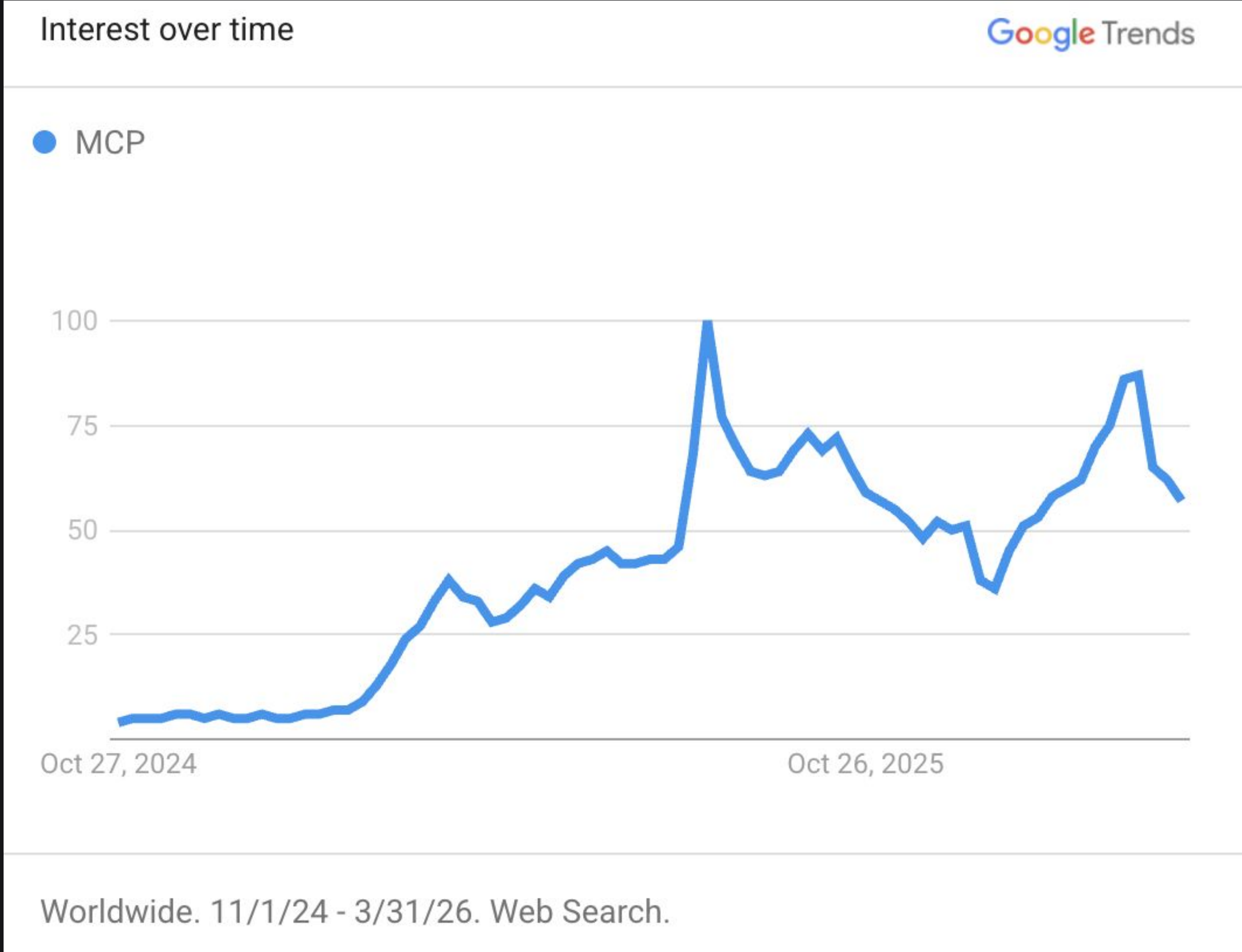




Code mode is best served  
in the shell

Jan Curn, CEO  
[@jancurn](#)

# Last year, MCP became the darling of the AI world



## The MCP Registry

### Registry

- modelcontextprotocol/servers** # official

This repository is a collection of reference implementations for the Model Context Protocol (MCP).
- MCP Market** 12454

Explore our curated collection of MCP servers to connect AI to your favorite tools.
- MCP.so** 7682 # verified

Find Awesome MCP Servers and Clients
- Smithery** 4274 # verified

Extend your agent with 4,274 capabilities via Model Context Protocol servers.



