

COMPARISON

OpenClaw vs. Claude Code

The Wrong Tool for the Right Job



What's New / Why The Hype

✦ Claude Code

AI prefers the terminal over bespoke software

Smart enough for long-running tasks (Opus 4.5)

Hackable — people bent it far beyond coding



OpenClaw

Always running — not just when you open a terminal

Full system access, fewer guardrails

Multi-channel

Telegram, Slack, Discord, iMessage

The Future of Coding Is In The Past

```
CP/M COLD BOOT
TARBELL 63K CPM V1.3 OF 8-13-77
2-DRIVE VERSION
HOW MANY DISKS? 2
A>dir
A: MOVCPM   COM
A: SYSGEN   COM
A: ASM      COM
A: DDT      COM
A: BIOS     ASM
A: BOOT     ASM
A: DUMP     COM
A: ED       COM
A: LOAD     COM
A: PIP      COM
A: STAT     COM
A: SUBMIT   COM
A>
```



Co-Worker vs. Personal Assistant

Claude Code

For when I in front of my computer; building for clients

Clear, restricted sandbox boundaries

Anthropic sells to enterprises: they're financially incentivized to not have a security scandal

Co-worker energy

OpenClaw

For when I am on my phone

More exposed. Always running, system access

Doesn't have as clear or restricted boundaries

Real security fearbait around open-source agent frameworks

Personal assistant energy



Folder System = Configuration

The AgentSkills protocol — skills are portable across tools

✳️ ~/.claude/ (Claude Code – global)

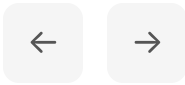
- CLAUDE.md ← global instructions & preferences
- settings.json ← permissions, model, MCPs
- skills/ ← personal SKILL.md + scripts
- commands/ ← custom slash commands
- plans/ ← saved plans
- projects/ ← per-project sessions

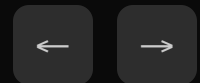
PER PROJECT REPO:

- CLAUDE.md ← project-specific overrides
- .claude/
 - skills/ ← project skills
 - settings.local.json ← scoped permissions
- committed to repo ← team-portable

🦋 ~/clawd/ (OpenClaw)

- AGENTS.md ← agent instructions
- SOUL.md ← personality
- TOOLS.md ← local env notes
- MEMORY.md ← long-term memory
- USER.md ← who you're helping
- memory/ ← daily logs
- skills/ ← SKILL.md + scripts
- config/ ← channels, cron
- .git ← version controlled





Client Repo vs. Life Repo

✳ Client Work (Claude Code)

~/clients/acme-corp/

- |— **CLAUDE.md** ← project context + conventions
- |— **.claude/**
 - |— **skills/** ← client-specific skills
 - |— **settings.local.json**
- |— **docs/** ← architecture plans, ADRs
- |— **research/** ← code research, eval
- material
- |— **meeting-notes/** ← client call notes
- |— **feedback/** ← client feedback, review
- notes
- |— **frontend/** ← git submodule / repo
- |— **backend/** ← git submodule / repo
- |— **data/** ← git submodule / repo

🦀 Life Repo (OpenClaw)

