endava

MCP in Action

Building Smarter AI-Driven Applications with LLMs and Agents.

Discover how MCP enables LLMs and agents to interact with your application logic.

↳ We'll break down the basics of LLMs and agents, introduce the MCP model, and showcase a practical demo.

Agenda

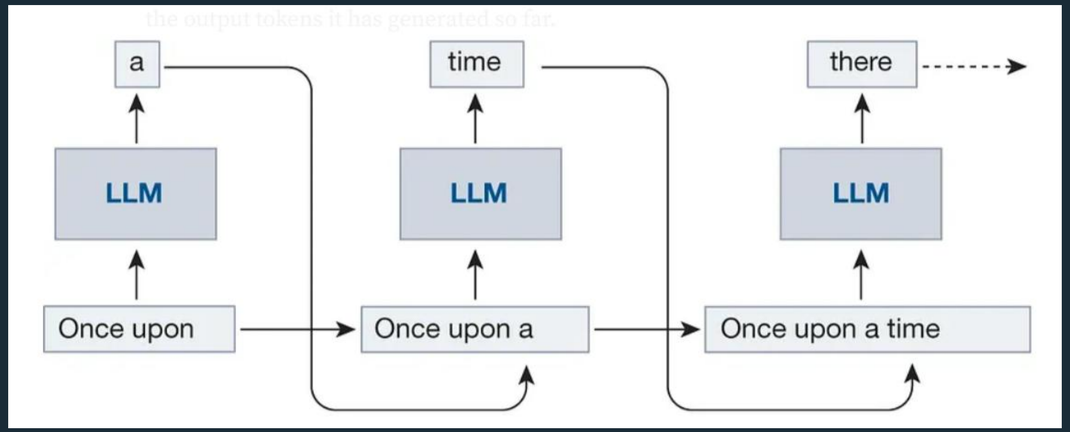
Chapter

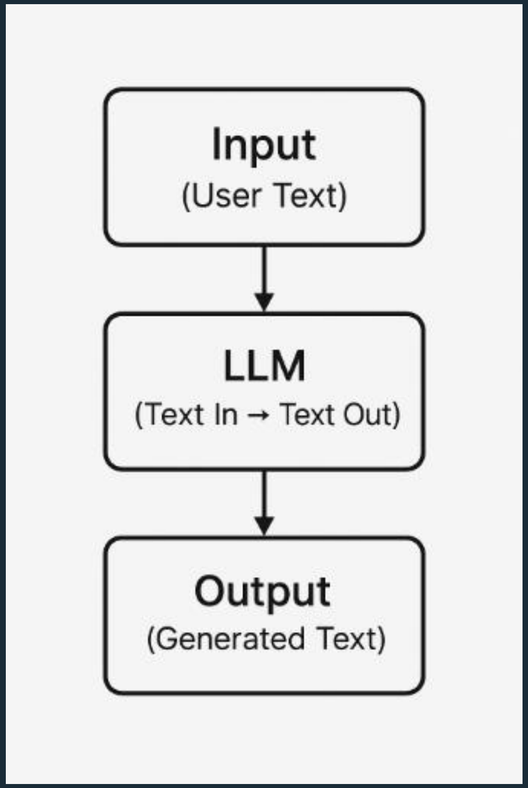
01  The History That Led to MCP

Early LLM Capabilities

From Static Models to Interactive AI

1. **LLMs are enormous neural networks (probabilistic model) that predict the next token/word**
2. **LLMs were originally "text-in, text-out"**
3. **No way to access live data**
4. **No awareness of external systems**
5. **No way to take actions**





