

# personal-os-1pager

## Personal Operating Systems: The 1-Page Summary

**What's happening:** People are replacing productivity apps with AI agents managing text files. Not as a hack—as infrastructure.

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### Core Insights

#### 1. Files beat databases at personal scale

91% of systems use Markdown + Git. AI handles retrieval and refinding—the traditional bottlenecks. No vendor lock-in, complete portability.

#### 2. Scaffolding over models (Controversial take)

Build systems that outlive any AI model. When GPT-5 or Claude 4 drops, your infrastructure adapts. The system is the asset, not the model.

#### 3. Skills > MCP for token efficiency

MCP loads metadata upfront (40%+ context overhead). Skills load on-demand—85% token reduction reported. Fewer tokens = lower cost + more room for reasoning.

#### 4. Context layering is everything

"Whenever you explain something to Claude, stop. Ask: will I explain this again? If yes → capture it in a context file." Systems that learn never need re-explaining.

#### 5. Ritual beats willpower

Some systems start with breathing exercises before showing tasks. Emotional regulation as infrastructure, not afterthought.

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### The Cost Spectrum

Approach	Monthly Cost	Setup Time
Fully local (Qwen3 + LM Studio)	\$0	1-2 hours
Local LLM (vLLM + GLM)	\$3-15	8-12 hours
Hybrid (Obsidian + Claude)	\$20-50	4-6 hours
Full cloud (Anthropic)	\$100-200	2 min - 12 hours

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## Start Here (Minimum Viable Personal OS)

```
my-system/
└── CLAUDE.md      # "You are my executive assistant...""
└── GOALS.md       # What matters this quarter
└── TASKS.md        # Current priorities (max 3 active)
└── CONTEXT.md     # Who you are, how you work
```

That's it. Add complexity only when you feel the friction.

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## The Shift

- You manage tools
- AI manages infrastructure, you set direction

This is infrastructure-as-conversation.

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## Credits

Built by studying these builders: @danielmiessler, @onurpolat05, @aeitroc, @ttrres, @cyntrropy, @nikhilv, @mollycantillon, @RomanMarszalek, @ttunguz, @itsPaulAi, @TheAhmadOsman, @Saboo\_Shubham, @ashebytes, and @amankhan.

**Full report:** [Personal Operating Systems Analysis](#)

**Author:** [@kleemarks](#) — feedback welcome.

*And yes, I used a shit-load of AI to compile these findings ;)*