

Ben Linford

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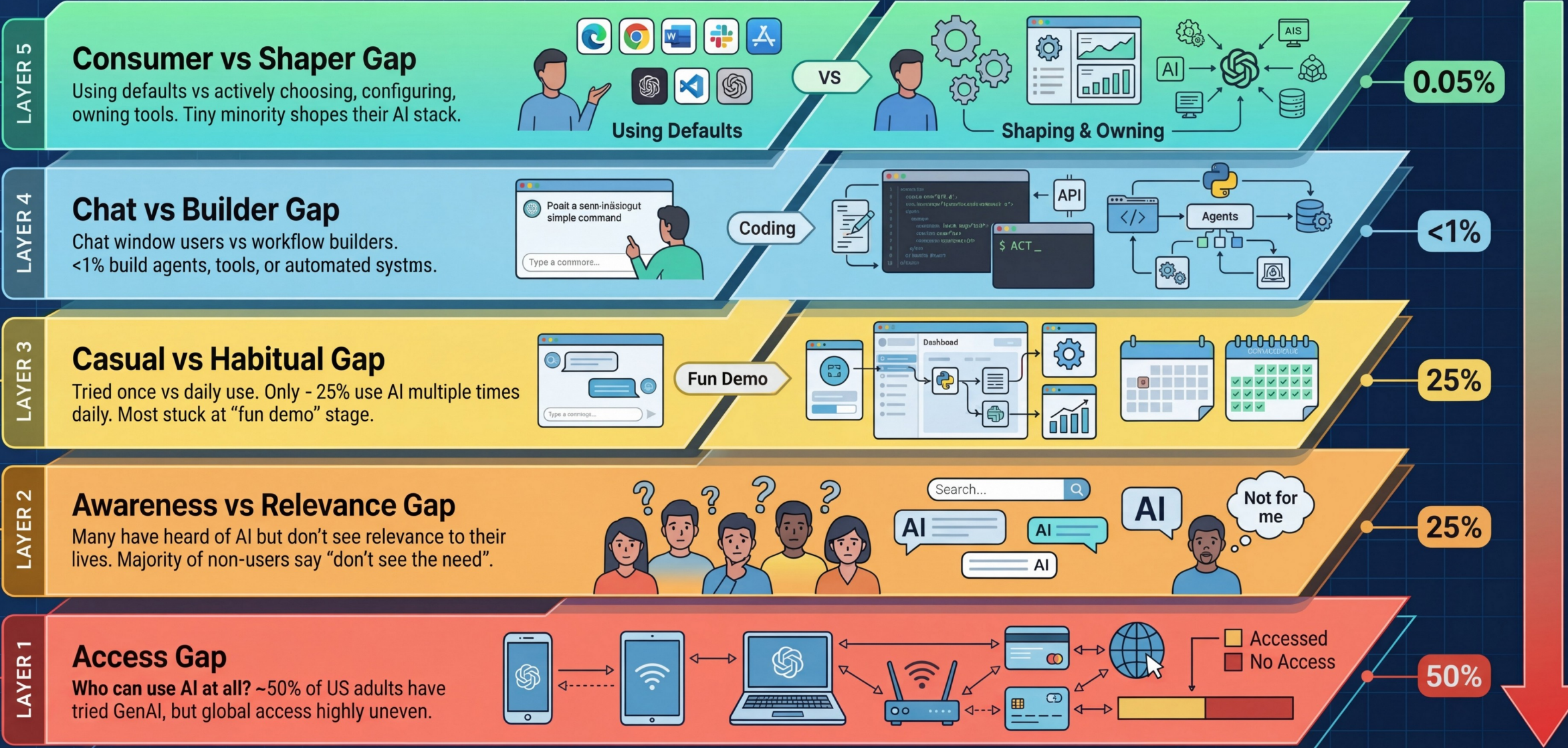
WORKING WITH AI TO BUILD TOOLS

[http://bit.ly/
4cQ8aHk](http://bit.ly/4cQ8aHk)

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Visualizing the Multi-Layered AI Gap