Fine-Tuning

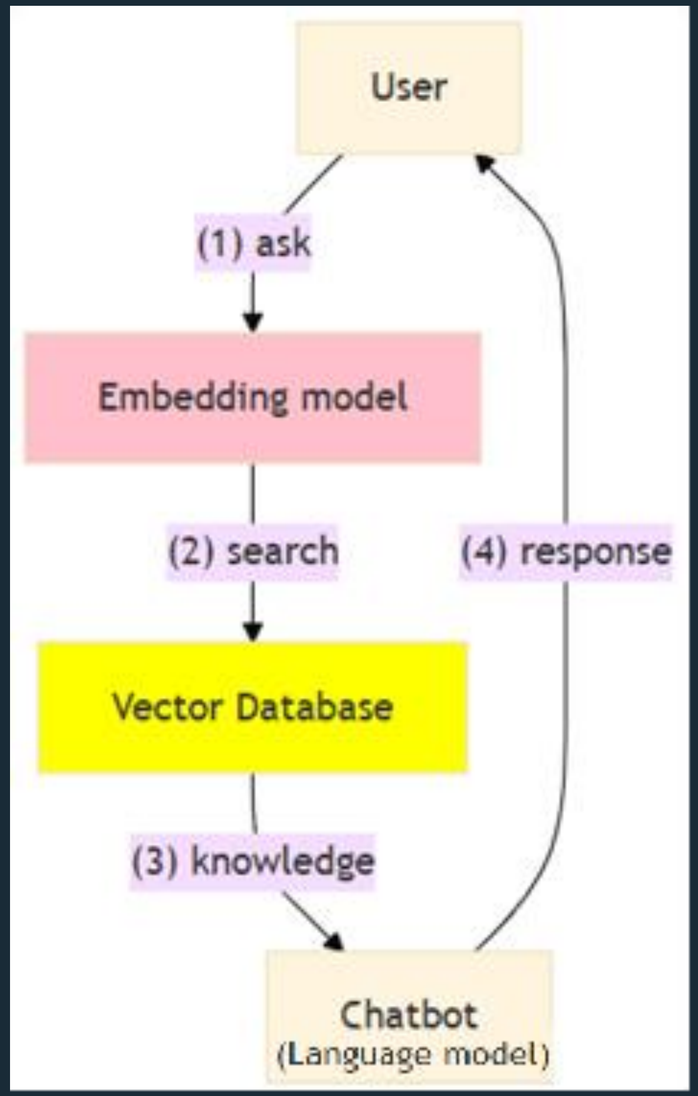
Trains the pre-trained LLM model with our specialized dataset: Helpful, but Limited

1. **Customization via training**
2. **Expensive, slow iteration**
3. **Still no access to external systems**
4. **Still no way to take actions**

RAG

Retrieval-**A**ugmented **G**eneration: Giving LLMs Knowledge

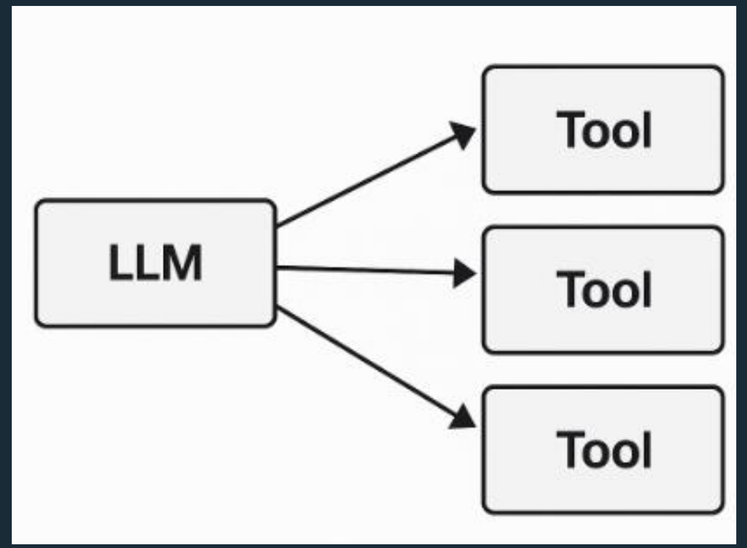
1. **Adds knowledge beyond training**
2. **Still limited to passive retrieval**
3. **Read-only access**
4. **Still cannot act**



Tool Use / Function Calling

LLMs Begin Taking Actions

1. **LLMs call functions/tools via JSON schemas**
2. **Enabled real actions (APIs, DB calls, file ops)**
3. **But… every system defined tools differently**
4. **No standard, no permissions, no portability**



Agents

Reasoning + Tools

1. **Multi-step decision-making**
2. **Chains of tool calls**
3. **Increased power = increased integration chaos**
4. **Every tool → custom integration (tools lacked standards)**

