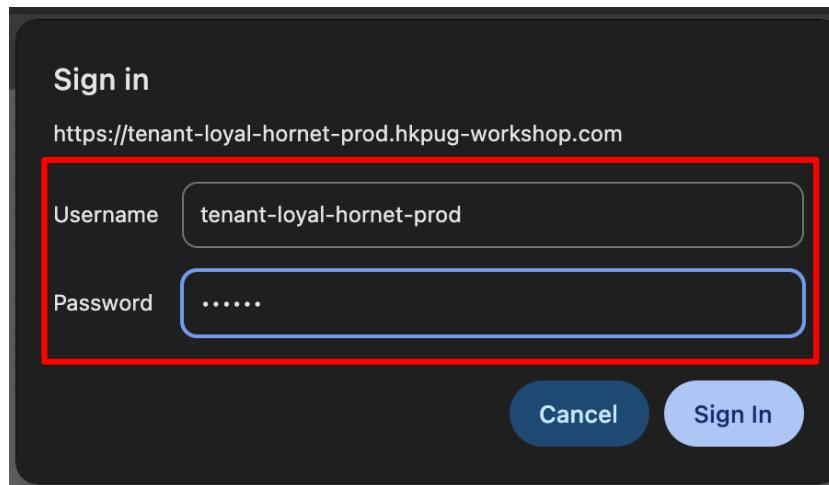
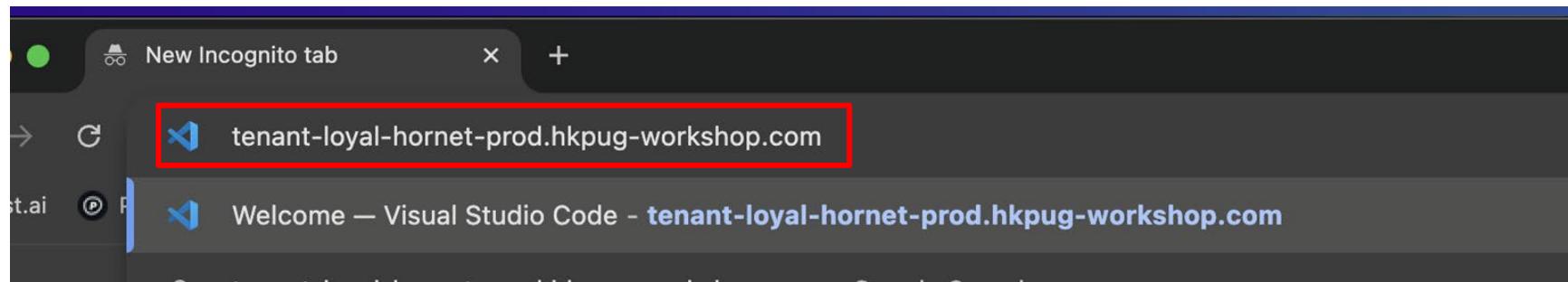


# Pre-workshop Setup

# Login to VS Code

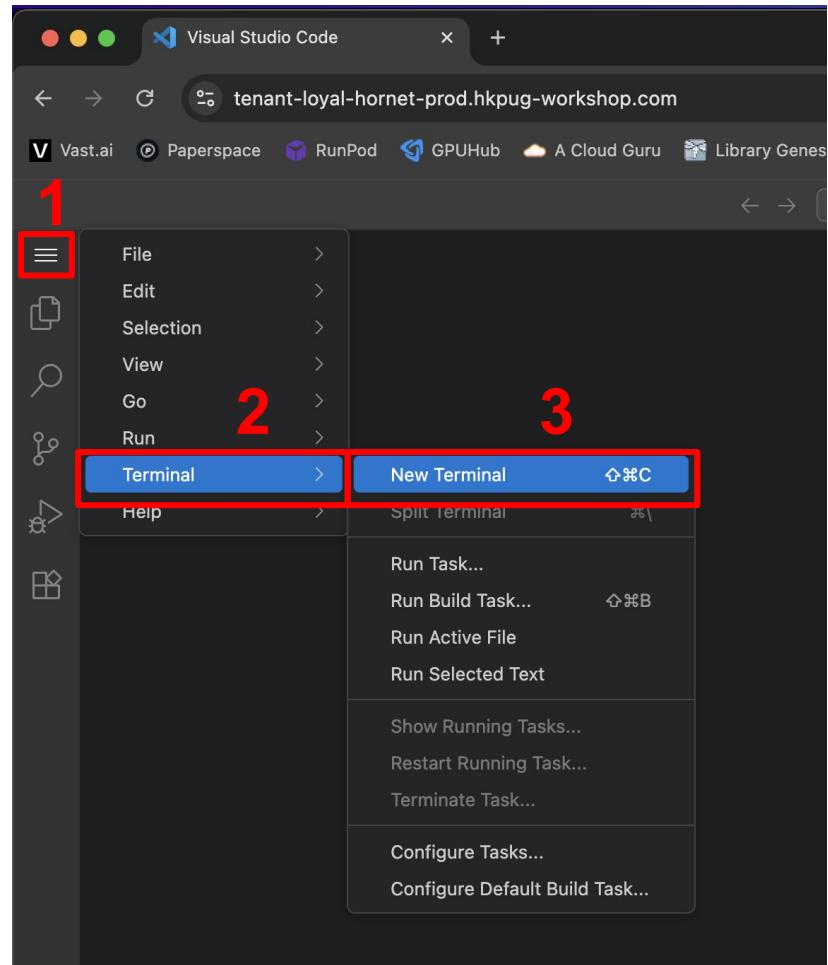


Make sure you have received your **Online Vscode URL** and **Password!**

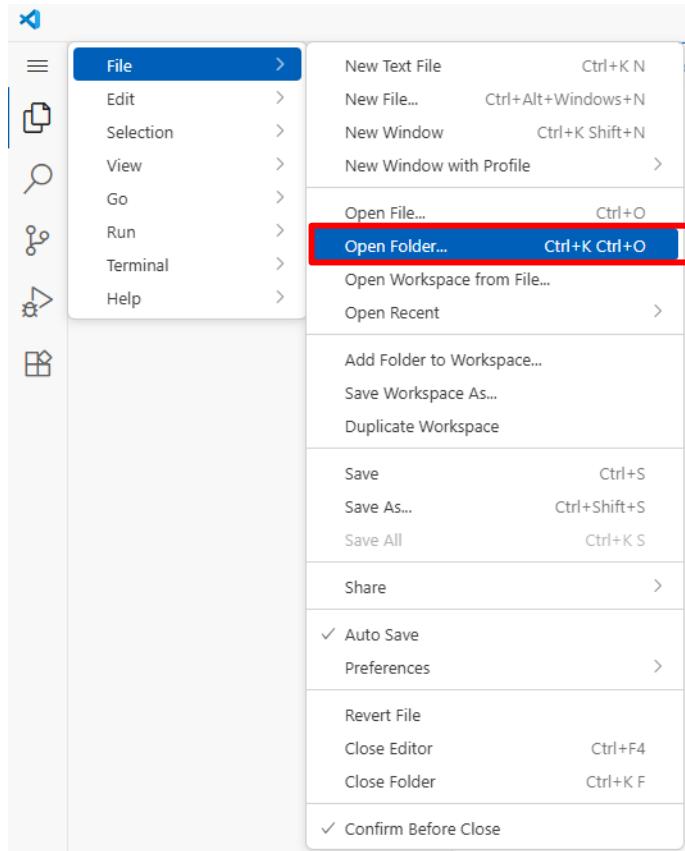
# Setup VS Code [1]

A screenshot of the Visual Studio Code interface. The top navigation bar includes 'PROBLEMS', 'OUTPUT', 'TERMINAL', and '...' tabs. The 'TERMINAL' tab is active, showing a terminal session. The command `cp -r /app/. ~` is typed into the terminal, with the entire command highlighted by a red box. The number '4' is displayed in the bottom right corner of the terminal area.

