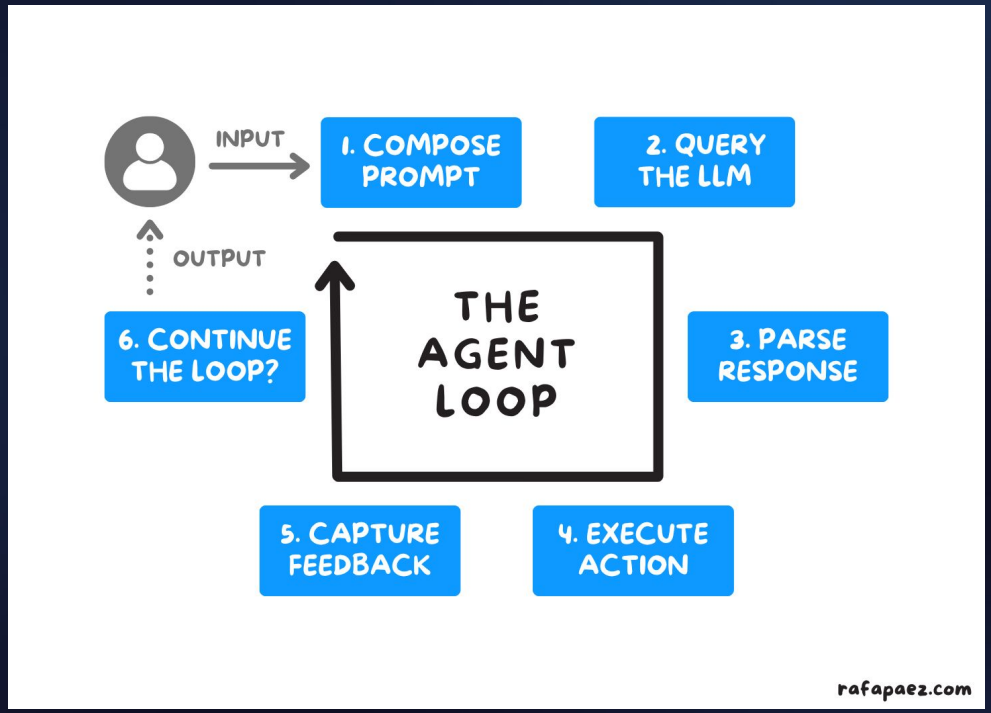
Animating Tomorrow

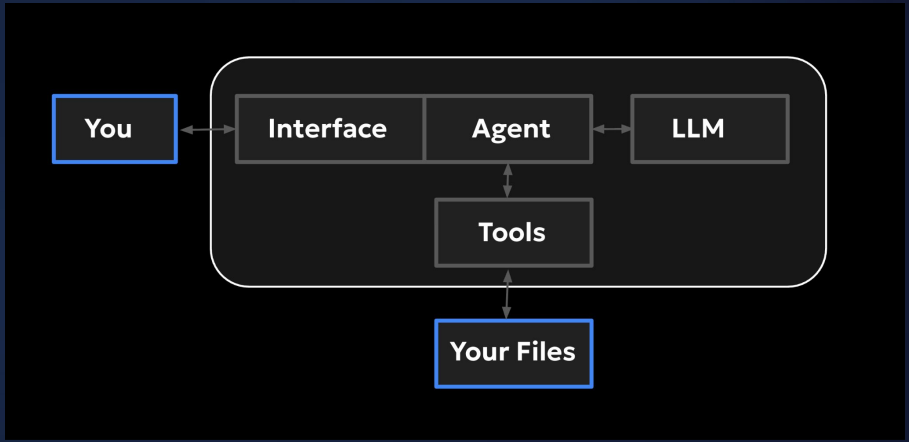
Figuring Out Your Future: Agentic AI

Presented by Tom Box



An Agentic AI system is simply a chatbot that is put in a loop.

In this loop, it can break a problem down into smaller steps in the loop cycle, then decide which tools to use in further loops to assist solving the given problem, repeating this until the problem is solved.



An Agent consists of a few parts:

The interface: this an app you use, such as *Visual Studio Code* or *Open Code*.

The agent: this is the code that loops the LLM and decides when to finish, such as *Claude Code. Open Code has one built in*.

The LLM: This is the chatbot that the agent calls, such as *Claude Opus*, *Qwen or Big Pickle.*

The tools: the agent can action tools, such as listing files in folders, editing files or searching the web.

