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The Best AI Coding Setup I've Ever Used

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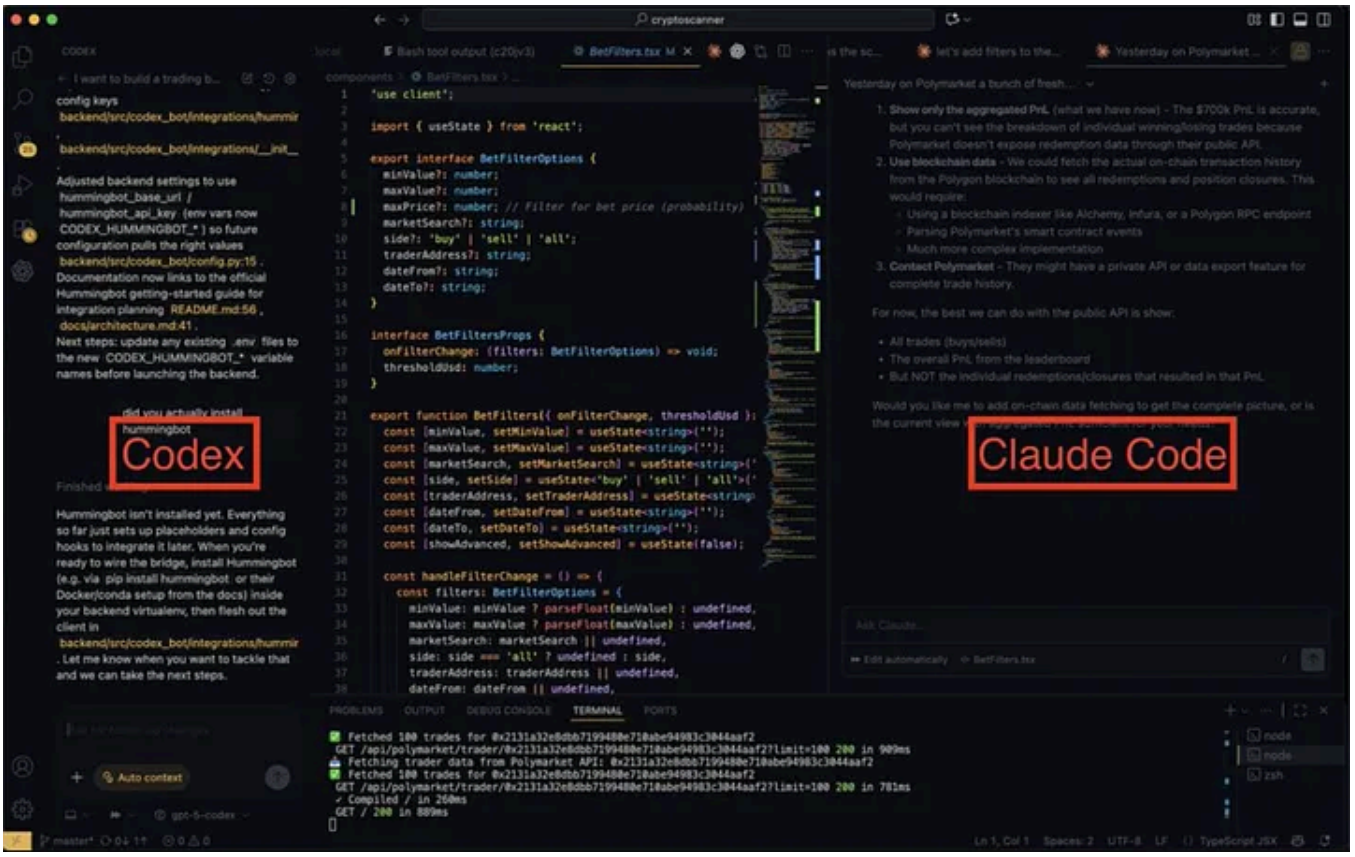
So I accidentally built a dev team last week. Except… the "team" is just me, **Claude Code**, and **Codex**, sitting on two halves of my screen like rival engineers who barely tolerate each other.

