

# PowerBuilder Meets AI

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Bringing Agentic AI into the PowerBuilder  
Development Workflow



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# Built for the Evolution of AI Development

**AI coding agents are becoming part of software development,**  
and developers use the technology in varying ways.



## Developers Use Different AI Agents

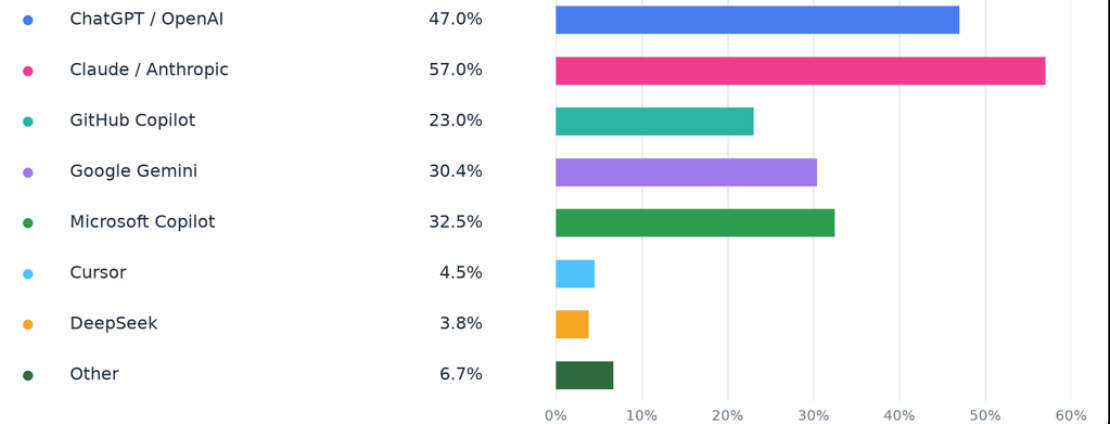
- Different workflows and levels of autonomy
- Different capabilities and user preferences



## Developers Use Different LLMs

- Different model strengths, speed, and cost
- Different access options and organizational requirements

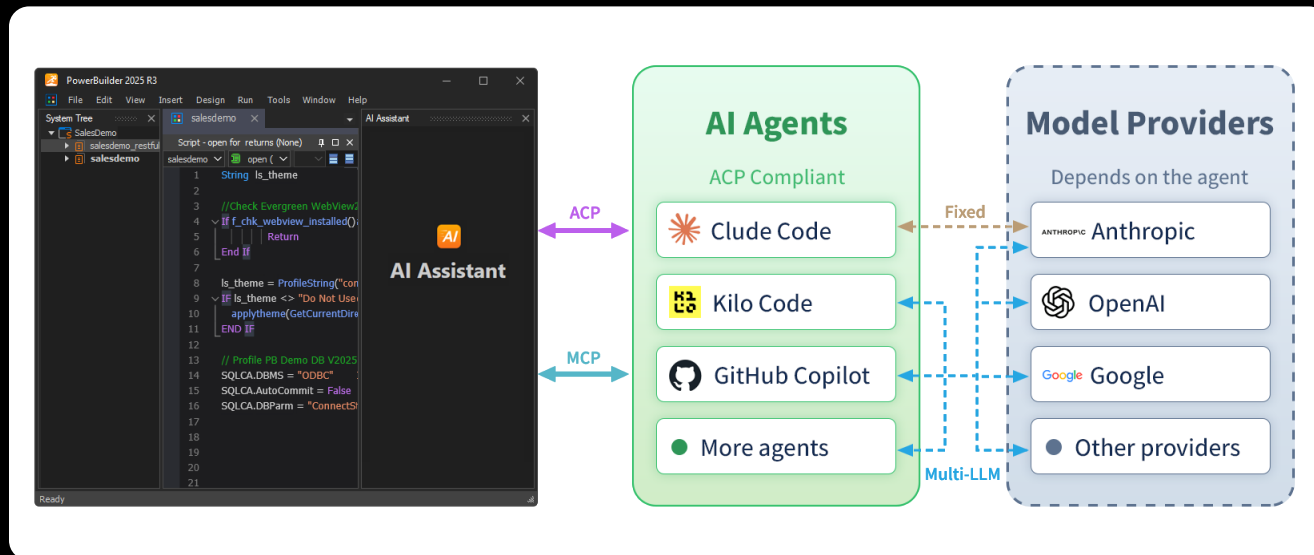
Which AI tools or services do you currently use for software development?



What AI Tools and Services Do Developers Currently Use? (Apeon Developer Survey)

# How PowerBuilder Connects to AI

**PowerBuilder AI Assistant** — Connects PowerBuilder to compatible AI agents and provide the tools and context they need to work with PowerBuilder applications.



\*Compatible AI agents: <https://agentclientprotocol.com/get-started/registry>



## ACP (Agent Client Protocol)

Connects the IDE to ACP-compatible AI coding agents, giving developers flexibility to choose an agent that fits their needs.



## AI Agents

Interpret requests, plan and execute tasks, and use the LLMs and tools supported by each agent.