Run `cp -r /app/. ~`

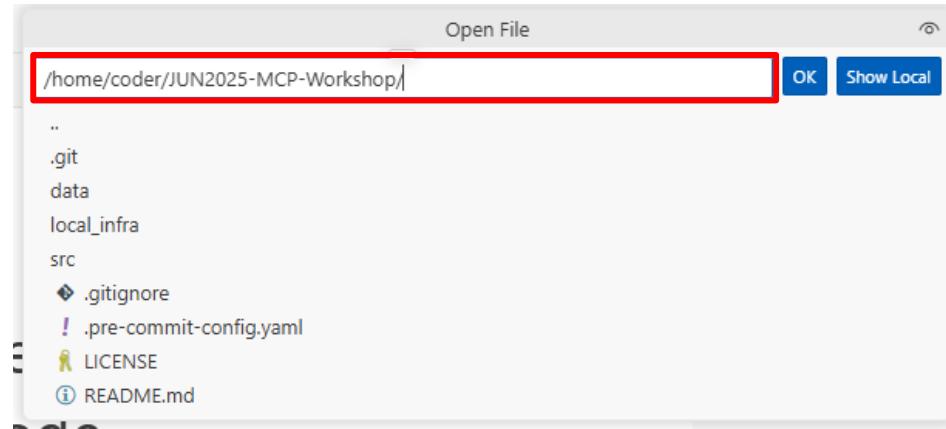


# Setup VS Code [2]



1. Open Folder

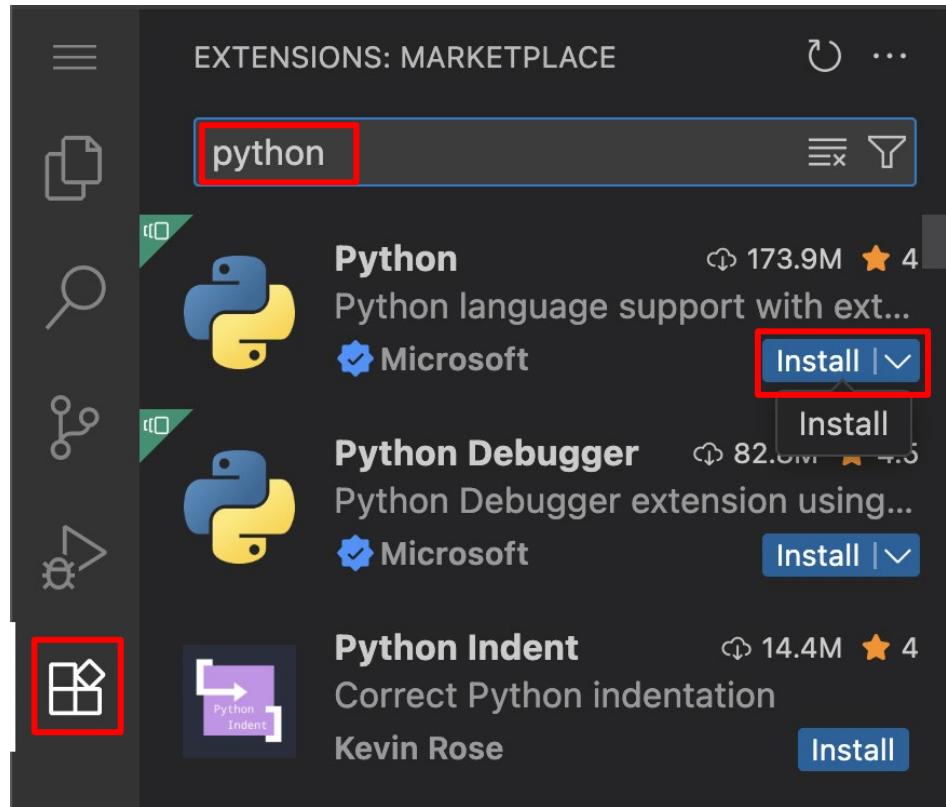
2. Go to JUN2025-MCP-Workshop



# Setup VS Code [3]

1. Go to VSCode Extension

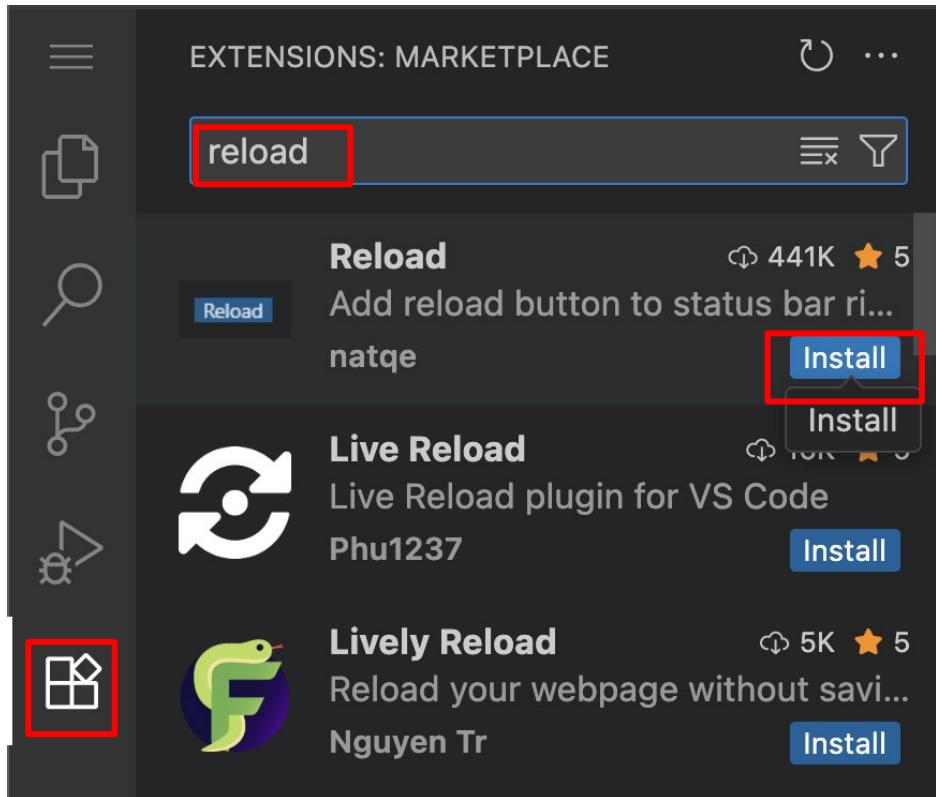
2. Search for "reload"



3. Click Install

# Setup VS Code [4]

2. Search for "reload"



1. Go to VSCode Extension

3. Click Install

# Install Dependencies for Workshop

## Installation

**Remember to first do cd src/**

If you use uv, you may install the repository as a package by running the following commands:

```
# Install dependencies using uv
uv sync
# Install mcp_workshop as a package
uv pip install -e .
```



Otherwise, you can run the code in the repository by executing the following command:

```
pip install -r requirements.txt .
```



Follow the JUN2025-MCP-Workshop/src/README.md to install with uv.  
Note that uv should be pre-installed in our cluster already.

# MCP Server 101

Python User Group Workshop  
28 June 2025

# Quick Introduction

- Speaker: Henry Wong
  - Data Scientist
  - Researcher
- Infrastructure & Support: Alex Au
  - Cloud Engineer
  - Ex-Silicon engineer



# QR Codes



**Slides for Today**



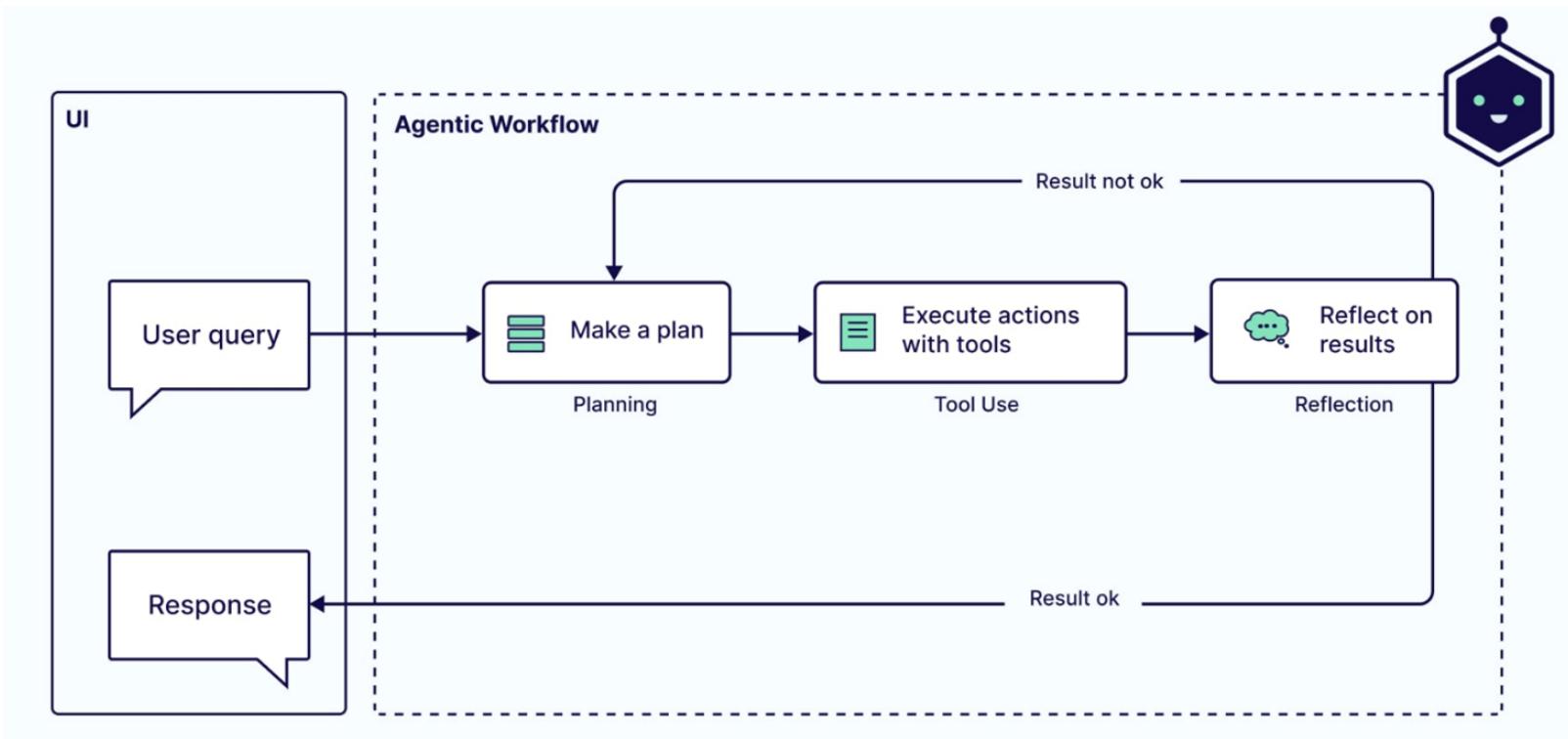
**Repository**

# Agenda

- Brief Recap: From Agentic Workflow to MCP.
- What is Model Context Protocol (MCP).
- A Taste of MCP Server:
  - Hands-on: using MCP server from marketplace.
  - Hands-on: connect to your own MCP server.
  - Hands-on: write your own MCP server.

# Quick Recap of Last Workshop: A Taste of Agentic Workflow

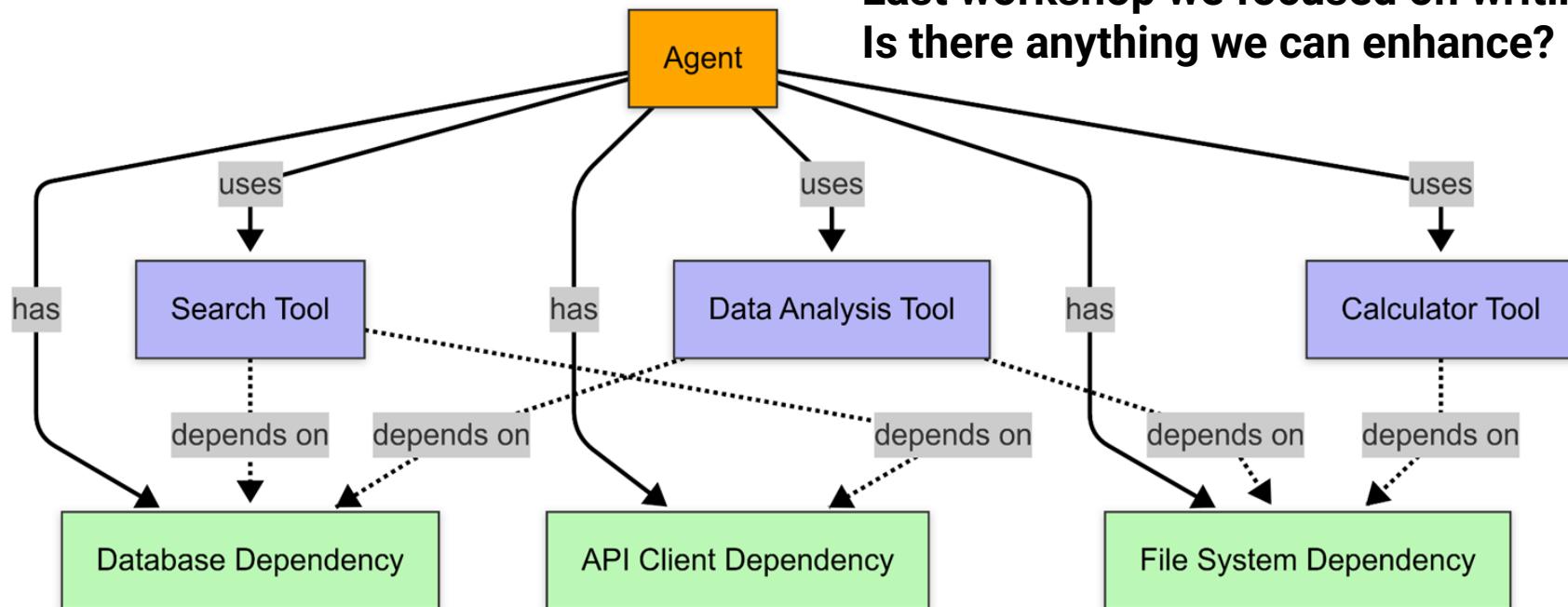
# Agentic Workflow



From [What Are Agentic Workflows? Patterns, Use Cases, Examples, and More](#)

