

FROM IDEA TO PRODUCTION IN 1 YEAR

The 5-Phase AI Development
Workflow We Used at NVIDIA

200K lines • 3,248 tests • 3 engineers

Swipe →

PHASE 1

DESIGN

Time: ~1 week

- Brainstorm with AI (Cursor + Gemini)
- Create design documents
- Technology comparison research
- Architecture definition
- API specifications

Key: Use AI for THINKING,
not just coding.

PHASE 2

STANDARDS

Time: ~1 week

Ask AI to document:

- Coding guidelines
- Testing standards (we set 85%+)
- Documentation conventions
- CI/CD workflow
- Code structure expectations

Key: AI follows YOUR rules—
if you give it rules.

PHASE 3

BOOTSTRAP

Time: ~1 day

Feed ALL documents to Cursor.

*"Create a project following
these standards."*

Result:

- ✓ Day 1 code quality
- ✓ Consistent structure
- ✓ No cleanup needed later

PHASE 4

ROADMAP

Time: ~3 days

- Break into milestones
- Create implementation plans
- Define actionable items per feature
- Set measurable targets

Key: Plan THOROUGHLY before asking AI to build.

PHASE 5

BUILD

Time: ~6-7 weeks

Feature by feature:

- Reference the roadmap
- Implement with AI
- Maintain progress log
- Handle crashes gracefully

Key: The progress log is your
"save game" for AI development.

THE SECRET SAUCE: THE PROGRESS LOG

Every session:

- ✓ What's done
- ✓ Current status
- ✓ What's next
- ✓ Decisions made

Agent crashes? Resume instantly.

Context lost? Never.

THE RESULT:

- ✓ 200,000 lines of code
- ✓ 3,248 tests (2:1 ratio)
- ✓ 2 applications (Java + Go)
- ✓ 1 year total (3-4x faster)
- ✓ 3 engineers

Traditional timeline: 3-4 years

**Want the detailed
workflow?**

Comment "WORKFLOW"
and I'll share our internal playbook.

Follow for more AI dev content.

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