
Module 17: Replit and Other AI App Builders

Build and host full-stack apps in the browser with Replit Agent, and know when to choose Bolt, v0, Cursor, GitHub Copilot or Figma Make instead.



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Built from the 55-lecture course study guide and extended to the 12-module Product Core curriculum. Hypothetical examples are labelled; no real company results are invented.

Contents

17.1 Replit in one picture	3
17.2 Level 1 · Build your first app	4
17.3 Level 2 · Data, secrets and quality	5
17.4 Level 3 · Deploy, schedule and integrate	5
17.5 Labs	6
17.6 The other AI app builders	7
17.7 Common mistakes	8
17.8 Exercises with model answers	8
17.9 Key takeaways	9
17.10 Check your understanding	9
17.11 Recommended resources	9

MODULE 17

Replit and Other AI App Builders

Build and host full-stack apps in the browser with Replit Agent, and know when to choose Bolt, v0, Cursor, GitHub Copilot or Figma Make instead.

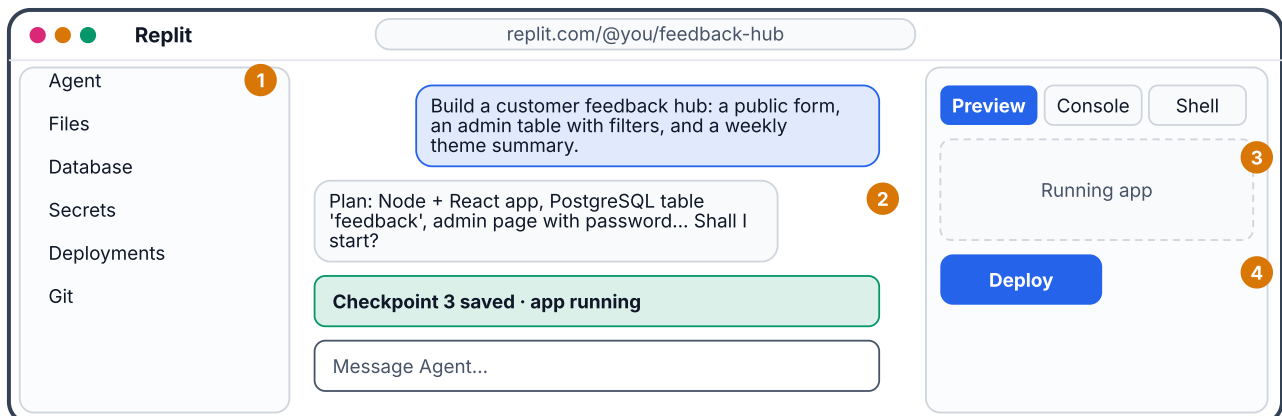
≈ 5 h study

Fast-moving tools

App builders change pricing and features monthly. Treat the comparisons as a starting point and check each vendor's pricing page. Screens are **illustrative wireframes**.

17.1 Replit in one picture

Replit is a complete coding environment in your browser: editor, terminal, database, hosting and an AI **Agent** that can build a full-stack app (front end, back end and database) from a description. Nothing to install, and it works on a phone too.



- 1 Agent builds whole features; the Assistant makes quick edits and answers questions about the code.
- 2 Agent proposes a plan first. Read it and remove what you don't need before it starts.
- 3 Every Agent step saves a checkpoint you can roll back to, including the database.
- 4 Deploy publishes the app on a replit.app address or your own domain.

The Replit workspace (illustrative wireframe, not a real product screenshot). Secrets hold API keys; the Database tab shows a PostgreSQL database you can query.

17.1.1 What it costs (checked 23 Oct 2026)

Plan	Price	Notes
Starter	Free	Daily Agent credits, one published app, limited Agent capability
Core	about \$20 a month billed yearly (about \$25 monthly)	Monthly usage credits, more apps, collaborators, custom domains
Pro / Teams	about \$100 a month	For teams with heavier use

Replit uses **effort-based pricing**: a bigger Agent task costs more than a small one, and usage beyond your plan's credits is billed. Set a **usage alert** in billing settings. Check replit.com/pricing.