Your files: these are the files on your computer the agent can access.

Markdown file, i.e. “example.md”

```
# This is the title

This is some **bold** text.

## A Sub-title
```

How an LLM sees this:

This is the title

This is some **bold** text.

A Sub-title

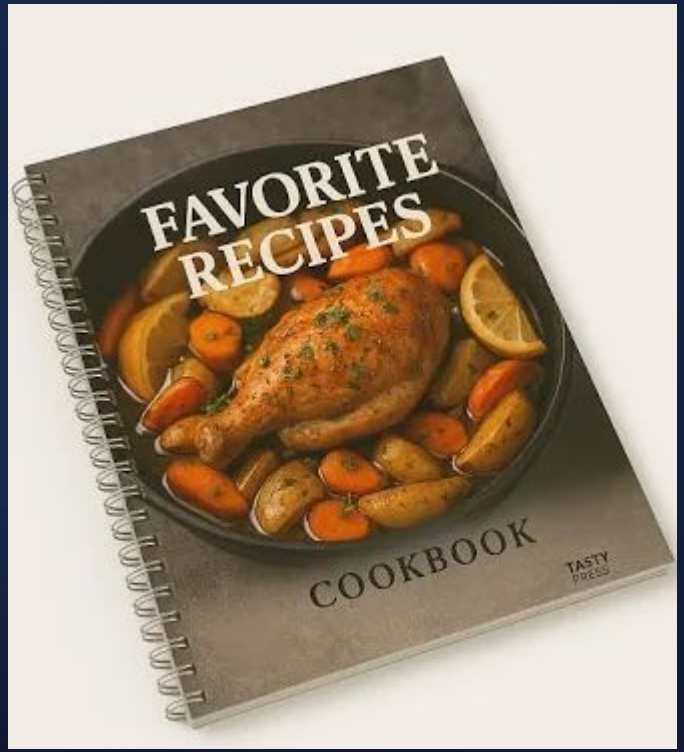
Markdown

When working with Agentic AI, the LLMs prefer working with Markdown text files, instead of normal text files.

This allow the LLMs to understand the structure of the document, including headings and formatting.

These files are saved with a “.md” filename extension.

They are very simple, where a main title is represented by a # and a sub-heading title is represented by ##.



Agent Skills

Think of Agent Skills as "how-to guides" for AI assistants. Instead of the AI needing to know everything upfront, skills let it learn new abilities on the fly, like giving someone a recipe card instead of making them memorise an entire cookbook.

Skills are simple Markdown text files (called SKILL.md) that teach an AI how to do specific tasks.

When you ask the AI to do something, it finds the right skill, reads the instructions, and gets to work.

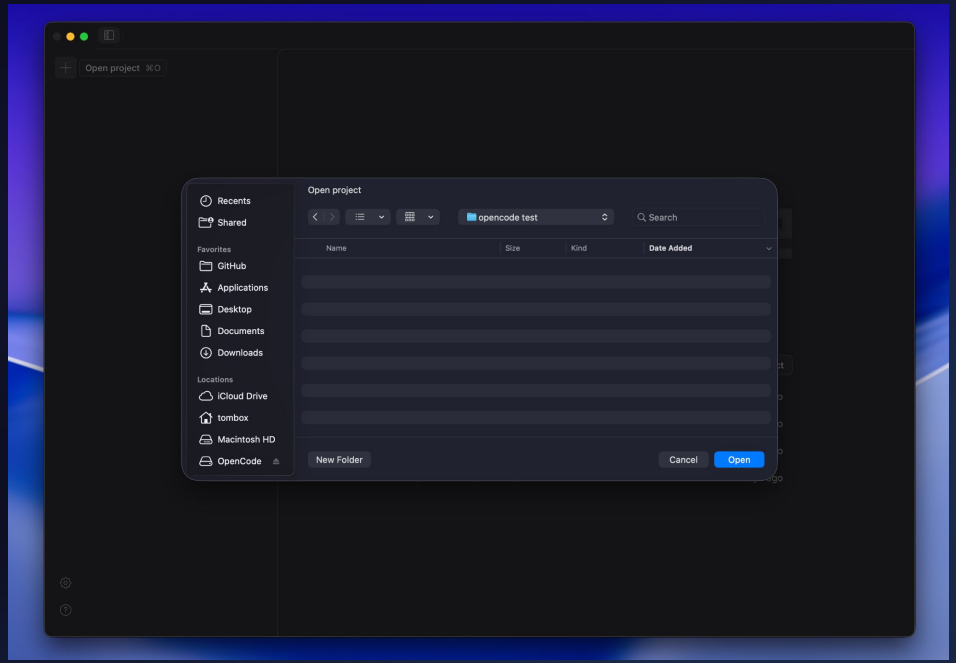
https://github.com/heilcheng/awesome-agent-skills

For ease of use, we recommend using *Open Code Desktop*, you can also use *Visual Studio Code,* but this involves more steps.

