

Cursor 3.0’s Swarm Control, Claude Code’s Slide, and Codex at the Limit

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Cursor 3.0 is the day’s clearest workflow shift: the IDE is becoming a control plane for parallel agents. The other strong signal comes from Theo’s side of the market—Claude Code frustration, Codex preference, and real limits showing up in long-running, high-volume usage.

TOP SIGNAL

Cursor 3.0 is the clearest product shift today: the developer stops being a typist and becomes an agent dispatcher. In Fireship’s walkthrough, a fresh project goes from plan mode to parallel agents across marketing, servers, and other projects, with yellow-dot approval gates for risky commands, blue-dot completion signals, and a 13k-line prototype ready to inspect in-browser [1].

TOOLS & MODELS

- **Cursor 3.0** — Major UX change: Cursor now wants you running swarms of agents across repos, machines, and the cloud, not manually editing code line by line [1]. The new interface was rewritten in **Rust + TypeScript** for agent management, while the old VS Code-style editor still exists in the product [1].
- **Composer 2** — Cursor’s new in-house model was presented as smarter, faster, and cheaper than Opus on benchmark slides, then Cursor later apologized for the lack of transparency and published a technical report saying it was **Kimi plus reinforcement learning** [1].
- **Claude Code** — Theo’s negative signal keeps getting louder: he says it is “basically unusable” for his use cases, and his Dropbox repair example

shows Claude refusing to help once the task looked like general computer support instead of software engineering [2, 3].

- **Codex CLI** — Theo says he is now repointing his `cc` alias to **Codex – yolo** and prefers Codex for coding, research, and longer runs. His reasons: open-source CLI, better models, easier to build on top of, and higher trust on extended tasks [3].
- **Benchmark signal** — Theo also points out that **Claude Code ranks last on TerminalBench** among harnesses using **Opus 4.6**, with ten separate harnesses doing better on the same base model [4].

WORKFLOWS & TRICKS

- **Cursor swarm loop to copy**
 1. Start a fresh repo in **plan mode** and let the agent sketch architecture [1].
 2. While that runs, dispatch more agents in parallel: a landing page, remote work over SSH, or an entirely different project [1].
 3. Use the status dots as the control surface: **yellow** means you need to approve risky commands; **blue** means review-ready [1].
 4. Review output in one place via **git history, terminal, file explorer, and the built-in browser** [1].
 5. For UI cleanup, jump to **design mode**, select the broken element, describe the fix, and keep queueing more requests while the agent works in the background [1].
- **Whole-machine debugging loop with Codex**
 1. Give Codex the operational task directly: kill and relaunch the broken app [3].
 2. If the first pass stalls, add a **mid-run steering prompt** telling it to research similar failures online [3].
 3. Let it propose root causes, then authorize the cleanup step—in Theo’s example, nuking duplicate Dropbox installs [3].
 4. End by asking for a **reinstall checklist** so the agent hands back a concrete recovery plan, not just terminal output [3].
- **Small habit, big routing effect** — Theo says a big reason he defaulted to Claude Code was simply that `cc` was already aliased in his shell with the right flags. He is now changing that alias to open Codex with `--yolo`, which is a good reminder to bake your preferred tool and flags into muscle memory [3].
- **Long-thread context is real, but so are quota ceilings** — Theo says Julius trusted **compaction** enough to run threads over **180 million tokens**, and separately reports Julius burned through **100% of a \$200/month Codex plan** during T3 Code iteration [5, 6, 7].

PEOPLE TO WATCH

- **Jeff Delaney / Fireship** — Useful today because he shows Cursor 3.0 doing real multi-agent work, not just reading release notes: architecture planning, parallel agents, SSH tasks, browser review, and UI repair in one short demo [1].
- **Theo Browne** — Still high-signal for hard negative feedback on agent tooling. Today he combines a concrete Claude Code failure case, a permanent alias switch to Codex, and a benchmark critique that isolates harness quality from base-model quality [3, 4].
- **Julius / @jullerino** — Worth tracking as a power-user stress test for cost and context limits. Theo highlights both full-plan burn on Codex and extremely long compaction-backed threads [6, 7, 5].

WATCH & LISTEN

- **2:46-3:33** — **Cursor 3.0's core loop** — Best clip of the day if you want to see the thesis in one minute: fresh project, multiple agents in parallel, permission gates, and a 13k-line codebase ready for review [1].



Cursor ditches VS Code, but not everyone is happy... (2:46)

- **3:55-4:11** — **Design mode for UI cleanup** — Short but practical. Delaney highlights a broken element, asks AI to fix it, and keeps stacking more UI tasks instead of waiting for each one to finish [1].



Cursor ditches VS Code, but not everyone is happy... (3:54)

PROJECTS & REPOS

- **T3 Code** — Theo describes it as the only UI he finds performant for working across lots of projects at once. It is **fully open source and free**, and can front either Claude Code or Codex subscriptions through the agent SDK [3].
- **T3 Code usage signal** — The stronger signal today is workload intensity: Theo says Julius exhausted **100% of a \$200/month Codex plan** during T3 Code iteration and is getting a second account so progress is not blocked by token ceilings [6, 7].
- **Codex CLI** — Theo calls out the open-source CLI specifically as a reason he prefers Codex; he says it is easier to build on top of and lets you reuse auth in other places [3].

Editorial take: the edge is shifting from raw model IQ to the control plane around it—parallelism, approval gates, long-lived context, and quota management. [1, 5, 6]

Sources

1. Cursor ditches VS Code, but not everyone is happy...

2. X post by @theo
3. Claude Code is unusable now
4. X post by @theo
5. X post by @theo
6. X post by @theo
7. X post by @theo