17.2 Level 1 · Build your first app

Level 1 · Beginner

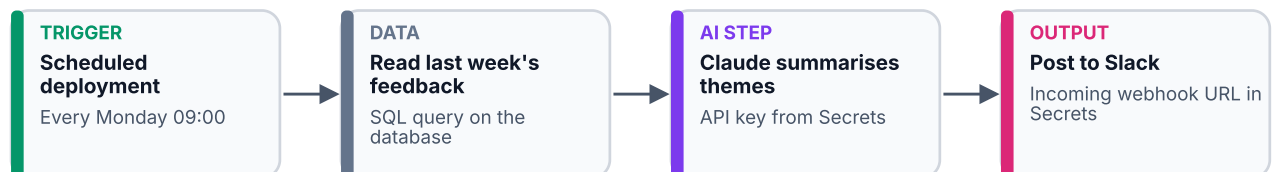
1. Sign up at replit.com, click **Create**, and describe the app to Agent (use the five-part prompt from Class 16: what and who, pages, look, data, not now).
2. Review Agent's plan, remove extras, and approve.
3. Test in the preview. Ask for one change per message.
4. If a change goes wrong, **roll back** to the previous checkpoint.

17.3 Level 2 · Data, secrets and quality

Level 2 · Working PM

- **Database:** ask "Store feedback in the database with date, customer segment, text and theme." Use the Database tab to view rows and run SQL such as `SELECT theme, COUNT(*) FROM feedback GROUP BY theme;`.
- **Secrets:** add `ANTHROPIC_API_KEY` under Secrets. Ask Agent to read it from the environment in server code only.
- **Ask for tests:** "Add tests for the form validation and run them."
- **Admin protection:** "Protect the admin page with login; never show admin data on public pages."
- **Explain the code:** ask Assistant "Which file handles the form? Explain in plain language."

17.4 Level 3 · Deploy, schedule and integrate



Weekly AI theme digest on Replit. Replit's scheduled deployments run a script on a timetable. The same digest can also be built in n8n (Class 20). Node types shown: AI step · Data · Output · Trigger (starts the flow).

Level 3 · Advanced

- **Deployments:** choose the type the app needs: static site, autoscale web app (scales with traffic), reserved machine (always on) or scheduled job.
- **Custom domain:** Deployments → Settings → link your domain and add the DNS records shown.
- **GitHub:** connect Git to push the code to a GitHub repository, then work on it with Claude Code (Class 15).
- **Integrations:** Slack incoming webhooks, Stripe in test mode, the Claude API through Secrets.

17.5 Labs

Lab 1 · Feedback hub (Free, 30 minutes)

Build the feedback form and admin table from the picture above with sample data. Roll back once on purpose, to learn checkpoints.

Lab 2 · Database and SQL (20 minutes)

Store submissions in the database. Run a `GROUP BY theme` query in the Database tab and ask Agent to show the counts on the admin page as a bar chart.

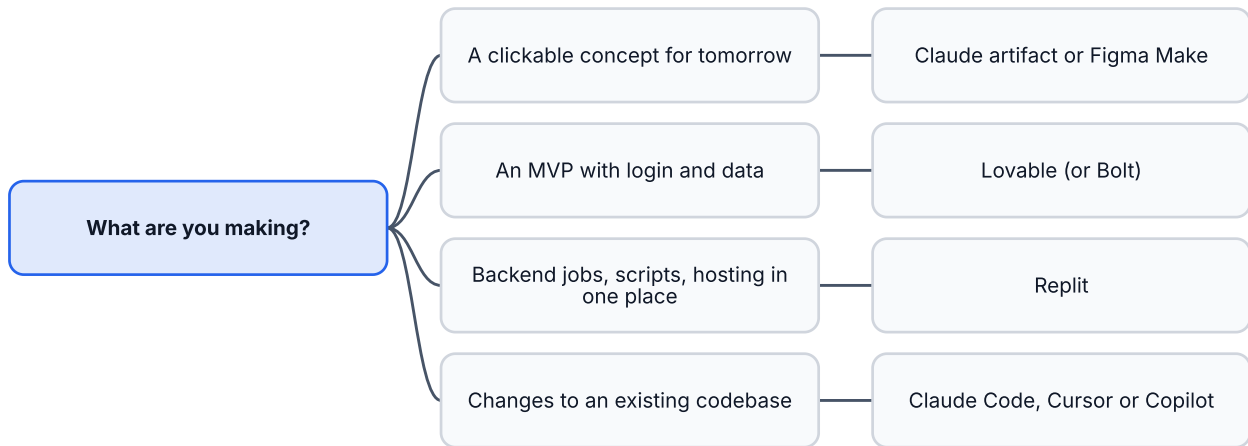
Lab 3 · Weekly digest to Slack (Core or API, 40 minutes)

