MCP: The New Standard Connecting AI to Everything

AI agents can write code and chat like humans. But they struggle to interact with the real world.

Model Context Protocol (MCP) changes everything. It provides a standardized way for AI to connect with tools, data, and services.

With MCP, AI goes from smart to actually useful.

by Marc Alier Forment

What Is MCP?

Open Standard

Developed by Anthropic, the company behind Claude AI assistant

Unified Protocol

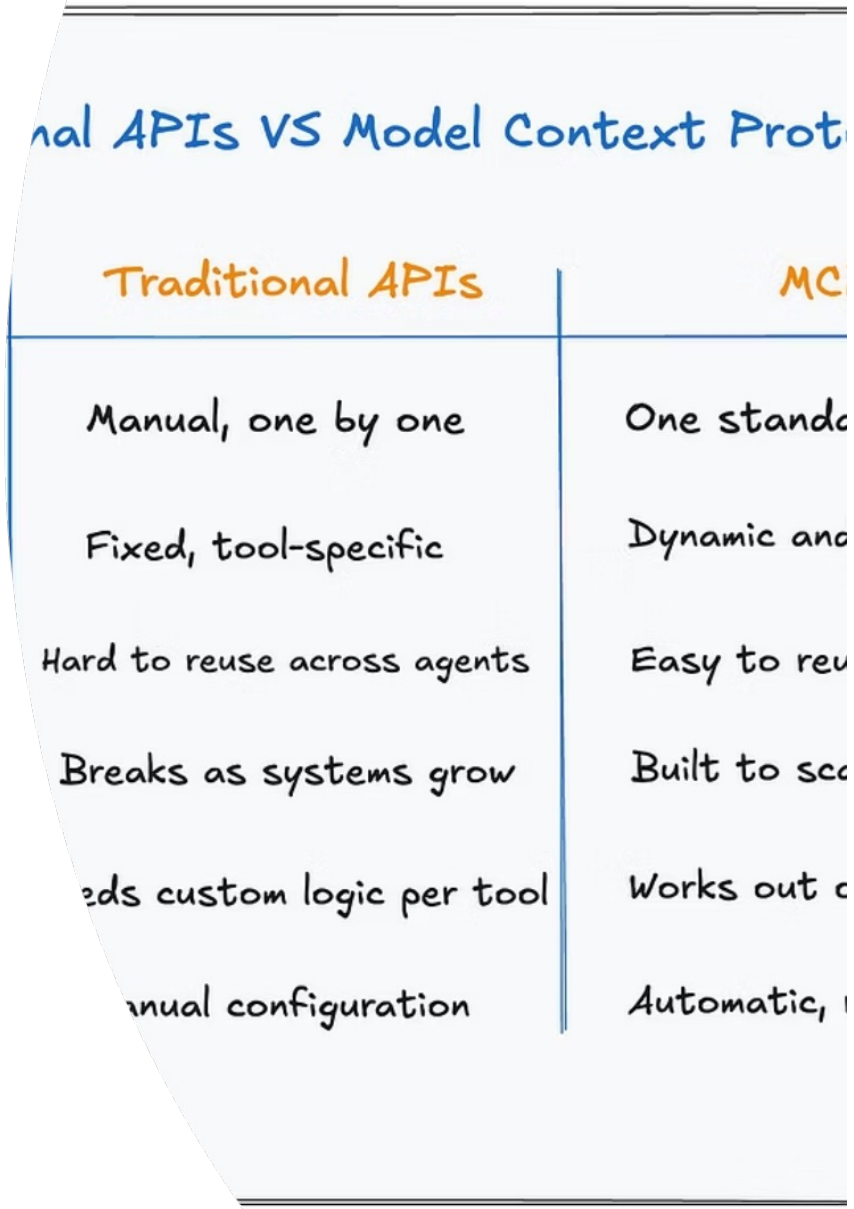
Replaces one-off integrations with a consistent framework