And honestly? It's *magic*.
If you've ever wished to move 10x faster without losing your mind, this setup might be the closest thing to real AI pair programming that *feels* human.

Let me show you how it really works — no hype, just proven methods.



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Step 1: Start With Claude Code

Claude Code is like that engineer who can't begin coding until they've created a complete system design doc.
Which — turns out — is a *good* thing.

When I tell Claude Code something like:

> "Build me a Flask app that uploads PDFs and summarizes them."

It doesn't go straight to code.
It *plans*. Like this:

```
# Claude's plan
1. Set up Flask project
2. Add /upload endpoint
3. Extract text using PyPDF2
4. Summarize text via OpenAI API
5. Return the summary to user
```

It's nearly annoyingly organized. But that's the point — Claude provides direction. It's the project manager who actually knows what's going on (rare species, I know).

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Step 2: Pass That Plan to Codex

Now here's where it gets fun. Take that neat plan and toss it at Codex.

Codex will *not* sugarcoat anything.
It'll go:

> "Step 3: PyPDF2 is mid. Try pdfplumber — handles weird PDF encodings better."
> "Step 4: You're gonna hit API limits. Add batching or rate limiting."

Codex is your "been there, done that, not impressed" engineer. And it's *always correct*.
So I copy its feedback and relay it to Claude, like a manager passing along client notes.

Claude updates the plan.
Codex reviews again.
Rinse and repeat.

. . .

Step 3: Let Them Argue. You Watch.

At some point, you realize you're not coding — you're mediating a highly productive AI debate.

Claude writes something elegant but incomplete.
Codex reviews it like:

```
# "Bro, you didn't handle empty file uploads."
# "Also, missing API key check. Rookie move."
```

Then Claude becomes defensive (in the nicest possible way):

```
def summarize_pdf(file):
    text = extract_text(file)
    if not text:
        raise ValueError("Empty PDF, nothing to summarize.")
    api_key = os.getenv("OPENAI_API_KEY")
    if not api_key:
        raise EnvironmentError("Missing API key.")
    return call_openai_api(text, api_key)
```

And now the code actually runs.

That's the entire loop:
Claude — Codex — Claude — Codex — Done.

. . .

Step 4: Whoever Fixes the Other's Mess Becomes the Lead

Here's my unscientific rule:

> Whichever AI fixed the last bug, gets to be in charge — until they mess up.

Sometimes Claude's "philosophical" energy helps. Sometimes Codex's "no-BS" attitude saves the day. You keep bouncing between them until you stop seeing errors in your terminal.

Feels like managing two chaotic geniuses — but the good kind.

. . .

The Output: 10x Faster Builds

I've built several projects like this — small tools, APIs, even a React dashboard — and I'm not exaggerating when I say this setup **reduces build time by 70–80%**.

You're no longer thinking alone. You're managing a feedback loop that never stops and never complains (unless you count Claude's occasional "I'm sorry, I seem to have misunderstood").

. . .

Bonus Tip: Talk to Them Like Humans

This one's strange but true — if you speak to them casually, they respond better.

Example:

```
# Don't say:
"Rewrite the code."

# Say:
"Hey Claude, Codex says your error handling is weak. Can you fix that?"
```

They'll actually build on each other's context — like real teammates trying to one-up each other.
The quality difference is *wild*.

. . .

Final Thoughts

If you've been treating AI tools like autocomplete on steroids, you're missing out.
The real power is in **coordination**, not generation.

Let Claude plan.
Let Codex critique.
And you — steer the ship.

You'll improve your speed, learn more quickly, and honestly... coding becomes enjoyable once again.

This combo feels less like "using AI" and more like managing your own dev team that never sleeps.

And trust me — the results? Absolutely worth the price.

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As per ChatGPT Codex no longer exist. Has this been rebranded to something like Cursor.

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Me too. My team members are opencode (grok code fast 1) and claude code. They are beast

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Interesting, might as well build my own AI team for my projects.

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