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Research Studio

A studio your AI builds for preparing and recording your show, by Eric Fondren

What it does

Research Studio is a set of instructions for your own AI. You hand it over, answer a few questions, and your AI builds you a studio: a private editor where you prepare episodes, and a clean screen you can record.

Each episode is a stack of cards. A card can be a note, a cited source, a bar chart, a timeline, an image or a video. Your AI does the research and saves it as cards, with the source link on each one. When you're recording, you put one card on screen at a time. Your notes stay private.

Example. Priya records a weekly video about home composting. She asks her AI, "Research whether compost should smell, and save three sources to this week's episode." Three source cards appear, each with a short summary and a link. She adds a chart of browns to greens and a 20-second clip of her own pile. While recording, she says "put the chart on screen", then "next card", then "play the video". The audience sees one clean card at a time. Her notes never show.

What you get:

- Episodes you can rename, mark as ready or recorded, and archive.
- Cards for notes, sources, charts, timelines, images and video.
- A horizontal screen for full episodes and a vertical one for short clips.
- Video controls: play, pause, jump to a time, loop and mute. Video always starts paused and muted.
- Edits stay private until you put a card on screen again.
- An export of your whole library you can keep as a backup.

What you need

Pick one of four ways to run it:

	In your AI's web app	On your own computer
Claude	A Claude artifact	An app that Claude Code builds and starts for you
ChatGPT	A ChatGPT Site	The same app, built and started by Codex

- **In the web app** is the quickest. There's nothing to install. Large videos may not fit in its storage, so you may need to pick your video file again each session. Your AI will tell you what fits.
- **On your computer** keeps every file on your machine and works with OBS. You need a Mac, Windows or Linux computer, and Claude Code or Codex. Your AI installs the one free tool it needs (Node.js) after asking you.
- **OBS (optional).** If you record with OBS, your AI connects the studio's screen to OBS. To record a horizontal and a vertical file at the same time, you also need the Aitum Stream Suite plugin for OBS.
- **Cost.** The skill is free. You need whichever Claude or ChatGPT plan you already use. Check your plan includes artifacts or Sites if you pick the web-app option.

How to start

1. Download the zip.
2. Give it to your assistant and say: **"Set up this skill using its README."**
3. Start it:
    - Claude Code: type **/research-studio**
    - Codex: type **$research-studio**
    - Claude.ai or ChatGPT: say **"Set up my research studio."**

Next time, the same command opens your studio. In Claude.ai or ChatGPT, open the chat where your studio lives and say "open my research studio".

What to expect

Your AI asks a few questions, one at a time:

1. Are you using ChatGPT or Claude?
2. Hosted, or on your own computer?
3. Do you record with OBS? (Only if it's on your computer.)

4. What is the studio for? A show name or a topic is enough.
5. Where should it keep its files? (Only if it's on your computer.)

Then it builds the studio, tests it against its own checklist, and tells you what it made, anything still missing, and how to open it. Plan on 20 to 45 minutes for the build. Add some time if you're setting up OBS.

When it's done you'll have:

- An editor with your show's name, one starter episode and a welcome card.
- A screen view (horizontal and vertical) showing "Ready when you are." until you put a card on it.
- If you use OBS: two screen sources in a new scene collection, ready to add your camera and microphone.

If you're using Claude.ai or ChatGPT, your AI gives you a short summary of your setup. Save it and paste it back next time so it can pick up where you left off.

Tips and limits

Good at

- Keeping research, sources and visuals for each episode in one place.
- Showing one idea at a time, cleanly, while you talk.
- Video you control by voice or by typing: "play", "pause", "jump to 1:20".

It won't

- Do research by itself. Your AI does the research; the studio stores and shows it.
- Generate images by itself. It saves your image ideas, and your AI makes the image.
- Start recording on its own. Your AI asks before any recording test.
- Change your existing OBS scenes or profiles. It adds its own.

Tips

- Ask your AI to say what is evidence and what is its own reading of the evidence. Check sources before you present them.
- Use MP4 video if a clip won't play.
- On your computer, the studio runs only while it's open. Say "close the studio" when you're done.
- Export your library now and then, and keep the file somewhere safe.

If it stalls

- Say "check the studio status". Your AI checks that the library and files are all there and repairs the screen pages if needed.
- If a save fails with a conflict, someone else (or another window) saved first. Ask your AI to reload and try again. Nothing is lost.
- If the screen doesn't change in OBS, ask your AI to check the OBS connection. Make sure you're capturing the screen view, not the editor.