`.²

6 Turn on Developer Mode in ChatGPT

Settings, then Apps, then Advanced settings, then Developer Mode. Keep "Enforce CSP" on. Then create a new custom app pointing at your tunnel's /mcp URL.³

7 Approve the connection with your owner password

First time ChatGPT connects, DevSpace shows an approval page. Enter the password from step 3. After that, ask ChatGPT to open one of your approved folders.²

```
# the real install, line by line
# 1. install DevSpace and run the interactive setup
npx @waishnav/devspace init

# 2. start your tunnel (Cloudflare example)
cloudflared tunnel --url http://localhost:7676

# 3. tell DevSpace your tunnel URL, then serve
npx @waishnav/devspace config set publicBaseUrl https://your-tunnel.example.com
npx @waishnav/devspace serve

# 4. in ChatGPT: Settings → Apps → Advanced → Developer Mode
# 5. Create app → paste https://your-tunnel.example.com/mcp
# 6. Approve with the owner password DevSpace printed
```

REEL VS RECEIPTS

Every line of the reel, *graded*

TRUE

"It is open source on GitHub." Confirmed. Waishnav/devspace, public repo.¹

TRUE

"ChatGPT and Codex have separate meters." Yes. Codex CLI, IDE, web, and app share one 5 hour bucket. ChatGPT chat is a different meter.^{7,8}

TRUE

"You can plan in ChatGPT and build in Codex or Cursor." Real workflow, real productivity win, especially when one bucket runs dry.

SPIN

"Doubles your rate limits." No. You are switching to a different product with a different meter, not stacking quotas. Similar tools explicitly deny this.⁶

SPIN

"Setup is stupid easy, three commands." The three CLI commands are real, but the full path includes Plus tier, Node 22, a tunnel, Developer Mode, custom app config, and approval.

CAVEAT

"Built at OpenAI's Codex hackathon." Possibly, but the repo does not state this. Treat as unverified background, not a feature.

TRUE

"OpenAI has a button to kill it." Honest from the reel. Developer Mode is a beta feature.⁹ OpenAI can restrict or remove it without notice.

CAVEAT

"Don't be greedy with it." The fact that the creator says this is itself a tell. Treat it as a sign that the workflow lives near the edge of OpenAI's app developer terms.¹⁰

THE RISKS NO ONE MENTIONS

Four things to know *before you serve*

Prompt injection is the *real* security risk

OpenAI's own docs warn that "connecting to unsafe or untrusted MCP servers may increase exposure to security risks including prompt injection."³ A malicious file in your repo could quietly tell ChatGPT to delete a folder or leak a key. DevSpace's password and CSP enforcement help, but the risk is real.

Your tunnel is a *public endpoint*

A weak password, a leaked URL, an expired ngrok dev domain that someone else picks up, any of these expose your local machine. Rotate the owner password, use a named tunnel not a temporary one, and never share screenshots with the URL visible.

OpenAI's *terms govern this*

Custom MCP apps fall under OpenAI's App Developer Terms.¹⁰ Personal use is fine, the framing of "doubling rate limits to bypass usage controls" is not. The reel's "don't be greedy" warning lives in this gap. Stay clearly inside reasonable use.

India specific: *Plus is the floor*

Free and Go tiers in India do not get Developer Mode at all.¹¹ ChatGPT Plus at ₹1,999 a month is the minimum. If you are running this on Plus alongside Codex CLI, you are still inside one subscription, not pooling two.

THE HONEST REASON TO USE IT

Privacy and workflow. Your client code stays on your laptop. You can think in ChatGPT and build in your favourite agent. ChatGPT becomes a fresh reviewer for code your other tools wrote. None of that needs the "double the limits" framing to be valuable.

START SMALL, ITERATE

Try it on *one repo*

- 1 Confirm you are on Plus or Pro**

If you are on Free or Go, this whole thing is academic. Upgrade or skip.
- 2 Install on a non sensitive side project first**

Never start with client code. Learn the security shape first.
- 3 Use a named Cloudflare tunnel, not a quick one**

Quick tunnels rotate URLs. Named ones are stable and easier to lock down.
- 4 Rotate the owner password**

Treat it like an API key. Set a reminder to rotate every 30 days.
- 5 Compare it honestly to Codex CLI alone**

For most coding work, native Codex is still faster. DevSpace shines for chat plus repo context, and for code review.

ONE LINE TO KEEP

The bridge is real. The math behind "double the limits" is not.

Sources

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DevSpace is a third party project, not made or supported by OpenAI. Developer Mode is a beta feature. Both can change without notice. Verify the current setup at github.com/Waishnav/devspace and the current Developer Mode policy at help.openai.com before you commit a workflow. Educational, not legal advice.