Building a **Second Brain** with Claude Code and Obsidian

Steffi Kieffer
Claude Code Meetup Munich, 11. Feb 2026
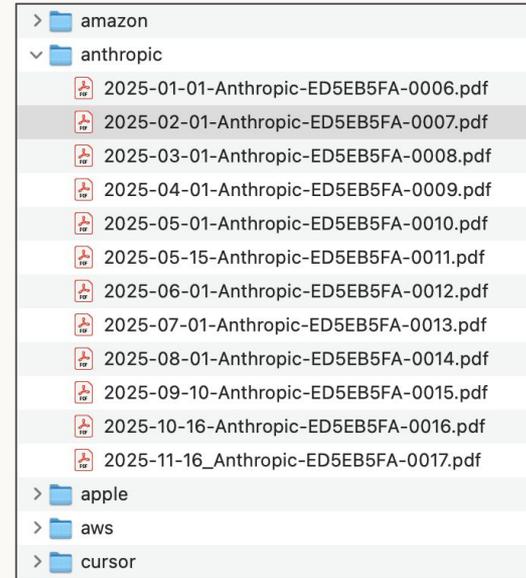
When AI Moved into My Files
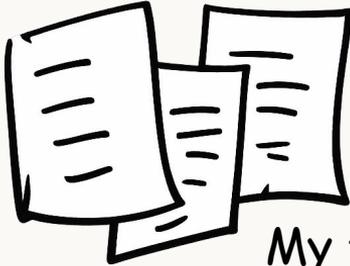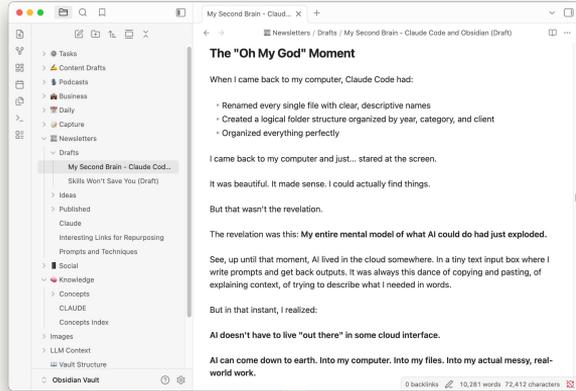
My messy files

...beautifully organized

4cd8e241-679e-4366-b8e6-d308e08ed697.pdf
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14-07-2025-DB Rechnung 676262482949.pdf
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   2025-07-01-Anthropic-ED5EB5FA-0013.pdf
   2025-08-01-Anthropic-ED5EB5FA-0014.pdf
   2025-09-10-Anthropic-ED5EB5FA-0015.pdf
   2025-10-16-Anthropic-ED5EB5FA-0016.pdf
   2025-11-16_Anthropic-ED5EB5FA-0017.pdf
> 📁 apple
> 📁 aws
> 📁 cursor

Steffi Kieffer

Imagine a system that...