You can download it from opencode.ai

By default it comes with a free LLM called “Big Pickle”.

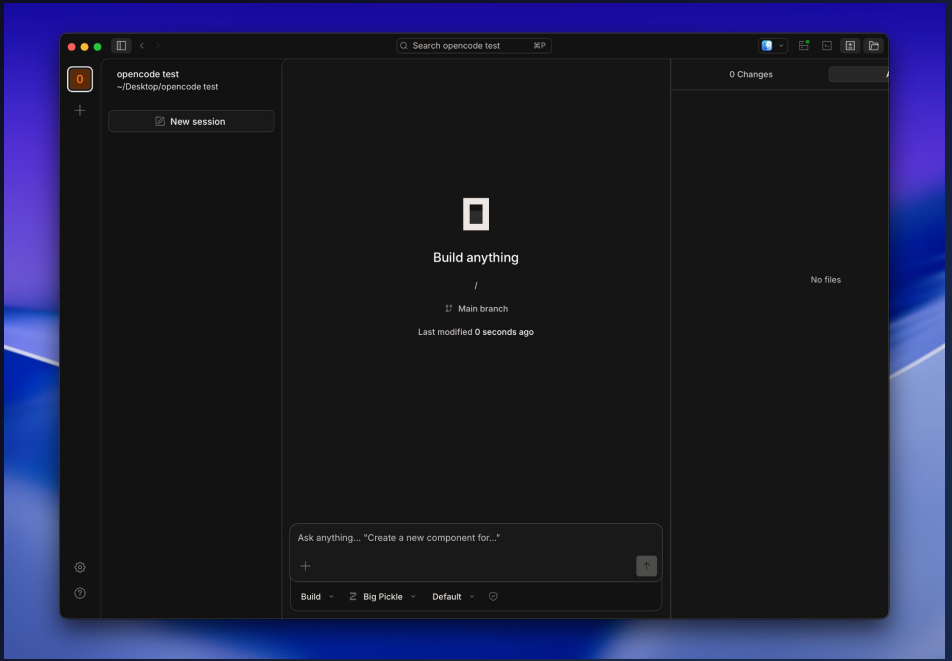
If you want to use a more advanced LLM, you can buy credits on OpenCode’s website for their *Go* or *Zen* subscriptions.



When you first load OpenCode desktop app, you can click Open Project or the + button at the top left.

This will open a File Browser window, where you should create a new folder, select this, then press the Open button.

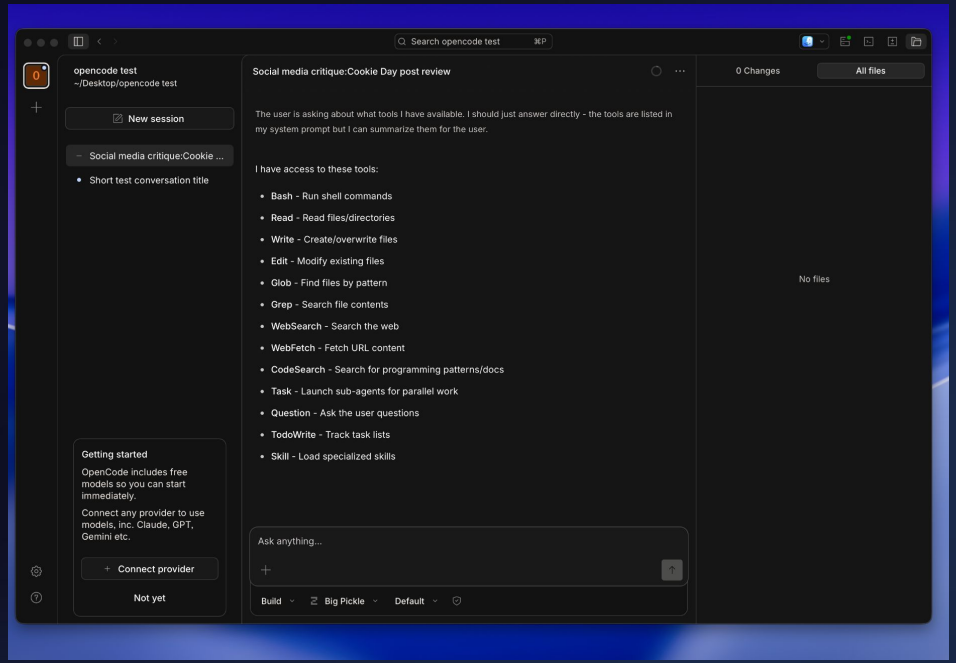
The Open Code will only have access to what is in this folder for extra security.



