With new plugins feature, OpenAI officially takes Codex beyond coding

OpenAI has added plugin support to its agentic coding app Codex in an apparent attempt to match similar features offered by competitors Anthropic (in Claude Code) and Google (in Gemini's command line interface).

What OpenAI calls "plugins" are actually bundles that may include skills ("prompts that describe workflows to Codex"—a standard feature in tools like this these days), app integrations, and MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers.

The idea is that they make it possible to configure Codex in certain ways for specific tasks to be easier for the user and replicable across multiple users in an organization.

By and large, they don't enable anything that wasn't possible before. Power users could already introduce custom instructions, use MCP servers, and so on to create much of this functionality. But in this case, it's basically a one-click installation.

There's now a Plugins section in the Codex app that takes users to a searchable library of plugins meant to allow Codex to integrate tightly with some external service or application—examples include GitHub, Gmail, Box, Cloudflare, and Vercel.

https://arstechnica.com/ai/2026/03/openai-brings-plugins-to-codex-closing-some-of-the-gap-with-claude-code/