

# AI Agent Stack Cheat Sheet 2026

By AI Agents Weekly | paxrel.com

## By Use Case - What to Pick

I want to...	Use this	Cost
Build a simple agent fast	Python + API + cron	\$0
Build multi-agent systems	CrewAI or AutoGen	Free (OSS)
Complex stateful workflows	LangGraph	Free (OSS)
Connect agents to tools (MCP)	Claude Agent SDK	Pay per use
No-code agent builder	Dify or Lindy	Free tier
Automate workflows visually	n8n	\$24/mo cloud
Prototype in minutes	OpenAI Responses API	Pay per use
Agents that search your data	LlamaIndex	Free (OSS)
AI software engineer	Devin	Enterprise

## The \$8/Month Production Stack

```
Model:      DeepSeek V3 (~$3/mo light usage)
Hosting:    Hetzner VPS ($5/mo)
Framework:  None - raw Python + httpx
Scheduler:  cron (built-in)
HTTPS:      Cloudflare Tunnel (free)
Email:      Buttondown (free < 100 subs)
Frontend:   Next.js on same VPS
```

## Model Pricing Quick Reference (March 2026)

Model	Input \$/1M	Output \$/1M	Best for
DeepSeek V3	\$0.27	\$1.10	Scoring, classification
Claude Sonnet 4	\$3.00	\$15.00	Writing, analysis
Claude Haiku 4.5	\$0.80	\$4.00	Fast tasks, routing
GPT-4o	\$2.50	\$10.00	General purpose
GPT-4o-mini	\$0.15	\$0.60	Cheap batch tasks
Gemini 2.5 Flash	\$0.15	\$0.60	Multimodal, cheap

## Agent Architecture Pattern

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## Essential Python Libraries

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- httpx** - async HTTP client (replaces requests)
- feedparser** - RSS parsing
- pydantic** - data validation
- instructor** - structured LLM outputs
- tiktoken** - token counting
- tenacity** - retry logic
- schedule** - job scheduling (alt to cron)

## Key Decisions

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- One agent + simple task --> Raw Python script
- One agent + complex task --> LangGraph
- Multiple agents + coordination --> CrewAI
- Multiple agents + independent --> Run separately

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