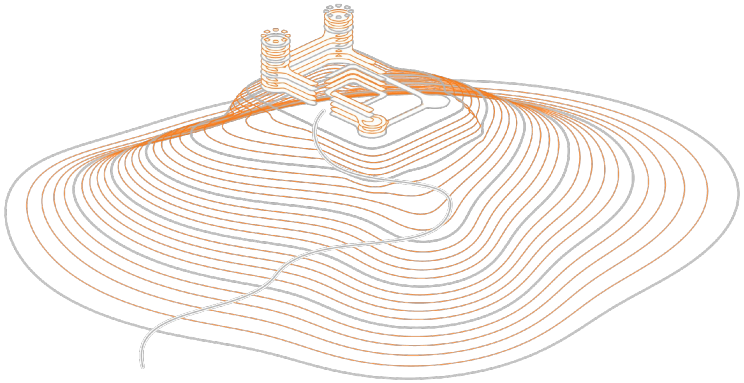
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It’s time to build, not buy

Ryan Skidmore
Developer Productivity & AI
Cloudflare

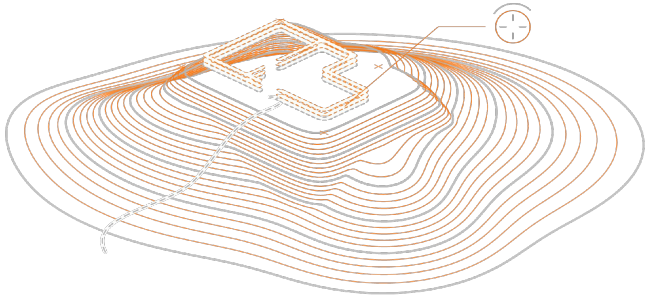
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Hands up if you pay for software your team works around



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Don’t reinvent the wheel



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For a long time, the math said buy

BUILD

- Months before ROI
- A team to run it
- You're on call

BUY

- **Live next week**
- **Someone else is on call**

But buying has its own costs

16.4%

SaaS price inflation, a new record!

June 2026, about 4x US CPI

79% of IT leaders hit with price rises at renewal in the past 12 months

65%

of SaaS licences unused or underused, Q2 2026

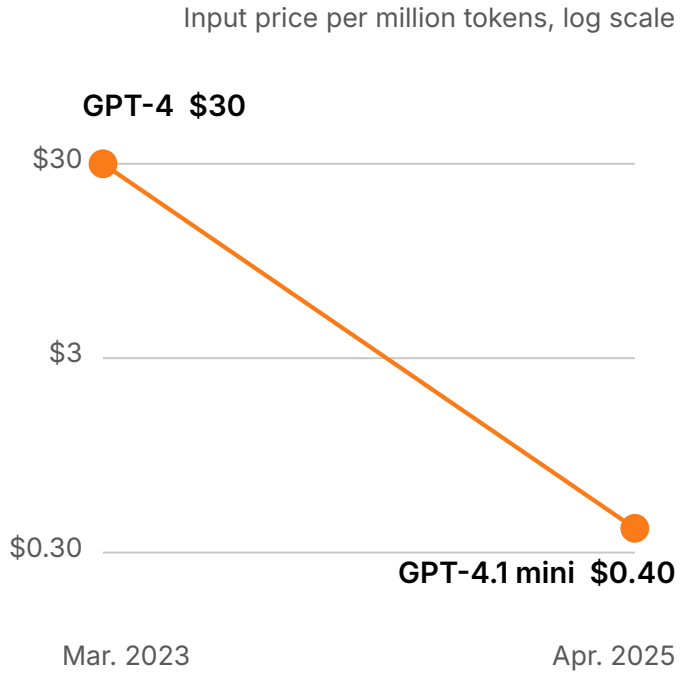
Vertice: SaaS inflation (Jun 2026), licence use (Q2 2026) / Zylo: 2026 SaaS Management Index