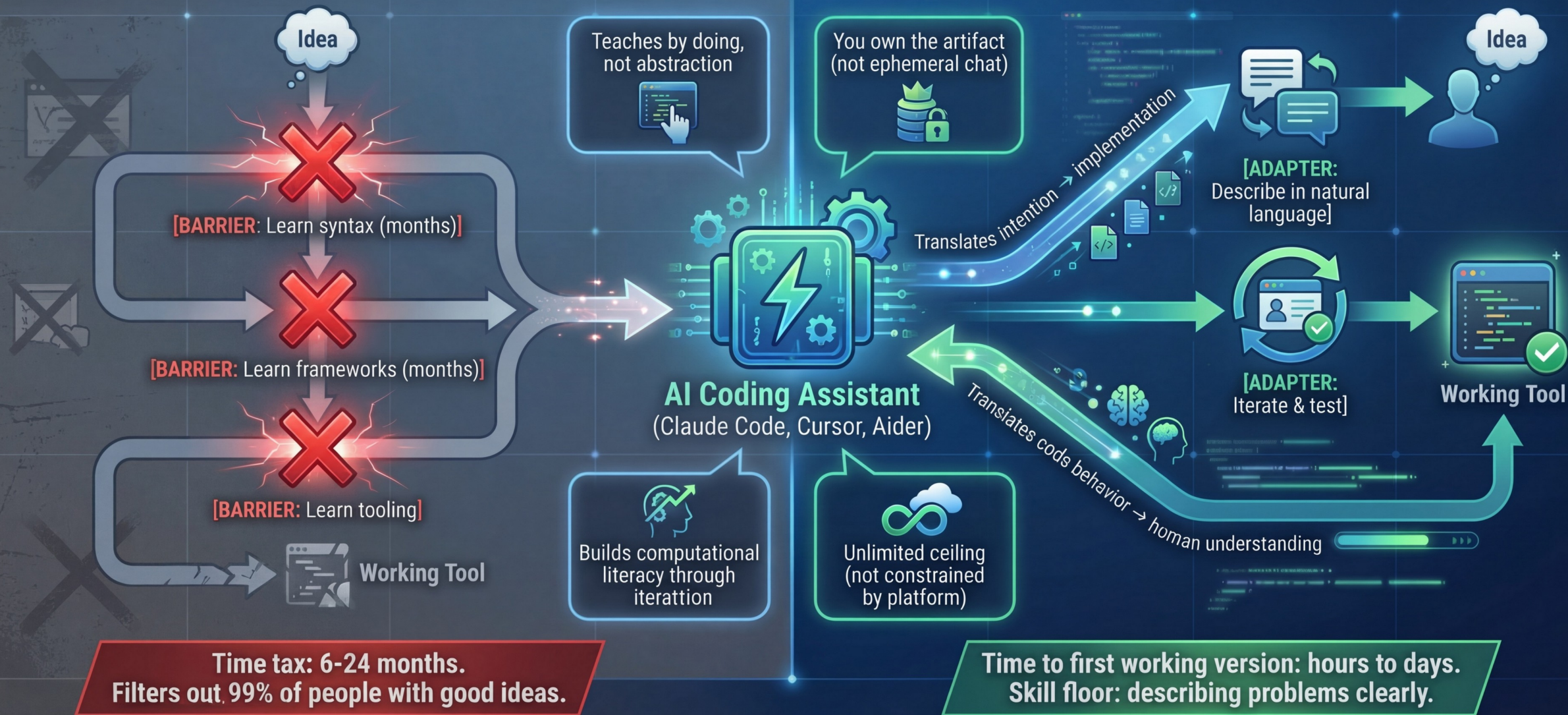
The Multi-Layered AI Gap: From Access to Agency



Coding Assistants: The Adapter Layer Between Intention and Implementation

LEFT SIDE – Traditional Path (Pre-AI Coding)

RIGHT SIDE – AI-Assisted Path



Why Terminals Work Better Than GUIs for AI Agents

Technical comparison of AI agent effectiveness in Terminal/CLI vs GUI environments.

