

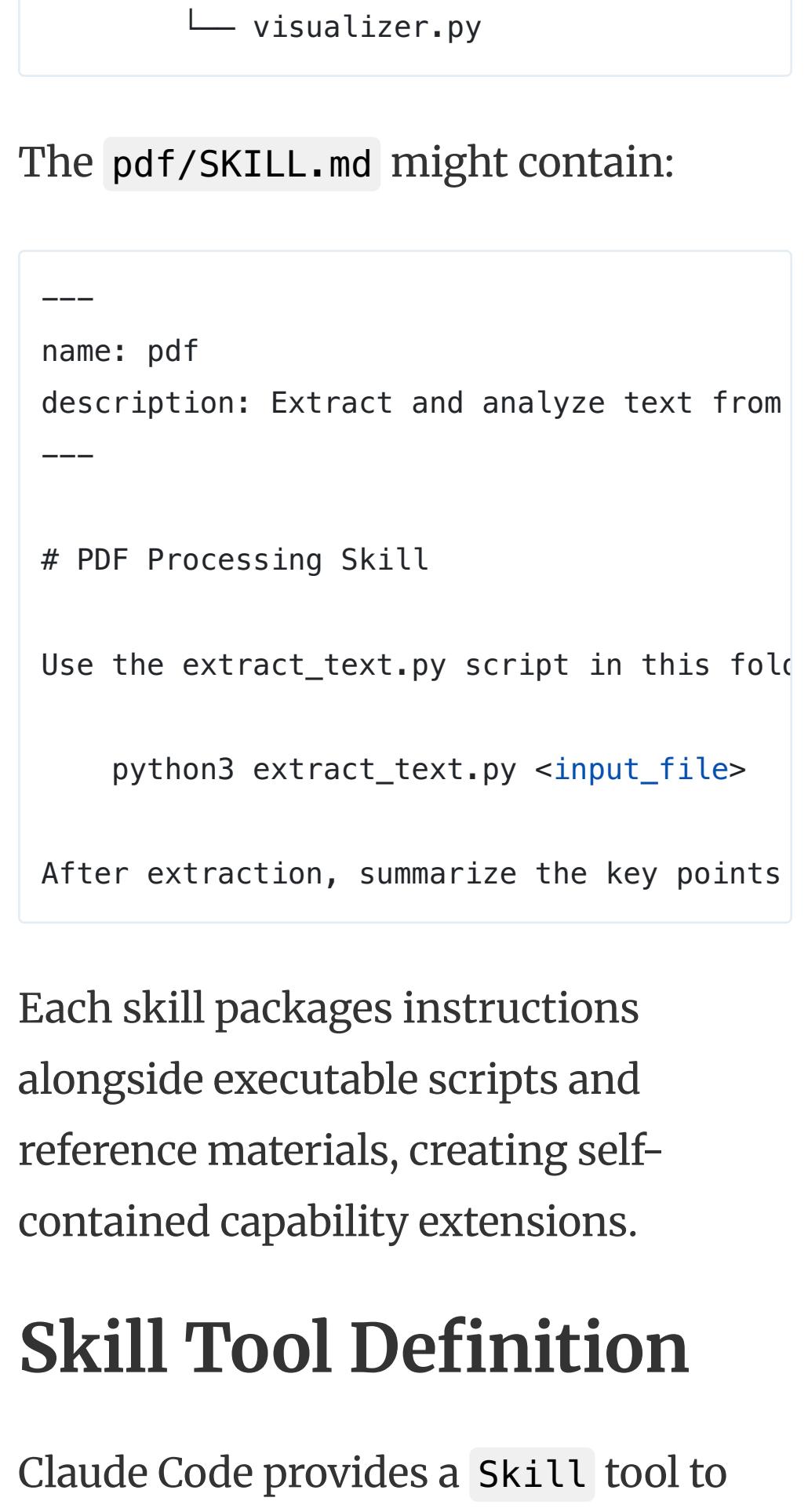


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Inside Claude Code Skills: Structure, prompts, invocation

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Claude Code recently added **skills** as an extensibility mechanism alongside MCP servers and slash commands. While MCP servers add new tools and slash commands provide pre-defined prompts, skills expand prompts on demand with task-specific instructions and local helpers.

This post explains how skills are wired: how they're discovered, surfaced, and invoked.

Skills Folder Structure

Skills are folders containing a `SKILL.md` file and optional scripts or other resources. Sub-folders are allowed (and encouraged) for organizing helper scripts, templates, and data files. Here's an example with two skills:

```
.claude/skills/
├── pdf/
│   ├── SKILL.md
│   ├── extract_text.py
│   └── templates/
│       └── summary.html
└── csv/
    ├── SKILL.md
    ├── analyze.py
    └── utils/
        ├── parser.py
        └── visualizer.py
```

The `pdf/SKILL.md` might contain:

```
---
name: pdf
description: Extract and analyze text from PDF documents.
---

# PDF Processing Skill

Use the extract_text.py script in this folder to process PDFs.

python3 extract_text.py <input_file>
```

```
After extraction, summarize the key points
```