Practical Uses
for AI

10 things you can start doing today

CloudCover
We've got IT
614-362-8201

Everyone Talks AI, Few Actually Do It

❌ Data governance talks with no practical examples

❌ PhD-level demos nobody can replicate

❌ AI training on the tools with no ideas what to use the tools for

✅ Today: 10 real things you can try right now

AI as Your Search Engine

Smarter than Google for many questions — but know its limits

Why it's better

✅ Synthesizes across many sources

✅ Gives direct answers, not links

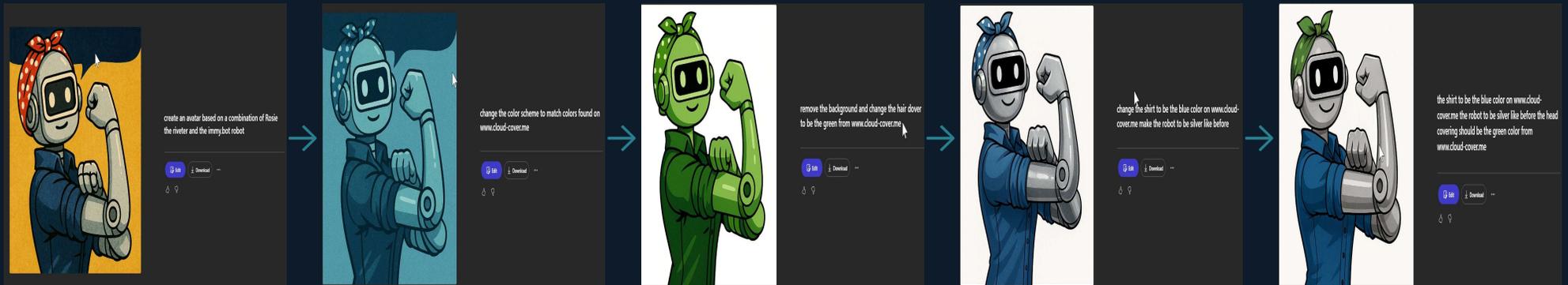✅ Explains reasoning step by step

✅ Follow-up questions

Use Caution

⚠ Hides source quality signals

⚠ Can't always verify claims

⚠ Ask it to cite sources

⚠ Confirm medical/legal info

USE #2

Creating Images with AI

From a rough text prompt to a polished image — through conversation

v1: Original

v2: Recolored

v3: Green scheme

v4: Blue shirt
silver robot

v5: Final
brand colors
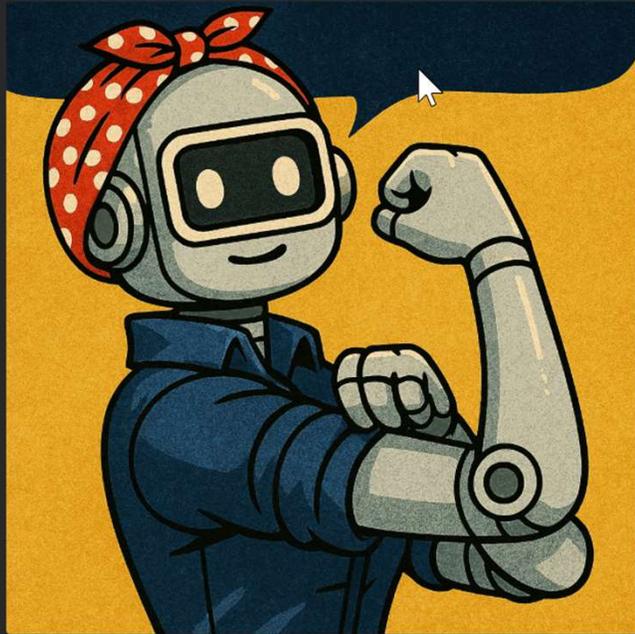
💡 **The prompt used to create "Rosie":**

"create an avatar based on a combination of Rosie the Riveter and the immy.bot robot — change the shirt to the blue from cloud-cover.me, make the robot silver, head covering in the site green"

Creating Images with AI

From a rough text prompt to a polished image — through conversation

Show AI a Photo & Ask for Help

❌ Weak prompt

"What do I do about this?"

