

The AI field guide

✦ CONNECTING

01 API

A defined interface that lets software request data or actions from another system.

02 MCP

A protocol through which AI applications and servers can exchange tools, resources, and prompts.

03 Connector

An integration that handles access and translates between the connected systems.

04 Webhook

An event notification delivered to an endpoint, often used to trigger a workflow.

05 Integration

The overall connection between systems, including data flow, access, and failure handling.

✦ DOING THE WORK

06 Tool

A callable capability, such as searching documents, running a calculation, or updating a record.

07 Skill

Reusable instructions and supporting resources for doing a particular kind of work.

08 Agent

A model-driven system that selects steps or tools toward a task within defined limits.

09 Workflow

The sequence of steps, decisions, and handoffs that moves work toward a result.

10 Automation

Execution started or repeated by a trigger or schedule with less manual intervention.

✦ PACKAGING & REMEMBERING

11 Plugin

A product-specific package that may bundle tools, instructions, or integrations.

12 Extension

A product-specific addition to an application's capabilities or interface.

13 Context window

The bounded information available to a model for a particular interaction.

14 Memory

Information kept outside the current interaction and retrieved for future work.

15 Artifact

A saved output, such as a document, design, report, or application.

HOW THEY FIT TOGETHER

