

Claude Code for API

The API Knowledge team works on features like PDF support, citations, and web search that bring additional knowledge into Claude's context window. Working across large, complex codebases means constantly encountering unfamiliar code sections, spending significant time understanding which files to examine for any given task, and building context before making changes. Claude Code improves this experience by serving as a guide that can help them understand system architecture, identify relevant files, and explain complex interactions.

Main Claude Code use cases

First-step workflow planning

The team uses Claude Code as their “first stop” for any task, asking it to identify which files to examine for bug fixes, feature development, or analysis. This replaces the traditional time-consuming process of manually navigating the codebase and gathering context before starting work.

Independent debugging across codebases

The team now has the confidence to tackle bugs in unfamiliar parts of the codebase instead of asking others for help. They can ask Claude “Do you think you can fix this bug? This is the behavior I’m seeing” and often get immediate progress, which wasn’t feasible before given the time investment required.

Model iteration testing through dogfooding

Claude Code automatically uses the latest research model snapshots, making it their primary way of experiencing model changes. This gives them direct feedback on model behavior changes during development cycles, which they hadn’t experienced during previous launches.

Eliminating context-switching overhead

Instead of copying code snippets and dragging files into Claude.ai while explaining problems extensively, they can ask questions directly in Claude Code without additional context gathering, significantly reducing mental overhead.

Claude Code for API

Team impact

Increased confidence in tackling unfamiliar areas

Team members can independently debug bugs and investigate incidents in unfamiliar codebases.

Significant time savings in context gathering

Eliminated the overhead of copying code snippets and dragging files into Claude.ai, reducing mental context-switching burden.

Faster rotation onboarding

Engineers rotating to new teams can quickly navigate unfamiliar codebases and contribute meaningfully without extensive colleague consultation.

Enhanced developer happiness

Team reports feeling happier and more productive with reduced friction in daily workflows.

Top tips from the API Knowledge team

Treat it as an iterative partner, not a one-shot solution

Rather than expecting Claude to solve problems immediately, approach it as a collaborator you iterate with. This works better than trying to get perfect solutions on the first try.

Use it for building confidence in unfamiliar areas

Don't hesitate to tackle bugs or investigate incidents outside your expertise - Claude Code makes it feasible to work independently in areas that would normally require extensive context building.

Start with minimal information

Begin with just the bare minimum of what you need and let Claude guide you through the process, rather than front-loading extensive explanations.