**MCP CONNECTS  
AGENTS WITH TOOLS**



**SO EVERYBODY  
LOVES MCP, RIGHT?**



imgflip.com



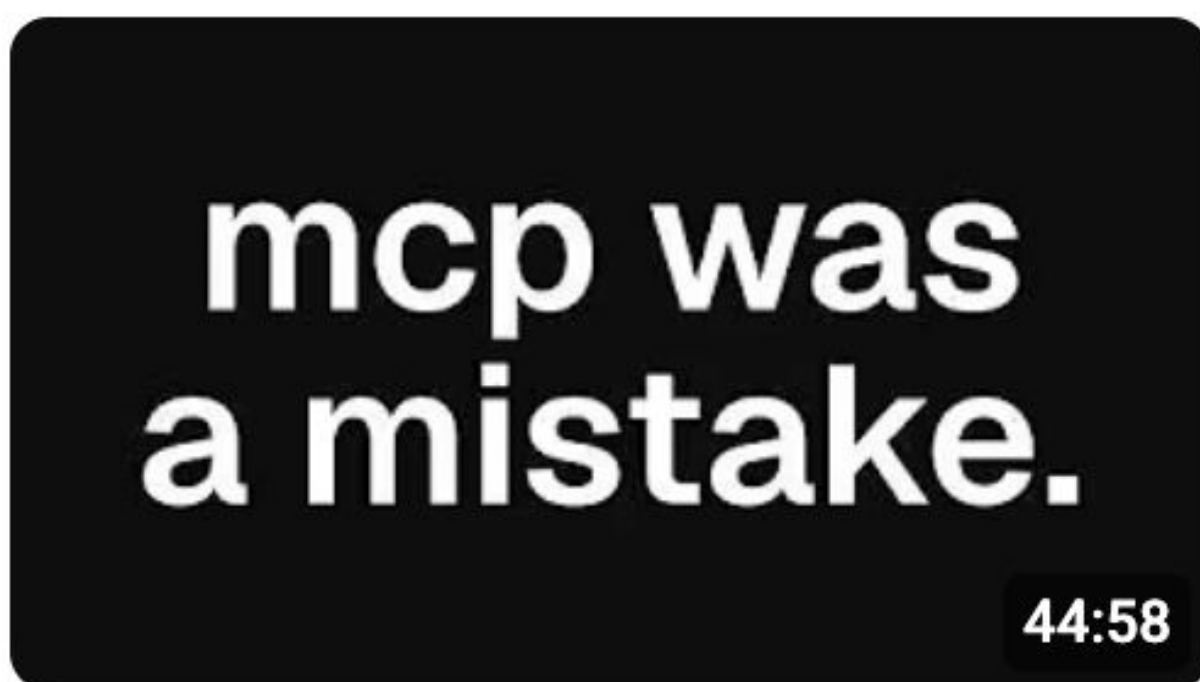
**RIGHT?**



## Anthropic admits that MCP sucks

Theo - t3.gg ✓ 139K views • 4 months ago

There's a lot wrong with MCP, thankfully Anthropic seems to be finally doing something about it... Thank you Sevala for sponsoring! Check them out at: <https://soydev.link/sevala> SOURCE...



## MCP is the wrong abstraction

Theo - t3.gg ✓ 94K views • 5 months ago

MCP is one of those things that I don't really talk about. There's a reason for that... Thank you Depot for sponsoring! Check them out at: <https://soydev.link/depot> SOURCE <https://blog.cloudflare.com/>



## Anthropic is trying SO hard to fix MCP...

Theo - t3.gg ✓ 71K views • 3 months ago

Anthropic is trying really hard to fix MCP. I'm not sure they're succeeding... Thank you Greptile for sponsoring! Check them out at: <https://soydev.link/greptile> SOURCE <https://www.anthropic.com/>

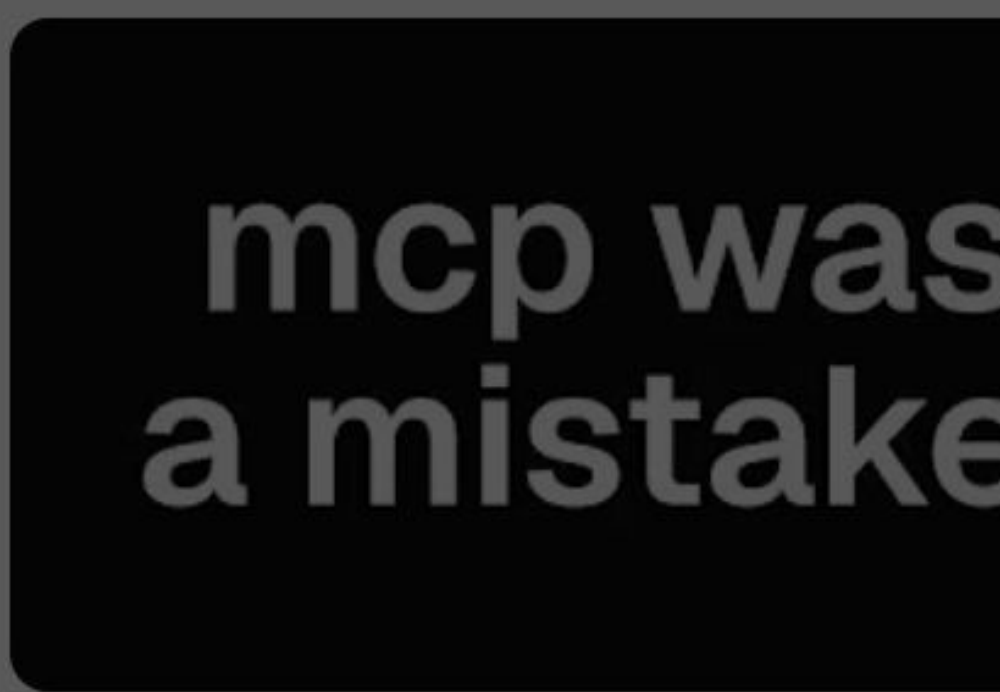




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**Pietro Schirano** ✓   
@skirano · [Follow](#)



MCP was a mistake. Long live CLIs.

