Introduction to Cursor

CURSOR

RIYADH

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DAL Health Datathon

Who Am I?

👨‍💻

Let me introduce myself

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2023 PyTorch Ambassador Award & Cursor Ambassador

Accelerating technology and AI development in 🇸🇦

ma7.dev | @ma7dev

Agenda

🤖 **Introduction to AI Tools**

The AI landscape and where Cursor fits

⚡ **Introduction to Cursor**

Deep dive into features and capabilities

🌟 **Using Cursor for Everything**

Beyond coding - writing, planning, and more

Introduction to AI Tools

🤖

Understanding the AI landscape before diving into Cursor

The AI Revolution in 2025

🌊 AI Everywhere

- AI tools have transformed how we work
- From writing to coding to design
- Making experts 10x more productive
- Making beginners competitive

💡 Why AI Tools Matter

- Automate repetitive tasks
- Learn as you work
- Reduce errors and bugs
- Ship faster and iterate more

AI Tools Landscape

✍️ Writing & Chat

- ChatGPT (321M+ users)
- Claude (Anthropic)
- Gemini (Google)
- Perplexity AI

🎨 Design & Images

- Midjourney
- DALL-E 3
- Canva AI (220M+ users)
- Leonardo AI

💻 Coding

- Cursor
- GitHub Copilot (1M+ paid)
- Windsurf
- Cline (Open Source)

🎥 Video & Audio

- Runway ML
- Google Veo 3
- Synthesia
- Suno (Music)

📊 Content Creation

- Jasper AI
- Copy.ai
- Writesonic
- Notion AI

🔧 Automation

- Zapier AI
- n8n
- Microsoft Copilot
- Replit Ghostwriter

AI Coding Tools: The Landscape

GitHub Copilot

🔧

Multi-IDE integration

- Works in VS Code, JetBrains, Neovim
- Battle-tested: 1M+ Fortune 100 users
- Seamless GitHub workflow integration

Windsurf

🌊

Agentic-first approach

- Powerful autonomous task execution
- Excellent multi-file reasoning
- Modern, intuitive interface

Cline

🤖

Open source extension

- Completely free & open source
- Fully customizable to your needs
- Active community development

Cursor

⭐

AI-native coding IDE

- Massive context: 32K tokens (4× larger)
- Complete toolkit: Tab + Chat + Agent
- Proven scale: $500M ARR, VSCode fork

Introduction to Cursor

⚡
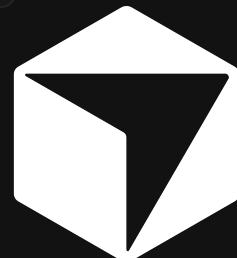
Let's dive deep into Cursor's capabilities

Anysphere (parent company)
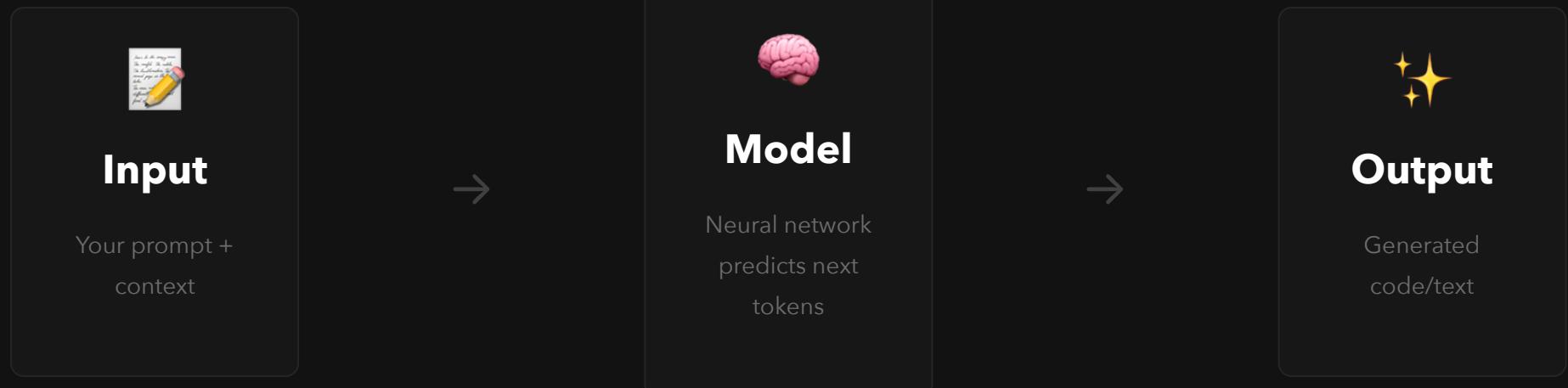
- $9.9B valuation (June 2025)
- $900M funding raised
- $500M+ annual recurring revenue

