

Prompt Like a Pro: Aligning Al for Your Codebase

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PREPARED BY LEAN **TECH**NIQUES | © LEAN **TECH**NIQUES

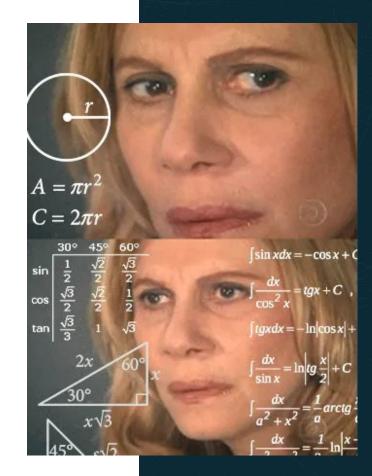
What problem are we solving?

"It's trained on everything — so it should just work, right?"

- domain logic or naming conventions
- framework choices, architecture, or shortcuts
- team's style decisions

Enterprise environments:

- Decade-old codebases
- Legacy systems,
- proprietary frameworks
- monorepos with hundreds of shared utilities
- compliance walls and security constraints that block external tools (like LLMs)
- Internal libraries and APIs that no LLM has ever seen



Generic Al doesn't just miss best practices
— it generates incorrect or unsafe code
confidently because it assumes a "default"
JavaScript world.

What you actually want is an Al that:

- Uses your naming and folder structure
- Writes code that compiles in your environment
- Follows your test strategy (Jest? Cypress? RTL?)
- Avoids patterns you've deprecated
- Understands your business logic enough to make helpful suggestions

The real power of AI for developers isn't in code generation — it's in code alignment.

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"Think of it like onboarding a new dev... but they remember everything"

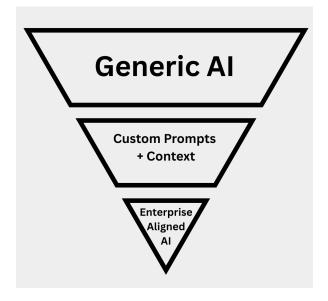
How?

How do we get there?

You don't need faster code generation — you need aligned code, generated fast.

We can tune their behavior through:

- Custom GPTs (ChatGPT)
- IDE-integrated workflows



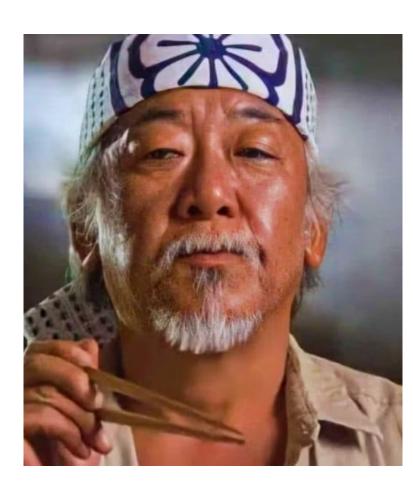
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What to Provide Your AI — and How to Format It

Garbage in, garbage out. Good AI starts with great context.

Give it context like you would a new teammate

- Code style & conventions
- Architecture & folder structure
- Real-world component examples
- Testing strategy
- Domain logic & workflows
- Anti-patterns to avoid



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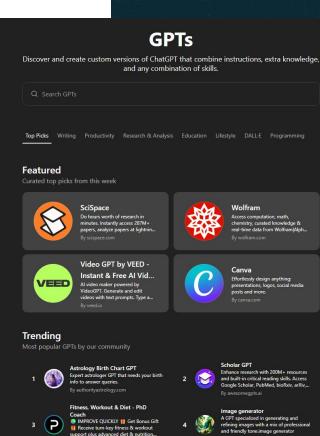
Custom GPTs

A Custom GPT is a purpose-built Al inside ChatGPT that you can tailor to your development standards.

You can customize it with:

- Behavior (via instructions)
- Knowledge (via uploaded files)
- Tools (via function access)

Demo: chatqpt.com/qpts



By NAIF J ALOTAIBI

That's cool and all... But I can't use Chat GPT at my client.

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IDE's to the rescue!

Most modern IDE's now have LLM support.

Cursor:

- Automatic context support.
- Agentic workflows
- May not be allowed at your client.

VS Code:

- .github/copilot-instructions.md define codegen, testing, review, PR formatting
- Create prompt files (.github/prompts/) for repeatable tasks (scaffold components, review code, etc.)

WebStorm (intellij):

- "Rich" context support (e.g., across open files, structure-aware)
- Built-in prompt library (similar to VS Code's custom prompt files)



Check with your client to see what models are allowed!

Deere for example has a model availability listing.

Earth A

Recap: Making Al Work in the Real World

- Generic Al is powerful but blind to your architecture, conventions, and goals
- Custom GPTs & IDE instructions let you teach Al to think like your team
- The real value isn't speed it's alignment: review-ready, consistent, on-brand code
- Tools like ChatGPT, Copilot, Cody, and WebStorm Al can all be tuned

- Provide context: style guides, architecture, component examples, anti-patterns
- Onboard it like a new dev examples beat explanations every time
- You don't need to fine-tune models just fine-tune prompts and your environment
- Start small: refactor a function, write a test, scaffold a PR
 then scale from there

Questions? (yes, Al helped write this)

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Want more? Click Here!