

Claude vs Hermes

Independent comparison · April 2026 · Prepared by AFTA

USE HERMES IF

- You're a developer comfortable with self-hosting
- You need a 24/7 autonomous agent with persistent memory
- You want model flexibility and no subscription cost

USE CLAUDE IF

- You're a non-technical marketing team
- You want workflows your team can read and own without a server
- You need mobile access, IDE integration, or managed security

Claude and Hermes occupy different categories. Claude is a managed AI product — web, mobile, IDE, API — with no infrastructure to operate. Hermes is an open-source autonomous agent daemon you self-host; it can even use Claude as its underlying model. The question is not which is better, but whether you need a product to use or a server to run.

CAPABILITY	CLAUDE	HERMES
Setup required	Zero — browser or IDE	Self-hosted server or VPS
Persistent memory	All plans including free	Cross-session SQLite + skill files
Autonomous scheduling	Cowork (supervised)	Native cron, natural language
Multi-platform messaging	Per-platform integrations	15+ via unified gateway
Model flexibility	Claude only	200+ via OpenRouter
Mobile access	iOS & Android apps	Via messaging platforms only
Security & updates	Anthropic, automatic	Self-managed
Cost model	\$20-\$200/mo subscription	Free (MIT); pay model API only
Open source	No	Yes (MIT license)

Sources: [Nous Research — Hermes Agent documentation](#) · [Anthropic — Claude plans & pricing](#) · [Anthropic — Claude release notes](#) · [BrowserAct — Hermes vs Claude Code comparison](#) · [The New Stack — Persistent AI agents compared](#)