The Problem

The Integration Mess

1. **No shared protocol for tools**
2. **No standard permissions**
3. **Hard to build, hard to secure**
4. **Hard to reuse tools across platforms**

Chapter

02  Why MCP

Why MCP Exists

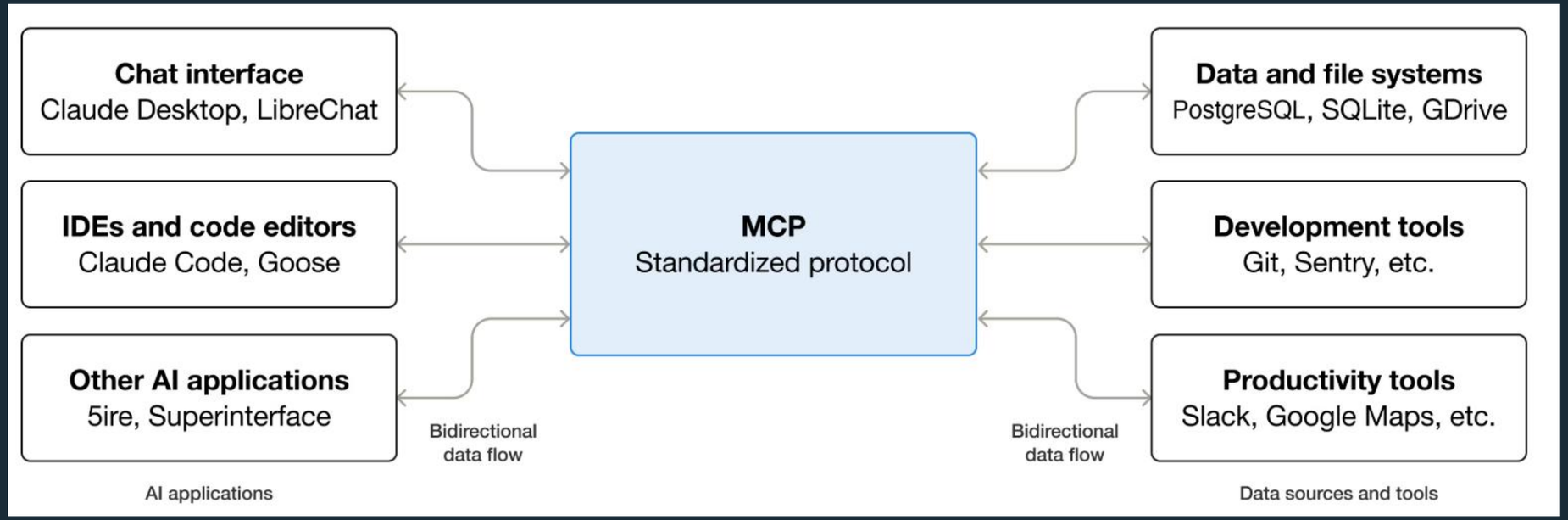
Model **C**ontext **P**rotocol: A Standard for Agent–Tool Interaction
Created by Anthropic: https://www.anthropic.com/news/model-context-protocol

1. **Uniform protocol for tools**
2. **Strong permission + security model**
3. **Works locally or remotely**
4. **Clear access control**
5. **Designed for LLMs and agents**
6. **Portable integrations (one server, many clients)**

MCP Architecture

The MCP Model

1. **Servers expose tools, resources, prompts**
2. **Clients (LLMs/Agents) interact over a shared protocol**



MCP in Practice

How MCP Changes Development

1. **Build once → use across platforms**
2. **Safe control of system resources**
3. **Makes apps "AI-ready"**

Chapter

03 Demo

Demo 1

Using an Existing Node.js MCP Server

1. **Walkthrough Clude Desktop**
2. **MCP Server config JSON file**
3. **Import AirBnb MCP server**

- **All available MCP servers: https://github.com/modelcontextprotocol/servers**
- **AirBnb MCP server: https://github.com/openbnb-org/mcp-server-airbnb**