Plug-and-Play

AI agents can connect to any MCP-compatible tool without custom coding

Real-Time Interaction

Enables AI to perform multi-step tasks across different services

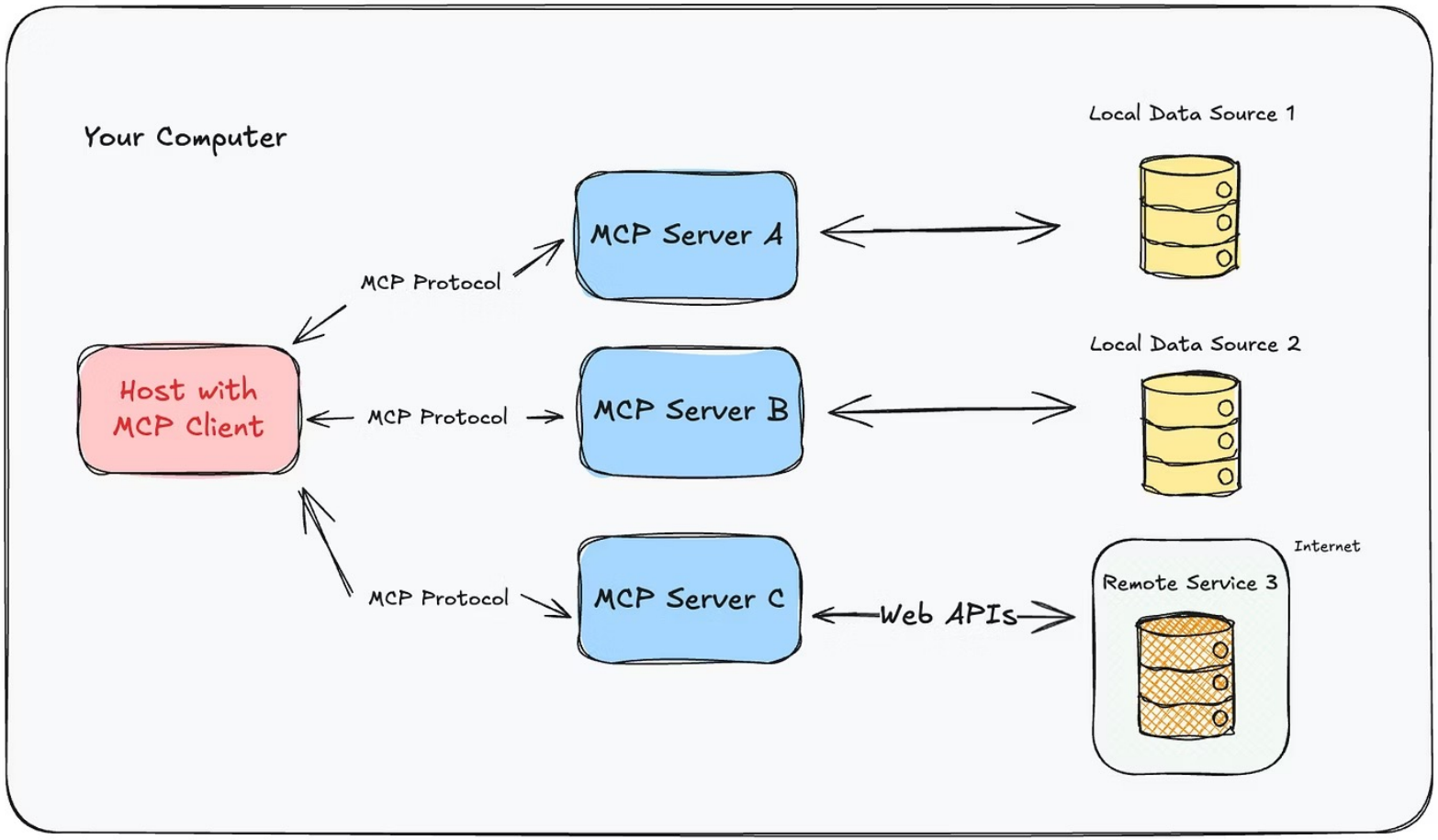


Traditional APIs VS Model Context Protocol

Aspect	Traditional APIs	MCP
Setup	Manual, one by one	One standard for all tools
Flexibility	Fixed, tool-specific	Dynamic and adaptable
Reuse	Hard to reuse across agents	Easy to reuse everywhere
Scalability	Breaks as systems grow	Built to scale
Agent Compatibility	Needs custom logic per tool	Works out of the box with schema
Tool Discovery	Manual configuration	Automatic, real-time