→ Vague, useless answer

✅ Strong prompt — add context

"I have a leak in a hot water radiator system feeding a Whisper 25000 radiator. What parts do I need to fix the problem?"

→ Specific steps, parts list, links to Home Depot

Show AI a Photo & Ask for Help
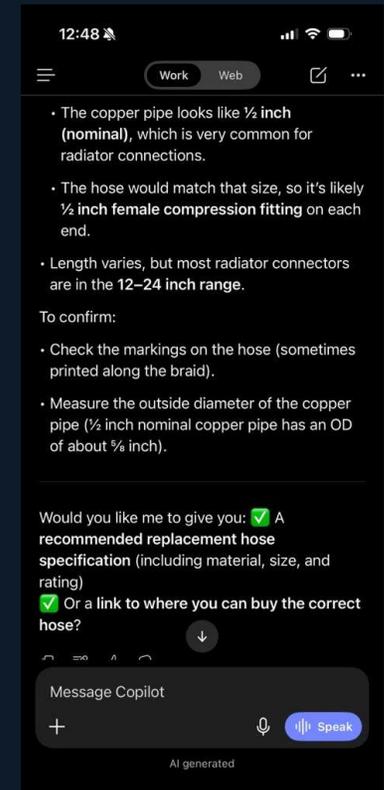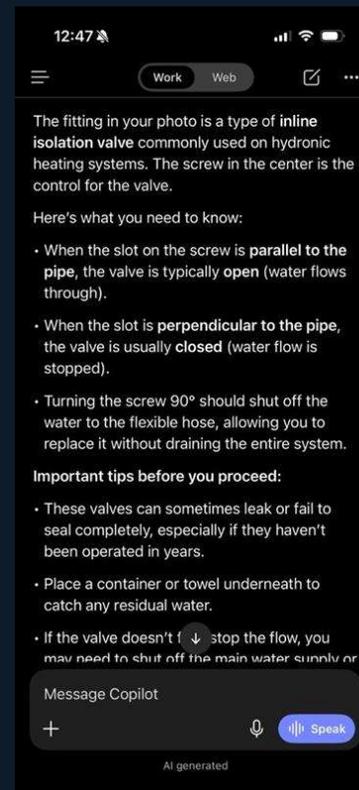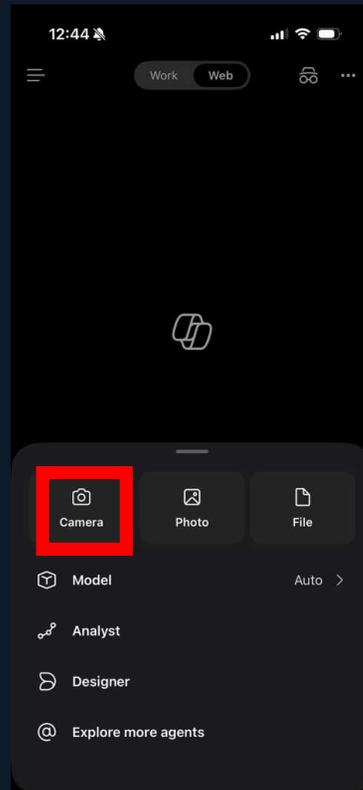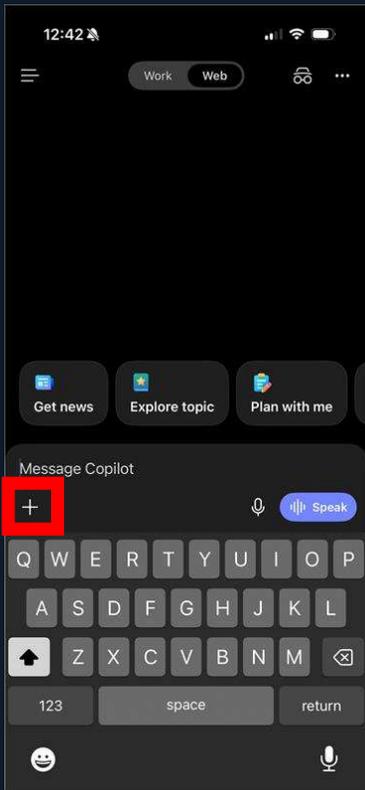
Use AI to Learn Something New

AI couldn't fix my plumbing — but it taught me how to fix it myself

The Menards Story

AI gave me the wrong parts list. But when I asked it to explain Aqua-lock, MIP, MPT, FIP, OD, push-to-connect fittings and all the pipe sizes — I could navigate 3 aisles of fittings and buy the right parts.