# Last Workshop - A Taste of Agentic Workflow

**Last workshop we focused on writing tools.  
Is there anything we can enhance?**

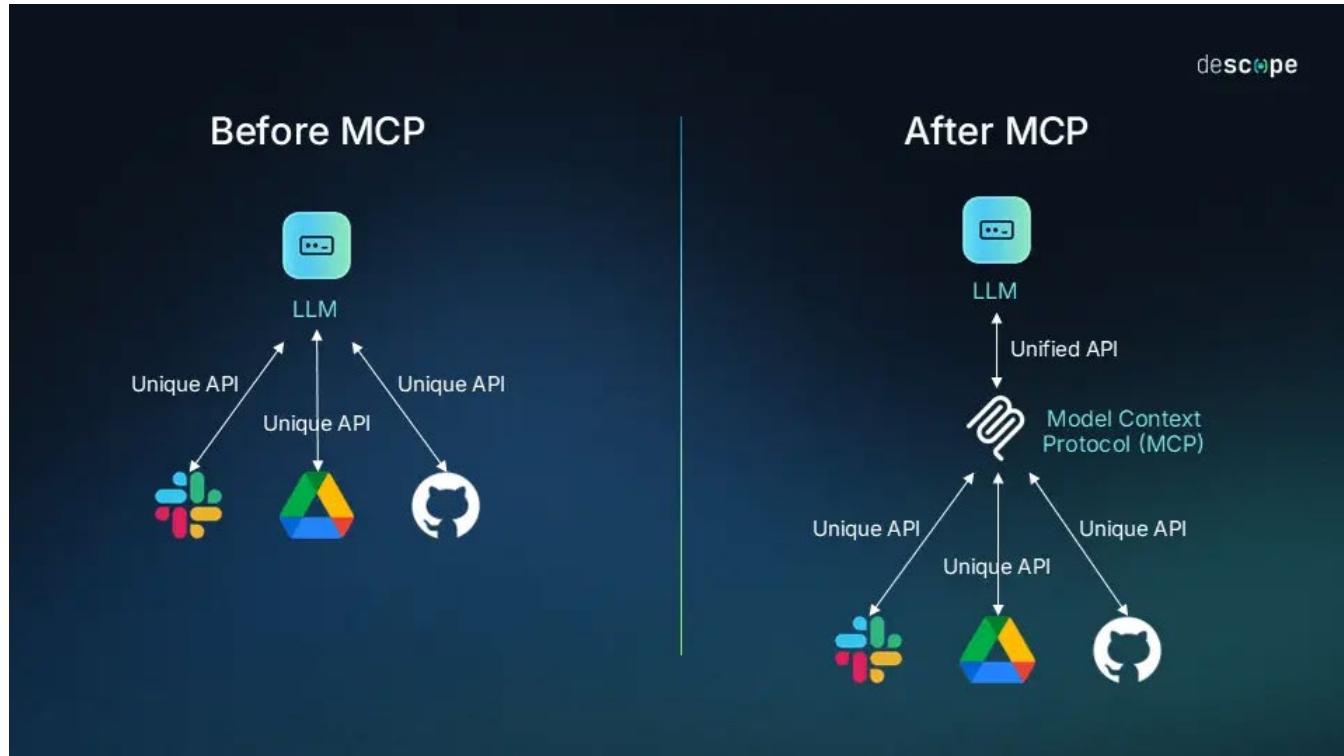


# Model Context Protocol (MCP)

# Model Context Protocol

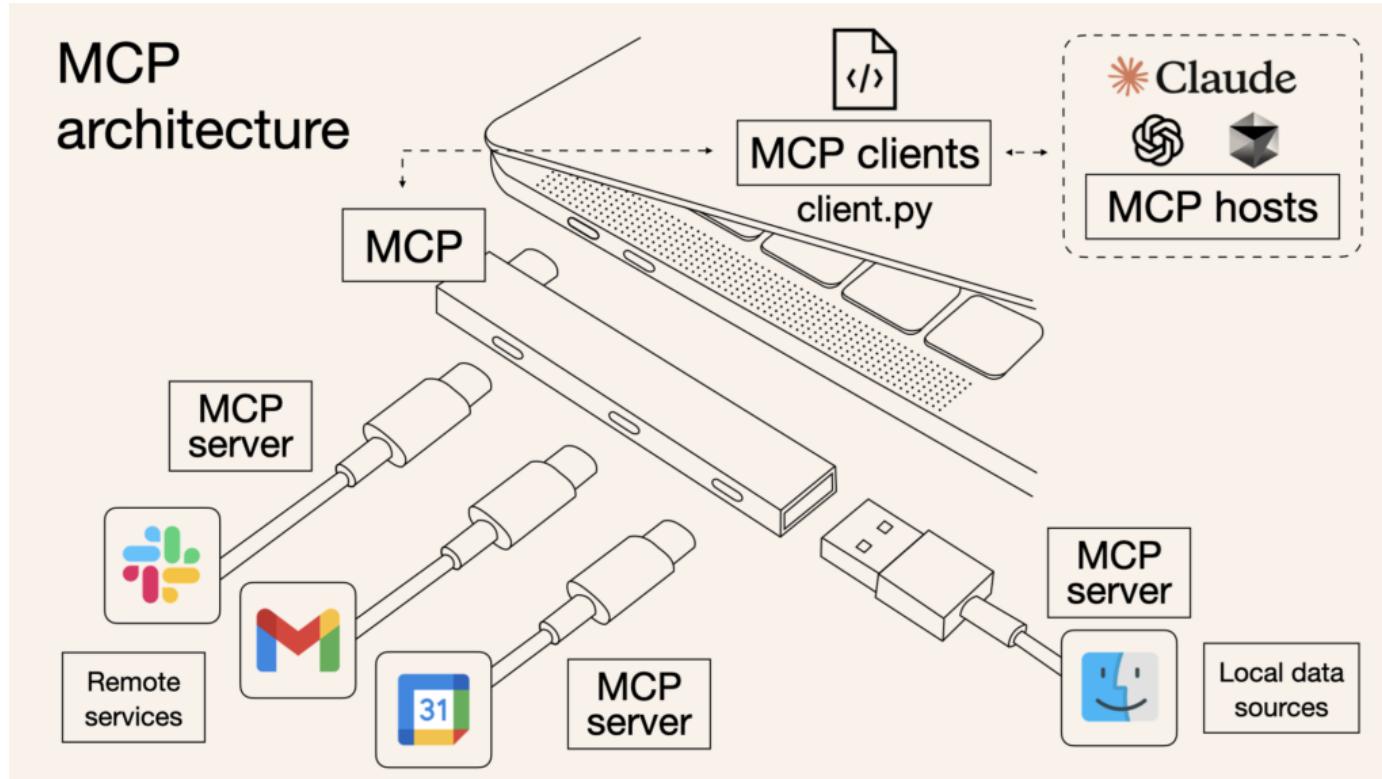
- First released by Anthropic on November 25, 2024, see [Anthropic News](#).
- **Standardization** (open-source protocol) for resource access and tool execution.
- **Does not boost the capability of LLMs.**
- Better organized agentic workflow, unifying the way LLMs access tools or any kind of resources.

# Illustration of MCP



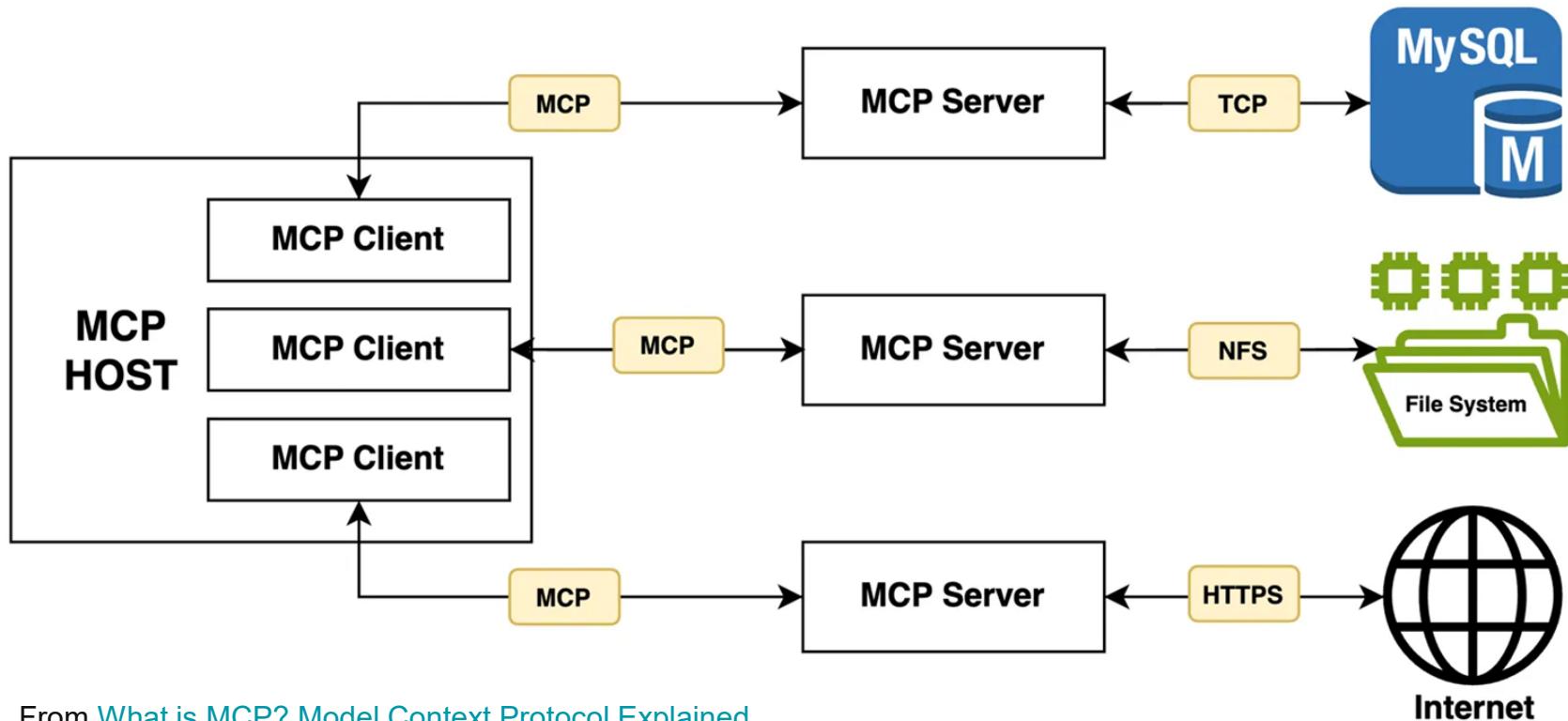
From [What Is the Model Context Protocol \(MCP\) and How It Works](#)

# More Simple Illustration



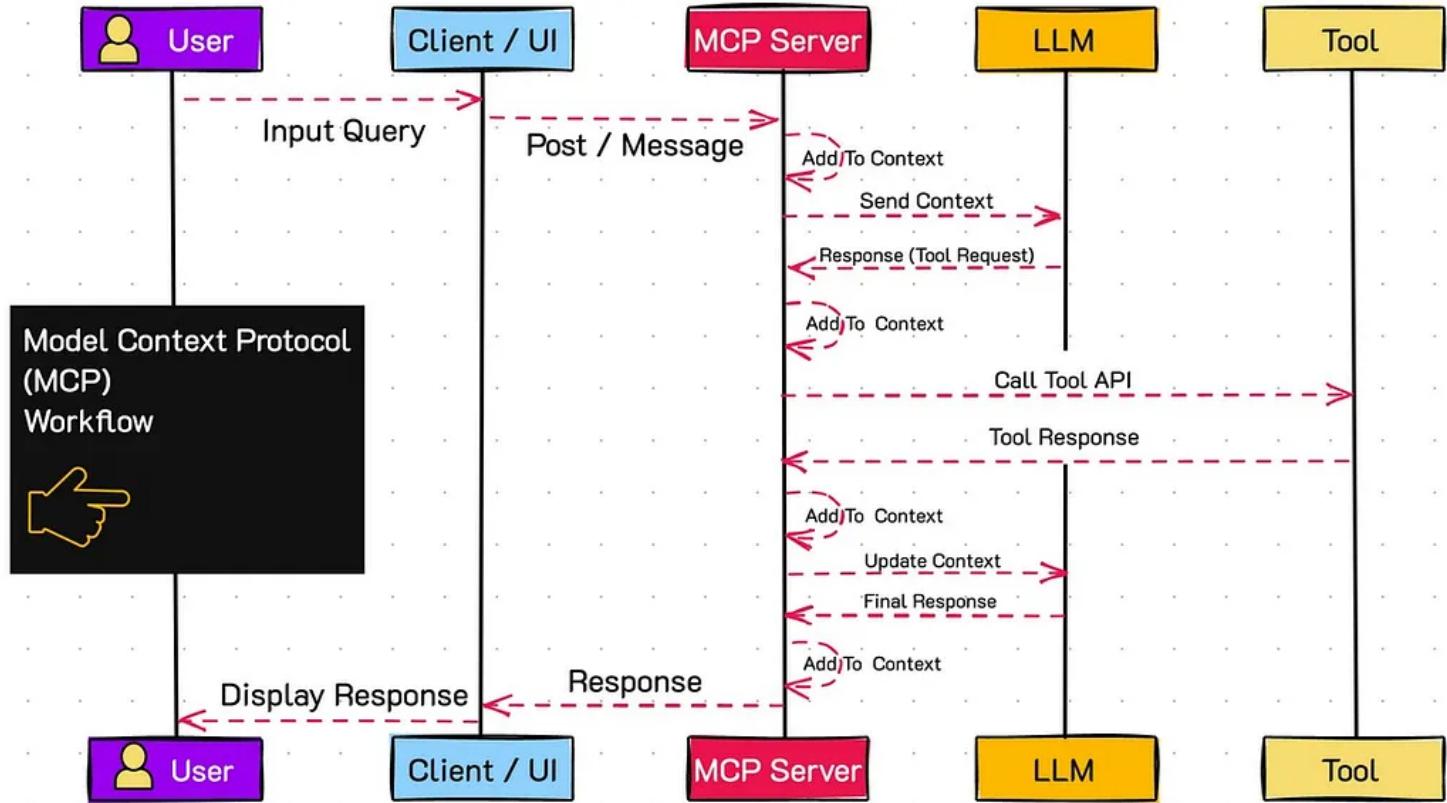
From [What is Model Context Protocol \(MCP\): Explained](#)

