

Reflection on Using Aider AI for React Calculator Enhancement

Using Aider to enhance the React Calculator was both educational and productive. The process involved iteratively implementing three meaningful features: a calculation history log, keyboard support, and a dark mode toggle. The most effective Aider technique was its `/ask` functionality, which allowed high-level natural language instructions to be converted into real code suggestions. The `/diff` and `/commit` commands helped track and apply changes efficiently. However, I encountered major limitations during the chat export phase, particularly with terminal compatibility and OpenRouter model restrictions. These issues required manual copying the chat summary of Aider. Compared to traditional coding, Aider accelerated UI and logic edits significantly. It felt like pair-programming with an assistant that understands React. If Aider improves terminal compatibility and export reliability, it could be a powerful everyday tool for rapid prototyping and code enhancement.