

Video Digest — Jerad Hill — How I Manage My Entire Life with a Custom App I Built in Claude Code

2026-07-06

Video Digest — Jerad Hill, *How I Manage My Entire Life with a Custom App I Built in Claude Code* Source: <https://youtu.be/WX-HS9o5VMY> · Generated via NotebookLM · 2026-07-06 (Captured via Telegram, immediate mode)

Bespoke Life-Management Systems via Claude Code: An AI Generalist's Action Guide

TL;DR

Bespoke productivity systems built via Claude Code represent a shift from force-fitting workflows into rigid platforms like Notion towards creating high-fidelity, zero-friction environments tailored to specific professional and personal domains. By using a tech stack of Node.js, Supabase, and the Anthropic API, it is possible to build a unified dashboard that handles voice-first task capture, automated project tracking for both one-off deliverables and recurring retainers, and an AI-driven personal library. The primary value lies in removing the “friction of entry”—using Apple Watch shortcuts and AI-processed transcriptions to ensure data is captured and categorised accurately without manual sorting.

How to Implement

The development of a custom life-management tool using Claude Code follows a structured progression from conceptual conversation to deployed web application.

1. **Requirement Definition via Dialogue:** Start a conversation with Claude to map out life domains (e.g., film production, personal knowledge management, client retainers). Instruct the AI to ask clarifying questions about current friction points to identify where existing tools fail.
2. **Specification Generation:** Convert the conversation into a comprehensive “spec document.” This document serves as the absolute blueprint for the system’s logic, database schema, and feature set.
3. **UI/UX Prototyping:** Use Claude Design to create the visual interface. Focus on a “Today” view that prioritises top tasks, calendar integration (via Google Calendar API), and “slipping” projects that require attention.
4. **Environment Setup:** Initialise a Node.js project. Use Supabase for the database and authentication to ensure data persistence and security.

5. **Core Development with Claude Code:** Use the Claude Code CLI to build the application iteratively. Start with the dashboard and task ingestion, then move to complex modules like the Content Pipeline or the People CRM.
6. **Input Optimisation:** Create an Apple Watch or mobile shortcut that triggers voice recording, transcribes the audio, and sends it to the system. Use the Anthropic API to rewrite these transcripts into formatted entries (tasks, journal notes, or reminders).
7. **Deployment:** Host the application on a stable platform (such as ExCloud) to ensure the system is accessible via a web interface on all devices (mobile, tablet, desktop).

Why and When It Is Worth Doing

This approach is recommended when the overhead of managing multiple specialised tools (Notion, Apple Notes, dedicated CRM, Trello) exceeds the benefit they provide.

- **Complex Workflows:** If you manage a mix of one-time projects and ongoing retainers that standard project management tools handle poorly.
- **High Input Friction:** When ideas or tasks are lost because the process of opening an app and categorising a note takes too long.
- **Data Silos:** When you need a “global search” that spans personal journals, Kindle highlights, client project logs, and relationship data.
- **Bespoke Logic Requirements:** When you need specific features like a “slipping” algorithm that flags projects untouched for a set period, or a routine tracker that separates daily habits from one-off tasks.

Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
Absolute Flexibility: Build exactly the logic required for film production or personal coding projects.	Development Overhead: Requires an initial investment of several days to build and refine the system.
Zero-Friction Ingestion: Voice-to-task automation ensures information is captured the moment it occurs.	Maintenance: As an “AI-only” coder, you are responsible for fixing API breaking changes or server issues.
Unified Context: AI can “chat” with your entire life history, from journals to project archives.	Host Reliance: The system’s availability depends on your hosting provider and database stability.
Data Ownership: You control the database (Supabase) rather than being locked into a proprietary platform.	Feature Creep: Easy to spend time building “inventory” or “streak” features instead of doing actual work.

Fit with Existing Setup

Claude Code Workflows

The entire system is managed via Claude Code. For an AI generalist, this provides a “dogfooding” opportunity—using the CLI tool to build a tool that then manages your coding tasks. Updates and new features are pushed directly from the terminal to the production environment.

Obsidian Vault Automation

The “Library” module of this bespoke system serves a similar purpose to an Obsidian vault. It handles notes, quotes, and journal entries. Integration could involve syncing the Supabase database with local Markdown files, allowing Claude Code to index the vault and resurface “favourited” or “forgotten” insights on the dashboard.

KS Films UK AI Production

The “Content” and “Project” modules are directly applicable to film production. * **Production Pipeline:** Track a video from “Idea” to “Published,” with embedded YouTube links and associated tasks. * **Retainers:** Manage ongoing UK client relationships with automated monthly checklist resets for recurring production tasks. * **Milestones:** Track completion percentages for film edits or client deliverables.

Tenants Voice Web Product

The tech stack (Node.js, Supabase, Anthropic API) used for this life-manager is identical to what might be used for a professional web product like Tenants Voice. Building this for personal use acts as a sandbox for testing interaction logging and AI-driven review systems that can be ported to the commercial product.

Key Themes and Analysis

1. Friction as the Primary Enemy

The source context emphasises that “the friction of getting information into a system is what prevents me from using the actual system.” The solution is not better organisation, but better ingestion. By using voice capture that ignores “ums” and “ahs” and automatically categorises the output, the system moves from being a chore to being an assistant.

2. Separation of Routines and Tasks

A critical insight is the separation of daily habits (vitamins, email checks) from professional tasks. Traditional tools jumble these together, creating an “overwhelming vat of stuff.” The bespoke system separates these into morning/afternoon/evening streaks, preventing routine maintenance from obscuring high-priority project work.

3. AI-Driven Resurfacing

Notes often “go to die” in apps like Notion. The system uses AI to: * Identify action items within long-form notes. * Rotate “inspiration” (quotes or verses) on the daily dashboard. * Flag notes for review that haven’t been touched, ensuring the knowledge base remains active rather than a digital graveyard.

Important Quotes

“The friction of getting information into a system is what prevents me from using the actual system... this system is about as frictionless as you can get right now.”

Context: Explaining why the creator abandoned Notion in favour of an Apple Watch shortcut that feeds directly into Claude-managed code.

“I always found myself trying to fit personal tasks and different things into a system that was built for business workflows... it just didn’t work out too well.”

Context: Discussing the “Slipping” and “Routine” sections of the dashboard which allow for life-specific logic that commercial CRMs lack.

“The tools should get out of my way so that I can stay focused and not spend half of my day trying to figure out where I’m at on a project.”

Context: Defining the ultimate goal of the system: stewardship of time and resources rather than the act of “organising” for its own sake.

Day-to-Day Applicability

- **Immediate Capture:** Use voice while driving or on-set at KS Films to log a task: “Schedule a follow-up with the sound editor for 10 am tomorrow.”
- **Personal CRM:** Log facts about collaborators or family members (birthdays, interests) to be more intentional in relationships.
- **Habit Tracking:** Use the “Streak Tracker” for personal goals (e.g., running a 5K daily in June) with automatic archival once the period ends.
- **Stewardship:** The “Inventory” section (planned) allows for logging purchases with photos for insurance purposes and to monitor when items should be sold or repurposed.