# MCP Architecture



From [What is MCP? Model Context Protocol Explained](#)

# Agentic Workflow with MCP



From [Model Context Protocol \(MCP\)](#)

# Do We Really Need MCP?

- No but Yes.
- MCP **does not boost the capability of LLMs.**
- But it brings **standardization to development** of agentic workflow.
- **Standardization** often leads to *more active development.*

# A Taste of MCP Server [1]

# Sharing MCP Servers

- MCP unifies the way LLMs access tools or any kind of resources.
- Similar to python modules, **MCP servers can now be easily shared, installed, and used.**

# Today Scenario

- In the first session of this workshop, we will first showcase how to use MCP servers developed by others, which can be achieved **almost no-code**.
- Learning Objective:
  - Understand the benefits that MCP brings to us.
  - Learn new technology for agentic workflow.

# Technology Overview

- **MCP Host:** VS Code, an IDE developed by Microsoft.
- **MCP Client:** Cline, a VS Code Extension, open-source AI coding assistant.
- **MCP Server:** Chart Generator, a free chart generation service.

# Gain Access to Free SOTA Models

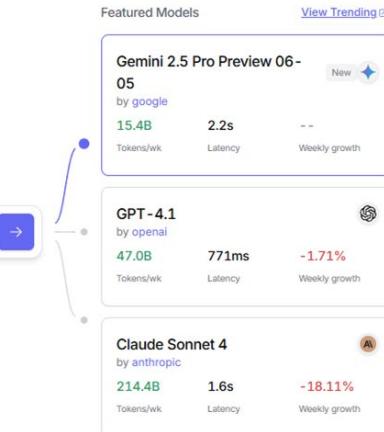
/

[Models](#) [Chat](#) [Rankings](#) [Enterprise](#) [Docs](#)[Sign in](#)

## The Unified Interface For LLMs

Better [prices](#), better [uptime](#), no subscription.

Start a message...

**8.4T**

Monthly Tokens

**2.5M+**

Global Users

**60+**

Active Providers

**400+**

Models

Register an account at  
<https://openrouter.ai/>.  
Gain access to more free SOTA models.

# Create an API Key for Cline [1]

## The Unified Interface For LLMs

Better [prices](#), better [uptime](#), no subscription.

Start a message...

Featured Models [View Trending](#)

**Gemini 2.5 Pro Preview 06-05**  
by [google](#)  
**15.4B** **2.2s**  
Tokens/wk Latency -- Weekly growth

**GPT-4.1**  
by [openai](#)  
**47.0B** **771ms** **-1.71%**  
Tokens/wk Latency Weekly growth

**Claude Sonnet 4**  
by [anthropic](#)  
**214.4B** **1.6s** **-18.11%**  
Tokens/wk Latency Weekly growth

Models Chat Rankings Docs

Credits **Keys** Activity Settings Sign out

# Create an API Key for Cline [2]

## API Keys

Create a new API key to access all models from OpenRouter ⓘ

Create API Key

You can enter any name you want :)

Create a Key

Name ⓘ

mcp-workshop

Credit limit (optional) ⓘ

0.01

Create

# Cline Setup [1]

The screenshot shows the VSCode Extension Marketplace interface. A red box highlights the search bar at the top left, with the text "2. Search for ‘cline’". Another red box highlights the "Install" button for the "Cline" extension, with the text "3. Install Cline". A third red box highlights the "Auto Update" checkbox, with the text "4. No need to register account".

1. Go to VSCode Extension

2. Search for “cline”

3. Install Cline

4. No need to register account

Marketplace

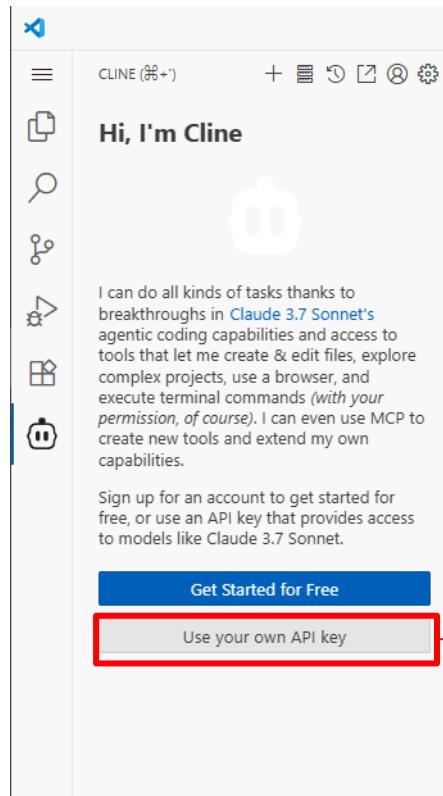
Identifier	saoudrizwan.claude-dev
Version	3.17.8
Published	2024-07-10, 19:28:18
Last Released	2025-05-29, 14:19:09

Categories

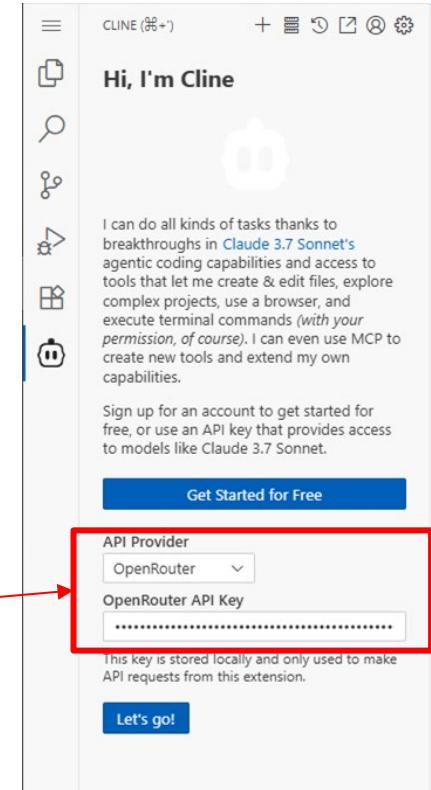
- Programming Languages
- Snippets
- Education
- Testing
- AI
- Chat

Resources

# Cline Setup [2]

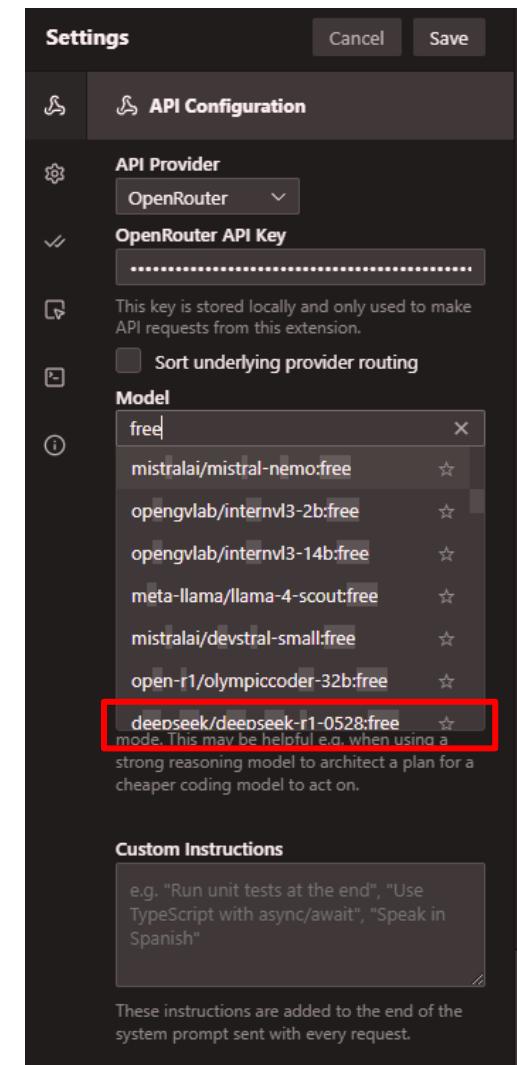


1. Choose OpenRouter
2. Input the key you obtained



# Cline Setup [3]

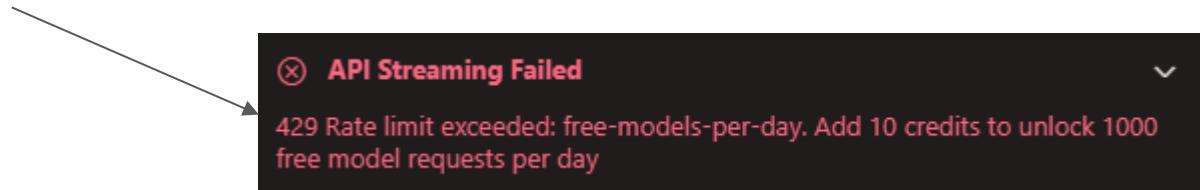
- Choose Your Own Model to Use
- Models with **free tag** can be freely used.
- Good enough to use for personal development.
- In this workshop, we recommend using
  - **deepseek/deepseek-r1:free**



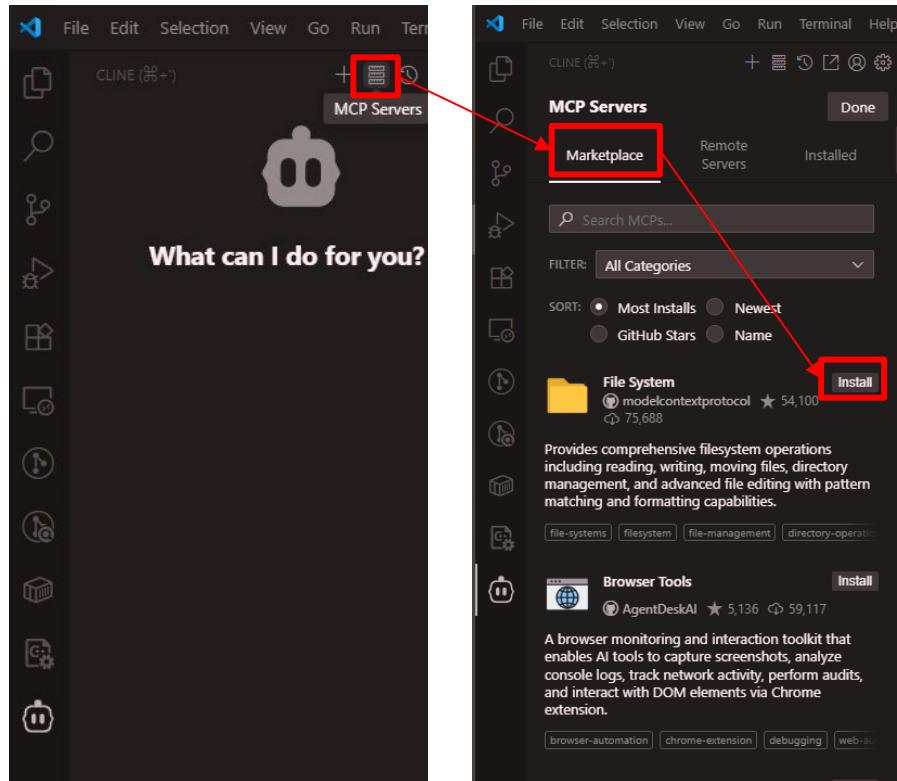
# Caution: Rate Limit of OpenRouter

- Try not to spam Cline, OpenRouter has a rate limit for free model usage.
- If you unfortunately reach this rate limit, please contact helpers for support.

