TruthAPI

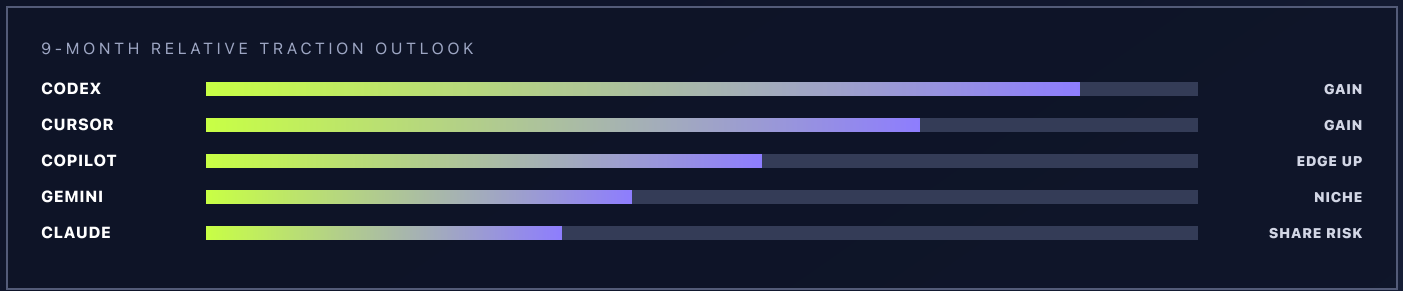
ISSUE 001 · JULY 2026

THE TOKEN REPORT

# The coding-agent race just changed.

Eight weeks of user evidence across Claude Code, Codex, Cursor, GitHub Copilot and Gemini reveal a new competitive axis: not who writes the best code—but who can be trusted with the longest leash.

**What thousands of builders already learned.** Inside your agent's reasoning loop. Updated daily.



THE BIG SHIFT

# Capability is abundant. Control is scarce.

The last eight weeks were not a simple model horse race. Every major coding system gained power. The surprise was what users started complaining about once that power arrived.

Cloud agents, nested subagents, automatic routing and million-token models expanded what developers could delegate. But the conversation moved just as quickly toward context loss, runaway usage, invisible quotas, session failures and output that looked right while being wrong.

The durable advantage is shifting from model capability to **operational trust**: durable state, observable execution, predictable cost, stable releases and safe rollback.

> "Users cannot reliably predict the outcome, cost or collateral behavior of a long-running coding-agent task."
>
> THE TOKEN REPORT, BASE-CASE THESIS

IN THIS ISSUE



| 5 | 8 | 70% | 60% |
|---|---|---|---|
| SYSTEMS TRACKED | WEEKS OF EVIDENCE | CODEX GAIN PROBABILITY | CLAUDE SHARE-LOSS RISK |

01 · CURRENT LEADER, HIGHEST VOLATILITY

# Claude Code: power without a governor

9-MONTH CALL
**RELATIVE SHARE RISK**
60% probability of losing traction

MAY 31 **tool-call regressions** → JUN 11 **agent view lands** → JUN 29 **quality backlash** → JUL 1–10 **cost + control waves**

## WHAT SURPRISED USERS

**Orchestration at startling scale.** Users observed five-level nested subagents and 105 agents in a single session. The new agent view turned the terminal into a control plane.

**Accuracy can pay for itself.** One practitioner attributed a 40% cost reduction to improved accuracy:

> "And now my costs are actually down 40%, presumably because of the better accuracy."
>
> CLAUDE CODE DISCORD USER · JUL 6

## WHAT DISAPPOINTED THEM

**Release velocity outran reliability.** Malformed tool calls, retry loops, timeout ceilings and ignored project rules repeatedly made interactive work unusable.

**Long sessions lost the plot.** Reports described circular reasoning, compaction loss, runaway subagents and unauthorized actions.

UNSOLVED PAIN

### Predictable control of autonomous execution

Bound the agents, tokens, permissions and behavioral drift—without neutering the system.

**THE BET:** Claude remains top-tier, but Anthropic must trade some feature velocity for regression discipline, hard spend controls and reliable rollback.

SOURCE NOTE: TRUTHAPI RECORDS [C1–C6]

02 · THE MOMENTUM LEADER

# Codex: the strongest gain setup

9-MONTH CALL

**LIKELY GAINER**

70% probability of gaining traction

MAY 24 **usability praise** → JUN 10–15 **value + one-shot wins** → JUN 23 **Windows regressions** → JUL 7–9 **5.6 surge, context cap**

## WHAT SURPRISED USERS

**It finished work that rivals drifted away from.** Users reported plans drifting in Claude while Codex completed the implementation in one shot.