Terminal/CLI Environment

✓ **Deterministic feedback**
(exit codes: 0=success, 1+=failure)

✓ **Text-based I/O**
(AI's native language)

✓ **Minimal context**
(only shows what's needed)

✓ **Composable**
(pipe, chain, script commands)

✓ **Self-correcting**
(AI can verify without human)

```
user@ai-terminal:~$ run_task --verify --deploy
Output: Task initiated. Processing data...
Verification: OK.
Deployment: SUCCESS.
EXIT CODE: 0
>
```

Success rate on complex tasks:
72%
High reliability for automated tasks.

AI agents prefer simple, text-based interfaces

GUI Environment



Success rate on complex tasks:
12%
Low reliability for automated tasks.

✗ **Ambiguous feedback**
(AI must interpret visual state)

✗ **Pixel-based**
(requires parsing visual hierarchies)

✗ **Context overload**
(entire interface state dumped)

✗ **Isolated actions**
(not composable)

✗ **Stateful and error-prone**
(low verification)

The Translation Gap: AI builds best in terminals. Humans prefer GUIs. Coding assistants let you work where AI excels (CLI) then translate to where humans want to see results (GUI).

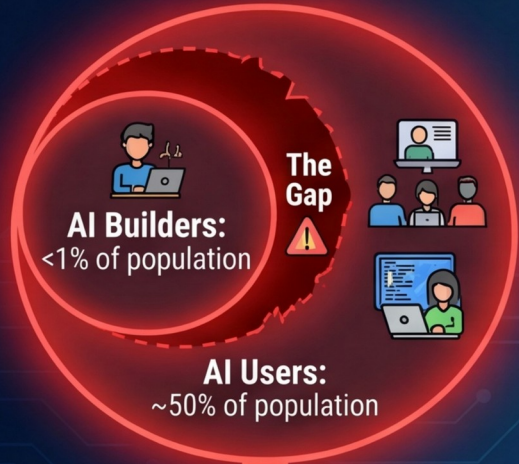
Source: Firecrawl 2026, Terminal Is All You Need (arXiv 2026)

Closing the AI Gap: A Roadmap Through Coding Literacy

CURRENT STATE

THE BRIDGE: AI Coding Assistants

OUTCOME



TRACK 1: Access & Infrastructure

- Open-source coding assistants (Aider, Continue)
- Free tier models for education
- Cloud dev environments (reduce hardware barriers)

OUTCOME:
Lower economic barrier to entry

TRACK 2: Education & Curriculum

- Teach problem decomposition first, syntax later
- AI coding as core literacy (like spreadsheets in 1980s)
- Build portfolio of working tools, not abstract exercises

OUTCOME:
Inverted pedagogy: learn by building

OUTCOME:
Inverted pedagogy:

TRACK 3: Skills Development

- Iteration over perfection
- Testing & verification habits
- Computational thinking through practice

OUTCOME:
Transfer from user to builder to shaper

The Compounding Effect

- Once people build one tool that solves their own problem, they:
 - Gain confidence to build more
 - See possibilities others miss
 - Move up the ladder from chat user to builder to shaper
 - Join the top percentage actively working with AI



FUTURE STATE

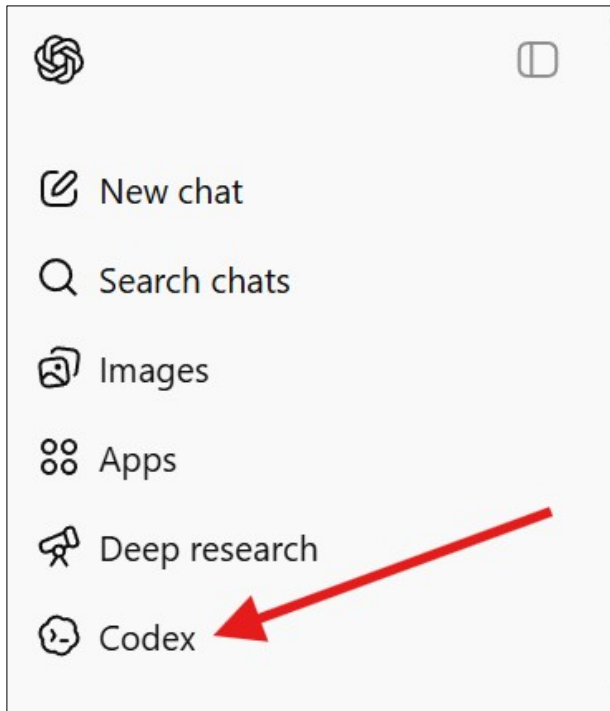
Your Call to Action: Close the Gap by Building