Cursor (the product)

- AI-native code editor
- Built on VS Code foundation
- ~1B lines of code generated daily

How LLMs Work (The Basics)

📝

Input

Your prompt + context

→

🧠

Model

Neural network predicts next tokens

→

✨

Output

Generated code/text

LLMs in Code Editors Made Simple

🎯 You Say:

"Make this button green"

👀 AI Sees:

Your code + files + request

🧠 AI Thinks:

"Based on patterns, this needs CSS changes"

✨ AI Delivers:
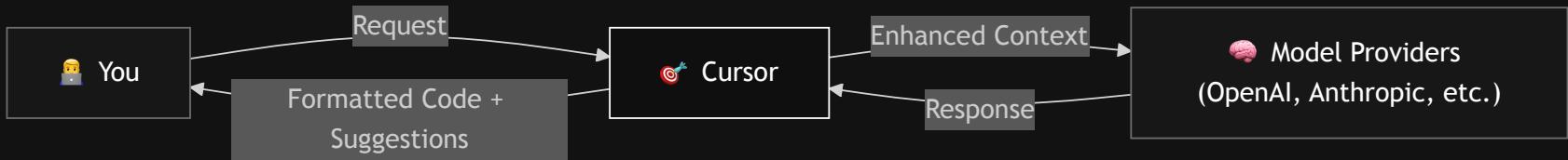
Updated code with green button

🔑 The Secret

Better Context = Better Results

- Include relevant files
- Describe your goal clearly
- Show error messages
- Provide examples when helpful

Cursor: The Smart Middle-Man

🧑‍💼 You → **Request** → 🎯 Cursor → **Enhanced Context** → 🧠 Model Providers (OpenAI, Anthropic, etc.)

Formatted Code + Suggestions ← Cursor ← **Response** ← Model Providers

Interactive Features

⭐ **Cursor Tab**

Next-gen autocomplete

- Multi-line suggestions
- Cross-file awareness
- Fusion Tab Model

⌨️ **CMD+K**

Inline code magic

- Quick edits
- Natural language commands
- Instant refactoring

💬 **Chat**

AI coding partner

- Four powerful modes
- Contextual assistance
- Background agents

Chat Modes: Your AI Coding Partner

🤖 Agent Mode

"Build this feature for me"

- ✨ Autonomously writes & edits code
- 📁 Makes multi-file changes
- ⚡ Perfect for: Building features from scratch

📋 Plan Mode

"How should I approach this?"

- 🗺️ Creates step-by-step implementation plans
- 📝 Suggests approaches before coding
- ⚡ Perfect for: Planning complex features

❓ Ask Mode

"Explain this code to me"

- 📖 Get code explanations & insights
- 🎓 Learn how systems work
- ⚡ Perfect for: Understanding codebases

⚙️ Custom Mode

"Work exactly how I want"

- 🎨 Create your own AI workflows
- 👥 Team-specific configurations
- ⚡ Perfect for: Enterprise teams