3:02 PM · Mar 18, 2026



1.6K



Reply



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## Anthropic is trying SO hard to fix MCP...

Theo - t3.gg ✓ 71K views • 3 months ago

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**Chrys Bader**   
@chrysb · [Follow](#)



unpopular (maybe?) opinion: MCP is dead in the water

[@openclaw](#) has shown me that api & cli will win.

every MCP server you connect loads its tool definitions into your context window. name, description, parameter schema, all of it. connect 10 servers with 5 tools each and [Show more](#)



**Peter Steinberger**   
@steipete



there's a reason I didn't add mcp support to openclaw (except via mcporter mcp-to-cli converter)

7:29 AM · Feb 22, 2026 · **7,484** Views

11:38 PM · Feb 22, 2026



1.6K



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## at MCP sucks

4 months ago

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3 months ago

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[https://www.anthropic.com/...](https://www.anthropic.com/)



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**1.6K** [Reply](#) [Copy link](#)

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**Ahmad Awais**   
@MrAhmadAwais · [Follow](#)



MCPs are mostly useless.

I'll die on this hill if I have to.

Every MCP could have been a deterministic CLI. That's what I'm gonna do next year.

11:43 PM · Nov 28, 2025



**68** [Reply](#) [Copy link](#)

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## SO hard to fix MCP...



3 months ago

to fix MCP. I'm not sure they're succeeding... Thank you Greptile for sponsoring!  
ydev.link/greptile SOURCE <https://www.anthropic.com/...>

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@chrysb · Follow

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and [Show more](#)

**Peter Steinberger**   
@steipete

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7:29 AM · Feb 22, 2026 · 7,484

11:38 PM · Feb 22, 2026

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[Read 286 repl](#)

**Garry Tan**   
@garrytan · Follow

MCP sucks honestly

It eats too much context window and you have to toggle it  
on and off and the auth sucks

I got sick of Claude in Chrome via MCP and vibe coded a  
CLI wrapper for Playwright tonight in 30 minutes only for  
my team to tell me Vercel already did it lmao

But it [Show more](#)

**Morgan**   
@morganlinton

The cofounder and CTO of Perplexity, @denisyarats just said internally  
at Perplexity they're moving away from MCPs and instead using APIs  
and CLIs 🙄



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ess.


ve to.

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next year.

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unpopular (maybe?) opinion: MCP

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your context wind  
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and [Show more](#)

**Peter S**  
@steipe

there's a reas  
openclaw (ex  
converter)

7:29 AM · Feb 2

11:38 PM · Feb 22, 202

 1.6K  Reply

**Garry Tan**   
@garrytan · Follow

MCP sucks honestly

It eats too much context window and you have to toggle it



**@levelsio**   
@levelsio · Follow

Thank god MCP is dead

Just as useless of an idea as LLMs.txt was

It's all dumb abstractions that AI doesn't need because  
AI's are as smart as humans so they can just use what was  
already there which is APIs

**Morgan**  @morganlinton

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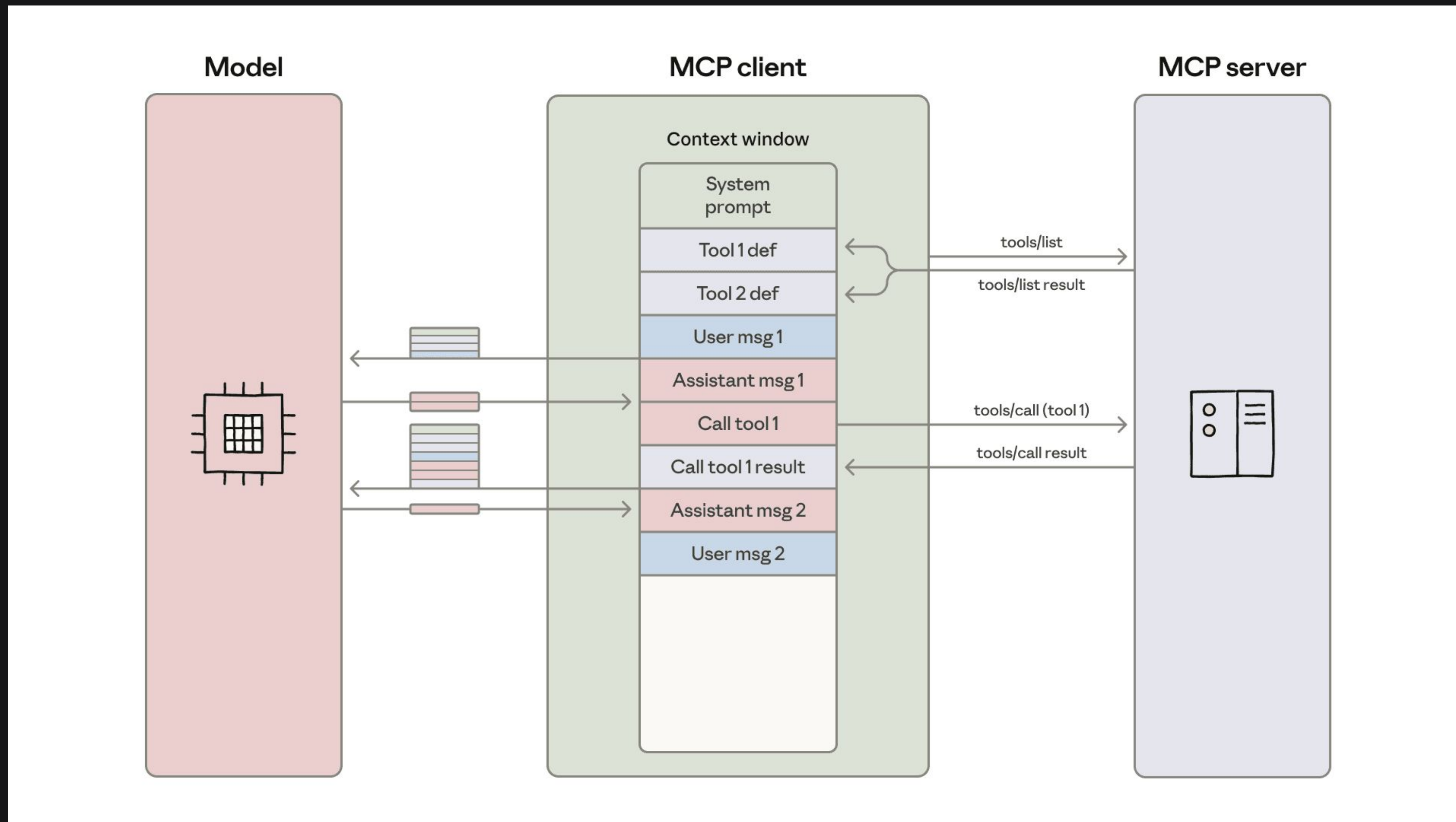
 1.6K  Reply