You can then select the LLM you want to use, by default “Big Pickle” is selected.

Let’s try asking it what tools it has by default:

What tools do you have available?

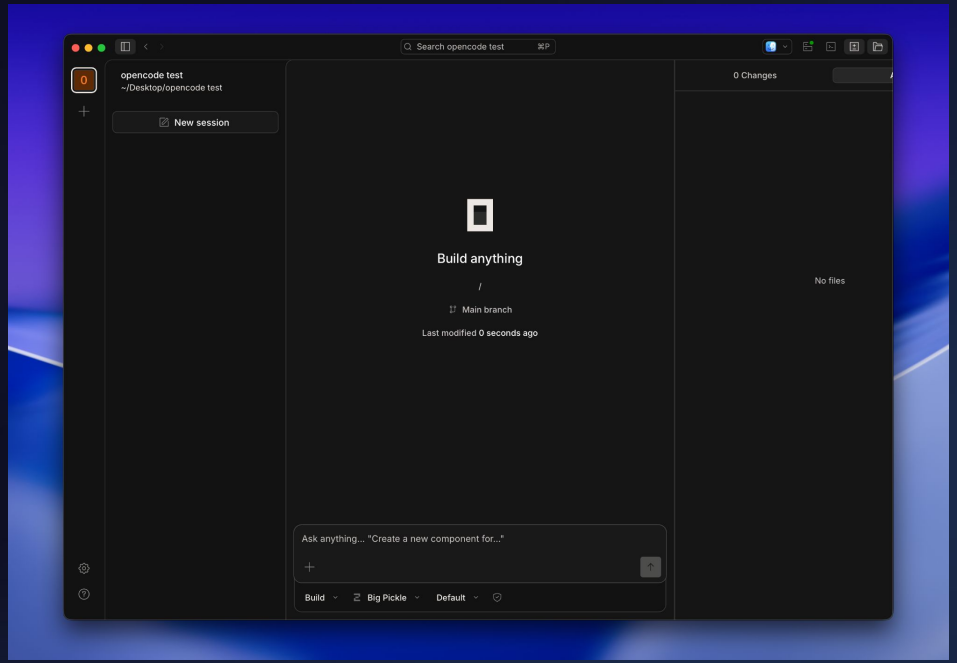


It should then list what tools it has.

Try using one of the tools, for example:

Using the WebFetch tool, can you tell me what the main headlines on the BBC News site and save it in a Markdown file

You should then see the new Markdown file appear in the file browser on the right, click on this file to view the contents.



Let's try building a Skill.

We can use AI to help us use AI!

First let's put it in *Plan Mode*. To do this, click on the Build button, an select Plan.

This allows us to plan out what to build, before the agent creates or modifies any files.

I want to create a Skill to critique a social media post using my correct tone of voice, which is upbeat, casual and friendly but aligned with my audience. Please think through the best way to do this and ask me any clarifying questions.

