5 updates · how to turn each on

5 unexpected Claude updates that could change how you work.

Five recent Claude updates, who gets each one, how to turn it on and the prompt or tip that gets the best out of it.

Five Claude updates worth turning on this week.

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THE PREMISE

Which recent Claude updates are worth turning on?

Five recent Claude updates change how you can work: Slides and Docs on every plan including Free, a browser built into the desktop app, memory plus Remote Control from VS Code to your phone, incognito chats and a new top model, Opus 5.5. Here's who gets each one, how to turn it on and how to use it well.

Claude Opus 5.5 edits my reels and I've automated about 90% of my business with AI agents. So I only keep the Claude updates that change my week, which these five did.

1. Slides and Docs	Decks, documents and designs made in the chat, on every plan.
2. Built-in browser	Claude opens sites, clicks and fills forms in a side panel of the desktop app.
3. Memory + Remote Control	Context that follows you between chats and a Claude Code session you can steer from your phone.
4. Incognito chats	A chat that stays out of your history and Claude's memory.
5. Opus 5.5	Anthropic's newest top model, on paid plans.

> **THE TRAP**
>
> The trap is reading an update post and assuming it's on your plan. Only three of these work on Free: Slides and Docs, memory and incognito chats. The browser, past-chat search, Remote Control and Opus 5.5 need a paid plan.

Slides on every plan and a browser built in

1. Slides, Docs and Design, now on Free

What it is. Claude builds documents, slide decks and designs right in the chat. On 8 October 2026 Anthropic took Docs, Slides and Design out of beta and put them **on every Claude plan, including Free**. People had already made more than 45 million docs, decks and designs with them. Decks download as PowerPoint or PDF and go straight to Google Slides as editable files.

1. **Open a normal chat.** There's nothing to install or switch on. Ask for the deck in plain English.
2. **Ask for the finished thing.** Anthropic's own example is "Turn these notes into a deck for Monday." Paste or attach the notes.
3. **Edit, then export.** Change it in the editor or ask Claude to. Download PowerPoint or PDF, or send it to Google Slides. You can edit it in the Claude mobile app too.

```
Turn the notes below into a [6]-slide deck for [WHO IT'S FOR]. One idea per slide.
Each headline says the point in a full sentence. No more than 3 bullets on a slide.
Put any numbers in a chart. Ask me 3 questions about the audience before you build
it.
NOTES: [PASTE YOUR NOTES]
```

Let Claude ask first. Three questions about who's in the room stop it guessing the tone, the length and how much detail to put in.

2. A built-in browser that does the clicking

What it is. Claude Cowork has a **browser built into the Claude Desktop app**. When a task needs a website, it opens in a side panel and Claude opens sites, reads pages, clicks, types and fills forms while you watch. It's on Pro, Max and Ultra in Claude Desktop for macOS, Windows and Linux (beta). Team and Enterprise get it too unless an owner has turned it off. **Claude in Chrome** is the separate extension that works in your own Chrome tabs.

1. **Open Cowork in the Claude Desktop app** and give it a task that involves a website. Without the Chrome extension, it uses the built-in browser.
2. **Pick your browser.** Go to **Settings > Cowork** and under **Preferred browser** choose Built-in browser or Chrome (Claude in Chrome).
3. **Keep the desktop app open.** The browser lives in the app, so it has to be open and online. You can steer the task from the web or your phone while it is.

```
Use the built-in browser for this. Go to [WEBSITE] and find [WHAT YOU NEED, E.G.
EVERY PRICE PLAN AND WHAT'S IN IT]. Put it in a table with a link to the page each
row came from. Don't sign in, buy or submit anything. Stop and ask me first.
```

Start with sites you trust. Anthropic warns that hidden instructions on a web page can try to redirect any agent that browses for you. Anything you sign in to in the built-in browser stays available to Claude on that computer.

Memory, Remote Control and incognito chats

3. Memory and Remote Control

What it is. Update 3 is two features. First, Claude's **memory** carries context from your chats into new ones on the web, Claude Desktop and Claude Mobile. It's on by default on Free, Pro, Max and Ultra. Searching past chats is on paid plans. Then there's **Remote Control** for Claude Code: start a session at your desk and carry on from your phone or any browser while Claude keeps running on your computer. It's on Pro, Max, Ultra, Team and Enterprise.

