

Week 6 → MCP (Model Context Protocol)

→ MCP is a standardized framework for AI agents to interact with external systems and data, enabling them to operate with enhanced memory, reasoning, and multi-task execution.

What MCP is not →

- ① A framework for building agent
- ② A fundamental change to how agents work
- ③ A way to code agent

What MCP is actually →

- ① A protocol - a standard
- ② A simple way to integrate tools, resources, prompts
- ③ "A USB-C port for AI application"

Reason not be excited →

- ① It's just a standard, it's not a tool themselves.
- ② LLM chains already has big tool ecosystem
- ③ You can already make any function into any tool

Reason to be excited →

- ① makes it easy to integrate tools.
- ② It's taking off! Exploding ecosystem.
- ③ HTML was a standard too.

MCP core concept →

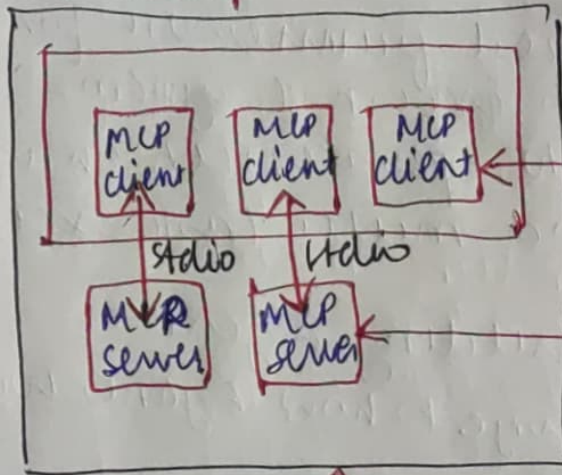
The three components →

- ① Host is an LLM app like Claude or an Agent architecture.
- ② MCP client lives inside Host and connects 1:1 to MCP server.
- ③ MCP server provides tools, context and prompts.

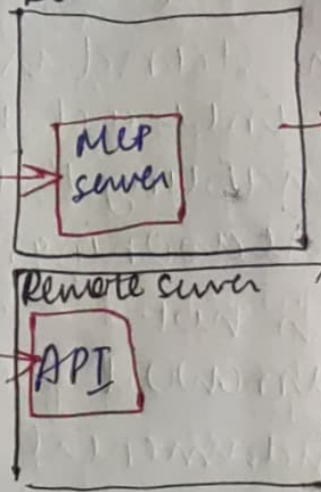
Example →

Fetch → MCP server that searches the web via a headless browser.

Your computer



Remote server



→ alternative architecture

- In most of examples we will be seeing that MCP server are running outside the host and you're connecting it, it still running on your machine.
- MCP servers can takes advantages of functionality over internet.

Two different transport mechanisms

- ① **stdio** → (standard input output) → The AI runs and MCP server as a local program, communication via standard input/output.
- ② **SSE** → (Server-Sent-Events (SSE)) → The AI connects to a remote server via HTTP and exchanges message asynchronously.

Commands

- ① `fetch` - params = `{"command": "uvx", "args": {"mcp-server-fetch"}}`

He also uses playwright

This commands is going to create an MCP client running within OpenAI Agents SDK.

- for running MCP server by using JS node npm playwright-param = `{"command": "npm", "args": {"@playwright/mcp@latest"}}`

Distributed agent Runtime

→ A distributed agent runtime handles life cycle and communication lifecycle and communication across process boundaries, consisting of:

(a) **host service** → A host service connected to worker runtimes, handling message delivery and sessions for direct message

(b) **worker runtime** → A worker runtime advertises agent to the host service and handles executing their code.

→ GRPC is an host to run and manage on local host according to the port no. specified.

Which framework to select?

→ It's not the most important question and it doesn't really matter!

→ Pick the framework that suits your style and the skill of your team.

→ ~~my go to OpenAI~~

→ Other framework → Google ADK, Huggingface Smolagents and LlamaIndex AI - but they will seem familiar.

What matters →

(1) Start with the problem, not the solution.

(2) Have a metric to evaluate success

(3) Favour workflow over autonomy initially.
(Can try to do the code by handwiring)

(4) Work bottom up, not top down

(Do not start with a big problem, instead start with a small thing).

(5) Start simple, then add [small piece → big problem]

(6) Start with large frontier model, then reduce

(7) Think context rather than memory.

④ [try giving LLM the right context to be able to answer its question].

⑧ most problems are solved with better prompts.

⑨ look at the traces.

⑩ Be a scientist, no shortcuts to R&D.