



Claude Skills & the Ecosystem

Reusable, contextually-loaded instruction packs. The 2026 evolution of "system prompt" without the bloat.

1

MARKDOWN FILE

200-400

LINES MAX

On-demand

LOADED CONTEXTUALLY

3

MARKETPLACES

• Skills vs MCP vs Agents — the three primitives

MCP servers

Provide **capabilities** — tools the agent can call (filesystem, GitHub, Slack...).

THIS POST

Skills

Provide **knowledge + instructions** — how to behave in specific contexts.

Subagents

Provide **specialized personas** — model + tools + system prompt for a recurring role.

• Anatomy of a skill (.claude/skills/<name>.md)

Skill: Swift Refactor Specialist

Description

Specializes in modernizing Swift / SwiftUI per 2026 conventions.

When to Use

User says "refactor" · UINavigationController → UINavigationController · iOS 17+ targets

Instructions

1. Read target file(s) first
2. Prefer SwiftUI over UIKit
3. Run tests after refactor
4. Update CLAUDE.md decisions log

WHY SKILLS BEAT SYSTEM PROMPT STUFFING

Skills load **contextually**. Tiny index always present; full skill loads only when description matches. No more 5000-line system prompt with conflicting rules competing for attention.

FIRST SKILL TO WRITE

The repeated instruction. If you've told Claude the same thing 3× across sessions, externalize it.

WHERE SKILLS LIVE

- 1 **anthropics/skills**
Official reference. Browse first.
- 2 **agentskills.io**
Community directory. Categorized.
- 3 **skillsmp.com**
Marketplace. Free + premium.
- 4 **Your repo's .claude/skills/**
Project-specific.
- 5 **~/.claude/skills/**
Personal, all projects.

SKILL PATTERNS THAT WORK

- 1 **Domain-specific**
"Stripe API Patterns" · "RDR2 Lore"
- 2 **Process skills**
"Pre-commit Reviewer" · "PR Writer"
- 3 **Style skills**
"djEnterprises Voice"
- 4 **Safety skills**
"Pre-Deploy Guard" · "DB Migration Check"

Full guide: djenterprises.ai/blog/claude-skills-ecosystem

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