Demo 2

Create a simple .NET MCP server that shows the local machine time

1. **Code walkthrough**
2. **Install Microsoft.Extensions.AI.Templates template : https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/ai/quickstarts/build-mcp-server**
3. **Show the template in the Visual Studio**
4. **MCP Server config JSON file – dotnet command**
5. **Import LocalTime MCP server**

Demo 3

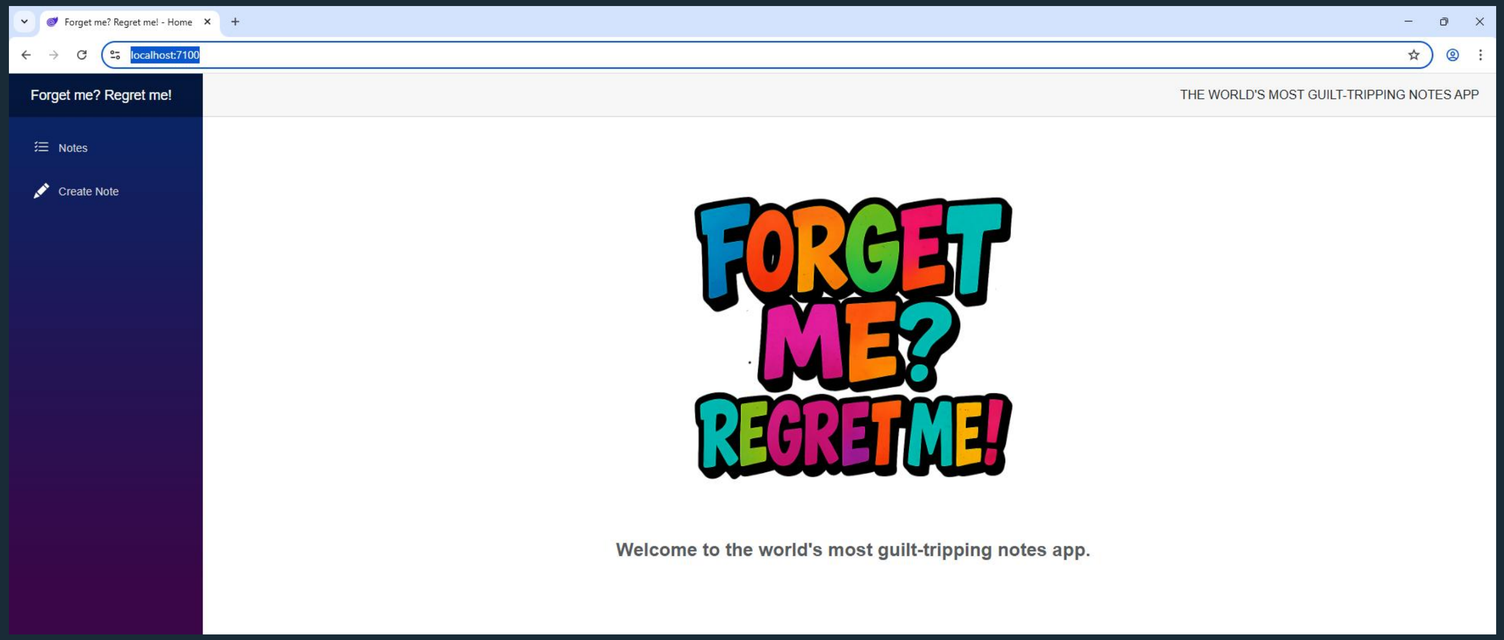
Create a simple .NET MCP server that manipulates the files on the local machine time

1. **Code walkthrough**
2. **Import LocalFile MCP server**

Demo 4

Create a .NET MCP server that uses our application

1. **Application walkthrough**
2. **Code walkthrough**
3. **Import LocalFile MCP server**
4. **Import one more MCP server and see how these 2 are working together**



Resources

1. Official MCP documentation: https://modelcontextprotocol.io/docs/getting-started/intro
2. MCP Implementation: https://github.com/modelcontextprotocol
3. MCP Servers: https://github.com/modelcontextprotocol/servers or https://mcp.so/servers
4. MCP Clients: https://mcp.so/clients
5. MCP Csharp SDK: https://github.com/modelcontextprotocol/csharp-sdk

Thank you!