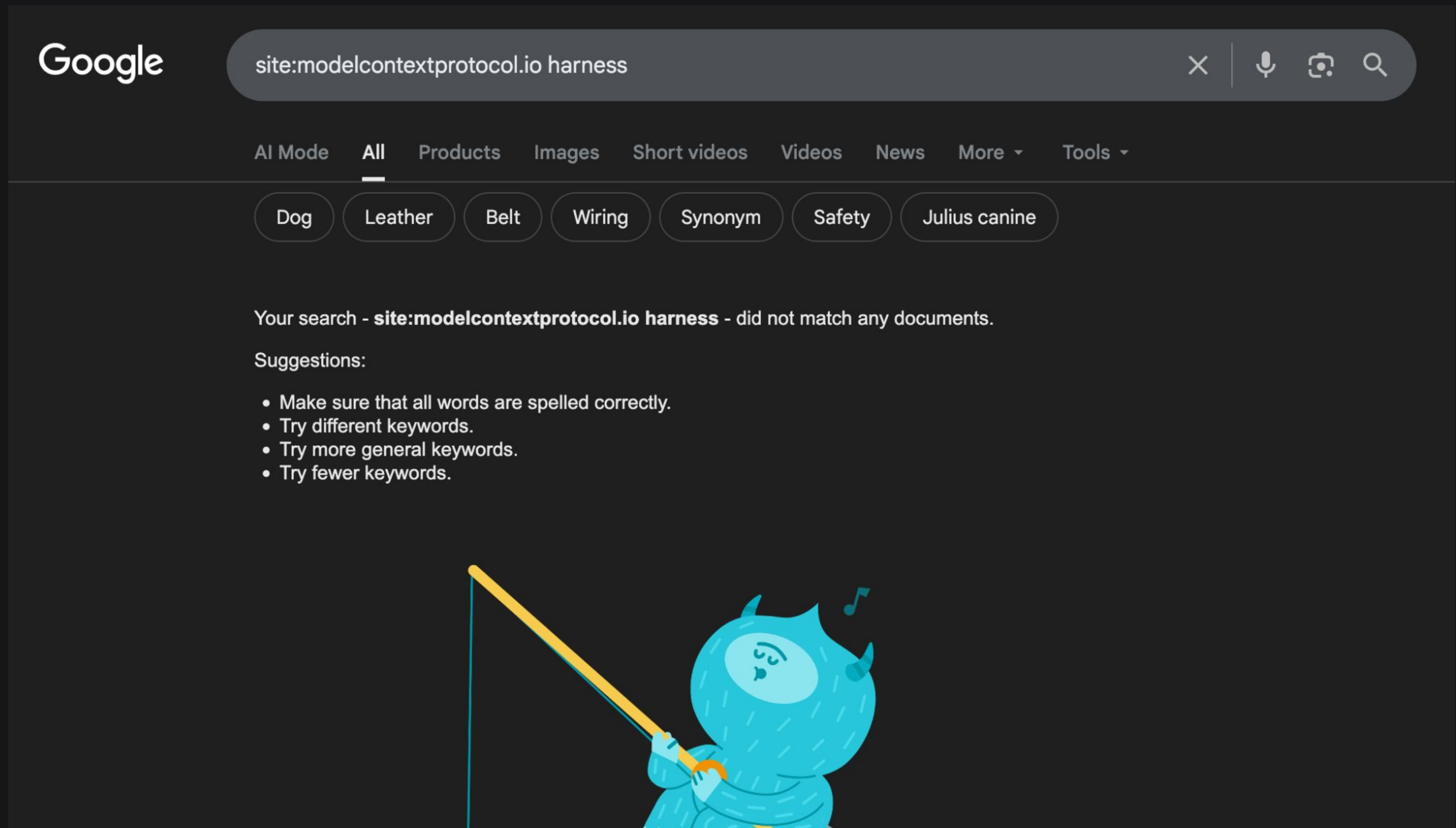
ninistic CLI. That's

3reptile for sponsoring!