Just let us know if you see this.



# Install MCP from Marketplace [1]



The installation is done by LLM, so it may:

- fail, or
- install something unexpected in your environment.

# Install MCP from Marketplace [2]

The screenshot shows three panels of the VS Code interface. The left panel displays the MCP Servers extension icon in the Activity Bar. The middle panel is a modal titled 'MCP Servers' with tabs for 'Marketplace' and 'Remote Servers'. The 'Installed' tab is selected, highlighted with a red box. The right panel shows the file 'cline\_mcp\_settings.json' open in the editor, with its path displayed in the status bar: 'wong > vscode-server > data > User > globalStorage > saoudrizwan.claude-dev > settings > cline\_mcp\_settings.json'. A red box highlights the file name in the title bar. A callout box on the right contains the text: 'Here we can do manual installation, which is safer! (But in this workshop, we will not install anything complicated, so we will let LLM install for us :D)'.

cline\_mcp\_settings.json

Here we can do manual installation, which is safer!  
(But in this workshop, we will not install anything complicated, so we will let LLM install for us :D)

# First Task using MCP Server

- Here our goal is to generate some visualizations using utility provided by installed MCP server.
- The steps are very simple:
  - Install MCP Server from marketplace.
  - Read its functionality.
  - Prompt the chatbot to generate what we want.

# Install Chart Generator

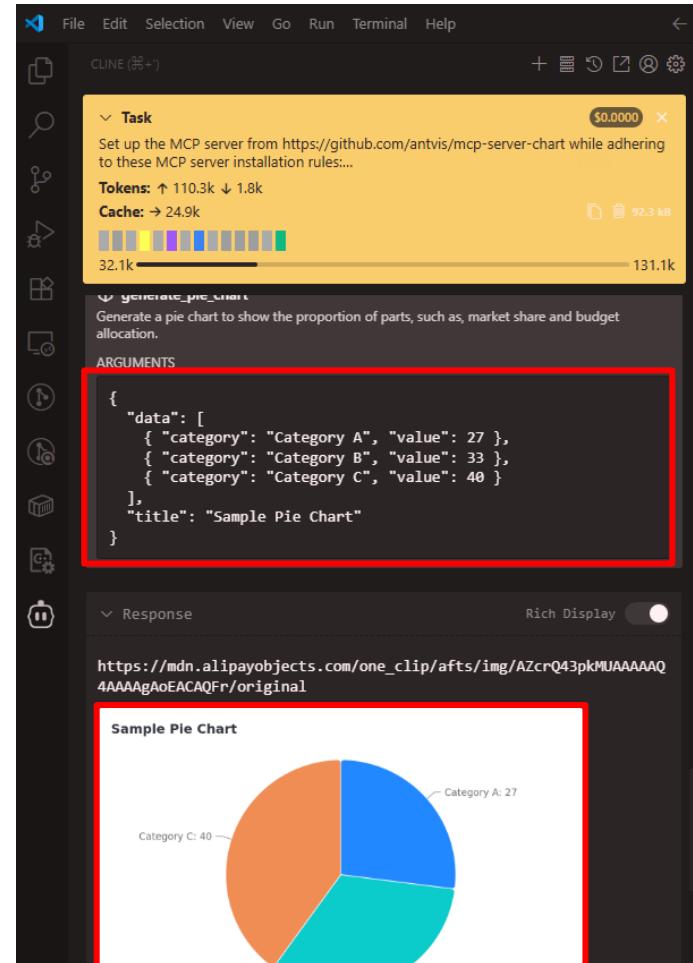
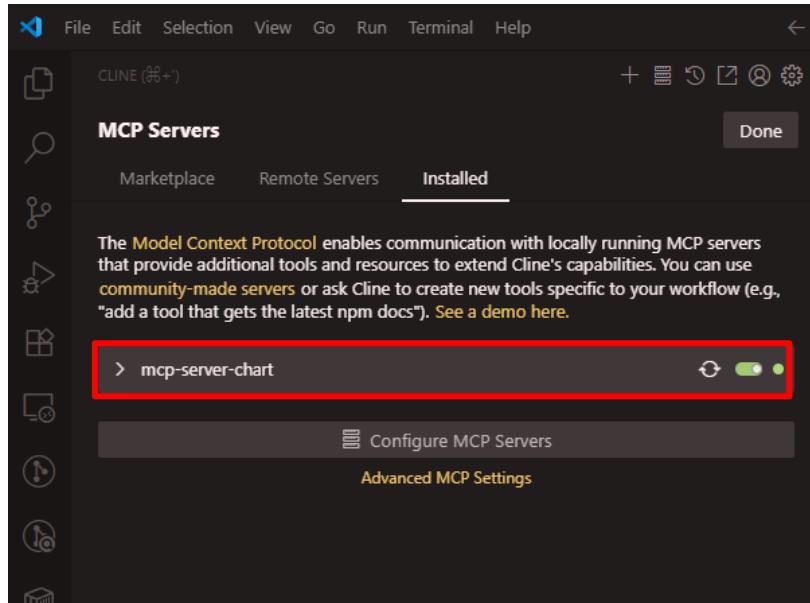
The screenshot shows the MCP Servers marketplace in the VS Code extension. A search bar at the top contains the text "chart gen". Below it, a "Marketplace" tab is selected, showing three categories: Marketplace, Remote Servers, and Installed. A search result for "Chart Generator" by antvis is displayed. The result has a star rating of 1,108 and 663 reviews. A red box highlights the "Install" button. Below the result, a description states: "Creates various types of charts and visualizations using AntV, supporting 15+ chart types including line, bar, pie, radar, network graphs, and more with customizable deployment options." A list of tags follows: image-video-processing, data-visualization, charts, graphs, antv, image-generation. At the bottom, there's a "Submit MCP Server" button and a link to submit issues to [github.com/cline/mcp-marketplace](https://github.com/cline/mcp-marketplace).

The screenshot shows the MCP server setup process in the MCP extension. A task titled "Task" is running, with the URL <https://github.com/antvis/mcp-server-chart>. It displays metrics: Tokens: ↑ 110.3k ↓ 1.8k, Cache: → 24.9k, and a progress bar for 32.1k. An "API Request" section is shown with the following text:  
To set up the MCP server from <https://github.com/antvis/mcp-server-chart>, I need to follow the provided instructions and adhere to the MCP server installation rules. Let's analyze the task and the context provided.  
First, I need to load the MCP documentation as per the rules. This will give me detailed information on creating and installing MCP servers.  
Next, I should create a directory for the new MCP server before starting the installation. The server name to be used in the configuration is "github.com/antvis/mcp-server-chart", but for the configuration file, I will use "mcp-server-chart" as seen in the README for simplicity and consistency with the provided JSON snippets.  
I must read the existing cline\_mcp\_settings.json file to ensure I don't overwrite any existing server configurations. The file is located at "../vscode-server/data/User/globalStorage/saoudrizwan.claude-dev/settings/cline\_mcp\_settings.json" as per the environment details.  
Since the user's OS is Linux, I'll tailor the commands accordingly, using "npx" for installation as suggested in the README for Mac and adapting it for Linux, which should be similar.  
After installation, I need to demonstrate the server's capabilities by using one of its tools, such as generating a chart.  
Looking at the file structure in the current working directory, I see that there are directories and files related to MCP workshop content. It might be best to create a new directory within the current working directory for this MCP server to keep things organized.

A large red box highlights the text "Automatic installation by LLM" in the middle of the API request output. A smaller red box highlights the status bar message "Loading MCP documentation".

# After Installation

- Simple example chart by LLM
- Should be able to see from MCP Servers



# If your Cline failed to install...

## 1. Install the MCP Server

```
PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL

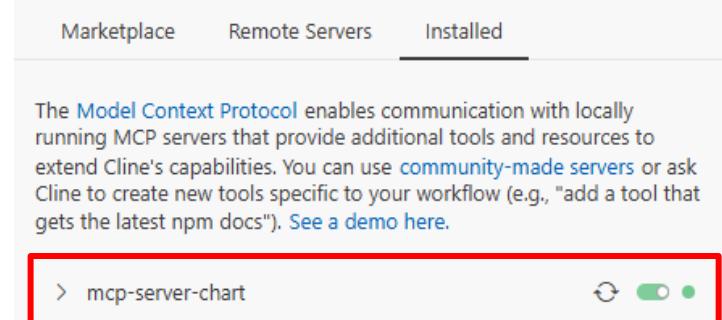
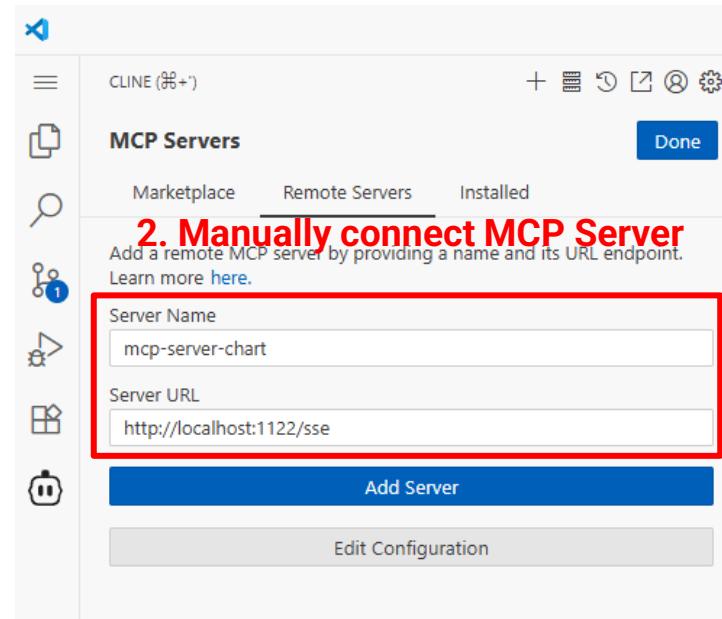
● coder@vscode-0:~/JUN2025-MCP-Workshop$ sudo npm install -g @antv/mcp-server-chart
npm WARN EBADENGINE Unsupported engine {
npm WARN EBADENGINE   package: 'eventsource-parsers@3.0.3',
npm WARN EBADENGINE   required: { node: '>=20.0.0' },
npm WARN EBADENGINE   current: { node: 'v18.19.0', npm: '9.2.0' }
npm WARN EBADENGINE }

changed 89 packages in 2s

17 packages are looking for funding
  run `npm fund` for details

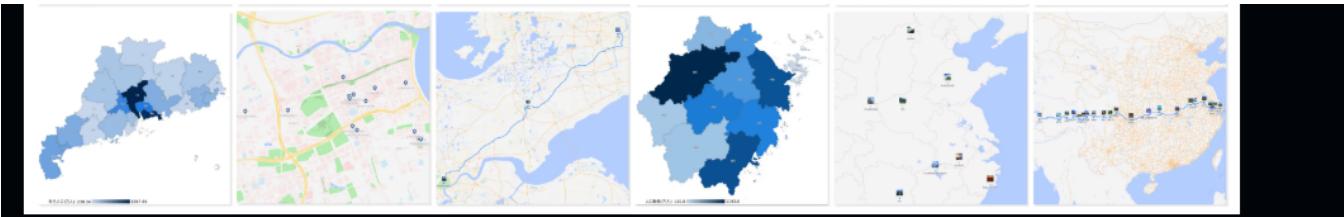
○ coder@vscode-0:~/JUN2025-MCP-Workshop$ mcp-server-chart --transport sse
SSE Server running on: http://localhost:1122/sse

Test endpoints:
• Health check: http://localhost:1122/health
• Ping test: http://localhost:1122/ping
```



