

Under the hood

Module 05 · MCP: Plug-ins With Standards · Chapter 02

What you will learn

- ☐ The three things any MCP server offers
- ☐ How a conversation flows through the protocol
- ☐ How to judge a server before installing it

Your exercise

TRY IT YOURSELF · ABOUT 10 MINUTES

Visit github.com/modelcontextprotocol/servers (the official reference collection). Pick any server and find in its README: its tool names, whether it exposes resources, who maintains it. Then explain the round trip above aloud to yourself using that server as the example, "if I asked X, the model would call Y".

My notes

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Servers offer tools (actions), resources (data), prompts (templates).
- The model decides; the server acts; the client referees, intelligence and hands stay separate.
- Tool-calling loops are agents in embryo.
- Vet servers like apps: publisher, permissions, maintenance.

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