Create a Slack incoming webhook in your practice workspace. Add it and your Claude key as Secrets. Ask Agent for the scheduled job in the workflow above. Run it manually once and check the Slack message.

17.6 The other AI app builders

Tool	Best for	Backend and data	Free to start	Get the code out
Lovable	Polished MVPs with login and database	Lovable Cloud or Supabase	Yes, 5 credits a day	GitHub sync
Replit	Full-stack apps, scripts, scheduled jobs, hosting	Built-in PostgreSQL	Yes, daily credits	Git / GitHub
Bolt.new	Fast in-browser apps, many frameworks	Supabase and others	Yes, token-limited	Download or GitHub
v0 (Vercel)	Beautiful UI and Next.js apps	Vercel integrations	Yes, limited credits	Deploy to Vercel or copy code
Figma Make	Turning designs into working prototypes	Light; prototype focus	Starter plan limits	Copy code
Claude artifacts	One-page tools and clickable concepts	None (front end only)	Yes	Copy or download
Cursor / Windsurf	AI code editors for real codebases	Whatever your code uses	Free tiers	Your own repository
GitHub Copilot	Coding help and agents inside GitHub and editors	Whatever your code uses	Free tier	Your own repository
Firebase Studio	Google stack apps with Firebase backend	Firebase	Yes	Your own repository
Claude Code	Building and changing real repositories	Whatever your code uses	With Pro or API	Your own repository

Choosing an AI app builder (checked 23 Oct 2026). For a PM, the usual path is Claude artifacts or Lovable for the first concept, then Claude Code on the GitHub repository once the project gets serious.



Which builder should I open?. You can switch later. Builders that sync to GitHub keep your options open.

17.7 Common mistakes

- **No usage alerts:** effort-based pricing can surprise you. Set alerts on day one.
- **Secrets in code:** use the Secrets tab or environment variables.
- **Public admin pages:** protect anything with customer data behind login.
- **Tool-hopping:** pick one builder per project and finish the MVP first.

17.8 Exercises with model answers

Exercise · Pick the builder

(a) A pricing-page concept for a design review in two hours. (b) A nightly script that emails a sales summary. (c) Add a "save for later" feature to your company's existing web app.

Model answer

(a) **Claude artifact** or **Figma Make**: fast, no backend needed. (b) **Replit** scheduled deployment or an **n8n** workflow (Class 20). (c) **Claude Code**, Cursor or Copilot on the existing repository, with engineering review, because it changes production code.

17.9 Key takeaways

- **Replit** gives you editor, AI Agent, database, secrets and hosting in one browser tab.
 - **Checkpoints** make experiments safe; **usage alerts** keep costs safe.
 - Choose a builder by **what you are making**; prefer tools that **export to GitHub**.
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17.10 Check your understanding

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

In Replit, what lets you undo an Agent step, including database changes?

- A. Secrets
- B. Checkpoints and rollback
- C. Deployments
- D. The Shell

Why: Agent saves checkpoints you can roll back to.

Which tool is designed to change an existing production codebase?

- A. Claude artifacts
- B. Figma Make
- C. Claude Code or Cursor
- D. A landing page builder

Why: Coding agents and AI editors work inside your existing repository.

17.11 Recommended resources

- [Replit docs](#) · [Replit pricing](#)
- [Bolt.new](#) · [v0 by Vercel](#) · [Cursor docs](#) · [GitHub Copilot docs](#)
- Replit's official YouTube channel for Agent walkthroughs