WHO USES AI CODING AGENTS?

# Five leaders. Five different markets.

Claude Code, Codex, Cursor, GitHub Copilot and Gemini / Antigravity are often ranked as one market. Their strongest users—and the jobs they hire them for—are materially different.

THE FINDING

**Claude Code and Codex lead the high-agency builder market.** Copilot leads enterprise distribution. Cursor owns the interactive IDE bridge. Gemini wins where Google adjacency, visual work and available capacity matter.

THE FIVE USER POPULATIONS

# Same category. Different jobs.

## Claude Code

HIGH-AGENCY BUILDERS

Senior engineers, technical founders, small startups, researchers and specialized-agent builders.

Architecture · planning · difficult refactors · autonomous execution · custom agents

## OpenAI Codex

EXECUTION AT SCALE

Professional developers, high-volume builders, parallel-agent operators and an expanding set of business users.

Implementation · background workers · review · automation · role-specific workflows

## Cursor

INTERACTIVE PRODUCT BUILDERS

IDE-first engineers, frontend developers, PMs, designers and lightly technical founders.

Targeted edits · UI iteration · repo navigation · plan-to-build workflows

## GitHub Copilot

DISTRIBUTED ENTERPRISE TEAMS

Large organizations, centrally managed developers, students and conventional IDE users.

Completion · PR review · issue-to-PR · security remediation · managed rollout

## Gemini / Antigravity

GOOGLE-ADJACENT EXPERIMENTERS

Google-stack developers, visual builders, students and users seeking speed or available capacity.

UI generation · small apps · prototypes · Google Cloud · secondary-agent capacity

**The market is multi-tool.** Serious builders frequently use Cursor for interactive work, Claude for planning and architecture, and Codex for execution or independent review.

THERE IS NO SINGLE MARKET-SHARE NUMBER

# Share depends on what you count.

Registered users, active users, paid seats, companies with one user, detected commits and intensive agent sessions are different denominators. Product overlap is substantial.

### INTENSIVE AGENTIC USAGE

| | |
|---|---|
| 01 | Codex / Claude Code |
| 02 | Cursor |
| 03 | GitHub Copilot |
| 04 | Gemini / Antigravity |

### ENTERPRISE SEAT DISTRIBUTION

| | |
|---|---|
| 01 | GitHub Copilot |
| 02 | Cursor |
| 03 | Claude Code |
| 04 | Codex |
| 05 | Gemini / Antigravity |

### HIGH-AGENCY SYSTEM BUILDERS

| | |
|---|---|
| 01 | Claude Code |
| 02 | Codex |
| 03 | Cursor |
| 04 | Gemini / Antigravity |
| 05 | GitHub Copilot |

| 7M | ~2M | 1M+ | 56% |
|---|---|---|---|
| reported Codex users | last reported Claude Code users | reported Cursor daily users | Copilot usage at 10K+ firms |
| July 2026 | February 2026 | March 2026 | survey respondents |

**Directional—not audited share.** The first three figures come from different dates and definitions. The Copilot percentage is from a sophisticated engineering audience, not the entire developer population.

WHAT SURVIVED THE EVIDENCE

# The wedge is clear.

For builders making consequential choices about architecture, methods and open-source components, the center of gravity is **Claude Code and Codex.**

That is not the entire coding-assistant market. It is the highest-value initial market for an evidence layer that improves research, planning and design.

### PRACTITIONER SURVEY

Claude Code became the most-used tool among 906 Pragmatic Engineer respondents. Usage reached 75% at 1–10-person companies; Copilot reached 56% at 10K+ organizations.

Pragmatic Engineer →

### REPORTED USER TRAJECTORY

Codex reached a reported 7M users in July. Claude Code's last cited figure was roughly 2M in February. Definitions and dates are not equivalent.

Latent Space →

### RESEARCHER COHORT

Among quantitative social scientists who regularly used coding agents, 86% reported Claude Code and 31% Codex. Only 20% of the surveyed cohort used coding agents regularly.

Anthropic Research →

### REPOSITORY FOOTPRINT

An academic scan found Claude Code leading detected agents with 886,122 commits across 17,295 projects through April 2026.

Underlying research indexed by TruthAPI →

**METHOD** Ten TruthAPI scans returned 3,000 ranked evidence slots across events, objects and documentation. Claims were separated by denominator; ambiguous records—including a likely conflation of GitHub reach with Copilot users—were excluded.

ASK THE QUESTION YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT

## Probe the evidence with TruthAPI.

GETTRUTHAPI.COM →