

The Jarvis ladder

Six rungs, from paid chat to your own agent computer. Most people stand lower than they think. Read from the bottom up and check the question on the right at every rung.

■ 06 Open, self hosted tools You also use open tools such as Hermes, which build their own skills and connect easily to WhatsApp, Signal or email.	HOW YOU KNOW Does your tool build its own skills and sit on your own channels?
□ 05 Your own agent computer Your harness runs on its own machine all the time, you reach it from your phone, and it still handles scheduled tasks when your laptop is closed.	HOW YOU KNOW Does your machine handle scheduled work while your laptop is closed?
□ 04 Your own harness You run Codex or Claude Code: an agent that can plan, use tools, operate the browser and save its own memory.	HOW YOU KNOW Do you run your own agent with tools, browser and a memory of its own?
□ 03 Autonomous cloud agent A tool like Manus works for you in the cloud, researches on its own at a fixed time and sends you the result, for example by WhatsApp.	HOW YOU KNOW Does something work for you at a fixed time while you are somewhere else?
□ 02 Apps and access rights You have connected real apps such as Photoshop, Airtable or Figma to your chat tool and allowed it read access or low risk actions there.	HOW YOU KNOW Is at least one real app connected, with rights you set on purpose?
□ 01 Chat with Thinking You pay for ChatGPT or Claude and leave Thinking on all the time, otherwise you barely notice the difference to the free chat.	HOW YOU KNOW Do you pay for chat, and does Thinking run all the time?

READ FROM THE BOTTOM UP

What makes the jump happen. Context, access, skills and checking decide more about your rung than the model you happen to use. Set clearly where an agent may read and where it may write.

Where you start today. The fastest start sits in the settings of the tool you already have: set read access, low risk actions, or always ask, before you look for a new tool.

On record: AI DeepDive "Hey Jarvis", 6 July 2026, shown live.