

Anthropic launches Cowork, a Claude Code-like for general computing

Anthropic's agentic tool Claude Code has been an enormous hit with some software developers and hobbyists, and now the company is bringing that modality to more general office work with a new feature called Cowork.

Built on the same foundations as Claude Code and baked into the macOS Claude desktop app, Cowork allows users to give Claude access to a specific folder on their computer and then give plain language instructions for tasks.

Anthropic gave examples like filling out an expense report from a folder full of receipt photos, writing reports based on a big stack of digital notes, or reorganizing a folder (or cleaning up your desktop) based on a prompt.

[embedded content]

An example demo of Cowork in action.

A lot of this was already possible with Claude Code, but it might not have been clear to all users that it could be used that way, and Claude Code required more technical know-how to set up. Anthropic's goal with Cowork is to make it something any knowledge worker—from developers to marketers—could get rolling with right away. Anthropic says it started working on Cowork partly because people were already using Claude Code for general knowledge work tasks anyway.

I've already been doing things similar to this with the Claude desktop app via Model Context Protocol (MCP), prompting it to

perform tasks like creating notes directly in my Obsidian vault based on files I showed it, but this is clearly a cleaner way to do some of that—and there are Claude Code-like usability perks here, like the ability to make new requests or amendments to the assignment with a new message before the initial task is complete.

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