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# MCP and AI Agents Are Kind of Killing the Traditional Frontend

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This is a topic many people are discussing lately. Satya Nadella has even mentioned it in a few interviews. After working on AI Agents for almost a year now, I think I'm starting to understand how this might actually happen.

To get a clear picture, we first need to understand what traditional SaaS is, and then what a simple definition of an AI agent acting on top of SaaS looks like.



## What is Traditional SaaS?

At its core, SaaS is basically a layer. Usually a website or mobile app built on top of a large database. Wrapper on top of a db. This layer acts as the interaction point between users and the database. It has two main parts:

- The UI that users interact with.
- The business logic, which defines what the interaction is meant to do. This logic is reflected in the database through CRUD operations (Create, Read, Update, Delete).

Take Google Sheets as an example. It's a SaaS product with a UI layer (the website or app) where users click buttons and interact. These interactions change the data stored on Google's servers.

Of course, this is a very high-level overview. If you dig deeper, you'll find distributed algorithms and complex backend systems at work.

## **What is an AI Agent?**

An AI agent is an entity which has a goal, and is given the ability to perform few particular actions (basically tools, I've written about this in detail before).

You can give it a natural language command, and it might do the task for you. (Or you could speak to it in real time and get your work done)

Essentially, an agent can interact with the SaaS layer and perform the business logic on your behalf. Instead of manually clicking buttons or typing on a keyboard, the agent uses tools developed by the SaaS provider to do it for you.

## **The new layer of Interaction in the world of AI**

There could also be another layer of interaction built by the SaaS provider an agent layer that interacts directly with the database and performs CRUD operations. Humans could interact with this layer to get work done, or build systems that interact with it automatically. This is exactly the kind of future I want to build.

## **MCP and How It Replaces the Frontend**

Here's where MCP (Model Control Protocol) comes in.

Traditionally, frontends act as a bridge between users and APIs, internal APIs that manage your app's logic and external APIs like Stripe or Google Maps. But MCP flips this model.

MCP lets you wrap your APIs as agent-controllable tools. Instead of building a UI, you expose your APIs through an MCP server. Then, AI agents powered by large language models like GPT-4.1 or Claude 4 can talk directly to these APIs, orchestrating them to get work done.

This means the frontend isn't a visual interface anymore, it's the AI agent itself.

Developers no longer spend hours wiring up UI components or chasing pixel-perfect layouts. Instead, they build capability sets, collections of API tools that the AI agent can call on demand.

For example, you can generate an MCP server from an API like OpenWeatherMap, run it locally, and connect it to an AI agent. Then you just ask the agent, "What's the weather in New York?" and it calls the right API endpoints, parses the response, and gives you the answer. No buttons, no forms, no frontend nothing

This approach is already live and working. It's faster to develop, easier to maintain, and reduces UX debt. Your design language becomes your API structure, your UX is how tools chain together, and your frontend is the AI agent.

This is a clear example of how AI agents and MCP are killing traditional SaaS frontends by replacing them with natural language, intent-driven interactions.

This is why I believe AI will kill traditional SaaS. The future is about making interactions seamless, natural, and effortless and agents are the key to that. MCP was a wakeup call for the same!

### **Why is this Happening?**

Because it reduces the learning curve for users. The most important thing in business is to make your users' lives easier.

If you're a service provider, it makes sense to start building this new layer of interaction. I'm already seeing some companies do this. Stripe, for example, has released an agent toolkit.

Some have even skipped the traditional UI and backend logic layers entirely and are natively using agents. This is what I call Agents as a Service.

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If you liked the blog, lets connect! I am open to conversations, I like them!

Thank you for reading.

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