You can ask AI to teach you about anything:

📖 Plumbing fittings & sizes	📖 Resin formulations	📖 Schools
📖 Kitchen appliances	📖 Office 365 email policies	📖 Investment concepts

💡 Key Insight: AI is a patient tutor. Ask it to explain like you're a beginner, then go deeper. Build vocabulary first — then you can solve the problem yourself.

Stress-Test Your Thinking & Compare Options

#6 Argue the Other Side

✅ Describe your situation & position

✅ Tell AI to argue against you

✅ Ask for evidence you're wrong

✅ Request 3 counter-arguments per point

✅ Flag logical fallacies in your reasoning

Great for: negotiations, pricing decisions, preparing for tough meetings

#7 Compare Products

Weak prompt:

"powerful blenders?"

Better prompt:

"I'm tired of chunks of ice in my smoothies, please create a comparison table for top models of blenders and include warranty claims and pricing"

→ AI builds the comparison chart
→ Ask it to add current prices
→ Ask for pros/cons per use case

Property of Cloud Cover, 6877 N. High Street, Worthington, OH
614-362-8201, cloud-cover.me

Compare Options

Model	Motor Power	Ice Performance	Warranty	Warranty / Reliability Signal	Typical Price (USD)
Vitamix Ascent X4 / A3500	~2.2 HP (peak)	**Excellent** – pulverizes ice to snow	**10 years full**	**Very low warranty issues;** top Consumer Reports reliability	$650–$750 [tasteofhome.com], [vitamix.com], [blenderjunkie.com]
Vitamix Explorian E310	~2.0 HP	**Excellent** – smooth even with frozen fruit	**7 years**	**Very low issues;** fewer electronics = fewer failures	$330–$380 [juiceradvices.com], [tasteofhome.com], [blenderjunkie.com]
Blendtec Designer 725 / 750	~3.0 HP (peak)	**Excellent** – pre-programmed ice cycles	**8–10 years** (model-dependent)	**Low issues,** touchscreens slightly increase repair risk	$500–$650 [blendtec.com], [shopping.yahoo.com], [blenderjunkie.com]
Cleanblend Commercial 1800W	1800W	**Very good** – strong vortex, less finesse	**5 years** (10 optional)	**Moderate-low issues,** simpler electronics	$170–$220 [shopping.yahoo.com], [blenderjunkie.com]
Ninja Detect Duo / Professional Plus	1400–1800W	**Good** – crushes ice, occasional micro-chunks	**7 years**	**Moderate reliability;** blades wear sooner than Vitamix	$180–$230 [tasteofhome.com], [yahoo.com]
Cuisinart Hurricane Pro	1500W	**Good** – smooth with proper liquid ratio	**3 years**	**Moderate issues;** shorter warranty reflects it	$400–$450 [tasteofhome.com], [yahoo.com]

Troubleshoot Like an Expert

The more context you give, the more useful the answer

Weak prompt: *"My furnace won't come on"*

→ Generic checklist. Not helpful.

Better prompt: *"My furnace won't come on. It's a 1-year-old fuel oil boiler with an aquastat."*

→ More specific steps, relevant to your system.

Strong prompt: *"My 1-year-old Weil-McLain boiler won't come on. Repairman thinks the Model 3250 aquastat is faulty. Temp gauge reads 80°F. Some zones don't trigger the circulating pump. What should I ask him?"*

→ "Check voltage between C1 and C2. The pump won't run below minimum temp — may be an aquastat min setting issue."

AI-Powered Email & Invoice Workflow

Invoice Finder
Created by Brent Kenreich

Message Copilot

Find Recent Invoices
Search my email for the most recent invoices from the specifi...

Parse ConnectWise Invoice
Parse the attached ConnectWise invoice PDF and categorize the...

Summarize Invoice Details
Create a summary table with company, invoice date, amount,...

