

# The Codex App · Control Surface

How you drive OpenAI's Codex desktop app: the three composer triggers, the built-in commands, and the two setups worth doing on day one. The live / menu in your own composer is always the real list.

## THE THREE TRIGGERS *type them in the composer*

/

The slash menu: six built-in commands, plus your enabled skills and /pet. Type to filter.

\$

Run one of your own skills by name, on purpose.

@

Mention a plugin, a bundled skill, or a target: @Computer, @AppName, @Browser.

**BUILT-IN SLASH COMMANDS** *the live menu runs about a dozen, plus your skills*

### /goal

Set a goal Codex keeps working toward; shape it with /plan first.

### /plan

Turn plan mode on for multi-step planning before it acts.

### /model

Pick the model and reasoning effort (the composer shows it, e.g. "5.5 High").

### /review

Review unstaged changes or compare against a branch.

### /status

Thread ID, context usage, and rate limits.

### /mcp

Show MCP status and connected outside tools.

### /fast

Toggle Fast: about 1.5x speed, increased usage.

### /chat

Step out of a project for a quick general thread.

### /personality

Choose how Codex responds.

### /feedback

Send feedback about this chat; optionally attach logs.

### /pet

Wake or tuck away the desktop pet.

## TURN ON COMPUTER USE *it operates other apps for you*

- Settings → **Computer Use** → **Install** the plugin.
- macOS**: grant **Screen Recording** (so it can see the app) and **Accessibility** (so it can click, type, navigate).
- Windows**: keep the target app visible while the task runs.
- Activate in a prompt: @Computer or @AppName, or just ask it to use computer use.

## ANNOTATE THE IN-APP BROWSER

- Open it: **Cmd+Shift+B** (Ctrl+Shift+B on Windows), or @Browser.
- Turn on **Annotation mode**.
- Shift+click** to select an element or area.
- Cmd+click** to send a comment immediately.
- No logins, cookies, or extensions — for signed-in sites use the Chrome extension instead.

## WHAT CHAT CAN'T DO *the reasons to install it*

### Computer Use

Operate other apps for you, in the background.

### In-app browser

Annotate a live page to point instead of describe.

### Image generation

Mockups, slides, and charts via \$imagegen (gpt-image-2). It reasons, so numbers can be real; verify them.

### Goal mode

One outcome it works toward across days.

### Automations

Recurring runs on a schedule; findings land in Triage.

## SETTINGS WORTH FLIPPING

### Computer Use

Install the plugin to let Codex operate other apps.

### Browser

Enable the plugin for the shared, annotatable web view.

### MCP

Connect outside tools and data sources.

### Pets

Optional animated companion — toggle, /pet, or Cmd+K.