**The $20 plan went further than expected.** Code-review users praised allowance value; bankable limit resets felt like an effective price cut.

**250–353k**

approximate CLI context reported by users—even when 1M was available through the API

## WHAT DISAPPOINTED THEM

**Windows and desktop state were brittle.** Missing sessions, mixed queues, broken model pickers and indefinite “Working…” states made production use risky.

**The context ceiling felt artificial.**

> “That’s basically a deal breaker for my research flow—one question often uses 200–300k tokens.”
>
> DISCORD USER · JUL 9

UNSOLVED PAIN

### Durable long-horizon context

Keep tools, task state and history intact across sessions, compaction, platforms and updates.

**THE BET:** Codex becomes the usage momentum leader if OpenAI exposes full context and fixes session continuity before release churn recreates Claude’s trust problem.

SOURCE NOTE: TRUTHAPI RECORDS [01–07]

03 · THE HARNESS BECOMES A PLATFORM

# Cursor: the integrated-team bet

9-MONTH CALL
**LIKELY GAINER**
60% probability of gaining traction

MAY **harness leadership** → JUN 18 **cloud-agent pivot** → JUN 24 **Windows lag fixed** → JUL **SDK gap exposed**

## WHAT SURPRISED USERS

**Cloud agents became operational.** Reusable VMs, visible terminals, `/in-cloud`, parallel branches, local handoff and PR babysitting moved beyond remote chat.

**The context stack handled real scale.**

> "Subagents have been great… Mine is over 100k LoC and connected to three other services."
>
> R/CURSOR USER · JUL 8

## WHAT DISAPPOINTED THEM

**Composer's speed sometimes displaced reasoning.** Users saw lazy automation on tasks that required deliberate implementation.

**Headless did not equal IDE.** The same task took about 3m15s in the IDE and 26 minutes through the SDK—with no semantic searches and 122 edit calls.

**~8×** reported headless slowdown versus the Cursor IDE

UNSOLVED PAIN
### Predictable usage economics
Translate models, cache, fast mode and tokens into productive hours and a believable bill.

**THE BET:** Cursor wins teams that value an integrated cloud-agent environment—but opaque economics leave an opening for cheaper CLIs and enterprise bundles.

04 · DISTRIBUTION MEETS AGENT MODE

# Copilot: the default, not yet the favorite

9-MONTH CALL

**EDGE UP / STABLE**

55% probability of gaining traction

MAY 19 **plan-mode app** → JUN 1 **pricing shock** → JUN 2–17 **app + routing + local** → JUL 1 **new CLI ships**

## WHAT SURPRISED USERS

**A non-code workflow became an application.** Cassidy Williams dragged a Photoshop template into plan mode, described the workflow and generated a functioning desktop tool.

> "For this small little problem, I can now just click a button."
>
> CASSIDY WILLIAMS · MAY 19

**Copilot became a multi-model surface.** Local models, automatic routing and model swarms pushed it well past completion.

## WHAT DISAPPOINTED THEM

**June pricing damaged trust.** Reports described roughly 3× renewal increases and a shift toward less predictable consumption billing.

**The agent workflow remained fragmented.** Plan/agent switching was cumbersome; shared CLI tools initially raised review cost while finding fewer issues.

UNSOLVED PAIN

### A predictable cost-to-quality relationship

Show users what routing chose, what a task will cost and why agent mode is better than completion.

**THE BET:** Copilot gains enterprise seats through GitHub distribution, but power-user preference stays elsewhere unless the agent experience becomes coherent.

SOURCE NOTE: TRUTHAPI RECORDS [P1–P7]

05 · THE BEAUTIFUL WILDCARD

# Gemini: specialist upside, trust deficit

9-MONTH CALL

**NICHE GAIN**

40% probability of generaliist gains

LATE MAY
**UI breakout**

→ MAY–JUN
**Antigravity transition**

→ JUL 1
**beats Codex in niche**

→ JUL 8–10
**speed up, limits persist**

## WHAT SURPRISED USERS

**Frontend aesthetics looked designed, not generated.** Practitioners praised its layouts, visual judgment and escape from default "AI UI."

**A real niche win over Codex.**

> "Gemini is beating Codex hands down by a huge margin."
>
> DISCORD USER, SMALL GRAPHICAL APPS · JUL 1

## WHAT DISAPPOINTED THEM

**Beautiful pages contained invented facts.** One evaluation praised the visual result while finding nonexistent integrations and fabricated workflow claims.