# The problem: most agents load all MCP tools and their results into context



But that's a **problem of the harness,**  
not MCP!



# Solution 1: Split context into **sub-agents**

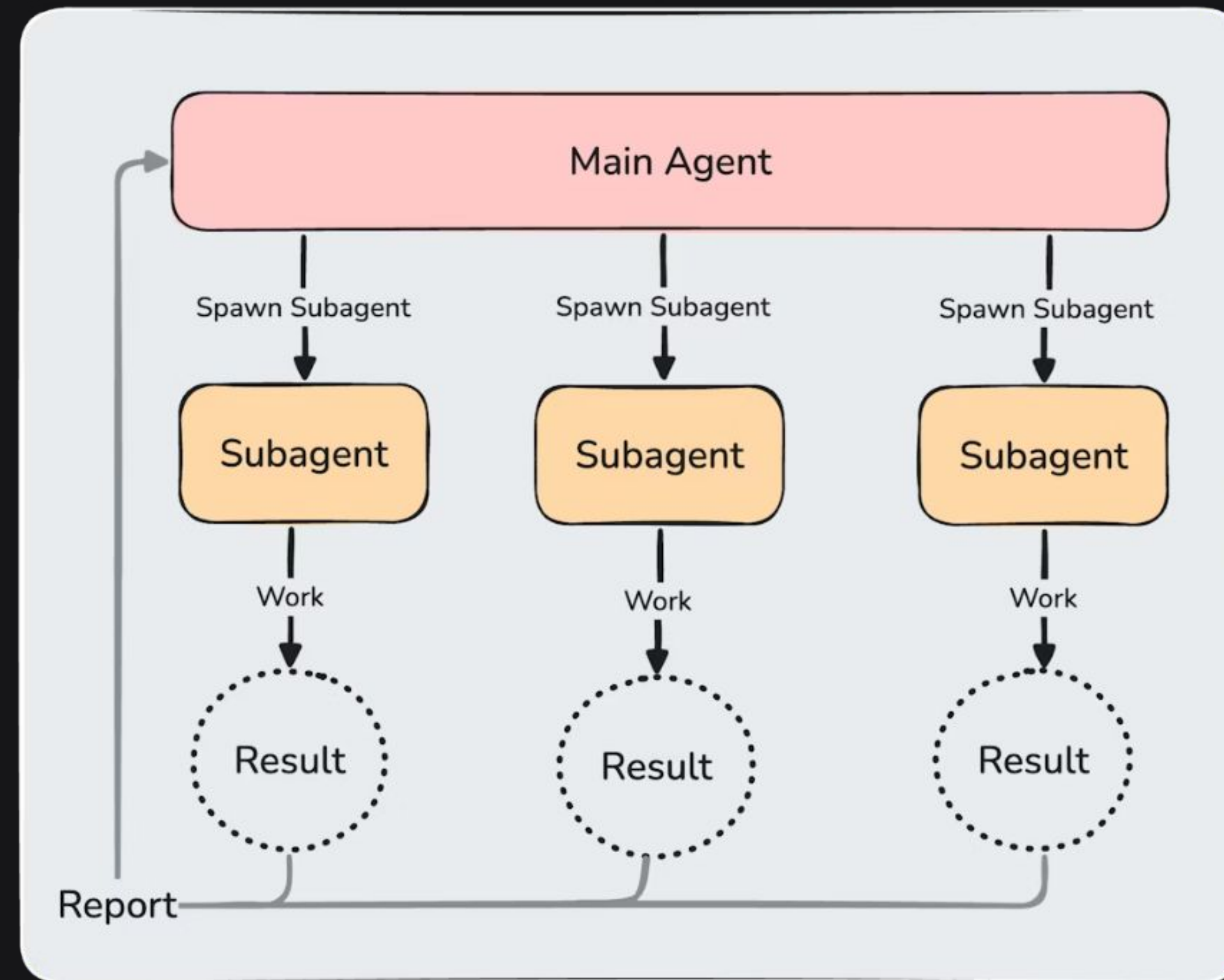
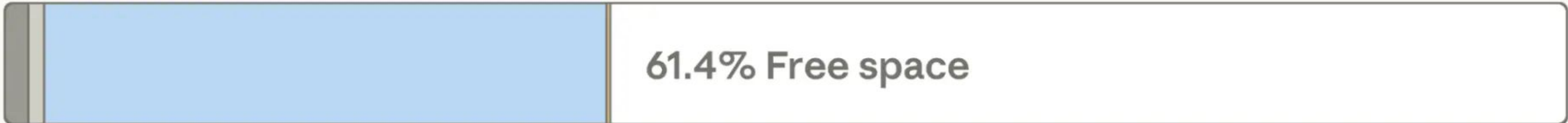


Image by  
Anthropic

# Solution 2: Dynamic tool discovery

## Context Usage: Traditional vs. Tool Search Tool

### Traditional approach



77.2k/200k tokens

- System prompt: 3,000
- Custom tools: 2,000
- MCP tools: 72,000
- Messages: 200
- Free space: 122,800 (tokens)

