

# Claude works faster when it lives inside your files.

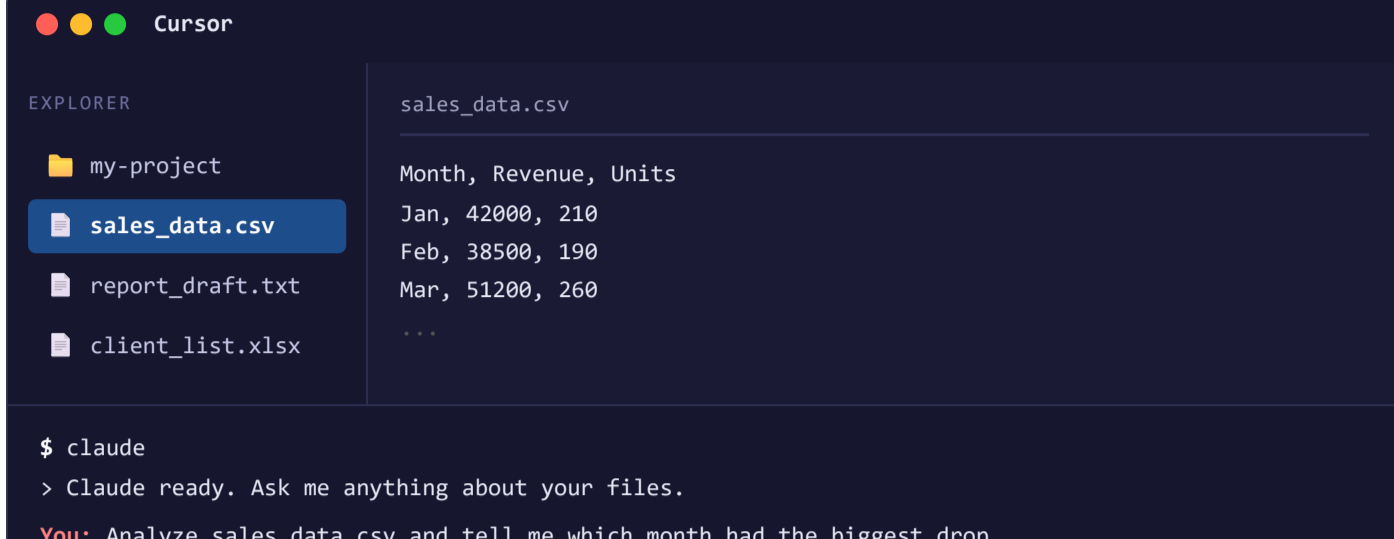
This guide sets you up in Cursor so Claude can read, write, and work with your documents directly. No more copy-pasting. Setup takes about 15 minutes.

## STEP 0 · THE TOOL

### What is Cursor, and why use it?

Cursor is a free text editor used by developers worldwide. For our purposes, it's where you open your files and talk to Claude in the same window.

Claude can see what's in your files, suggest edits, run analyses, and create new documents without you copying and pasting anything. It's the difference between showing someone a photo of your data versus handing them the actual file.



## ONE-TIME SETUP · 4 STEPS

### Get set up in about 15 minutes

- 1 **Download Node.js** at [nodejs.org](https://nodejs.org). It's free. Install it like any other app: next, next, finish.
- 2 **Download Cursor** at [cursor.com](https://cursor.com). It's free. Install it like any other app.
- 3 **Install Claude Code.**

#### Windows:

1. Press **Win + R**, type `powershell`, press Enter
2. Paste the command below and press Enter:

```
Set-ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned -Scope CurrentUser
```

3. A confirmation appears. Type the letter **Y** and press Enter
4. Paste the command below and press Enter:

```
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

5. Wait for it to finish

#### Mac:

1. Press **Cmd + Space**, type `Terminal`, press Enter
2. Paste the command below and press Enter:

```
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

3. Wait for it to finish

- 4 **Start Claude.** Open Cursor, go to **View** → **Terminal**, type `claude` and press Enter. Sign in with your Anthropic account when prompted. Claude is ready.

```
$ claude
> Welcome to Claude Code! How can I help you today?
```

## YOUR FIRST TASK

### Analyze a spreadsheet

Open the folder where your file lives (File > Open Folder), then start Claude in the terminal. Now Claude can see your files directly. Type your question, referencing the file by name:

```
→ "Look at sales_data.csv. What are the top 3 patterns you notice? Write a 3-sentence summary I can share with my manager."
```

Claude reads the file directly and responds. Ask follow-ups naturally:

```
→ "Now write a short email with these findings, addressed to Sarah."
```

```
→ "Save the summary as a new file called report_may.txt."
```

No copying, no pasting. Claude works in your folder.

## KEEP GOING

### Other prompts to try

```
→ "Read client_list.csv and tell me which clients we haven't contacted in over 30 days."
```

```
→ "Look at report_draft.txt and rewrite the executive summary to be under 100 words."
```

```
→ "Create a new file called action_items.txt with the 5 most urgent next steps from this data."
```

```
→ "What questions should I be asking about this data that I'm not asking yet?"
```

## LEVEL UP

### Give Claude a memory: Obsidian

Every time you close the terminal and reopen it, Claude starts fresh. No memory of your previous conversations, your company, or the decisions you've made. Think of it like a whiteboard: brilliant while it's open, blank when you close it.

Obsidian is a free note-taking app that stores files on your computer. Connected to Claude, it gives Claude a memory that persists across every session.

- 1 **Download Obsidian** at [obsidian.md](https://obsidian.md). It's free. Install it like any other app.
- 2 **Create a vault.** When Obsidian opens, click "Create new vault." Name it something like *my-claude-memory* and save it somewhere you'll remember.
- 3 **Create a claude.md file inside the vault.** Click the "New note" icon and name it *claude.md*. This is where you write context about yourself, your work, and your goals so Claude can read it every session. Start simple:

```
# About me
I work in [your role] at [your company].
My main focus right now is [your current project].

# Decisions we've made
- [Add notes from past Claude sessions here]
```

- 4 **Tell Claude where your vault is.** In your Cursor terminal, start Claude and run this once:

```
$ claude
You: Before we start, read the file at [path to your vault]/claude.md and use it as context for our session.
```

**At MakerSquare**, we show you how to automate this so Claude loads your memory automatically every time you open a session.

### Want the full setup, applied to your job?

At MakerSquare, you spend 2 weeks learning this with a cohort of peers. You leave with Claude configured for your specific role, 10+ ready-to-use prompts, Obsidian memory set up, and the ability to build simple tools without writing a single line of code.

Cohort 1 starts July 2026 · Austin, TX

~~\$5,999~~ **\$3,999**

Reserve your spot →