**Quota reality did not match the meter.** A single-page project consumed a large share of a weekly allowance and still hit quota despite visible capacity.

> "The design… looks fantastic, but the information is hallucinated in a lot of different places."
>
> COLE MEDIN · MAY 22

UNSOLVED PAIN

### Grounded correctness

Preserve the visual imagination; remove fabricated repository facts and architectural assumptions.

**THE BET:** Gemini earns a place in multi-model stacks for UI and visual work. Generalist leadership waits on grounding, state recovery and sane quotas.

SOURCE NOTE: TRUTHAPI RECORDS [G1–G7]

BASE CASE · THROUGH APRIL 2027

# Everyone grows. Relative share diverges.

This forecast concerns practitioner preference and serious active usage—not bundled seats or revenue. Product launches can overturn it; current trajectory sets the prior.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CODEX** | **CURSOR** | **COPILOT** | **GEMINI** | **CLAUDE** |
| **70% GAIN** | **60% GAIN** | **55% GAIN** | **40% GAIN** | **60% LOSS RISK** |
| Switcher momentum, value and less drift. Fixable product debt. | Harness, cloud execution and workflow data compound. | Enterprise distribution outpaces developer preference. | Specialist UI adoption; generalist trust remains weak. | Still elite; reliability threatens relative share. |

### WHAT WOULD BREAK THE FORECAST?

- **Claude:** hard spend/agent controls plus a stability-first release cycle.
- **Gemini:** repository grounding paired with Google Cloud and Android distribution.
- **Copilot:** transparent routing that demonstrably improves quality per dollar.
- **Cursor:** a simpler, credible pricing meter—or a pricing backlash.
- **Codex:** full context and durable sessions—or recurring release regressions.

THE DECIDING VARIABLE

## Operational trust

The market will not be won by the highest benchmark. It will be won by the first system to combine capability with durable memory, predictable cost, observable execution, safe rollback and stable behavior.

DON'T PICK A RELIGION. DESIGN A PORTFOLIO.

# The stack for the next quarter

PRIMARY IMPLEMENTER

## Codex or Claude Code

Use Codex where session stability is proven; keep Claude for deep reasoning and orchestration with explicit agent and spend caps.

INTEGRATED TEAM WORK

## Cursor

Best fit for codebase context, local-to-cloud handoff, background agents and pull-request flow. Track spend outside the product.

ENTERPRISE DEFAULT

## GitHub Copilot

Exploit repository and policy integration. Benchmark routed models and agent mode against a simpler completion baseline.

VISUAL SPECIALIST

## Gemini

Delegate UI exploration and graphical apps. Never accept product facts, APIs or architecture without independent verification.

### FIVE RULES FOR OPERATORS

1. **Set a token and wall-clock budget before launch.**
   Stop conditions are part of the prompt, not an afterthought.
2. **Separate planning, implementation and review models.**
   Cross-model review catches shared harness blind spots.
3. **Persist state in the repository.**
   Assume the next session remembers nothing.
4. **Require evidence-bearing completion.**
   Tests, diffs, logs and uncertainty—not "done."
5. **Measure the system, not the demo.**
   Time-to-verified-output, repairs, regressions and total cost.

WHAT BUILDERS ARE DOING NOW

# Where coding agents are actually going

The common use case is no mystery. The important signal is what happens when builders connect code execution to a measurable outcome.

PROVEN NOW

214
LINKED OBSERVATIONS

## Bounded implementation

Give the agent a concrete change and an objective check it can run.

| | |
|---|---|
| FEATURE | Build against acceptance tests. |
| BUG | Fix a reproducible failure. |
| REFACTOR | Change structure while behavior stays green. |

**Method:** verification loop · 119 observations
**Problem defeated:** false completion · 41 observations

EMERGING

73
LINKED OBSERVATIONS

## Closed-loop computational research

The agent proposes, runs, measures and revises—not merely writes the research code.

| | |
|---|---|
| BRAIN2QWERTY | An Auto Research workflow found word-error-rate improvements beyond conventional hyperparameter optimization. |
| SOCIAL SCIENCE | Frontier coding agents reproduced computational findings as reliable workflow executors. |