### Tool search tool



8.7k/200k tokens

- System prompt: 3,000
- System tools: 2,000
- Tool Search Tool: 500
- Discovered MCP tools: 3,000
- Messages: 200
- Free space: 191,300 (tokens)

# Solution 3: Treat tools as code (code mode)

```
class Filesystem_MCP {
  readFile(path: string, tail?: number, head?: number): Promise<{ content: string }>;
  readTextFile(path: string, tail?: number, head?: number): Promise<{ content: string }>;
  readMediaFile(path: string): Promise<{ content: object[] }>;
  readMultipleFiles(paths: string[]): Promise<{ content: string }>;
  writeFile(path: string, content: string): Promise<{ content: string }>;
  editFile(path: string, edits: { oldText: string; newText: string }[], dir?: string): Promise<{ content: string }>;
  createDirectory(path: string): Promise<{ content: string }>;
  listDirectory(path: string): Promise<{ content: string }>;
  // ...
}
```

...but all these solutions  
require effort from the clients!

How are CLIs different?

# Agents never load CLIs and their docs into context at once, but **progressively**

> Learn how to use "apify" command

- Let me check if the Apify CLI is installed and get its help info.
- **Bash**(apify --help 2>&1 || echo "NOT INSTALLED")
  - └ Apify command-line interface (CLI) helps you manage the Apify cloud platform and develop, build, and deploy Apify Actors.  
... +42 lines (ctrl+o to expand)
- Here's an overview of the **Apify CLI** (apify):

# Agents run **CLI tools as code** by default

```
> Write me a Gmail MCP Server then run the Gmail
evaluation.

• Search thing!

• Write(file_path: gmail_mcp.py)
  L Wrote 1,219 lines to gmail_mcp.py

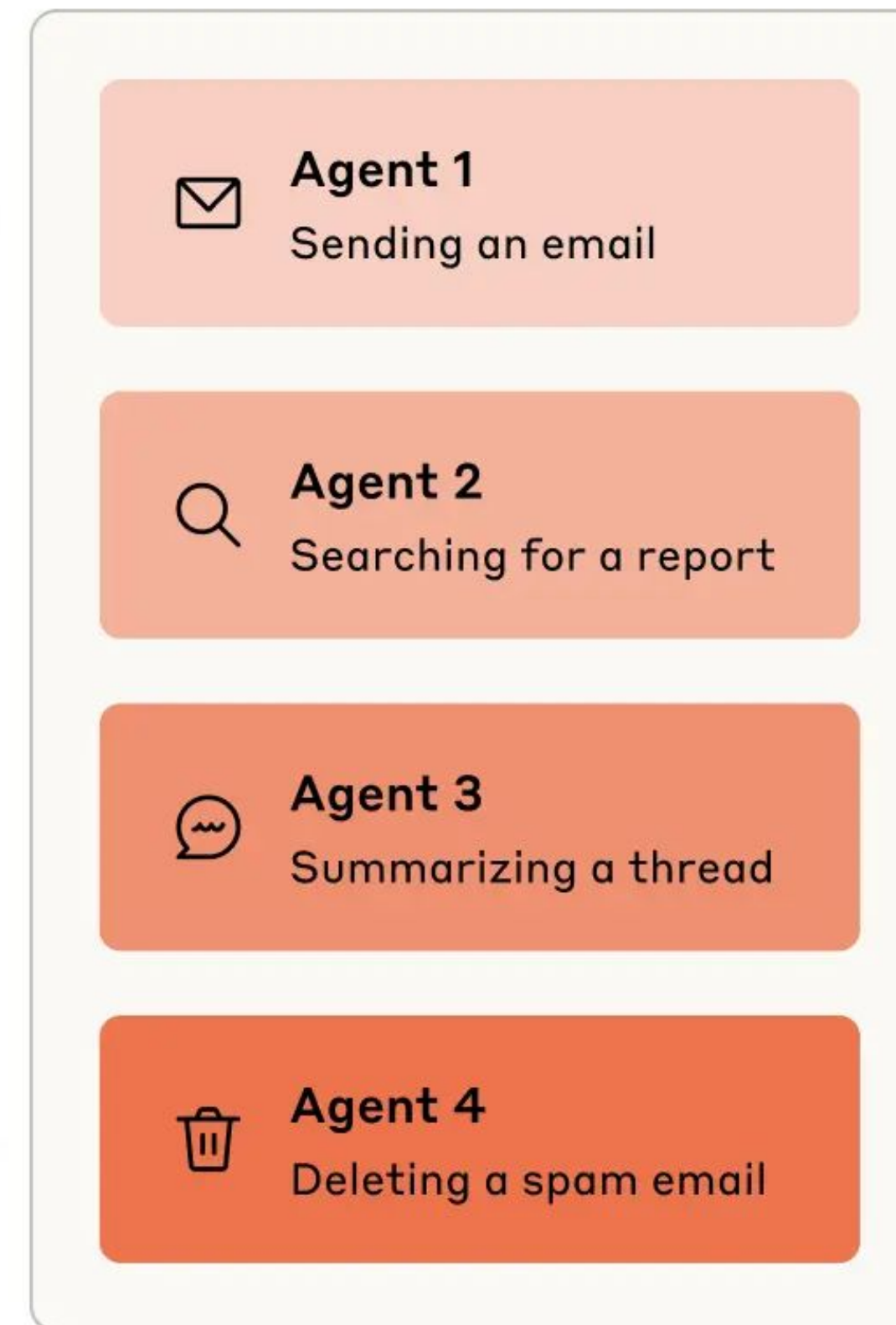
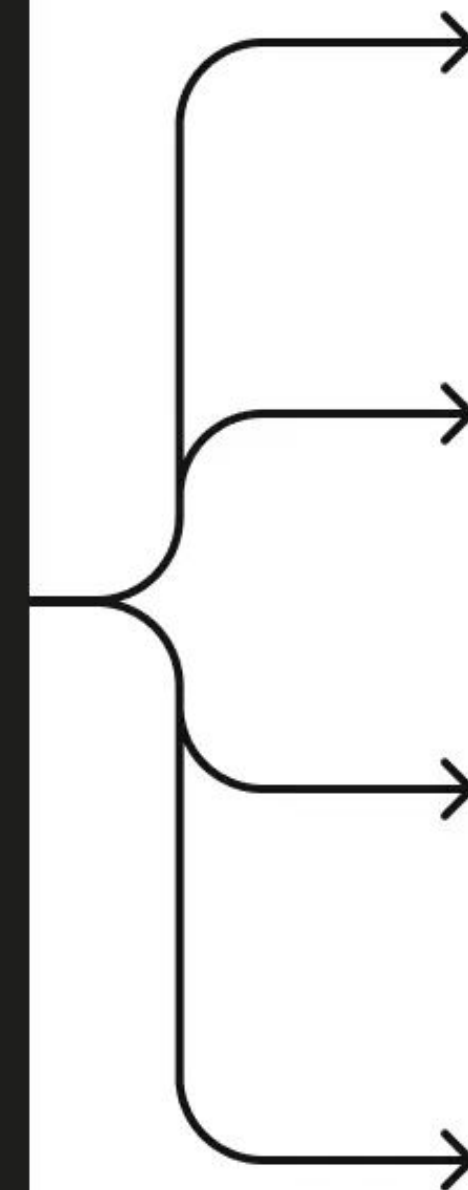
• Now let me run an evaluation!

• Bash(python evaluate_mcp.py)
  L # Evaluation Report

      ## Summary
      - **Accuracy**: 17/20 (85.0%)
      - **Average Task Duration**: 15.77s
      ... +291 lines (ctrl+r to expand)

• There's a bug in the send_email tool. Let me fix
it.

• Write(file_path: gmail_mcp.py)
  L Wrote 23 lines to gmail_mcp.py
```