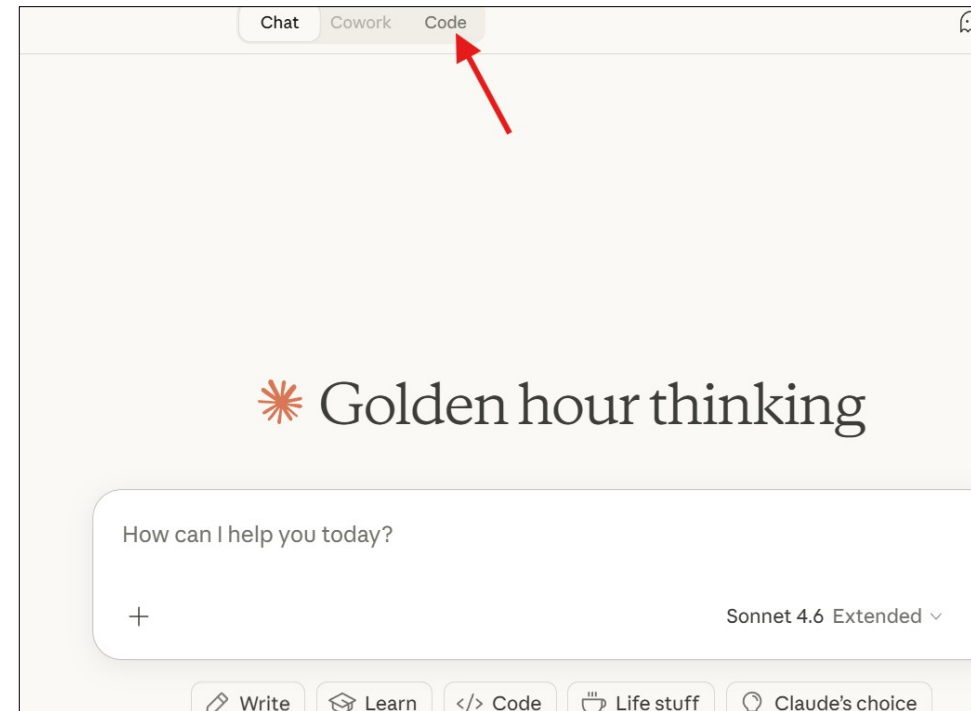
Don't just use AI. Build with it. Shape your future.

TWO OF MANY OPTIONS

- ChatGPT Codex



- Claude Code



BUILDING WITH AI: FROM IDEA TO APP

1. IDENTIFY A NEED



1. IDENTIFY A NEED

Simple app solutions (e.g., grading helper, chore tracker)

2. PROMPT AI SCAFFOLD



2. PROMPT AI SCAFFOLD

Planning mode, app architecture

3. ITERATE WITH AI



3. ITERATE WITH AI

UI/navigation/functionality loop

4. IDENTIFY HOSTING



4. IDENTIFY HOSTING

Choose deployment platform

5. VERSION CONTROL



5. VERSION CONTROL

(e.g., Github) for code management

EMPOWER YOURSELF: BUILD TAILORED SOLUTIONS, SAVE SUBSCRIPTIONS

CODING ASSISTANT PROMPT BUILDER



Use the QR code or go to:

<https://tfp24601.github.io/Coding-Assistant-prompt-builder/>



DEMO

OUR BUILD REPO

Use the QR code or go to:



<https://github.com/tfp24601/emu-summit-build>

CONSULTATION & CONNECTION

- Consultation page, website

- Substack



<https://shredsapience.com/consultation-personalized-help/>



<https://shredsapience.substack.com/>