

M A V E R I C K A I

THE 4 MCPs THAT SUPERCHARGE CLAUDE

WHAT EACH ONE DOES, AND HOW TO SET IT UP STEP BY STEP

Plain Claude is powerful. Claude with the right MCP connectors is a different animal, it can run deep research, read any website, drive a browser, and plug into hundreds of your apps. One of the four is already built into Claude. Here's the full setup for all of them.

The one prompt that installs all four in one go
Which one is built into Claude (and takes 2 clicks)
Perplexity: real-time deep research (full setup)
Firecrawl: read any website (the built-in one)
Playwright: let Claude drive a browser (full setup)
Composio: 1,000+ apps in one shot (full setup)
Exact commands, URLs, and where to get each key

2026 Edition

First: How MCPs Actually Get Added

An MCP is just a bolt-on ability for Claude, research, web reading, browser control, app access. Here's the thing nobody tells you: these four don't all install the same way. One is a native connector that already lives inside Claude. The other three you add yourself. Knowing which is which saves you from hunting for a setup screen that doesn't exist.

Way 1, Native connector (already in Claude)

Claude has a built-in connector directory. If a tool is listed there, you just click **Connect** and sign in to that tool's account. No URL, no API key, no command. Of our four, only **Firecrawl** is native, it was added to Anthropic's official directory, so it's the easiest of the bunch.

Way 2, Custom connector (paste a URL)

Tools that aren't in the directory but are hosted online get added as a custom connector: in Claude go to **Customize**, then **Connectors**, click the **+**, choose **Add custom connector**, and paste the tool's MCP URL. **Composio** uses this method.

Way 3, Command (runs on your computer)

Some MCPs run on your own machine, or need an API key the Claude app can't accept. You add these with a one-line command in the **Code** tab of the Claude desktop app. Slightly more technical (Playwright also needs Node.js, a free one-time install). **Perplexity** and **Playwright** use this method.

SO, WHICH IS WHICH

Native (2 clicks in Claude's directory): Firecrawl. Custom connector (paste a URL): Composio. Command (the desktop app's Code tab): Perplexity and Playwright. That's why they don't all feel the same to install, only one of the four is built in.

TIP

Don't want to do them one by one? There really is one prompt that sets up all four, because Claude can run the installs itself. It's on the next page. The keys are the only thing you supply.

The One Prompt

This is the shortcut from the video. Open the Claude desktop app, click the **Code** tab, and paste the prompt below. Claude runs the installs itself and only asks when it needs something, like an API key or a sign-in. Say "skip Perplexity" if you don't want the paid one.

PASTE IN THE CODE TAB

Set up these 4 MCP servers for me. Run everything yourself and only ask me when you need something:

1. Playwright - `npx @playwright/mcp@latest` (free)
2. Composio - `https://connect.composio.dev/mcp`
(I'll sign in when you tell me to)
3. Firecrawl - `https://mcp.firecrawl.dev/v2/mcp`
(ask me for my free API key from `firecrawl.dev`)
4. Perplexity - `https://api.perplexity.ai/mcp`
(paid key from `perplexity.ai` - ask if I want it or want to skip it)

Confirm each one is connected before moving to the next, then give me a test prompt for each.

That's it. The rest of this guide is the manual setup for each one, useful if you want to understand what just happened, only want one or two of them, or something snags.

TIP

Firecrawl is also a native connector in the Claude app, so if you'd rather skip the Code tab entirely for that one, it's two clicks in Claude's connector directory (full steps in its chapter).

1. Perplexity, Deep Research

Plugs Claude into Perplexity's research engine so it pulls current, real-time info with sources instead of answering from memory. Not a native connector, you add it with a command (Way 3). Needs a Perplexity API key, and this one's paid, billed against API credits.

Setup

1. Go to **perplexity.ai**, open your account settings, and find the API section. Create an API key and copy it.
2. In the Claude desktop app's **Code** tab, run the command below (paste your key where it says YOUR_KEY). This uses Perplexity's official hosted server.

PASTE IN THE CODE TAB

```
claude mcp add --transport http perplexity \  
https://api.perplexity.ai/mcp \  
--header "Authorization: Bearer YOUR_KEY"
```

3. Restart Claude, then test it: *"Use Perplexity to research [topic] and cite sources."*

HEADS UP

This is the one MCP you can't paste into the Claude app as a custom connector. The app only accepts connectors that use secure sign-in (OAuth), and Perplexity's server wants a static API key. That's why it goes through the Code tab instead.

TIP

Easiest of all: skip the command and just tell Claude in the Code tab "walk me through adding the Perplexity MCP" and it'll guide you.

2. Firecrawl, Read Any Website

Lets Claude read and pull from any website, grab a brand's look and copy, run competitor research, extract exactly the data you point at. This is the built-in one: Firecrawl is an official connector in Claude's own directory (Way 1). No URL to paste, no API key to copy. A free Firecrawl account is enough to start.

