

2026 Agent-Tooling Decision — Cheat Sheet

Fora Soft Learn · AI for Video Engineering

1 — The six 2026 newcomers (the big three live in lesson 7.3)

Manus AI	Managed autonomous agent you BUY (no code). Gives the agent a virtual computer — browser, terminal, files. Credit-based pricing; great for one-off results, risky at high volume.
Claude Agent SDK	Anthropic SDK (renamed from Claude Code SDK, Sep 2025). 'Give your agent a computer.' Subagents, compaction, agentic search, built-in verification, MCP. Engineers; pay tokens.
OpenAI Agents SDK	Production successor to Swarm (Mar 2025). Primitives: agents, handoffs, guardrails, tracing + sandbox + REALTIME VOICE pipeline. Lightweight; for OpenAI shops.
Google ADK + Vertex	Open-source kit (ADK) + managed runtime (Vertex AI Agent Builder / Agent Engine). Multi-language, model-agnostic, enterprise governance. Pick if you're on Google Cloud.
n8n	Low-code, SELF-HOSTED. ~70 LangChain AI nodes, native MCP, 400+ integrations. Data stays in your environment; you pay server time. Semi-technical teams.
Zapier	No-code SaaS automation across 8,000+ apps. Copilot + Agents + Chatbots. Bills per task + AI add-ons; fastest cross-app build, least control.

2 — The buy-to-build spectrum (speed falls, control rises L to R)

BUY →		→ BUILD	
Manus AI	Zapier / n8n	Google ADK+Vertex	Claude / OpenAI SDK

speed (ship this week) ←————→ control (shaped to the task)

3 — Mind the pricing unit (40 cameras × 30 days = 1,200 runs/mo)

Tool	Unit	At 1,200 runs/mo
Manus	credits per task	1,200 runs × ~50 credits = ~60,000 credits/mo (no estimate)
Zapier	tasks per action	1,200 runs × 5 apps = 6,000 tasks/mo + AI add-on fees
Claude / OpenAI	no platform fee	pay model tokens only — predictable, linear with volume

Rule

map runs/day × days × sites onto each tool's unit BEFORE you choose a plan

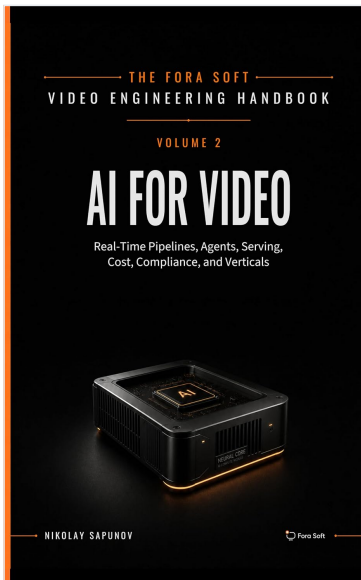
4 — How to choose: who builds it first, then model + cloud

- ☐ No engineers, want a finished result? Manus (autonomous one-off) or Zapier (cross-app).
- ☐ Semi-technical, want data control? n8n, self-hosted on your own server.
- ☐ Engineers + OpenAI + realtime voice in a call? OpenAI Agents SDK.
- ☐ Engineers + heavy digital work (search archive, run code, self-verify)? Claude Agent SDK.
- ☐ Already on Google Cloud and need enterprise scale + governance? Google ADK + Vertex.
- ☐ Don't buy an autonomous agent for a fixed, repetitive pipeline — and don't over-build either.

Companion to: 'Manus AI, Claude Agent SDK, OpenAI Swarm, Google ADK, n8n — 2026 Deep-Dive'

www.forasoft.com/learn/ai-for-video-engineering/articles-ai/manus-ai-claude-agent-sdk-openai-swarm-google-adk-n8n-2026

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AI for Video: A Complete Guide to Intelligence in Video Products

From Real-Time Pipelines and Agents to Serving, Cost, Compliance, and Verticals

By Nikolay Sapunov, CEO at Fora Soft · 1,221 pages · Kindle & paperback on Amazon

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This sheet maps six agent platforms by who builds, what you pay per run and which cloud you live on. Volume 7 treats agents as engineering: loop primitives, frameworks, memory and tools, plus serving infrastructure and cost per stream-hour once an agent runs inside a video product.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

- Agent loop primitives, memory and tool calling
- Choosing an agent framework for a video pipeline
- Serving models with vLLM, Triton and TensorRT
- Cost per stream-hour and how to budget it

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Vol. 6 · AI for Video I — models and inference, computer vision, speech, search, generative video

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