Simple Claude and Airbnb MCP example

Introduction

- In this lesson, we explored integrating an **existing MCP server** into an **existing MCP client**.
- Our goal was to provide Claude the ability to utilize Airbnb's APIs and search functionalities.

Setting Up Claude for MCP Integration

- **Claude Desktop** is required for this process; ensure it is downloaded and installed.
- We initiated the process by attempting to search for Airbnbs in Vancouver using Claude.

Obtaining MCP Server Scripts

- Navigate to **github.com/model-contacts-protocol** to find a list of maintained MCP servers.
- Official integrations by third-party SaaS companies like Microsoft can be trusted for reliability.
- We focused on a **community-maintained Airbnb server** that requires no API key or authentication.

Installing the Airbnb MCP Script

- We copied the desired `MCP script` since it avoids restrictions like robots.txt.
- Edited the `Claude_desktop_config` file by pasting the script into a JSON format.
- Saving this configuration allows Claude to connect with the **Airbnb MCP server**.

Restarting Claude

- To apply changes, **Claude** needs to be completely restarted.
  - On Mac: Use `File > Quit`.
  - On Windows: Use system tray or task manager to ensure all instances are closed.

Enabling and Interacting with New Tools

- Upon restarting, Claude now offers **new tools** for Airbnb, such as searching listings.
- We tested the functionality by typing queries like "Find me Airbnbs in Vancouver," prompting Claude to utilize the new tools.

Advanced Queries

- The tools accommodate more complex queries, like specific dates or number of guests, using natural language.
- Claude dynamically interprets these inputs using an LLM, adjusting search parameters accordingly.

Final Notes

- We walked through activating Airbnb tools, allowing us to search and interpret listings effectively.
- This lesson focused on providing the groundwork for using existing MCP setups—key for future custom server and client building explorations.

Feel free to revisit the material and explore the queries further to solidify your understanding of MCP client-server integrations.