# Agents **know shell** by heart

```
Terminal
drwxr-xr-x 17 bin      272 Jan  1 1970 mnt
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin       32 Jan  1 1970 mnt2
-rw-rw-rw-  1 root  28472 Aug 20 12:01 rkunix
-rwxr-xr-x  1 bin  28636 Aug 20 11:38 rkunix.40
drwxrwxrwx  2 bin     144 Aug 20 12:14 tmp
-rwxr-xr-x  1 bin  28472 Aug 20 12:01 unix
drwxr-xr-x 13 bin     224 Aug 20 12:22 usr
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin       32 Jan  1 1970 usr2
# ls -l /usr
total 12
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin       32 Jan  1 1970 adm
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin    768 Jan  1 1970 bin
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin     64 Jan  1 1970 fort
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin    144 Jan  1 1970 games
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin     32 Jan  1 1970 ken
drwxr-xr-x  3 bin   352 Jan  1 1970 lib
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin     32 Jan  1 1970 lpd
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin   352 Jan  1 1970 mdec
drwxr-xr-x  2 bin    128 Jan  1 1970 pub
drwxr-xr-x 20 bin    336 Jan  1 1970 source
drwxrwxrwx  2 bin     32 Jan  1 1970 tmp
# ls -l /usr/ken
total 0
#
```



But **CLIs are a local black box**, with no standard auth and transport protocol



sunil pai



@threepointone · [Follow](#)



those that condemn mcp are doomed to reimplement a shitty version of it

2:55 PM · Mar 23, 2026



265



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How about we use:

**MCP** for standard  
remote access

**CLI** for local agent  
interface

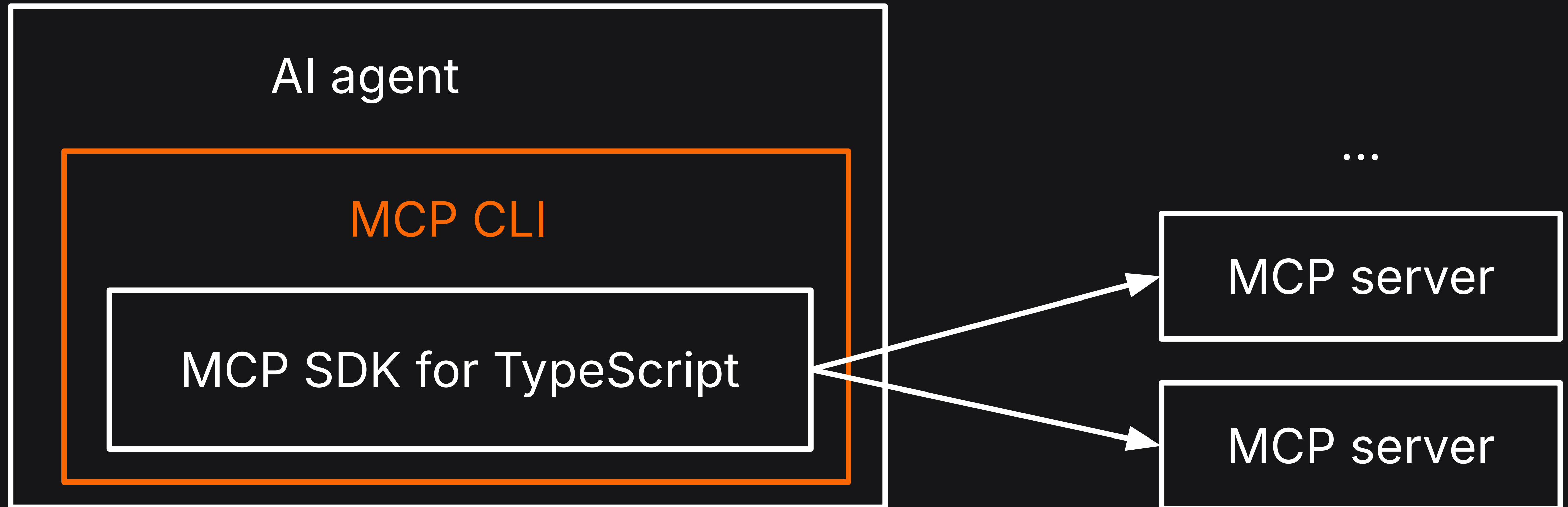


**MCP VS. CLI**



**MCP+CLI**

# Agent can interact with MCP CLI using single tool: **Bash()**



Say hello to **mcpc** 🙌  
- the universal CLI client for MCP



```
npm install -g @apify/mcpc
```

# mcp design goals

- Full MCP support & compatibility
- Lightweight - no LLM, min deps
- Easy to use for agents and humans
- Code mode with `--json` all the way

```
~ mcpc --help
```

**Usage:** mcpc [options] [<@session>] [<command>]

Universal command-line client for the Model Context Protocol (MCP).

### Commands:

<code>connect</code>	<code>&lt;server&gt;</code>	<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>	Connect to an MCP server and start a new named @session
<code>close</code>	<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>		Close a session
<code>restart</code>	<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>		Restart a session (losing all state)
<code>shell</code>	<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>		Open interactive shell for a session
<code>login</code>	<code>&lt;server&gt;</code>		Interactively login to a server using OAuth and save profile
<code>logout</code>	<code>&lt;server&gt;</code>		Delete an authentication profile for a server
<code>clean</code>	<code>[resources...]</code>		Clean up mcpc data (sessions, profiles, logs, all)
<code>grep</code>	<code>&lt;pattern&gt;</code>		Search tools and instructions across all active sessions
<code>x402</code>	<code>[subcommand]</code>	<code>[args...]</code>	Configure an x402 payment wallet (EXPERIMENTAL)
<code>help</code>	<code>[command]</code>	<code>[subcommand]</code>	Show help for a specific command

### MCP session commands (after connecting):

<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>			Show MCP server info, capabilities, and tools
<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>	<code>grep</code>	<code>&lt;pattern&gt;</code>	Search tools, resources, or prompts
<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>	<code>tools-list</code>		List all server tools
<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>	<code>tools-get</code>	<code>&lt;name&gt;</code>	Get tool details and schema
<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>	<code>tools-call</code>	<code>&lt;name&gt;</code>	<code>[arg:=val ...   &lt;json&gt;   &lt;stdin&gt;]</code>
<code>&lt;@session&gt;</code>	<code>prompts-list</code>		

# Demo 1:

## Sessions and auth profiles



Demo 2:

Dynamic tool discovery

\$



# Demo 3:

## Async tasks

\$



Demo 4:

Code mode with `--json`

\$



# Supports agentic payments

**mcpc x402**

```
~ ➤ mcpc x402 init  
✓ Wallet created  
i Address: 0x01382f6B1DFd156bfc8Fa522D9bC8e1D0D01C781  
i Fund this address with USDC on Base to use x402 payments.
```

Scan to fund this wallet:



# MCP proxy for secure sandbox access

**mcpc connect --proxy**

```
~ ➤ mcpc connect mcp.apify.com @proxied --proxy 8000  
✓ Session @proxied created  
[@proxied → https://mcp.apify.com (HTTP, OAuth: default) [proxy: 127.0.0.1:8000]]
```

**Server:** apify-mcp-server (version: 0.9.16)

## **Capabilities:**

- \* tools (dynamic)
- \* resources
- \* prompts
- \* logging
- \* tasks (tools)

## **Instructions:**

~~~~

Apify is the world's largest marketplace of tools for web scraping, data extraction

# In our tests, **mcp** often outperforms native CLIs and naive MCP

CONTEXT FILL — INPUT (UP) VS OUTPUT (DOWN)

All reps Scale: Linear

Claude CLI Claude MCP Claude MCPC Codex CLI Codex MCP Codex MCPC



# Final remarks

- MCP clients lag behind the standard
- Current MCP SDKs are too low-level
- We need an **official SDK for shell**
- Apify ready to donate `mcpc` to AEIF
- We can kill the CLI vs. MCP nonsense!

Please give mcpc a try and GitHub star  
[github.com/apify/mcpc](https://github.com/apify/mcpc)

Jan Curn  
@jancurn