1. **In VS Code, type /remote-control or /rc** in the Claude Code prompt box. A Remote Control indicator shows in the footer while it's on.
2. **Open it on your phone.** In the Claude app, tap **Code** to see your sessions, or go to claude.ai/code in any browser. An online session shows a computer icon with a green dot.
3. **Leave your computer on.** Your phone is a window into the session on your machine, so the computer stays on and VS Code stays open. Run /remote-control again to disconnect.

```
Let's continue where we left off with [PROJECT]. Search our past chats first and
tell me what you found: what we decided, what's still open and what I said I'd do
next. Then ask me what's changed since.
```

Check what it remembers. Go to **Settings > Your Claude** and select **Manage** next to Your memory to edit or delete any topic. Searching past chats needs a paid plan.

4. Incognito chats

What it is. An **incognito chat** is a temporary conversation that isn't saved to your chat history or to Claude's memory. It's on every plan, Free included. Claude doesn't use your memory in it, it won't turn up when Claude searches your past chats and it isn't used for training.

1. **Start a new chat outside a project** and click the ghost icon in the top right corner.
2. **Look for the black border.** An "Incognito chat" label sits in the top left corner while it's on.
3. **Save what you need, then close it.** Click the x in the top right corner. A closed incognito chat can't be reopened or turned into a normal chat.

THE TRAP

The trap is thinking incognito leaves no trace. Anthropic still keeps incognito chats for 30 days, or longer under an Enterprise retention setting. On Team and Enterprise plans they're in the owner's data exports. Your profile preferences and custom styles still apply inside one.

WANT TO KEEP THE CHAT BUT SKIP MEMORY?

Start a new chat, click **+** in the message box and turn **Memory** off before your first message. The chat stays in your history and this works inside projects, where incognito doesn't.

UPDATE 5

What is Claude Opus 5.5 and who can use it?

What it is. **Claude Opus 5.5** is Anthropic's newest top model, announced on 22 September 2026 as the first of the Claude 5.5 family. Anthropic says it performs at the level of Claude Fable 5.1 on most work and costs 40% less to run than Opus 5. It puts the most important information up front and follows the writing rules you give it. It's on paid plans, **not on Free**.

1. **In the Claude app,** pick Opus 5.5 from the model menu before you send your first message.
2. **In Claude Code,** run /model opus. On Anthropic's own API that **alias** now points to Opus 5.5. It needs Claude Code v2.1.280 or later, so run claude update first.
3. **Give it the long job.** Anthropic says it's particularly good at long, sprawling work, so hand over the whole task instead of ten small prompts.

```
Here's the whole job: [THE TASK AND WHAT DONE LOOKS LIKE]. Before you start, write a
short plan and tell me how you'll check it at the end. Then do it in one go. Only
stop to ask me if a step can't be undone. Finish with what you did, what you checked
and anything you're unsure of.
```

Write your rules down once. Put how you want things written in your project instructions or a CLAUDE.md file, so you aren't repeating them in every prompt.

Which plan gets what

Free	Slides, Docs and Design. Memory across chats. Incognito chats.
Pro and up	Everything on Free, plus the built-in browser, Claude in Chrome, past-chat search, Remote Control and Opus 5.5. Pro is £18 a month, or £15 a month billed yearly (UK prices with VAT).
Team and Enterprise	The same features. An owner can switch some of them off and has to turn Remote Control on first.

THE TAKEAWAY

Turn one of these on today.

Start with the one on your plan that saves you the most time this week. On Free, that's Slides: open a chat and ask for the deck you've been putting off. On Pro or above, type /rc in VS Code before you leave your desk and give Opus 5.5 the job you'd normally split into ten prompts.

How I use it. Opus 5.5 is the model I use for almost every task now. It edits my reels in Claude Code: I've got a Remotion skill for each of my edit styles, so I describe the edit, Claude builds it and I check every render before it goes out. The AI agents that run about 90% of my business work the same way, each with one job I can check.

What this won't do: plans and features change, so check claude.com/pricing before you pay for anything. The built-in browser and Remote Control both need your computer on and the app running. Incognito isn't invisible, because Anthropic keeps those chats for 30 days. An agent that browses for you can still be fooled by a page, so start with sites you trust.

Turn on the update that gives you an hour back.

Sources, opened 4 November 2026: Anthropic, **Build live dashboards and animate explainers with Claude** (8 October 2026); **Claude pricing**; Claude Help Center, **Use the built-in browser in Claude Cowork**, **Get started with Claude in Chrome**, **chat search and memory** and **Use incognito chats**; Claude Code Docs, **Remote Control** and **Model configuration**; Anthropic, **Introducing Claude Opus 5.5** (**news**, 22 September 2026)

Building something of your own? **The Audacity to Build** is my community for people building alongside me, with the systems I actually run. It is opening soon. Join the waitlist at fadeadeniyi.com/waitlist.

Fadé Adeniyi

Fadé & The Machines