The same capability, for a lot less

75x

cheaper per input token in two years

Both score about 87 on MMLU:
GPT-4 86.4, GPT-4.1 mini 87.5

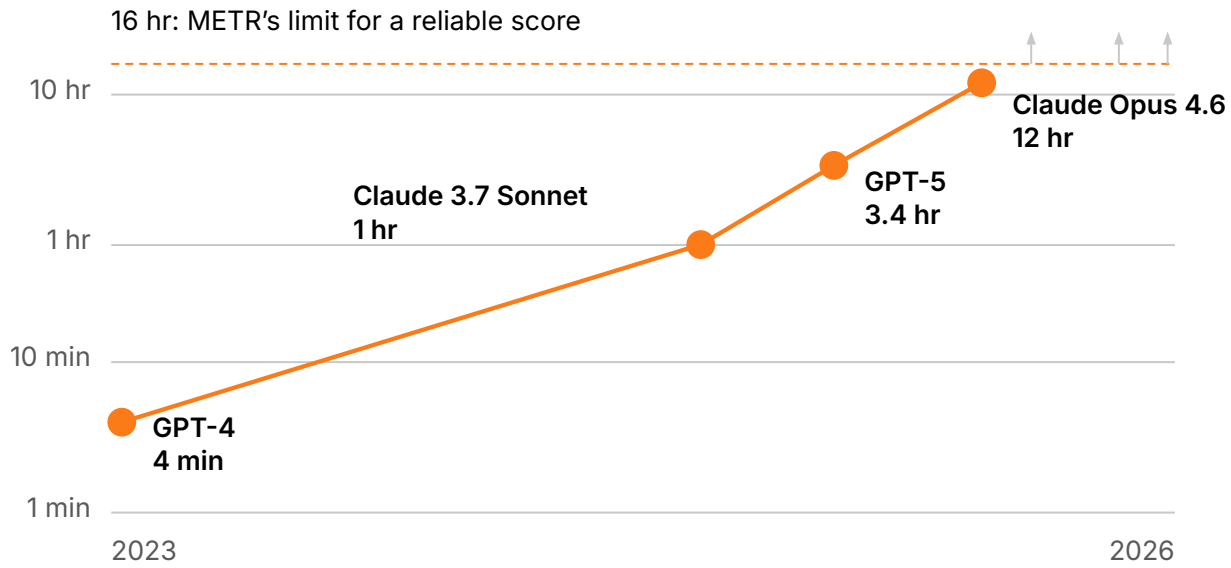


OpenAI: GPT-4 (Mar. 2023), GPT-4.1 (Apr. 2025) / MMLU: GPT-4 technical report, GPT-4.1 launch post

Agents keep finishing longer tasks

Task length a model finishes half the time, log scale

Mythos Preview, Opus 5, Opus 5.5: not measured



12x

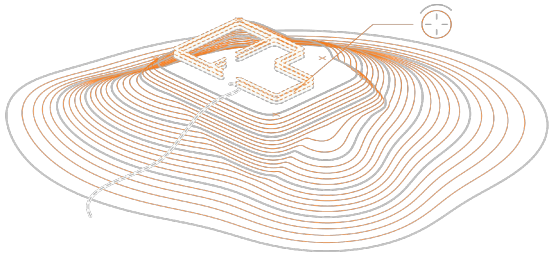
in one year

Claude 3.7 Sonnet to Opus 4.6; METR's suite topped out before Opus 5 shipped

METR Time Horizon 1.1 (last updated Sep. 2026) / Anthropic: Opus 5 (Jul. 2026), Opus 5.5 (Sep. 2026)

Writing it got cheaper...

But owning it didn't really



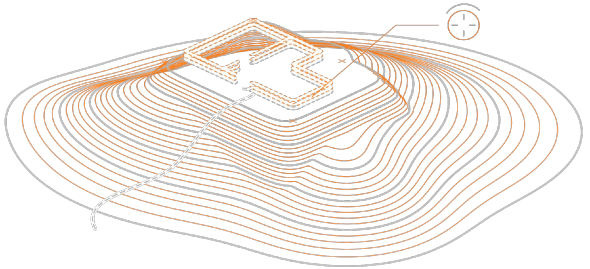
Running it, fixing it, and replacing it are still your problems

After Cloudflare, "The Agent Development Lifecycle" (Aug. 2026)

~~Can we build it?~~ Almost always, yes

The next important question becomes

Should we build it?