➔ Turns your **messy brain** dumps into **organized knowledge** - automatically

➔ Keeps your daily **tasks aligned** with your **long term strategy**

➔ **Knows everything** you've ever written and finds **connections** you missed

The Setup

+
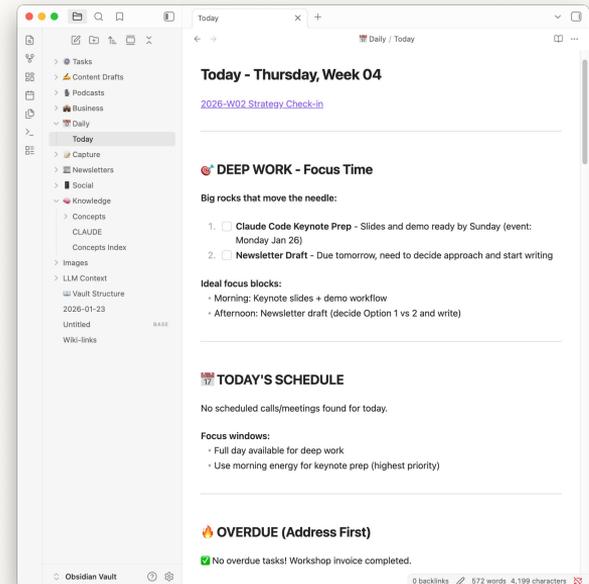
My files
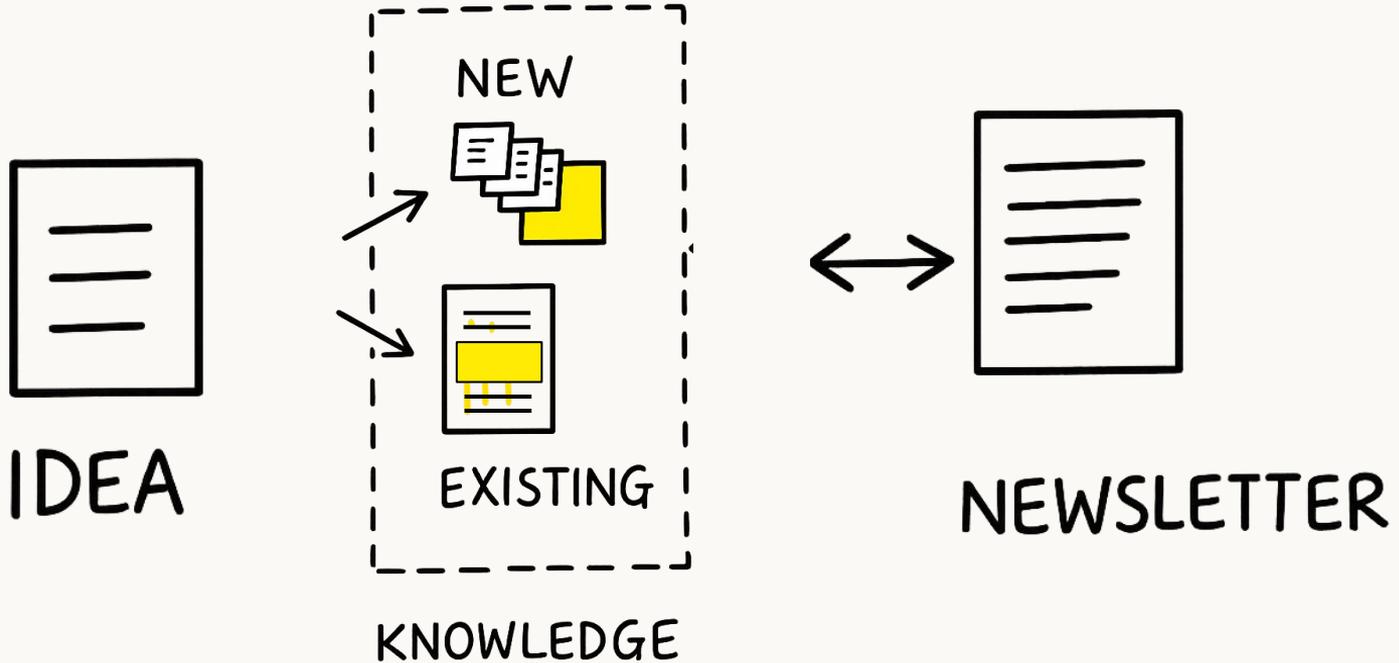
My Daily Workflow

Me: /today

Claude:
1. Reads notes in my Capture folder
   → reads context for biz strategy
   → checks tasks

2. Organizes everything:
   → Tasks → Tasks folder
   → LinkedIn draft → Content folder
   → Metrics → Business dashboard
   → Random thought → Knowledge base

3. Creates Today.md:

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The Knowledge System

IDEA

NEW

EXISTING

KNOWLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

The Context System

```
● ● ●                    🔵 CLAUDE.md

# Global Claude Code Instructions

## Vault Purpose
Steffi's second brain for AI content creation (newsletters, podcasts, concepts,
business strategy).

## How Steffi and Claude Work Together

**Pronoun convention:** Use "Steffi" and "Claude" instead of "I/you/me/my" in
CLAUDE.md files to avoid ambiguity.

### Planning protocol:
- **Always plan before implementation**
- Discuss overall strategy before implementation or making changes
- Ask clarifying questions one at a time so Steffi can give complete answers
- Get approval on the approach before implementation
- Read relevant files before making assumptions
- Ask clarifying questions when genuinely uncertain
- **Multi-level planning**
- Plan at the high level (overall project goals and flow)
- Then plan at the task level (specific file or details)
- Implement the plan only after both levels are planned and approved

## Folder-Specific Instructions
When working in these folders, read the folder's CLAUDE.md first:
- `🌀 Tasks/CLAUDE.md` - Daily workflow, Capture processing, "today" command
- `🧠 Knowledge/CLAUDE.md` - Writing workflow, Concepts Index usage, index
maintenance
```

. . .

```
## Context Files (Load On-Demand Only)
Check `/LLM Context/context/INDEX.md` for available reference files. Load only
files relevant to current task.
```

Global CLAUDE.md file
Principle: Global file stays minimal.
Context loads only when relevant.

How Claude "knows" me:

/LLM Context/
├── writing-voice.md   ← How I sound
├── business-context.md   ← My audience, goals
└── how-to-work-with-steffi.md   ← My preferences

+ Folder-specific instructions:

/Tasks/CLAUDE.md   ← "today" command
/Knowledge/CLAUDE.md   ← Concept handling
/Newsletters/CLAUDE.md   ← Writing workflow

The Magic

➔ The output is always a **file**
➔ **Fluid** way of working (flow state)
➔ Context grows **organically**

Everyone says the same thing. Hard to explain...

Lessons Learned

Ignore everything I've just said. Just get started.

Steffi Kieffer

Steffi Kieffer - Insanely Human

"Insanely Human" Podcast, Substack, The AI Retreat