## PowerBuilder MCP Server

Exposes PowerBuilder development operations and, as capabilities evolve, PowerBuilder-specific context and tools.

# PowerBuilder MCP Server

Gives AI agents access to PowerBuilder development operations so they can **work directly with PowerBuilder applications** and understand the projects.

## FOUNDATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITIES



### Work with Projects

Access project files and perform supported project operations. (e.g. create objects, understand solution/workspace structure)



### Modify Code

Make code changes directly through the development environment.



### Compile & Run Applications

Compile and run applications as part of the development workflow.



### Debug Applications

Interact with supported debugging operations to investigate issues, and then agent can correct it.

## EVOLVING CAPABILITIES



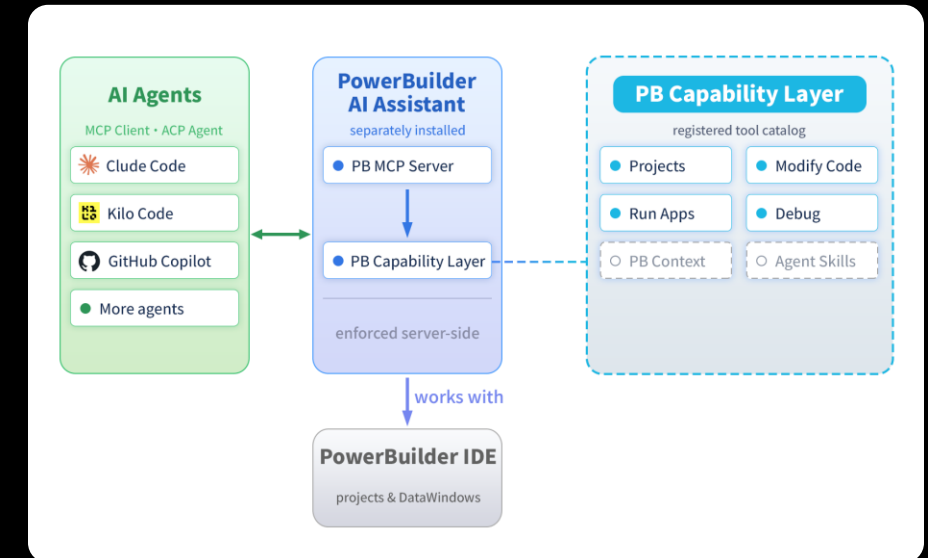
### PowerBuilder-Specific Context

Progressively provide the context and tools agents need to generate code that fits existing applications and works more effectively with PowerBuilder objects and DataWindows. (e.g. understand the dependency relationships of the working objects.)



### Agent Skills

Provide skills to help compatible agents use PowerBuilder MCP tools more effectively. (e.g. tell the agent what kind of tools they can use to diagnose the problem and fix issues.)



Agents Discover and Call PowerBuilder MCP Tools;  
Results Flow Back Through the Server

# Two Ways to Work with Agentic AI

PowerBuilder supports two ways to work with agentic AI — a more autonomous **agent-driven workflow**, and a more controlled, **developer-guided workflow**.

## Full Agentic Workflow

MORE AUTONOMOUS

Give an AI agent a development task and let it work through the task using available tools and capabilities — with the developer reviewing and intervening as needed.

## Developer-Guided Workflow

MORE CONTROLLED

Work with AI directly in the code editor, focusing on specific coding tasks while staying closely involved in the process.

**Both workflows use an agentic foundation — the difference is how much work you delegate versus guide directly.**

# AI Coding Agent Inside PowerBuilder

Work with **ACP-compatible AI coding agents** inside the PowerBuilder development environment.



## Choice of Agents

Connect to supported ACP-compatible agents. Initial support is planned for Claude Code and Kilo Code.



## Access to Development Tools

Let agents use available PowerBuilder development capabilities through the IDE integration.



## Agent-Driven Development

Depending on the chosen agent and available tools, delegate tasks such as investigating errors, modifying code, and validating results.



## ACP-COMPATIBLE AGENTS

● **Claude Code**

planned

● **Kilo Code**

planned

● **More agents**

Initial support is planned for Claude Code and Kilo Code — the ecosystem grows from there.

# AI Coding Agent

The screenshot displays the PowerBuilder 2025 R3 IDE interface. The main window shows a layout design for a sales demo application. The layout includes a search bar at the top for Customer ID or Name, a table for Customer information and sales statistics, and a table for Orders of the selected customer (Barcode only).