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AI code review

Code gets written, but then it sits



The median wait for a first review was often hours

Cloudflare blog, “Orchestrating AI Code Review at scale” (Apr. 2026)

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What we tried first

1 Off-the-shelf AI review tools

Some were good, but none were flexible enough for us

2 A git diff and dumb prompt

It turns out “go find some bugs” is not really that effective

3 Our own over-engineered orchestrator on OpenCode

Battle-tested, improved, and perfect for us

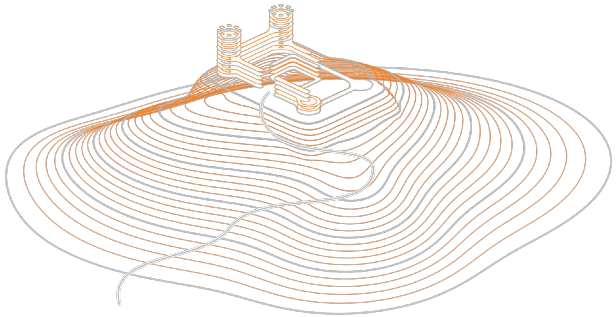
Cloudflare blog, “Orchestrating AI Code Review at scale” (Apr. 2026)

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The first version only took an afternoon

473

merge requests to our internal AI reviewer later...



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Where building got us

~16,000

merges blocked for breaking our internal engineering standards, over 4 months

59%

of code quality findings acted on, up from 34% before September

5 sec

to move every running CI job off a failing model provider, no deploy

47

break-glass overrides in September, down from 460 in April

Engineering Standards Enforcement (Aug. 2026) / reviewer telemetry (Sep. 2026)

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1,024,037

reviews since March

Across 345,797 merge requests

6,907

repositories since 10 March

$0.67

median cost per review, since 5 October

1m 34s

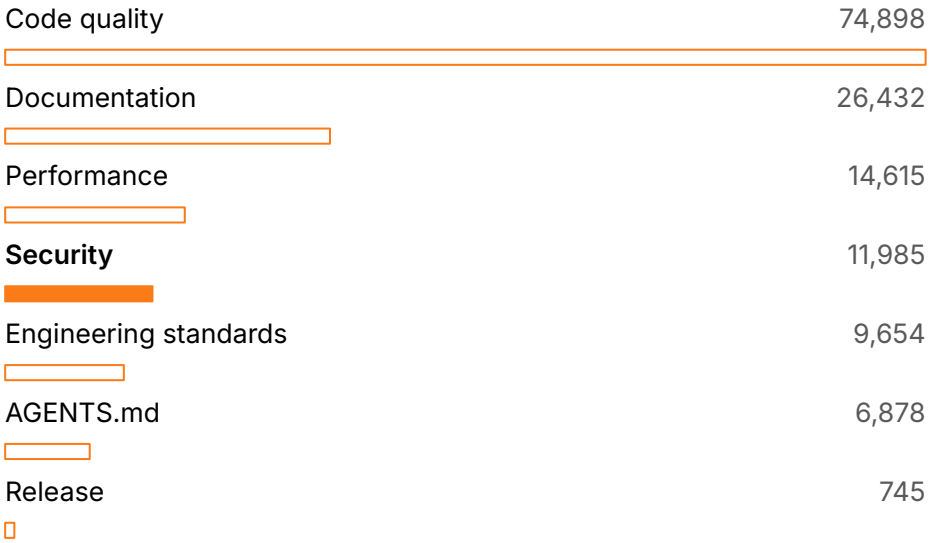
median review time, since 5 October

Reviewer telemetry, 10 Mar.–12 Oct. 2026 / costs at list price

It flags very little, on purpose

1.2

findings per review in the first month



Security: fewer findings, 4% of them critical

Cloudflare blog (Apr. 2026) / 145,207 specialist findings of 159,103 total

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What it can’t do

Architecture	It sees the diff, not the design behind it
Cross-system impact	It can’t check the three consumers downstream
Timing-dependent races	Hard to spot in a static diff
Very large diffs	Seven frontier-model calls still cost money

Importantly, it doesn’t replace human code review

Cloudflare blog, “Orchestrating AI Code Review at scale” (Apr. 2026)

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Where the conversation starts now

1 Ask whether to build it first

Can we, and should we, build it in-house?