Iterating the plan

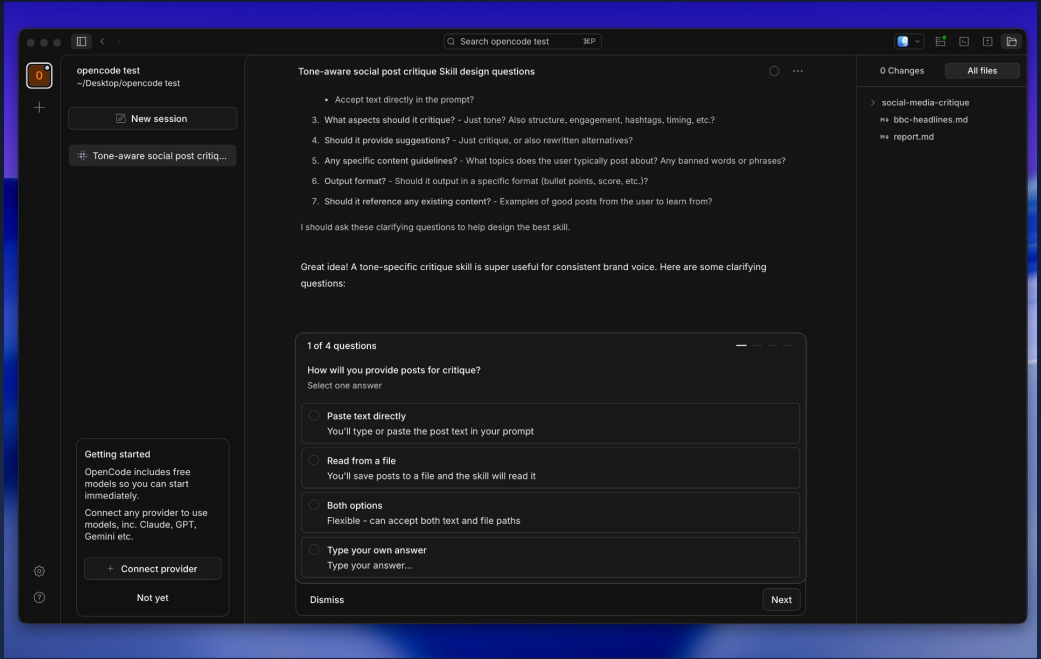
It should now ask you follow-up questions to clarify extra details.

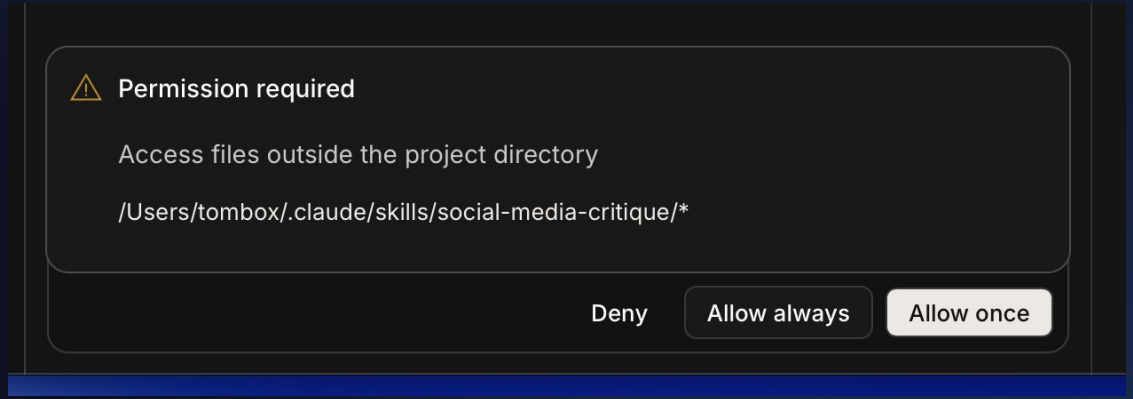
You can ask further questions about this plan, or suggest changes.

When you are happy with the plan, you can click on the Plan to switch it back to Build. Then ask it to proceed:

Please build this now.

Planning first ensures you and the agent are aligned in what the goal is.