## 3. Check MCP Server Status

# Short Reading on its README

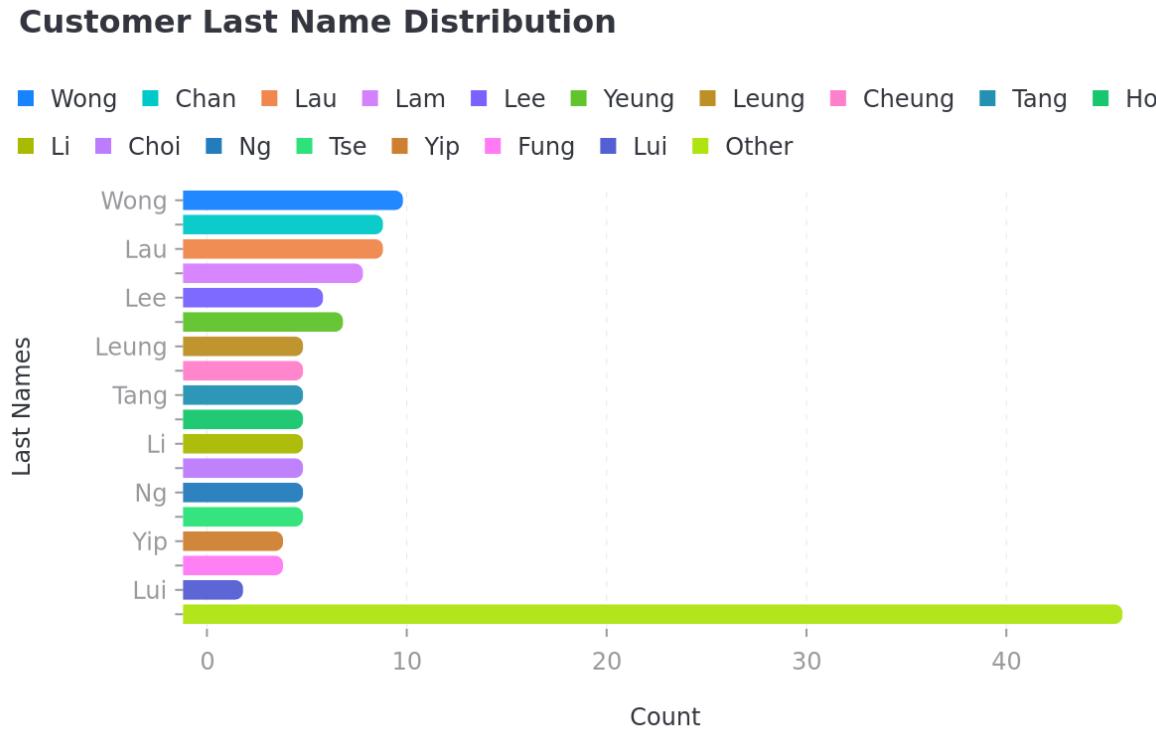


1. `generate_area_chart` : Generate an `area` chart, used to display the trend of data under a continuous independent variable, allowing observation of overall data trends.
2. `generate_bar_chart` : Generate a `bar` chart, used to compare values across different categories, suitable for horizontal comparisons.
3. `generate_boxplot_chart` : Generate a `boxplot`, used to display the distribution of data, including the median, quartiles, and outliers.
4. `generate_column_chart` : Generate a `column` chart, used to compare values across different categories, suitable for vertical comparisons.
5. `generate_district_map` - Generate a `district-map`, used to show administrative divisions and data distribution.
6. `generate_dual_axes_chart` : Generate a `dual-axes` chart, used to display the relationship between two variables with different units or ranges.

# Interact with Chatbot (have access to MCP servers)

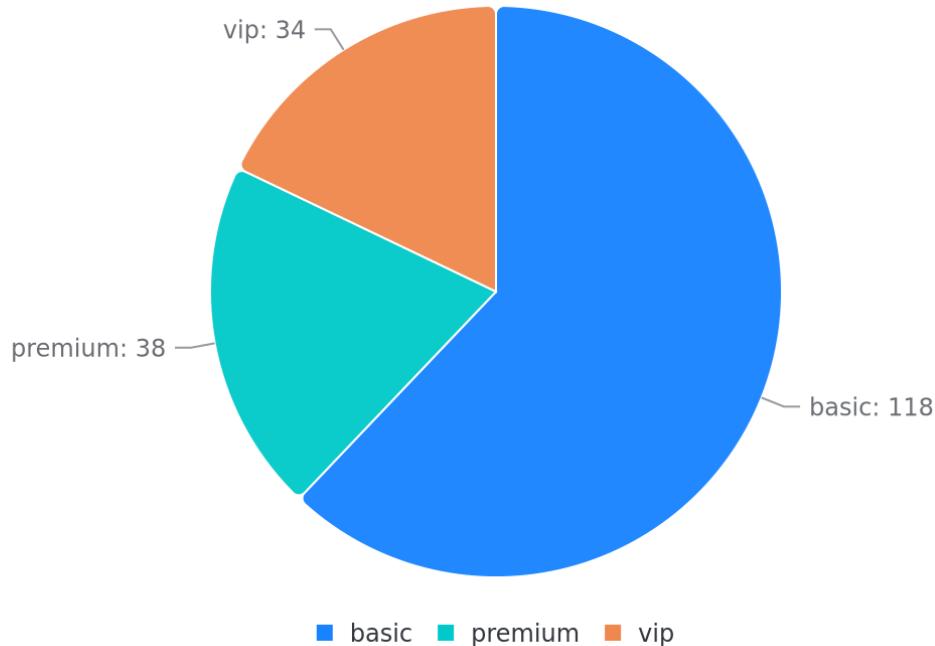
- Now we do some visualizations on **data/customers.csv** from last workshop:
  - Generate a bar chart to show distribution of last name of customers.
  - Generate a pie chart to show the distribution of customer tier.
  - Generate a line chart to show number of new customers over time.
- During the interactions, try to read the work done by Cline, and get a sense of how the LLM interacts with MCP servers.
- Also please feel free to change the model if it keep failing.