Setup

1. Go to **firecrawl.dev** and create a free account (skip this if you have one).
2. Open the Firecrawl page in Claude's connector directory:

OPEN THIS LINK

<https://claude.ai/directory/connectors/firecrawl>

3. Click **Connect**, sign in to your Firecrawl account, and approve access. That's the whole install.
4. In a chat, open the **+** menu, go to **Connectors**, and make sure Firecrawl is toggled on. Then test it: *"Use Firecrawl to pull the pricing from these 3 competitor sites into a table."*

WHY THIS ONE IS SO EASY

Because it's in the official directory, Claude handles the connection for you, no MCP URL, no Bearer token. Usage runs on your Firecrawl account's plan and credits, and the free tier is plenty to try it out. You can also find it by browsing connectors inside Claude and searching "Firecrawl".

TIP

On a Team or Enterprise plan, an org owner may need to approve the connector before everyone can use it. On personal plans it's instant.

3. Playwright, Drive A Browser

Lets Claude actually operate a web browser, click, type, navigate, so it can fill out forms, test websites, and use online tools that don't have a connector yet. Not native, it runs on your own computer, so you add it with a command (Way 3). Completely free and open-source, no API key. You'll need Node.js installed.

Setup

1. Make sure Node.js is installed (free, from nodejs.org). Not sure? Ask Claude "do I have Node installed and how do I check?"
2. In the Claude desktop app's **Code** tab, run:

PASTE IN THE CODE TAB

```
claude mcp add playwright \  
npx @playwright/mcp@latest
```

3. Restart Claude, then test it: *"Use Playwright to open this page and fill in the contact form."*

TIP

This one has no key and no cost, it's the easiest to justify installing. Watch it the first few times it drives your browser, the same way you'd watch a new assistant, before you let it run on its own.

4. Composio, 1,000+ Apps In One Shot

The shortcut. Instead of adding app connectors one by one, Composio is a single gateway that plugs Claude into hundreds of apps, Gmail, Slack, Notion, your calendar, your CRM. Not in Claude's native directory, but it's hosted online, so you add it as a custom connector by URL (Way 2). Free account.

Setup

1. Go to **composio.dev** and create a free account.
2. In Composio's dashboard, connect the apps you want Claude to reach (it handles the logins securely).
3. In Claude: **Customize, Connectors, +, Add custom connector**. Paste this URL and leave authentication empty, it signs you in automatically:

REMOTE MCP URL

```
https://connect.composio.dev/mcp
```

4. Approve the sign-in when prompted, then test: *"Using Composio, check my Gmail and summarize what needs a reply."*

CONNECT ONLY WHAT YOU'LL USE

Composio can reach 1,000+ apps, but only connect the handful you actually work in. Fewer open doors is cleaner and safer, and you can always add more later.

Getting It Right

Which to install first

Start with Firecrawl, it's native, so it's two clicks and you'll feel the upgrade immediately. Then Composio (free account, unlocks your apps) and Playwright (free, no key). Add Perplexity last, it's the only one with a paid key, and only worth it once you're running real research through Claude.

Keep your API keys safe

Your Perplexity key is like a password. Paste it only into the setup, never post it or drop it in a random chat. If it leaks, delete it in that service and make a new one.

Name the MCP when you want it

Once installed, tell Claude which to use: "use Perplexity to research this," "use Firecrawl to read this site." It usually picks the right one on its own, but naming it removes any doubt.

When in doubt, ask Claude

The fastest fix for any snag is Claude itself: "help me add the [Composio] MCP, tell me exactly what to paste and where." It knows the setup and will walk you through it line by line.

TIP

Quick map if you get lost: Firecrawl lives in Claude's connector directory. Composio goes in Customize, then Connectors, as a custom connector. Perplexity and Playwright are set up with a command in the desktop app's Code tab. If a step assumes the wrong method, that's usually the confusion. And the One Prompt on page 3 handles all of it for you.

The One-Page Cheat Sheet

All four, how to add them, and what you need. Screenshot this.

MCP	How it's added	Where	What you need
Perplexity	Command	Code tab in the desktop app	Paid API key
Firecrawl	Native connector	claude.ai/directory, click Connect	Free account
Playwright	Command	Code tab in the desktop app	Free, needs Node
Composio	Custom connector	Customize > Connectors: connect.composio.dev/mcp	Free account

The rules that make it work

Native = click Connect in Claude's directory (Firecrawl only). Custom connector = paste a URL under Customize, Connectors (Composio). Command = run one line in the desktop app's Code tab (Perplexity, Playwright). Or paste the One Prompt from page 3 and let Claude do all four. Keep API keys private, and if any step trips you, ask Claude to walk you through it.

YOUR ACTION PLAN

Fastest: paste the One Prompt (page 3) in the desktop app's Code tab and let Claude set up all four. Manual: 1. Connect Firecrawl from Claude's directory, two clicks. 2. Add Composio as a custom connector (free). 3. Add Playwright with one command (free, needs Node). 4. Add Perplexity (paid key) when you're ready for deep research.

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Plain Claude thinks. Claude with MCPs does.