See more ⌄

What the Copilot Agent Does

✅ Searches email for recent invoices from 6 vendors

✅ Only considers invoices 30–60 days old

✅ Parses PDF line items into 5 GL categories

✅ Builds a summary table with dates, amounts, due dates

✅ Provides direct links — 2 clicks to find any invoice

I created my own AI agent to save hours each month on reconciling invoices. (How many hours could you save each month?)

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See more ˅

AI-Powered Email & Invoice Workflow

Details

Name

Invoice Finder

Description ⓘ

Searches email for recent invoices from specified companies, prompts for PDF downloads, parses ConnectWise and ▮▮▮▮▮▮ invoices, categorizes line items, and generates a summary table with invoice

Instructions ⓘ

- Search the user's email for the most recent invoices from ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ (▮▮▮▮▮▮) and White-label or WLC (whitelabel ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮) CpqNet (▮▮▮▮▮▮▮), Thread or GetThread (getthread.com) and Connectwise (connectwise.com).
- Only consider invoices dated within the last 30 days and no more than 60 days old.
- Parse PDFs from ConnectWise and ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ to extract invoice amounts and details. ConnectWise invoices typically have filenames starting with "INV".
- For ConnectWise invoices, sum line item amounts into five groups:
  - "Other Hosted COGS" for items containing "automate agent"
  - "Security and Filtering COGS" for items containing "Bitdefender" or "SIEM"
  - "Professional Development" for items containing "Evolve"
  - "Office Software and Subscriptions" for items containing "PSA" or "CPQ"
  - "unknown" for items not matching these criteria
- Create a summary table with company, invoice date, amount, due date, and invoice number, and also list amounts from the second most recent invoice.
- Maintain a clear, user-friendly interaction and prompt for uploads as needed.

1,123/8,000

Agent preview

New chat

Invoice Finder

Searches email for recent invoices from specified companies, prompts for PDF downloads, parses ConnectWise and White-label invoices, categorizes line items, and generates a summary table with invoice details.

Find Recent Invoices

Search my email for the most recent invoices from the specified companies and prompt me to download the PDFs.

Parse ConnectWise Invoice

Parse the attached ConnectWise invoice PDF and categorize the line items as described.

Summarize Invoice Details

Create a summary table with company, invoice date, amount, due date, and invoice number for the most recent invoices.

Download Invoice PDFs

Prompt me to download all PDF attachments from recent invoice emails for further processing.

Show Second Most Recent

List the amounts from the second most recent invoice for each company.

Categorize Line Items

Sum and categorize ConnectWise invoice line items into the specified groups.

Type your message

Another example

Hey, what's on your mind today?

I'm sometimes accused of being insensative and leaving out details or reasoning when I communicate with poeple. can you please suggest a communicationks framework I can use to prepare for talking with people or when responding to emails

+ Smart ⌄

Another example

Side-by-Side Comparison Table

Framework	Best For	Core Steps	What It Helps You Avoid
CIRR (Context → Intent → Reasoning → Request)	Emails, written updates, Slack messages	Provide context, state purpose, explain reasoning, make a clear ask	Sounding abrupt, leaving out reasoning, confusing others
PECSC (Pause → Empathize → Clarify → Share → Check)	Live conversations, 1:1s, emotionally charged discussions	Slow down, acknowledge feelings, clarify, share reasoning, confirm alignment	Reacting too fast, missing emotional cues, misinterpreting
DEAR MAN (Describe → Express → Assert → Reinforce → Mindful → Appear confident → Negotiate)	Assertive communication, boundary setting, asking for what you need	Describe facts, express feelings, assert needs, reinforce benefits, stay focused, project confidence, negotiate if needed	Coming off as blunt, escalating conflict, backing down too quickly

Invoice Reconciliation
Matching payments to invoices and purchase orders

STEP 1 — GATHER DATA FROM THREE SYSTEMS

Xero
Our bills to [redacted]
What we owe & what's paid
Last 3 months

ConnectWise
Our purchase orders
What we ordered from [redacted]
PO numbers & amounts

Billtrust
[redacted] invoices to us
What [redacted] ays we owe
Uploaded via CSV

STEP 2 — ENTER BANK PAYMENTS
User enters payments from bank feed
(Credit card or ACH — amount, date, method)