# Visualization by MCP [1]

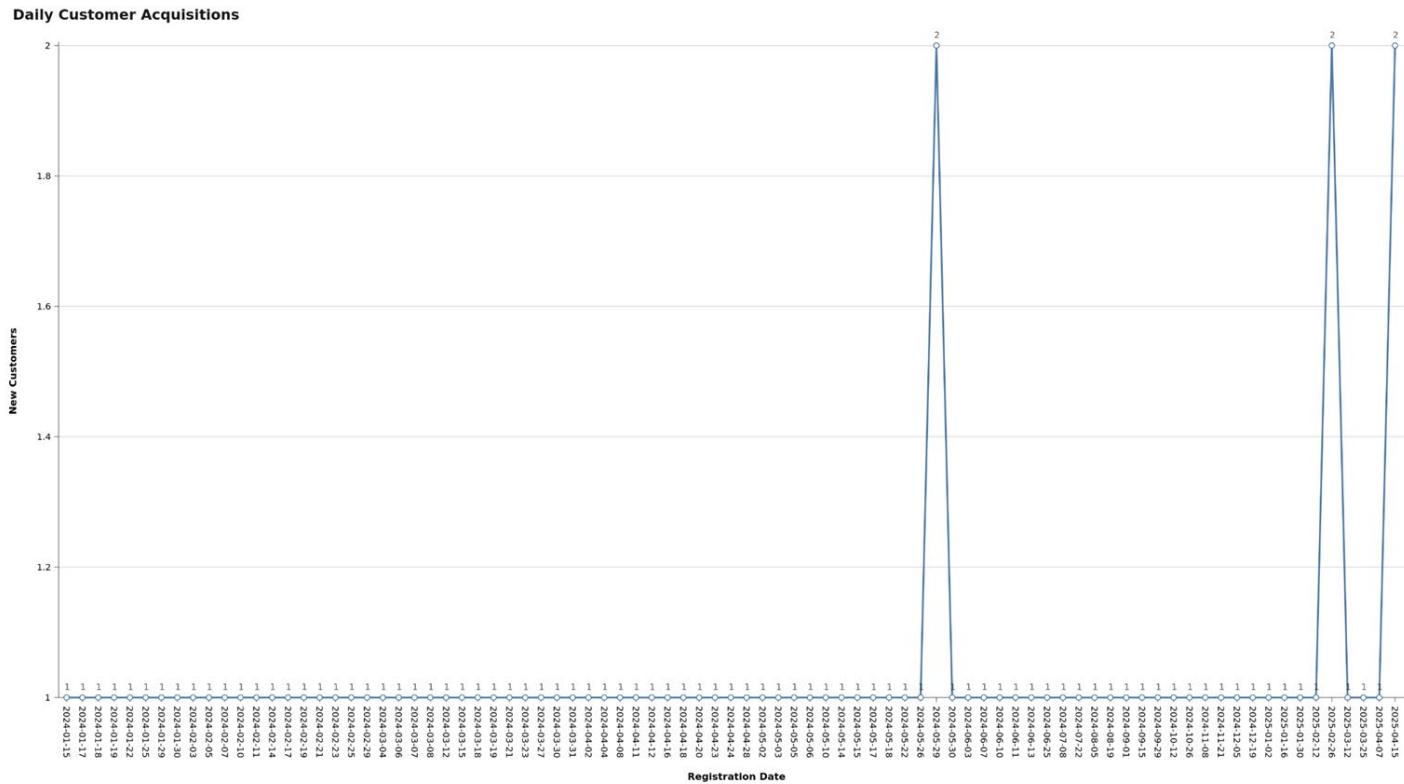


# Visualization by MCP [2]

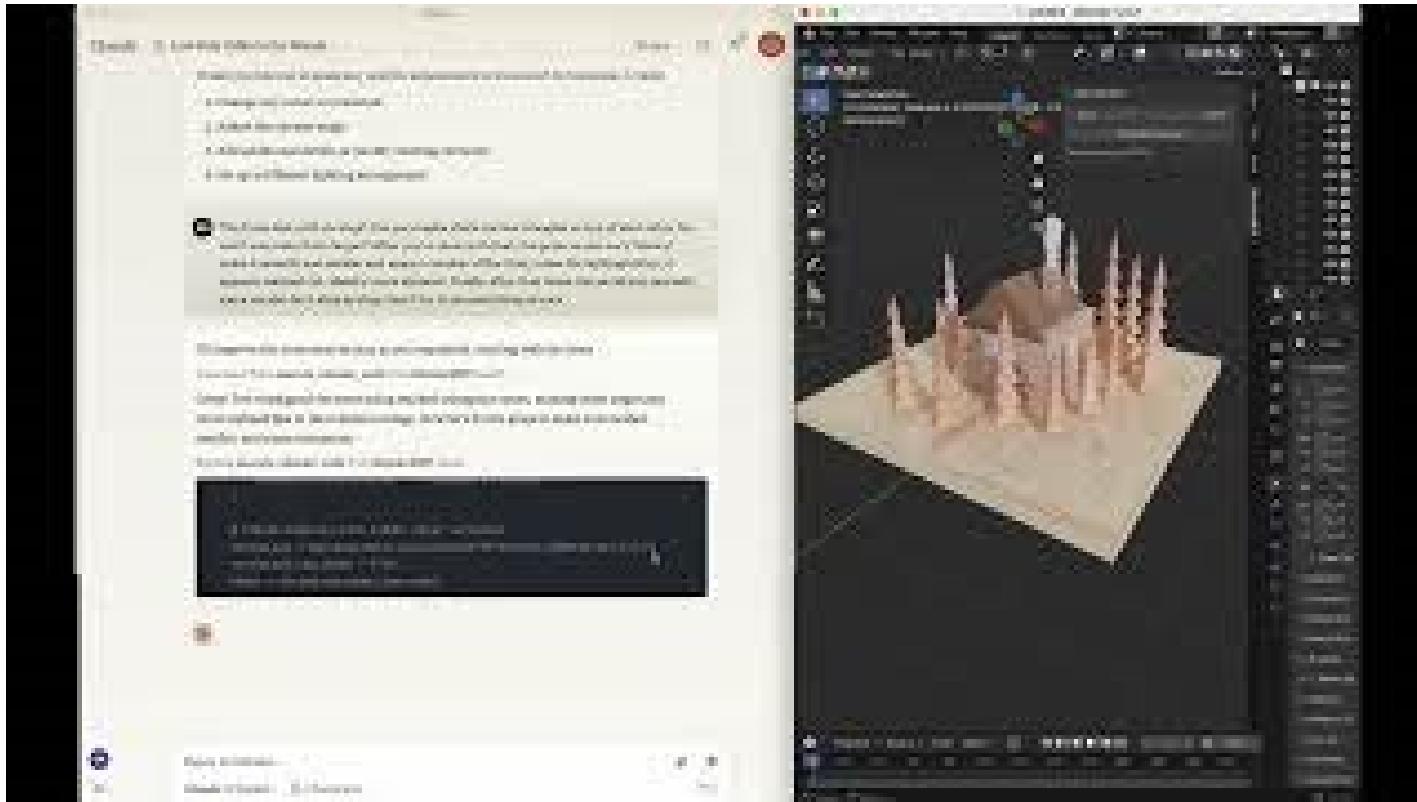
**Customer Tier Distribution**



## Visualization by MCP [3]



# Extra: A Cool Example Use of MCP: Blender

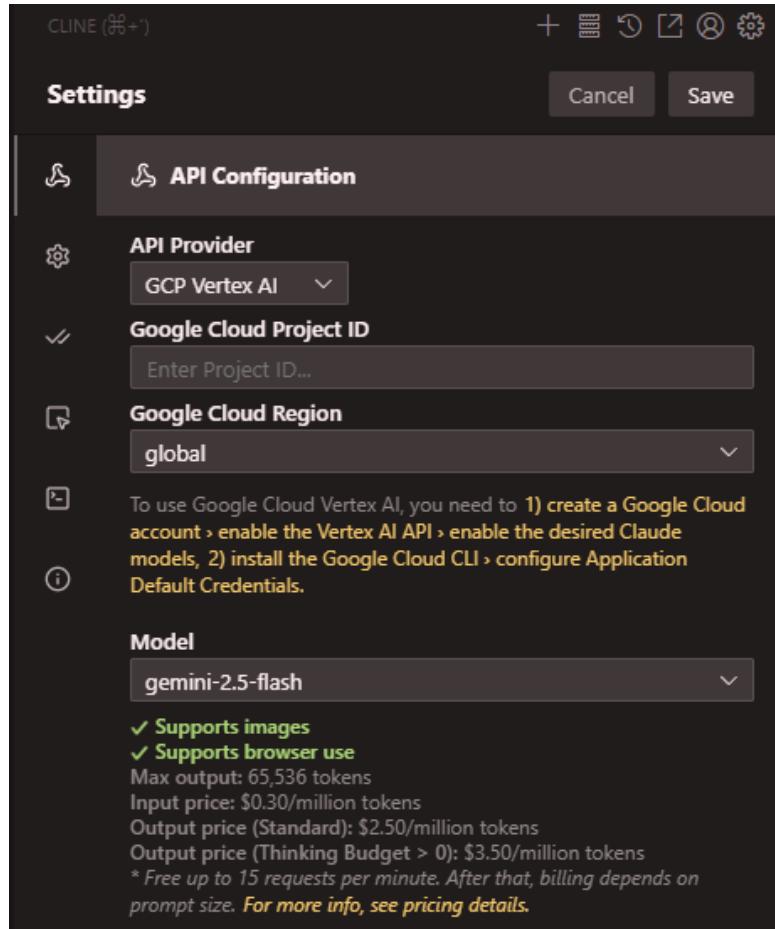


Should be fun.  
Try at home if you  
are interested!

A Taste of MCP Server [2]

# Switching to GCP Vertex AI

- As mentioned, OpenRouter has a rate limit for free usage.
- We, therefore, will switch to GCP Vertex AI for the later parts of the workshop.
- Please use the following parameters:
  - **Google Cloud Region: global**
  - **Model: gemini-2.5-flash**



# Diving into MCP Server

- In the second session of this workshop, we will dive into details of how can we write our own MCP Server.
- Choice of MCP Framework: [FastMCP](#)
  - Avoid boilerplate code and complex details.
  - Pythonic.
  - Focus on building tools.

# Communication between MCP Server and Client

Transport	Summary	Limitation
Standard input/output	Print information on console.	Require MCP server and host to be on the same machine.
SSE (Server-sent Events)	Send information via HTTP connection.	Require long-lived, highly available connection. No resumable streams.
Streamable HTTP	Send information via HTTP connection.	Unknown since it is too new (first release in March 2025).

**Note: Today we will be using SSE, since Cline does not support MCP server with streamable HTTP yet. But we should expect SSE to be slowly fade out and be replaced by streamable HTTP.**

# Today Scenario

- In the second part of this workshop, we will set up our own MCP server, and use it to interact with some image data prepared in the repository.
- Learning objective:
  - Learn to connect self-written MCP server to Cline.
  - Explore LLM with extended capability.

# Content of MCP Server

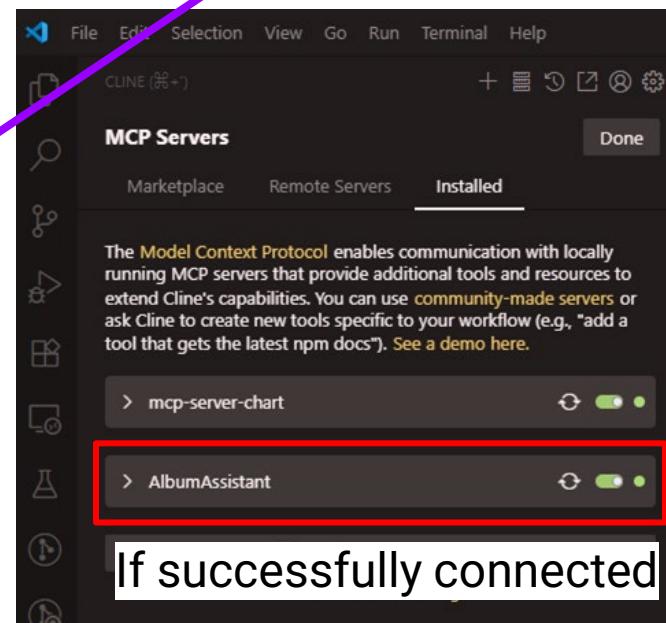
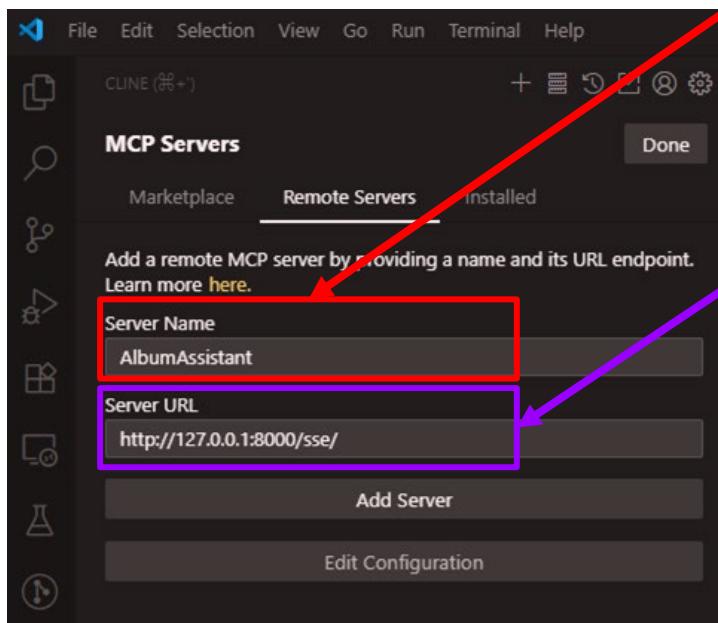
```
INSTRUCTIONS = """
This server provides a simple interface to interact with file system.
Call create_album() to create a new album.
Call list_albums() to list all albums.
Call list_images(album_name) to list all images in a specific album.
Call load_image(filepath) to load an image from the specified album.
Call add_image_to_album(album_name, filepath) to add an image to the specified album.
"""

mcp = FastMCP(
    name="AlbumAssistant",
    instructions=INSTRUCTIONS,
    on_duplicate_tools="error",
)
```

# Start and Add MCP Server

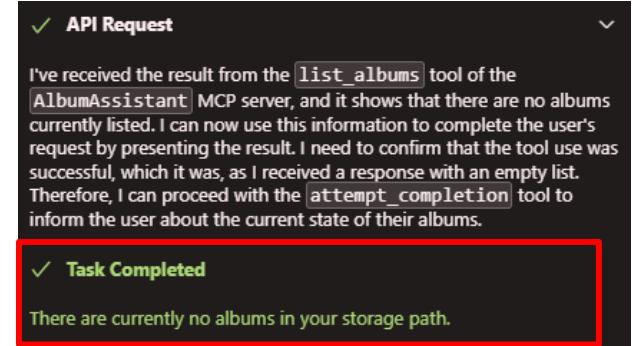
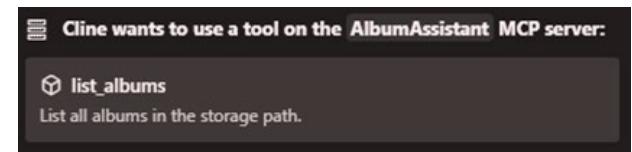
A screenshot of a terminal window titled "TERMINAL". The output shows the command `python3 mcp_fs.py` being run, which starts an MCP server named "AlbumAssistant" at `http://127.0.0.1:8000/sse`. The server process ID is 56653.

```
mcp-workshop@yhwong@yhwong-desktop:~/JUN2025-MCP-Workshop/src/mcp_workshop$ python3 mcp_fs.py
[06/25/25 00:05:04] INFO Starting MCP server 'AlbumAssistant' with transport 'sse' on http://127.0.0.1:8000/sse/
INFO: Started server process [56653]
```



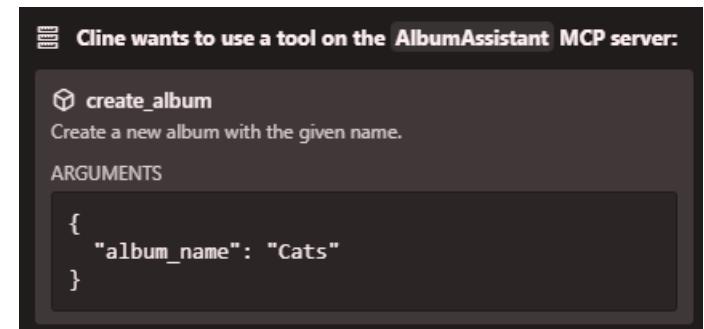
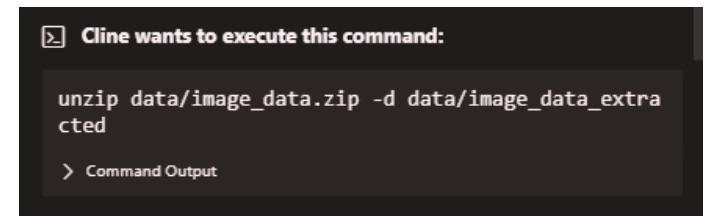
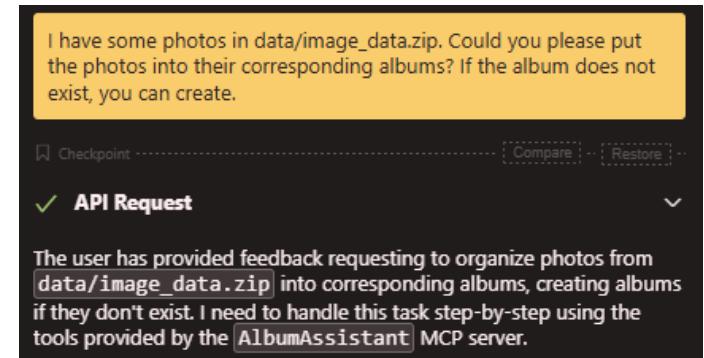
# Interact with Cline [1]

- The storage is initialized just now, we should not see any album exist.
- We have prepared some image data at data/image\_data.zip.
- In the following task, we will let LLM to handle the photos and put them in various albums.