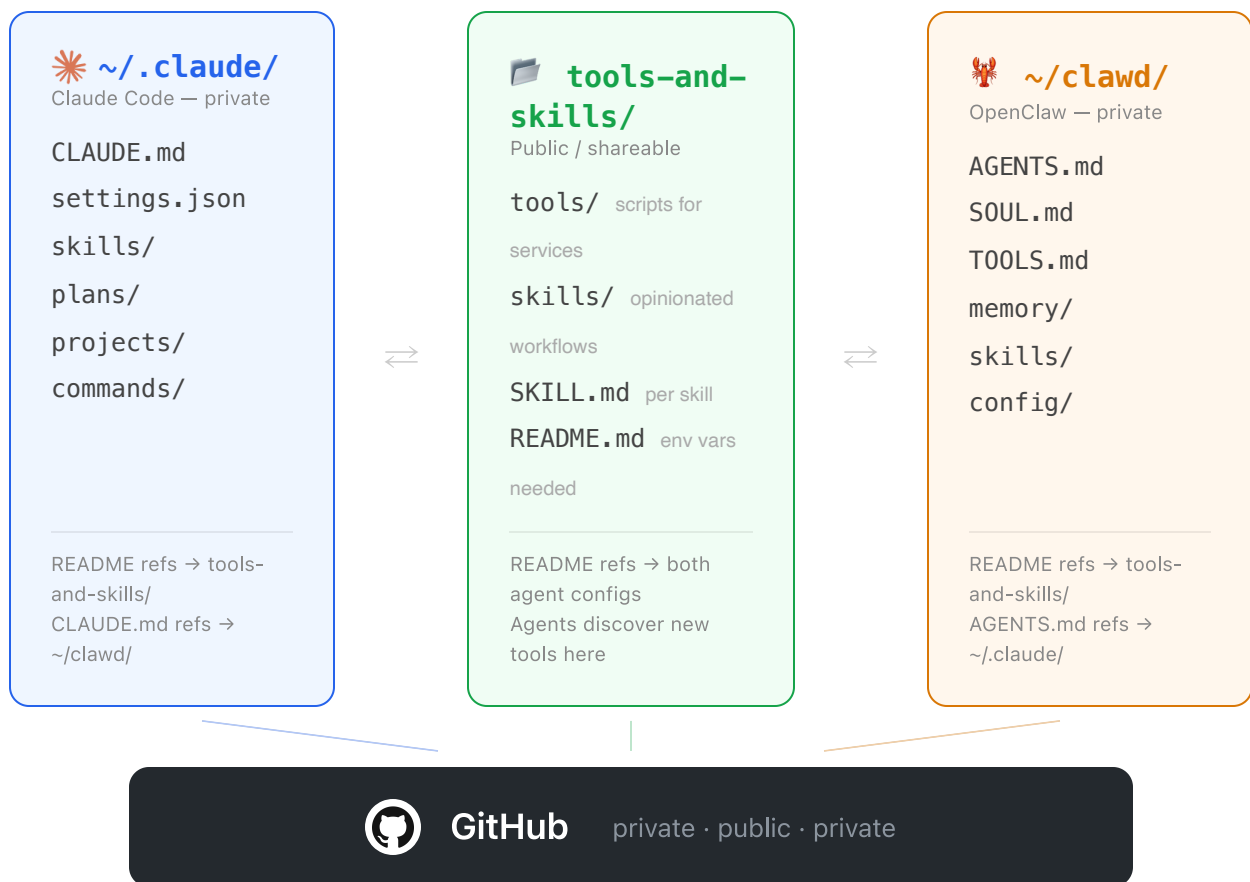
~/Documents/Life/

- |— **Claude.md** ← Agent context & conventions
- |— **Art/** ← Design assets & product ideas
- |— **Books/** ← Reading lists & highlights
- |— **Events/** ← Talk ideas & slide decks
- |— **Finances/** ← Transactions & tax PDFs
- |— **Health/** ← Medical scans & summaries
- |— **Personal/** ← Visas, residency & travel plans
- |— **Podcasts/** ← Transcripts & notes
- |— **Work/** ← Research, social media & clients



Avoid Lock-In: Commit Global Configs to GitHub

Reference each repo in your CLAUDE.md / AGENTS.md — when one agent learns or builds something, the other pulls it in.



⚠️ Secrets & passwords → local variables, never committed to GitHub



The Agent Doesn't Matter. **Your Workspace Does.**

- Use CLI tools with your agents
- Leverage Git to distribute skills and learnings across agent environments
- Spend time on folder structure — make it intuitive for an agent to traverse
- Chain of context: hyperlink to repos and specific files instead of bloating single docs
- ⚠ **Understand prompt injection — your agent has full system access**