STEP 3 — AUTOMATIC MATCHING
The app runs four matching passes to connect everything together

1 Link invoices to purchase orders
Match Billtrust invoice → ConnectWise PO
by PO number or packing slip reference

2 Link our bills to their invoices
Match Xero bill → Billtrust invoice
by reference number or matching amount + date

3 Match payments to invoices
Connect bank payments → Billtrust invoices
Credit card: one payment = one invoice
ACH: one payment may cover multiple invoices

4 Catch remaining matches
Anything still unmatched? Try matching payments to POs directly

Each match gets a confidence score
- **High** — Exact amounts and references line up
- **Medium** — Close match — may include a $2 fee
- **Low** — Invoice linked to PO but no payment yet

Flags differences automatically
- ~$2 difference → likely Ingram processing fee
- Larger difference → possible shipping charges
- Quantity mismatch → partial shipment
- Anything unmatched highlighted in red

STEP 4 — REVIEW & CONFIRM

Review suggested matches
See payment, invoice, PO, and any flags

Reject match
Payment stays for manual review

Correct? No → Reject match / Yes → Confirm match

Confirm match
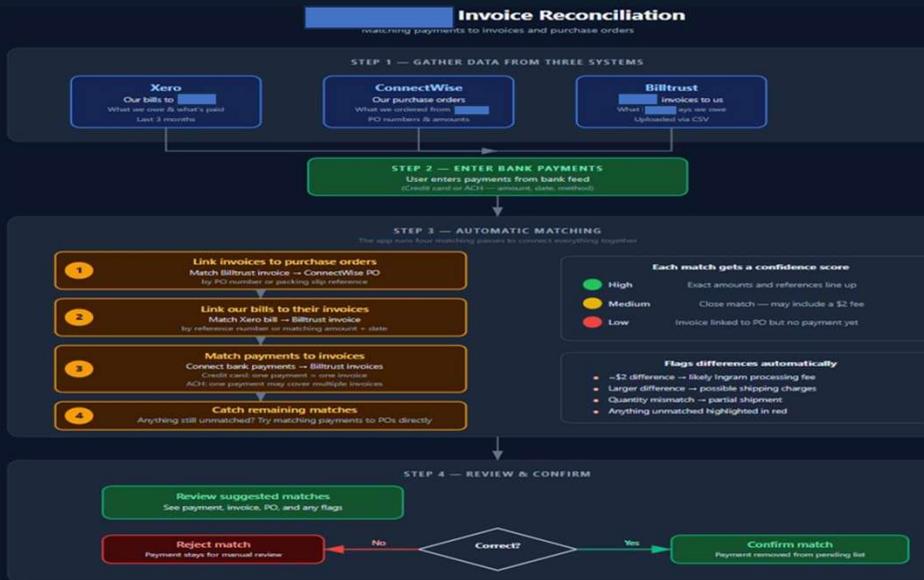Payment removed from pending list

End Result
Every [redacted] payment is matched to its invoice and purchase order
Confirmed matches are saved - Unmatched items flagged for follow-up

Invoice Reconciliation: 20 Hours → 1 Hour

3 Systems

Xero + ConnectWise + Billtrust

4 Steps

Gather → Match → Score → Confirm

~1 Hour

Down from 10–20 hours/month

💡 Voice-dictated the whole process description to Claude → Claude built the app → bookkeeper trained in 30 minutes

$3503.23 ACH ▓▓▓ ▓▓▓ high

Confirm Reject

ConnectWise PO

PO 123
$2604.88 · Closed
Slip: PO 123

Billtrust Invoices

41-87071-11
$2604.88 · open
PO: PO1 123
41-21047-31
$893.98 · open
PO: PO 456

Xero Bill

$2604.88
41-87071 | 123
PAID · Jan 5

! $4.37 diff

Matched by: ACH $3503.23 ≈ 2 invoice(s) totaling $3498.86 | PO# 456 n Billtrust invoice
2 invoices in this payment

Ask Yourself These Questions

Do you spend a lot of TIME on something repetitive?

Do you SPEND a lot of money on a manual process?

Do you PAY someone to do something boring?

Do you need something done QUICKLY?

Do you regularly ONBOARD new employees?