**Signal:** strongest for Claude Code, with additional Codex research evidence.

FRINGE, BUT REAL

1–3
SIGNALS PER CASE

## Coding escapes software

**GENEALOGY**
Structured family-history and archival auto-research.

**POKER**
Solver bots used to test reasoning and optimization.

**EDGE CAMERAS**
An MCP server running directly on an AXIS IP camera.

**Pattern:** these differ by system. The interface determines the edge.

THE BIGGER SHIFT

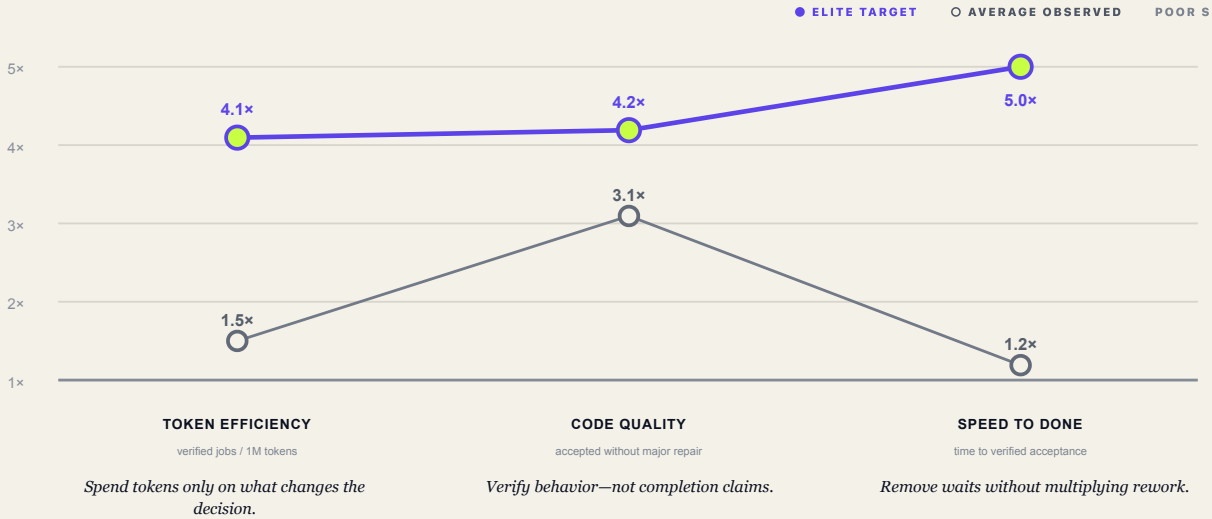
## Code is becoming the agent's universal actuator.

The product is no longer always software. Sometimes software is simply how the agent reaches the outcome.

EXPLORE WHAT BUILDERS ARE LEARNING → GETTRUTHAPI.COM

SEE THE GAP. CLOSE THE GAP.

# The best builders are up to 4× better than average. Here's how.




*Spend tokens only on what changes the decision.*

*Verify behavior—not completion claims.*

*Remove waits without multiplying rework.*

Research-normalized ranges. "Elite" is a target—not a measured percentile. Count only verified work.

**THE LEVEL-UP LOOP** — Move one verified job at a time

| 1 · SPECIFY | 2 · RETRIEVE | 3 · SEPARATE | 4 · MEASURE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Make "done" executable.** Write the job, constraints and acceptance check before the agent starts. | **Load only decision-changing context.** Bring current prior art and the smallest complete slice of the codebase. | **Builder ≠ judge.** Use an independent review pass—preferably a different model or harness. | **Count verified outcomes.** Track accepted jobs per million tokens and hour, including repair work. |

**START HERE:** Separate implementation from verification. It improves judgment before you change a model, prompt or budget.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE CHANGES

# The gap is becoming measurable

Better models help. Better operating systems for agents compound the gain.

CONTEXT

## −60% tokens

### Retrieve less. Resolve more.

FastContext reduced token use while improving issue resolution by 5.5%.

arXiv:2606.14066

ARCHITECTURE

## +14% pass

### Partition around dependencies.

Co-Coder reached 2.10× speed and 35% lower API cost at the same time.

arXiv:2606.00953

VERIFICATION

## 12–15% pass

### Hard migrations expose false confidence.

ScarfBench found only one fully behaviorally equivalent result in 204 tasks.

arXiv:2605.06754

COORDINATION

## 4.8× faster

### Remove waits—not safeguards.

MPAC cut coordination overhead by 95% in controlled multi-agent review.

arXiv:2604.09744

THE PATTERN

## Elite systems spend less context, verify more behavior and coordinate around dependencies.

That is the opportunity shown on the previous page.

HOW THIS ISSUE WAS MADE

# TruthAPI evidence, editorial judgment

The evidence window runs from May 18 through July 13, 2026. TruthAPI searches covered Reddit, Discord, GitHub issues and releases, YouTube, blogs and Twitter. Broad scans identified the market cohort; focused scans separated praise, surprise, regressions, cost, context and reliability; full records verified the quotations below. Cross-source waves were used to locate inflection points.