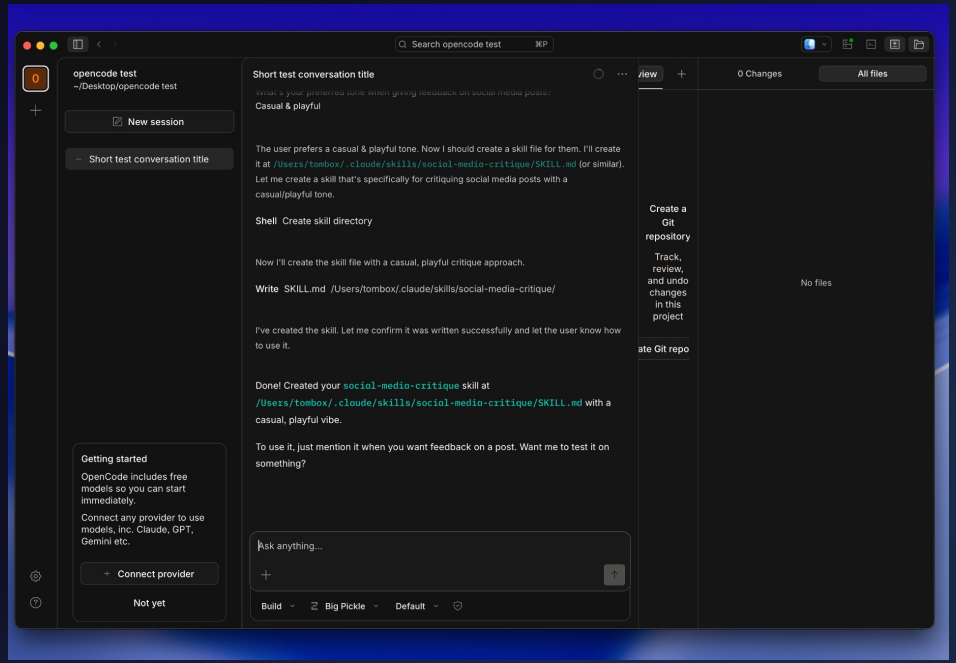




As agents are autonomous, this can be dangerous as they could automatically execute dangerous tools, such as over-writing or deleting important files.

To avoid this, Open Code implements “human-in-the-loop”, which checks with you before using any tools that could change things on your computer.

Click “Allow once” to allow it create a Skill.md file on your computer.



It should have now made the new Skill.

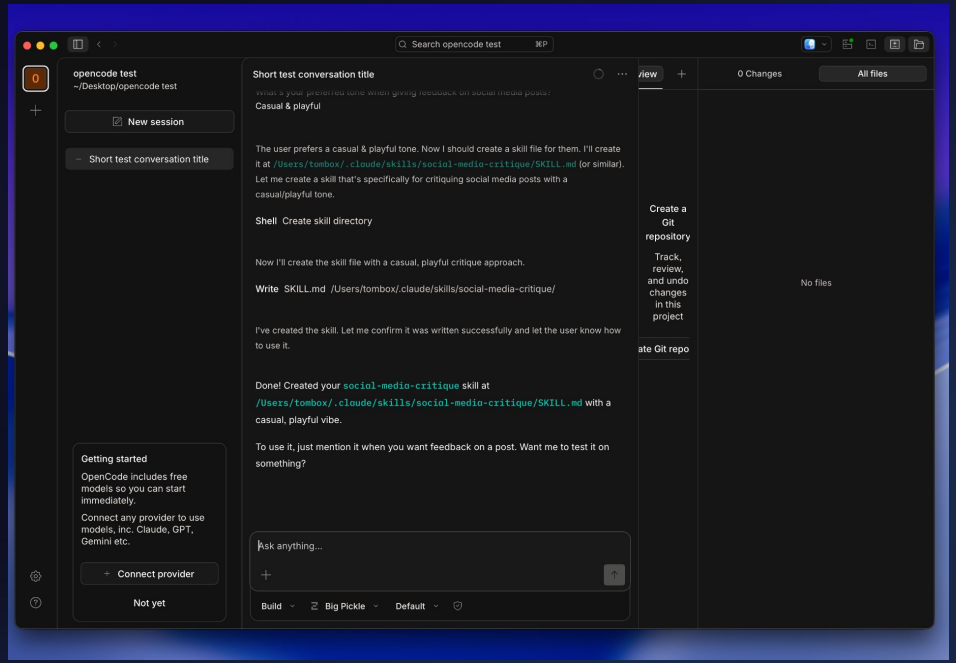
BUT! In order to use the skill, you need to restart OpenCode, so quit the app and reopen it.

Then click the New Session button and try asking it to use the skill with an example social media post.

For example:

Please use the social media skill to critique my post:

Hi! Happy International Cookie Day!



You could then try combining Skills and tools, for example:

Please read the news markdown file and write a post about the top story, and use the social media skill to critique it and save the report to a file called report.md

This is purely an example – *I don't recommend posting AI generated content on social media!!*

But by utilising these building blocks, you can combine them in an infinite number of ways to build elaborate processes to automate tasks that are routine.