

Claude Skills Repos

The 5 GitHub repositories top Claude users rely on to ship faster.

March 18, 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE

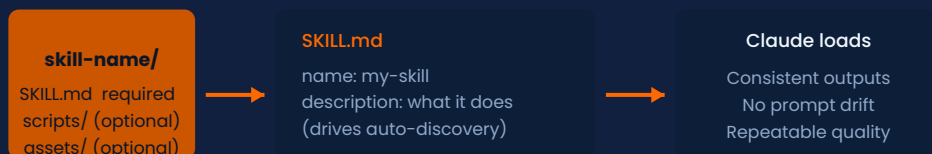
- 01 How Claude Skills actually work
- 02 Top 5 repos — ranked by relevance, maturity, ease
- 03 Quick-start checklists for each repo
- 04 The 3-layer productivity stack
- 05 Comparison matrix with scores

INSTALL

How Claude Skills Work

The mechanics behind repeatable, portable capability packs.

SKILL ANATOMY



TWO WAYS TO USE SKILLS

Claude Code & Desktop

Skills live on disk in your project or user directories. Claude discovers and loads them automatically via progressive disclosure. Start small — install one Skill, see one improvement, then expand.

Claude API

Create or upload Skills via the Skills API, reference them in Messages requests. Requires beta headers. Executes in the code execution environment. More control, more setup. Best for production pipelines.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Consistent outputs

The same prompt produces the same quality every time, not just when you remember the right phrasing.

No prompt drift

Tribal knowledge gets encoded once. New team members get the same results on day one.

Turn repetition into assets

Anything you do more than twice belongs in a Skill. The repos below give you a running start.

All 5 Repos at a Glance

Scores: Relevance (R) · Maturity (M) · Ease of Use (E). Scale 0–5.

REPOSITORY	STARS	LICENCE	R	M	E	BEST FOR
#1 anthropics/skills	65.8k	Mixed	5.0	4.0	3.5	Doc generation
#2 modelcontextprotocol/servers	76.1k	MIT	4.5	4.5	3.0	Tool-using agents
#3 anthropics/claude-cookbooks	33k	MIT	4.0	4.0	4.5	Pattern library
#4 agentskills/agentskills	5.4k	Mixed	4.5	3.5	3.5	Cross-agent Skills
#5 numman-ali/openskills	4.8k	MIT	4.0	3.5	4.0	CLI install/sync

QUICK VERDICT

anthropics/skill Best single repo for copy-paste, production-ready Skills.	mcp/servers Turn Claude into a tool-using agent. High leverage, high risk.	claude-cookbooks Best pattern library for teams standardising delivery.	agentskills Foundation for portable Skills with governance.	openskills Simplest way to spread Skills across multiple agents.
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#1 anthropics/skills



WHAT IT IS

The canonical Skill pack repository. Ships examples across creative, technical, and enterprise workflows. Document Skills (docx, pdf, pptx, xlsx) are production-ready. If you use Claude for recurring document work, start here.

QUICK-START CHECKLIST

- In Claude Code: /plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
- Install document-skills or example-skills subset first
- Copy one Skill folder into your project and test it
- Read the SKILL.md template before writing your own
- Pin a specific release tag before deploying to a team

SECURITY

Skills may bundle scripts. Treat third-party Skills as executable content. Review before installation, pin versions.

#2 modelcontextprotocol/servers



WHAT IT IS

Reference MCP servers that connect Claude to real tools: filesystem, git, memory, fetch. Targets builders who want Claude to act on systems — not just generate text. Start with the smallest integration surface area.

QUICK-START CHECKLIST

- Pick fetch or a tightly scoped filesystem server first
- Configure in your MCP client with restricted paths only
- Test with read-only access before granting write permissions
- Store credentials in env vars — never hardcode in config
- Enable only the servers your workflow actually needs

SECURITY

MCP servers handle credentials and can grant file or database access. High leverage, high risk. Treat as production inte

#3 anthropics/claude-cookbooks

33k

MIT



WHAT IT IS

A broad set of notebooks and recipes for building with Claude — agent patterns, tool use, prompt engineering, Skills workflows. Designed for copying into your own codebase. Great for teams standardising delivery patterns.

QUICK-START CHECKLIST

- Clone and pick one workflow you run weekly
- Find the closest recipe and run it with your own data
- Harden the example before shipping to production
- Never log prompts or tool outputs in shared logs
- Track which recipes your team actively uses and prune the rest

SECURITY

Main risk: copy-pasting without hardening. Examples are starting points. Avoid logging prompt outputs in shared environm

#4 agentskills/agentskills

5.4k

Mixed



WHAT IT IS

Defines the Agent Skills open format plus reference tooling for discovering, validating, and distributing Skills across multiple agents and clients. If you want Skills that travel — across Claude, Cursor, and other agents — build here.

QUICK-START CHECKLIST

- Read the spec and map one recurring workflow to a SKILL.md
- Validate structure with skills-ref tooling
- Pilot the Skill in one agent, then test in a second
- Build a review gate before Skills reach production agents
- Contribute validated internal Skills back to the org repo

SECURITY

Portability is the feature and the risk. Adopt a trust model that matches your environment. Skills with scripts need cod

#5 numman-ali/openskills

4.8k

MIT



WHAT IT IS

Brings Claude-style Skills to multiple AI coding agents via a CLI. Install Skills from GitHub repos, sync them across projects, and generate available_skills sections so agents load them on demand. Node-based, low setup.

QUICK-START CHECKLIST

- Install: `npm i -g openskills` (requires Node and git)
- Install Skills from `anthropics/skills` — start with a small subset
- Sync Skills into your target project directories
- Review installed scripts before the first run
- Set up provenance checks — only install from trusted sources

SECURITY

Sits on the supply-chain boundary. Downloads and installs Skills from external sources. Review scripts inside Skills bef

THE 3-LAYER PRODUCTIVITY STACK

Layer 01

Install proven Skills

Use `anthropics/skills` as your baseline. Install document Skills first if your team produces docs, slides, and spreadsheets weekly. Extend with `agentskills` once you have internal playbooks.

Layer 02

Connect Claude to systems

Add MCP servers for the smallest required integration surface. Tightly scoped filesystem or fetch first. Treat credentials and filesystem access as production security perimeter.

Layer 03

Standardise and distribute

Use `agentskills` to formalise internal playbooks as portable Skills. Use `openskills` as an installer layer if you need cross-agent distribution. Use cookbooks for team enablement and fast prototyping.

Pick one repo. Install one Skill. Ship something today.

You don't need all five. You need the one that solves your most repeated problem. Then you'll come back for the rest.

YOUR NEXT STEP

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Follow the quickstart checklists

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BestAIFor.com directory

SOURCES

github.com/anthropics/skills · github.com/modelcontextprotocol/servers
github.com/anthropics/claude-cookbooks · github.com/agentskills/agentskills
github.com/numman-ali/openskills · docs.claude.com · support.claude.com
Data: GitHub repository headers, March 18, 2026.