WHAT THOUSANDS OF BUILDERS ALREADY LEARNED

Six practitioner signals behind this issue

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **105** agents observed in one Claude session | **40%** lower cost attributed to better accuracy | **250–353k** Codex CLI context reported by users |
| **100k+** LoC in a Cursor user's multi-service project | **~8×** reported Cursor headless slowdown vs IDE | **~3×** Copilot renewal increase reported by users |

### CLAUDE [C]

C1 agent view · C2 nested subagents · C3 40% cost report · C4 malformed tool calls · C5 timeout regression · C6 quality regression

### CODEX [O]

O1 usability comparison · O2 lower-drift one-shot · O3 $20 plan value · O4 banked resets · O5 Windows regressions · O6 context deal-breaker · O7 indefinite working state

### CURSOR [U]

U1 cloud-agent release · U2 100k-LoC workflow · U3 config awareness · U4 Windows performance fix · U5 speed/reasoning tradeoff · U6 headless slowdown · U7 plan-value concern

### COPILOT [P]

P1 plan-mode application · P2 model swarm · P3 local models · P4 redesigned CLI · P5 pricing change · P6 plan/agent UX · P7 code-review regression

### GEMINI [G]

G1 graphical-app comparison · G2 full-stack/UI praise · G3 visual quality · G4 hallucination/quota evaluation · G5 crash/state loss · G6 Antigravity downgrade · G7 rate-limit latency

### LIMITATIONS

These records are directional qualitative evidence, not a representative survey. The "top five" reflect visibility, not audited share. Model sentiment can be conflated with harness quality. Forecast probabilities express editorial confidence, not measured frequencies.

**REPRODUCIBILITY**

The exact TruthAPI queries, selected record IDs and processed conclusions are preserved in `findings/ai-coding-systems-truthapi-research-log.md`.

THE TOKEN REPORT

## Evidence, connected.

First edition · Produced by TruthAPI · gettruthapi.com

WHAT WE CANVASSED AND ANALYZED

# Not a handful of anecdotes. A connected evidence field.

The findings began with broad market scans, narrowed into product-specific use cases and failures, then tested against current waves and contradictory practitioner claims.

**39**
structured TruthAPI summary queries

**4,473**
ranked result slots returned for relevance processing

**2,262**
unique records in the original 33-query refresh

**81**
current evidence waves analyzed

## THE QUERY DESIGN

- **4 broad scans** established leaders, trajectory, surprises and disappointments.
- **24 category scans** compared pain, effective, emerging and fringe use across the ecosystem and five systems.
- **5 trajectory scans** tested the product calls directly.
- **6 challenge queries** examined a senior practitioner's Claude, Codex, Cursor, Copilot and Gemini claims.

## THE CONNECTED CORPUS

| | |
|---|---|
| **1,700** Hugging Face models | **739** YouTube videos |
| **667** arXiv papers | **193** GitHub repositories |
| **150** blog domains | **121** podcast episodes |
| **77** X accounts | **28** Discord channels |
| **14** subreddits | **23** Hacker News threads |

**WHAT COUNTED**

**Repeated evidence over isolated heat.** Direct reports, reproducible artifacts, releases, research and cross-source waves carried more weight.

**Contradictions stayed visible.** Product capability, harness quality, practitioner preference and market share were not treated as the same claim.

**Weak claims were excluded.** Suspicious acquisition and user-count claims did not enter the conclusions.

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

# Probe the evidence.

Ask the question you really care about. Put it into TruthAPI and inspect what builders, repositories, research and product changes say now.

**01** Show the strongest current evidence that contradicts Claude Code's agentic-workflow lead.

**02** Compare Claude implementation + Codex review with the reverse workflow. Where does each fail?

**03** Find the strongest real-world case for GitHub Copilot among advanced practitioners—not bundled seats.

**04** What advantages does Cursor have beyond model choice? Separate the harness from the underlying model.

**05** Where does Gemini beat Claude or Codex today? Return concrete tasks, artifacts and counterevidence.

**06** Which conclusions in this report have changed since July 13, 2026—and what new evidence changed them?

THE REPORT IS A STARTING POINT

## Ask the next question at TruthAPI.

Current evidence. Connected context. Returned inside your agent's reasoning loop.

PROBE THE EVIDENCE → GETTRUTHAPI.COM

REPRODUCIBILITY NOTE

The research archive preserves the 33-query manifest, 33 raw summary responses, current-wave response, timing records, source inventory, processed analysis and the six-query practitioner-feedback audit. Counts above describe returned evidence—not unique people, audited market share or controlled benchmark trials.