

Session 2: Coding Agents in Action

Led by: Dr. Omer F. Alis, AI Solutions Hub, Roux Institute at Northeastern University

Audience: Technical: developers, low-code/no-code builders, and technically curious practitioners **Duration:** ~60 minutes

Before the Event

I will build an AI agent live during this session. You are welcome to simply watch, or you can code along with me in real time.

If you want to code along, please complete the following setup before arriving. This takes about 15-20 minutes:

Step 1: Install Claude Desktop (includes Claude Code)

Claude Code is the coding agent we'll use in the session. The easiest way to access it is through the Claude Desktop app, which includes a built-in Code tab.

macOS:

1. Go to claude.com/download
2. Download the macOS installer
3. Open the .dmg file and drag Claude to your Applications folder
4. Launch Claude and sign in with your account
5. Verify: click the **Code** tab in the sidebar. if you see it, you're set

Windows:

1. Go to claude.com/download
2. Download the Windows installer (x64 or ARM64 (most laptops are x64))
3. Run the installer and follow the prompts
4. Launch Claude and sign in with your account
5. Verify: click the **Code** tab in the sidebar. if you see it, you're set

Alternative options (for those who prefer them):

- **VS Code extension:** Open VS Code → Extensions (Ctrl+Shift+X / Cmd+Shift+X) → search "Claude Code" → Install. Works in Cursor and Windsurf too.
- **CLI (terminal):** Run `curl -fsSL https://claude.ai/install.sh | bash`
(macOS/Linux) or install via npm: `npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code`

I'll be using **Claude Desktop** in the session. If you prefer VS Code or CLI, that works too; the experience is the same.

Step 2: Claude Subscription

Claude Code requires a paid Claude subscription. A **Pro plan (\$20/month)** is sufficient for this session. If you don't have one yet:

1. Go to claude.ai
2. Sign up or sign in
3. Click your name (bottom-left) → **Upgrade to Pro**
4. Complete payment

Note: The free plan does not include Claude Code access. You need at least Pro.

Step 3: Verify Everything Works

1. Open Claude Desktop
2. Click the **Code** tab
3. You should see a terminal-like interface ready for input
4. Type a simple request like: "Create a Python file that prints hello world"
5. If Claude Code writes the file and runs it, you're ready

No separate API key is needed. Claude Code authenticates through your Claude subscription automatically. You do not need to visit the Anthropic Console or generate an API key for this session.

What to Bring

If coding along: A Mac or Windows laptop with Claude Desktop installed and a Claude Pro subscription (setup above). Make sure your laptop is **fully charged**; bring a charger if possible.

If watching: Nothing required. The live build will be projected on screen and narrated step by step.

Prior Knowledge

No prior knowledge of Claude Code is needed. I'll explain everything as we go. However, a **basic familiarity with programming concepts** will help you follow along. You don't need to be a developer, but understanding what functions, variables, and APIs are will make the session more rewarding.

If you're a no-code/low-code builder, you'll still get value from seeing how a coding agent works, even if you don't code along yourself.

Session Leader

Dr. Omer F. Alis, Director, AI Solutions Hub, Institute for Experiential AI, Roux Institute at Northeastern University.

Quick Reference

	Session 1	Session 2
Audience	General	Technical
Prep required	None	Install Claude Desktop + Pro subscription (if coding along)
Bring	Nothing	Charged laptop (if coding along)

	Session 1	Session 2
Prior knowledge	None	Basic programming concepts (if coding along)
Led by	Dr. Omer F. Alis	Dr. Omer F. Alis
Can I just watch?	N/A (it's a presentation)	Yes, absolutely