Core Features

- 🎯 **Context Enhancements**: Smarter file and directory inclusion
- 📚 **Docs**: Enable AI to use human-readable documentation as context
- 🎯 **Rules**: Set up user-specific or project-specific rules to guide AI behavior
- 📝 **AI Commit Messages**: Intelligent git commit generation
- 💾 **Checkpoints**: Restore previous states easily
- 🔗 **Multi-Root Workspaces**: Manage multiple repositories with cross-folder indexing
- 🏗️ **Model Context Protocol (MCP)**: Interact with external tools
- 🔄 **Background Agent**: Parallel task execution for larger tasks
- 🐛 **Bugbot**: Automated bug detection and fixing
- ⚡ **Enhanced Tab Model**: Multi-file edits, refactoring, and navigation
- 🎨 **Refreshed Inline Edit**: Improved CMD+K with new UI and options

Latest Features (v1.7 & Beyond)

- 🆕 **Agent Autocomplete**: Suggestions while typing for better prompting
- 🔗 **Sharable Deep Links**: Easy prompt sharing across team
- 🪝 **Hooks** (beta): Better control over Agent loop with redaction and blocking
- 👥 **Team Rules**: Centralized standards and QA rules across projects
- 📋 **Plan Mode**: Create and modify plans directly in the editor
- 🗒️ **PR Index**: Pull request analysis and management (Ultra plan)
- 🧠 **Max Mode**: Token-based pricing for complex tasks requiring extensive context
- 🤖 **AI Models Integration**: Support for GPT-5, Claude Sonnet 4.5, Gemini 2.5 Pro
- 🌐 **Remote Agents**: Run parallel AI assistants in remote environments
- 📊 **Unified Request Pricing**: Predictable, consolidated billing model
- and much more…

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

- ❌ **Vague requests** without sufficient context
- ❌ **Ignoring error messages** and logs in your requests
- ❌ **Not using project rules** to guide AI behavior
- ❌ **Overwhelming AI** with irrelevant information
- ❌ **Expecting perfection** on first try - iterate!
- ❌ **Not exploring models** - each has its strengths

Best Practices & Tips

1. 🎯 **Context is King**: Provide clear, relevant context

2. 🔍 **Provide error messages**: AI can't fix what it doesn't know about

3. 📋 **Use Rules**: Set up project-specific guidelines

4. 🔍 **Leverage @ Symbols**: Be explicit about what you want

5. 🔄 **Iterate**: Start broad, then refine your requests

6. 🧪 **Experiment**: Try different models for different tasks

Pricing

🆓 Hobby

Free

Limited AI requests, includes 2-week Pro trial

💼 Pro

$20/month

All AI models + $20 API usage

➕ Pro+

$60/month

3x usage + $70 API credits

🚀 Ultra

$200/month

20x usage + $400 API credits + priority access

🏢 Teams

$40/user/month

Pro features + team management + SSO

Cursor for Students: Free for 1 year with academic email

Live Demo

Show Cursor features in action

Using Cursor for Everything

🌟

Beyond coding - Cursor as your universal AI assistant

Using Cursor for Everything

💻 Development

- Code generation & refactoring
- Bug fixing & debugging
- Documentation writing
- Test creation

📝 Beyond Code

- Technical writing
- Architecture planning
- Code reviews
- Learning new technologies

🏢 Team Workflows

- Onboarding new developers
- Code style enforcement
- Knowledge sharing
- Project standardization

🚀 Advanced Usage

- Custom model integration
- Workflow automation
- Multi-project management
- Performance optimization

Live Demo

Using Cursor for Everything in Action

Cursor Saudi Arabia Community

🇸🇦 Active Chapters (Monthly Meetups)

- 🏙️ Riyadh
- 🏙️ Khobar
- 🌍 More cities coming!

🤝 Join Our Community

- Visit cursor-sa.org
- Stay updated on future events
- Want to bring Cursor to your city? Reach out to us!
- Join our Discord server

Next Steps & Resources

🚀 **Try Cursor**

Download and start your free trial

👥 **Join Community**

Discord, forums, local groups

📚 **Learn More**

docs.cursor.com for comprehensive guides and documentation

🔄 **Future Meetups (cursor-sa.org)**

Monthly sessions with advanced topics and workshops

Thank You! 🙏

Special Thanks to DAL

For the opportunity to present Cursor at the Health Datathon

Let's Connect & Build Together

@ma7dev

Follow for more AI development insights and Cursor upda

Visit cursor-sa.org for future events

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