

LLM-First Development Quickstart Guide

Overview

This guide provides a systematic approach to building software applications using an LLM-first workflow. This method is approximately 5x faster than traditional LLM-assisted development approaches, optimizing the entire development lifecycle.

Prerequisites and Setup

Project Scope

- This workflow is optimized for projects up to approximately 30,000 lines of code
- Team members are expected to manage projects of this size, including dozens of features
- Complete documentation production is required (project description, implementation plan, readme.md, etc.)
- Basic LLM understanding and previous experience is assumed

Required Accounts and Tools

- Paid Claude account (Team or Pro)
- Development environment with necessary compilers/interpreters
- Version control system

Browser Setup (Three-Browser Approach)

1. **Primary Browser:** Claude for code and document generation
2. **Secondary Browser:** Additional LLM (second Claude instance or ChatGPT) for concept clarification and filling knowledge gaps
3. **Tertiary Browser:** Mermaid diagram renderer (mermaid.live or similar) for visualizing workflows and architecture

Project Organization

1. **Initial Documentation Phase:**
 - Create project documentation in a normal conversation
 - Develop project description, technical implementation plan, compliance documents, and style guides
2. **Project Setup:**
 - Start a formal project with detailed instructions based on initial documentation
 - Establish directory structure and configuration files
3. **Project Flattening (Script-Driven):**
 - Use Claude to generate a flattening script in your preferred language
 - The script should copy files to a separate directory with directory structure in filenames
 - Use double-dash separator format (e.g., `src--utils--helper.js`)
 - Configure script to exclude specific directories or files as needed
 - Script should clear and re-flatten on subsequent iterations automatically

Basic Workflow Model