**Customer information and sales statistics:**

| Customer ID | Account No. | Type | Customer Name | Territory | Orders | Sub Total | Total Due | First Order |
|-------------|-------------|------|---------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
|             |             |      |               |           |        | .00       | .00       | 00/00/0000  |
|             |             |      |               |           |        | .00       | .00       | 00/00/0000  |

**Orders of the selected customer (Barcode only):**

| Order ID          | Order Number | Order Date | Due Date   | Ship Date  | Status | Online | Sub Total | Tax  | Freight |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|-----------|------|---------|
| 1                 |              | 00/00/0000 | 00/00/0000 | 00/00/0000 |        |        | .00       | .00  | .00     |
| 2                 |              | 00/00/0000 | 00/00/0000 | 00/00/0000 |        |        | .00       | .00  | .00     |
| Total: 0 order(s) |              |            |            |            |        |        | 0.00      | 0.00 | 0.00    |

The AI Assistant panel on the right provides instructions for adding a new customer order inquiry window, `w_customer_order_query`, under `Person.pbl`. It suggests searching a customer by ID or Name and viewing sales statistics + order history — barcodes only, no product details. The panel also shows a list of actions performed by the AI Assistant, including `pbide_get_context`, `pbide_read_script`, `pbide_get_inheritance`, `pbide_dw_get_schema`, `pbide_create_object`, `pbide_write_script`, and `pbide_compile`.

**Kilo Code**  
Done — I created `w_customer_order_query.srw` in `person.pbl`, following the project's existing conventions (`w_base`, `u_dw`, `u_button`):

- Layout — `dw_filter` + `cb_search` (upper-right) + `dw_header` + `dw_orders`
- Reuses the `d_customer_order_*` DataWindows — no new SRD files
- Logic — `of_retrieve()` validates and loads; `of_load_orders()` per row
- Compiled — 0 errors, 0 warnings.

The AI Assistant panel also includes a dropdown menu with options: `code`, `ask`, `debug`, `orchestrator`, and `plan`.

# AI Assistance in the Code Editor

Get AI assistance directly in the editor, with the developer **guiding the work more closely** and remaining more involved throughout the process.



## Code Generation

Generate PowerScript code, functions, events, and DataWindow definitions from natural-language instructions and relevant coding context.



## Code Completion

Receive context-aware code suggestions while writing.



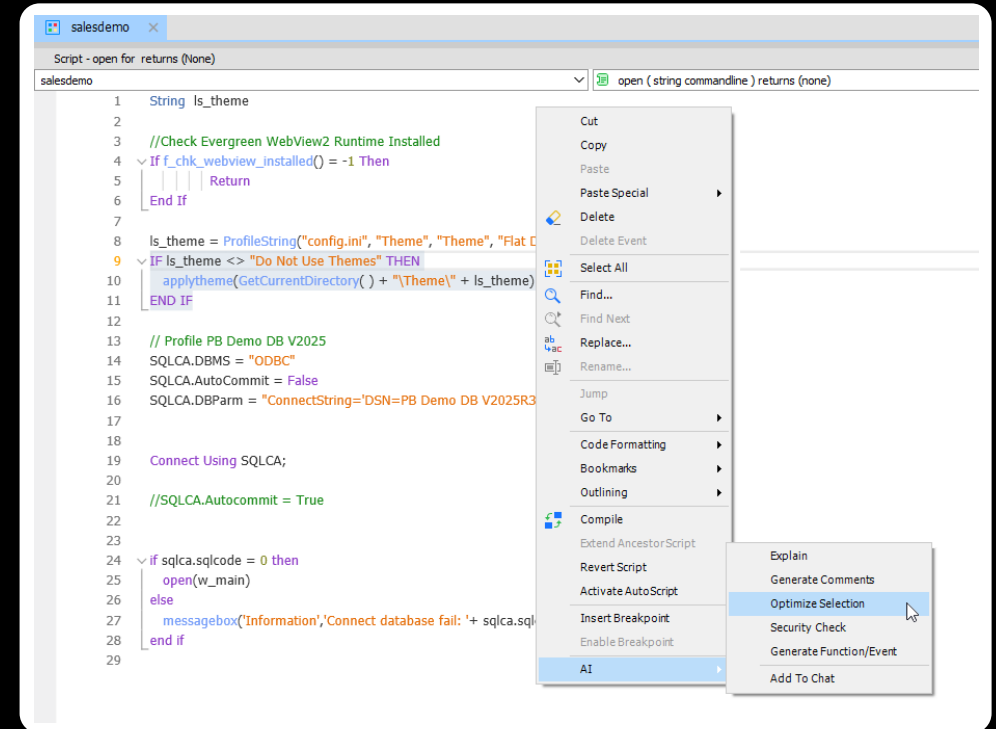
## Code Optimization & Security Check

Improve existing code and identify potential security issues, with the developer reviewing and refining the changes.



## Bug Fixing & Error Assistance

Use error info and coding context to help identify issues and suggest or generate corrections.



AI Actions in the Editor Context Menu

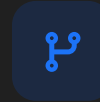
# An AI Capability That Evolves with PowerBuilder

AI capability designed such that it can **evolve independently** as developer needs and the AI ecosystem changes.



## Separate Installation

Install the AI capability separately from the main PowerBuilder IDE.



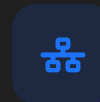
## Independent Roadmap

Evolve AI capabilities without waiting for major PowerBuilder releases.



## Independent AI Updates

Upgrade AI features separately to benefit from AI improvements without upgrading the PowerBuilder IDE.



## ACP-Compatible Agents

Support integration with ACP-compatible AI coding agents as the ecosystem evolves.

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