




# Getting Started with AI Agents

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## The Road Ahead

1. [What is AI Agent?](#)
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## What is AI Agent?

**AI agent** is a system that can perceive its environment, make decisions, and take actions to achieve specific goals—often autonomously

### Key Features of AI Agents

- **Perception:** Gathers information from its environment (e.g., data, user input)
- **Reasoning:** Analyzes information and determines the best course of action
- **Action:** Executes tasks or provides recommendations
- **Learning:** Improves performance over time based on feedback

## What is GitHub Copilot?

**GitHub Copilot** is an AI agent that helps not only software developers, but also business professionals and students work smarter in digital environments

## Why Copilot Over Alternatives?

- **Better Workflow:** Unlike chatbots (e.g., ChatGPT), Copilot integrates directly into your workflow via VS Code or GitHub Codespaces
- **Ecosystem Fit:** Built for the Microsoft/GitHub ecosystem, including GitHub Classroom for student enrollment, and widely used in business and education
- **Open Source & Model Flexibility:** Copilot is now open source and supports integration with all leading large language models (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Grok)

## A Simple Business Demo

Assume that you perform an LBO on Company ABC at the end of 2019. Company ABC will have revenues of \$200mm in 2020, which will grow by \$25mm annually. Assume ABC has a 20% EBITDA margin, D&A expense is 10% of revenue, and that capital expenditures will be \$10mm annually. Assume the company has no change in net working capital, a tax rate of 50%, initial leverage of 5.0x forward EBITDA and an interest rate of 5%. Assume that the cash generated only pays down debt upon exit.

### Question:

If you can sell Company ABC at the end of 3 years based on forward EBITDA projections and the entry / exit multiple is 10.0x forward EBITDA, what is the implied MoM and IRR?

## Using Copilot in VS Code (Local)

- Register a [GitHub](#) account and install [Visual Studio Code](#) with Copilot extension
- Create a **markdown** file for the LBO scenario and a **CSV** file to summarize the results
- Type your analysis steps in the Copilot chat (accept, edit, or ask for further check):
  - Project revenue and EBITDA for 2020-2022
  - Calculate EBIT
  - Calculate EBT
  - Calculate net income
  - Calculate free cash flow
  - Calculate MoM and IRR, and summarize findings in the markdown file

## Using Copilot in GitHub Codespaces (Cloud)

- Create a GitHub repository in the browser
- Open with Codespaces to launch a cloud-based VS Code environment
- Follow the same steps as in the local VS Code
- Invite colleagues to join for real-time collaboration and discussion
- Use [GitHub Classroom](#) to enroll students and distribute assignments

## Reflections on AI and Higher Education

The internet brought information equality; AI will bring knowledge equality

### The Evolving Role of Educators in the AI Era

- AI gives students instant access to knowledge—our traditional advantage is fading
- The true value of educators now lies in:
  - Teaching students to ask important questions based on **first principles**
  - Cultivating ethical leadership to ensure AI serves humanity's best interests
- Let us embrace AI, adapt our teaching, and inspire students to turn knowledge into real impact