@elisowski

The Architecture of MCP



MCP Host

The AI-powered application like Claude Desktop or an IDE

Connects to multiple MCP Servers through clients

MCP Servers

Act as smart adapters for tools and apps

Translate AI requests into commands tools understand

MCP Protocol

Defines communication standards between clients and servers

Uses structured formats like JSON

How MCP Servers Work

Receive Request

Server gets a structured request from an AI agent

Translate Command

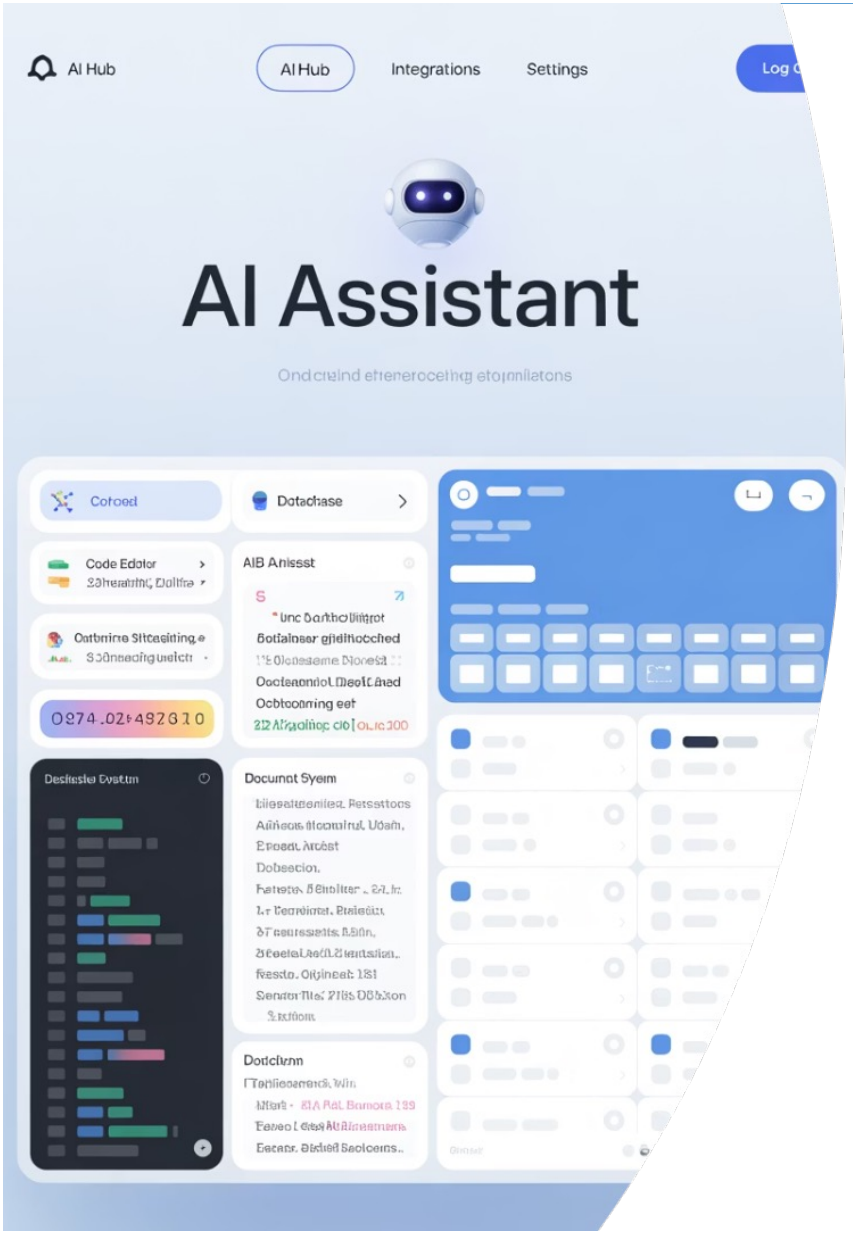
Converts the request into native commands for the tool

Execute Action

Performs the requested operation on the target service

Return Results

Formats results in a way the AI can understand



Real-World Applications

Software Development

AI reads and writes code across files, terminals, and projects

Data Analysis

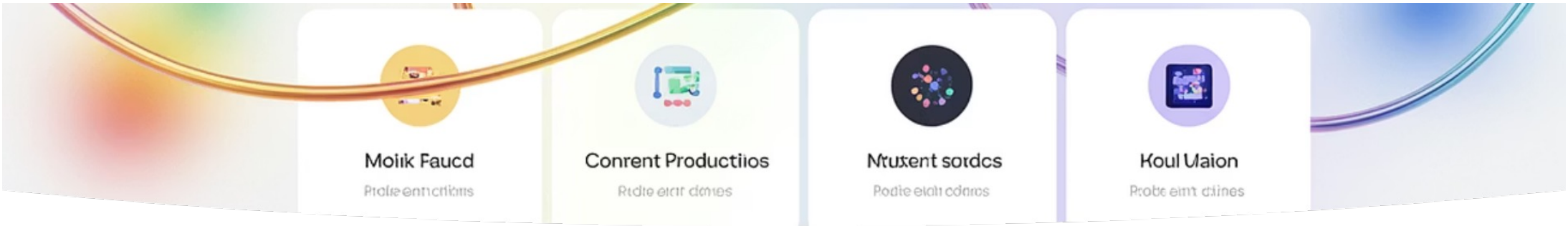
AI pulls from structured data sources and generates insights