2 Prototype on what you already run

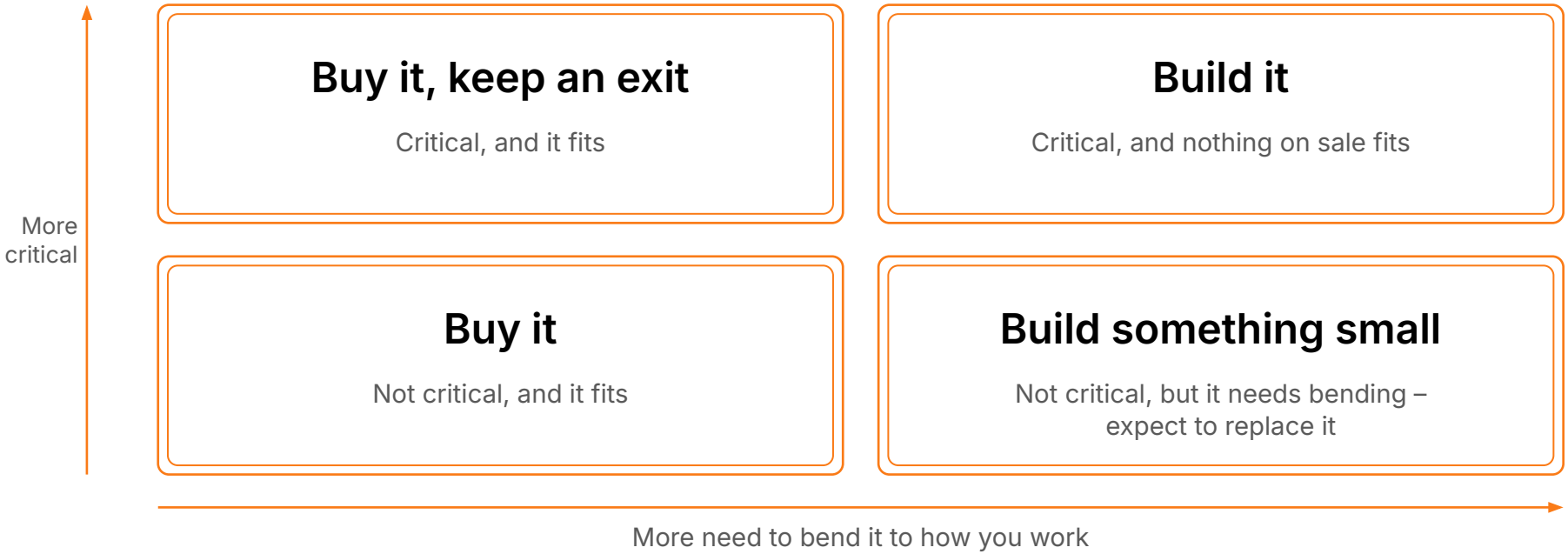
Before you evaluate a vendor

3 Expect tools to be replaced

A shelf life of weeks, not months

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Where building makes sense



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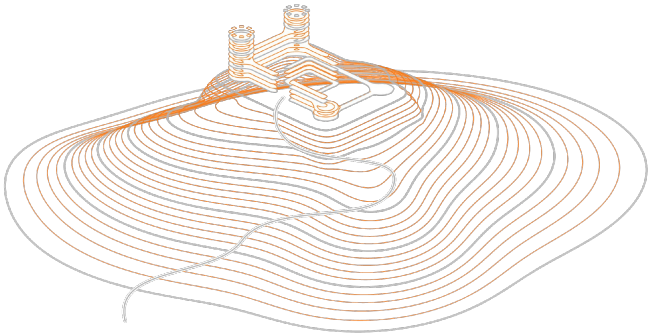
Checks before you build

1	**Name the problem**	What's wrong with the tool you have?
2	**Build the smallest test**	Small enough to throw away
3	**Count the whole job**	Running, securing, and replacing it too
4	**Reuse what exists**	OpenCode, Workers, KV, and AI Gateway
5	**Measure it from day one**	Cost, findings, and overrides
6	**Keep a way out**	Including going back to buying

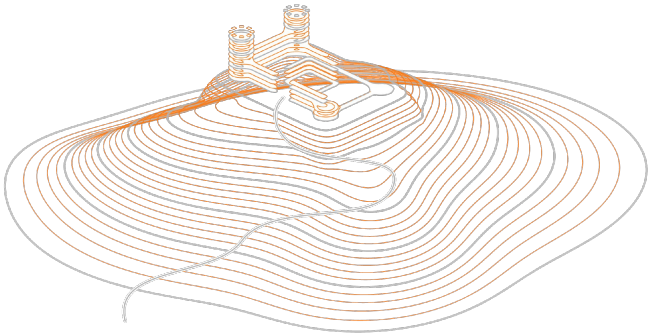
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Building got cheap, but owning it didn’t

Think about the why before you build it



Thank you



blog.cloudflare.com/ai-code-review

skids.dev / x.com/_ryanskidmore

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