# Interact with Cline [2]

- Here we specify the data path and ask Cline to handle them, and create albums if needed.
- Cline should be able to:
  - Unzip image data.
  - Create albums for unzipped photos.



# Interact with Cline [3]

- When Cline try to put photos into album, we expect it to fail because of the provided path.
- Solution: Ask Cline to provide absolute path.**

The "Food" album has been successfully created. Now, I will start adding images to the respective albums. I'll begin with adding the cat images to the "Cats" album. The images are `cat-g6052b543b_640.jpg` and `cat-gaf654b3a3_640.jpg` located in `data/image_data_extracted/photos/`. I'll add the first image now.

Cline wants to use a tool on the `AlbumAssistant` MCP server:

`add_image_to_album`  
Add an image to the specified album.

ARGUMENTS

```
{  
    "album_name": "Cats",  
    "filepath": "data/image_data_extracted/photos/cat-g6052b543b_640.jpg"  
}
```

Response

File `data/image_data_extracted/photos/cat-g6052b543b_640.jpg` does not exist.

# Interact with Cline [4]

- After instructing Cline to provide absolute path, the photos should be moved into the folder successfully.

⑦ Cline has a question:

I'm having trouble adding images to the albums using the provided tools due to file path issues. The images are extracted to `data/image_data_extracted/photos/`, but the AlbumAssistant tool cannot access them. Could you confirm if there is a specific directory or method I should use to load or add images to albums?

you should provide absolute path to the tools

Checkpoint ···

Compare ··· Restore ···

✓ API Request

The user has clarified that I should provide absolute paths to the tools when adding images to albums. I need to convert the relative path to an absolute path for the image files. Since my

☰ Cline wants to use a tool on the AlbumAssistant MCP server:

📦 add\_image\_to\_album

Add an image to the specified album.

ARGUMENTS

```
{  
  "album_name": "Cats",  
  "filepath": "/home/wyhwong/JUN2025-MCP-Workshop/data/image_data_ex  
}
```

▼ Response

Rich Display

File cat-g6052b543b\_640.jpg moved to Cats successfully.

# After Cline handled all image data

## ✓ Task Completed

I have successfully organized all photos from `data/image_data.zip` into the following albums:

- **Cats:** Contains 2 images.
- **Dogs:** Contains 3 images.
- **Family:** Contains 2 images.
- **Food:** Contains 3 images.

All images have been moved to their corresponding albums based on their content themes.

# Let's check what do we have now [1]

- Now there should be 4 albums:
  - Food
  - Family
  - Cats
  - Dogs

The screenshot shows a user interface for managing tasks and monitoring API requests.

**Task**  
What albums do I have now  
Tokens: ↑ 118.0k ↓ 952  
Cache: → 93.1k  
Progress bar: 48.9k / 131.1k

**API Request**  
To address the user's request about listing their current albums, I need to use the tools provided by the connected MCP servers. The AlbumAssistant server offers a tool called `list_albums`, which is designed to list all albums in the storage path. This tool seems directly relevant to the task at hand.  
Checking the parameters for the `list_albums` tool, I see that it requires no input parameters. Since there are no required parameters to infer or gather from the user, I can proceed with using this tool immediately to get the list of albums.  
My next step is to invoke the `use_mcp_tool` with the `list_albums` tool from the AlbumAssistant server to retrieve the list of albums for the user.

**Cline wants to use a tool on the AlbumAssistant MCP server:**

`list_albums`  
List all albums in the storage path.

**Response**  
['Food', 'Family', 'Cats', 'Dogs']

Let's check what do we have now [2]

Show me an image in Cats

Checkpoint ··· [ Compare ] ··· [ Restore ]

✓ API Request

The user has requested to see an image from the 'Cats' album. To fulfill this request, I need to use the tools provided by the AlbumAssistant MCP server. The relevant tool is `list_images`, which will allow me to retrieve a list of images in the specified album. Once I have the list, I can then use the `load_image` tool to display a specific image.

- Now we finally see a cute cat in the album!



A Taste of MCP Server [3]

# Today Scenario

- In the last part of this workshop, we will write our own MCP server, and again use it to interact with some image data prepared in the repository.
- Learning objective:
  - Learn to set up a MCP server.
  - Write some code.

# Implement mcp\_db.py

```
mcp_db.py x  
src > mcp_workshop > mcp_db.py > ...  
    You, 1 minute ago | 1 author (You)  
1 > from fastmcp import FastMCP ...  
11 )  
12  
13  
14 DB_URL = f"postgresql://{env.POSTGRES_USERNAME}:{env.POSTGRES_PASSWORD}@{env.POSTGRES_HOST}:{env.POSTGRES_PORT}/{env.POSTGRES_DATABASE}"  
15 ENGINE = create_engine(DB_URL)  
16 create_tables(ENGINE)  
17 SESSION_FACTORY = sessionmaker(bind=ENGINE)  
18  
19  
20 INSTRUCTIONS = """  
21 This server provides a simple interface to interact with a PostgreSQL database.  
22 Call insert_photo_description_to_database(filepath, description) to insert a photo description into the database.  
23 Call list_photo_descriptions_in_database() to list all photo descriptions in the database.  
24 Call get_photo_description_from_database(filepath) to get a photo description by its file path.  
25 """  
26  
27 #####  
28 #             Please implement your MCP server below.          #  
29 # Note:  
30 # - You only need to modify this file,                      #  
31 #     all other files should be left unchanged.            #  
32 # - Try to start from the INSTRUCTIONS above,           #  
33 #     and implement the mentioned functions.            #  
34 # - You may refer to mcp_fs.py as an example to write a MCP server.      #  
35 #####
```

```
from fastmcp import FastMCP  
from sqlalchemy import create_engine  
from sqlalchemy.orm import sessionmaker  
  
from mcp_workshop import env  
from mcp_workshop.postgres.schema import create_tables  
from mcp_workshop.postgres.utils import (  
    get_photo_description,  
    insert_photo_description_record,  
    load_all_photo_descriptions,  
)
```

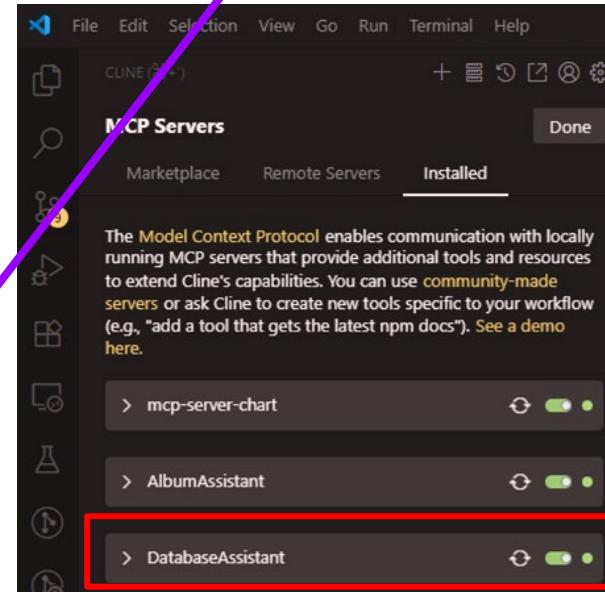
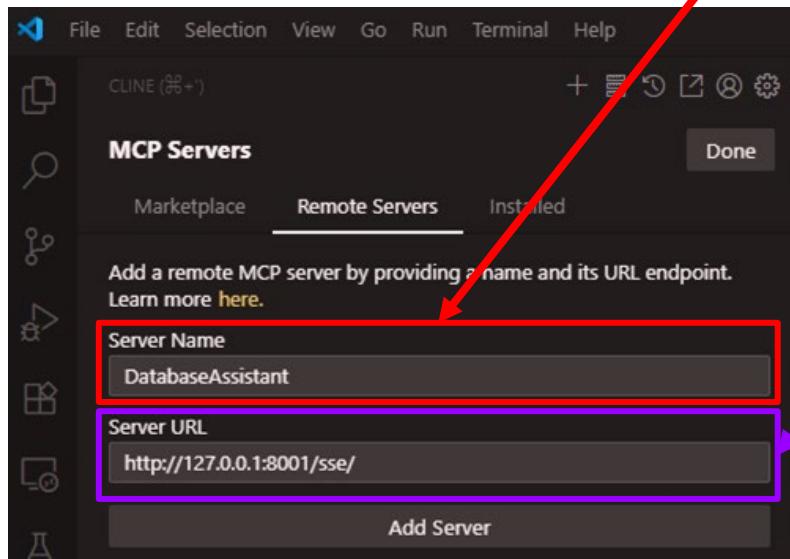
We have implemented the needed functions for you already.

Description of the MCP server.

Our hint for your code writing.

# After Implementation

```
mcp-workshopwyhwong@wyhwong-desktop:~/JUN2025-MCP-Workshop/src/mcp_workshop$ python3 mcp_pg.py
[06/25/25 23:31:10] INFO Starting MCP server DatabaseAssistant with transport 'sse' or http://127.0.0.1:8001/sse/
INFO: Started server process [34310]
INFO: Waiting for application startup.
INFO: Application startup complete.
INFO: Uvicorn running on http://127.0.0.1:8001 (Press CTRL+C to quit)
INFO: 127.0.0.1:58238 - "GET /sse/ HTTP/1.1" 200 OK
```



# Interact with MCP Server

- Now we can let Cline complete tasks like writing description for the cat photo we just saw.
- And keep the description in our PostgreSQL database through MCP server.

Write a description for this cat and keep it in the database

Checkpoint ··· Compare ··· Restore ✓ API Request

I'm in PLAN MODE now, and the user has requested to write a description for a cat image and store it in a database. My goal is to gather information and architect a solution before presenting a plan to the user. I need to confirm which cat image the user is referring to, as I previously loaded an image from the 'Cats' album ('Cats/cat-gaf654b3a3\_640.jpg'). Additionally, I need to understand how to interact with the database for storing the description.

...

Cline wants to use a tool on the DatabaseAssistant MCP server:

insert\_photo\_description  
Insert a photo description into the database.

ARGUMENTS

```
{  
  "filepath": "Cats/cat-gaf654b3a3_640.jpg",  
  "description": "A delightful cat showcasing a curious gaze, lounging comfortably in a warm environment."  
}
```

...

✓ Task Completed

I've successfully stored a new description for the cat image located at 'Cats/cat-gaf654b3a3\_640.jpg' in the database. The description is: "A delightful cat showcasing a curious gaze, lounging comfortably in a warm environment."

~ END ~

Q & A