Document Management

AI saves summaries as files or extracts information from documents

API Interaction

AI connects to web services like GitHub, Notion, or Figma



The Growing MCP Ecosystem

Major Adopters

Block, Replit, Apollo, Sourcegraph, Codeium, and Microsoft Copilot Studio

Emerging Marketplaces

mcpmarket.com, mcp.so, and Cline's MCP Marketplace offer plug-and-play MCP servers

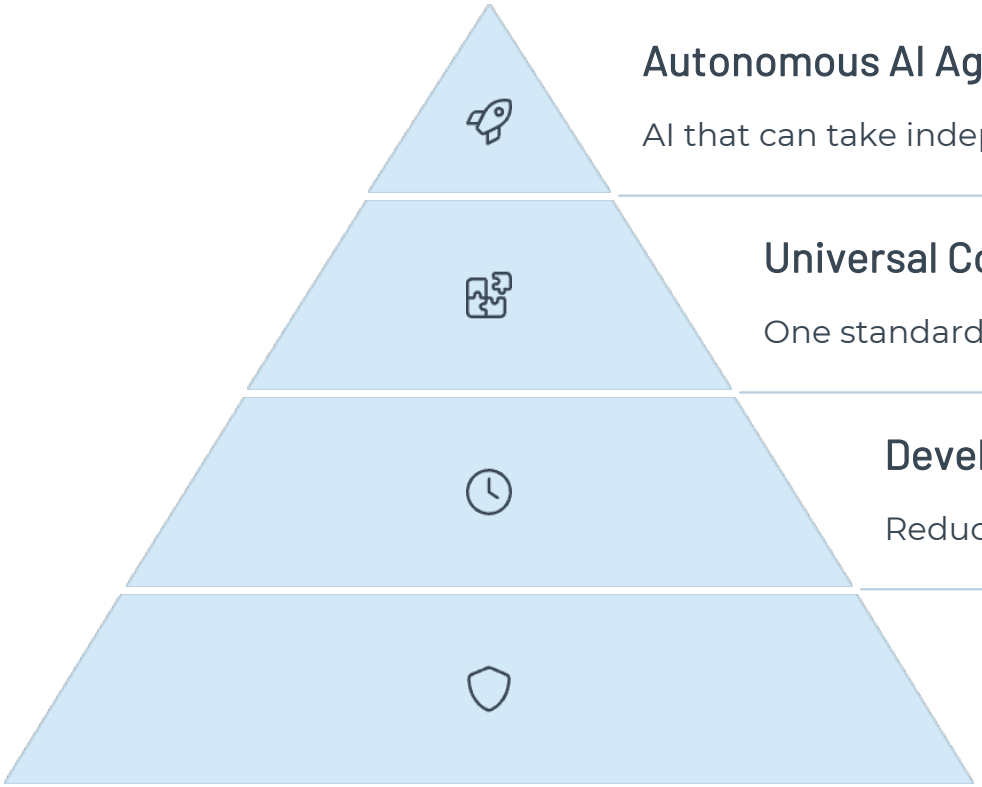
Infrastructure Tools

Mintlify, Stainless, Speakeasy, Cloudflare, Smithery, and Toolbase simplify development

Growing Community

Open-source contributions and collaborative development accelerate adoption

Benefits of Implementing MCP



Autonomous AI Agents

AI that can take independent action

Universal Compatibility

One standard to connect everything

Development Efficiency

Reduced integration time and effort

Standardized Security

Consistent access control patterns

Getting Started with MCP

Explore Resources

Visit Anthropic's MCP introduction and GitHub repositories

- anthropic.com/news/model-context-protocol
- github.com/modelcontextprotocol

Try Existing Servers

Test drive pre-built MCP servers from marketplaces

- mcpmarket.com
- mcp.so

Build Your Own

Create custom MCP servers for your specific tools

Use infrastructure tools like Mintlify or Stainless to simplify development