

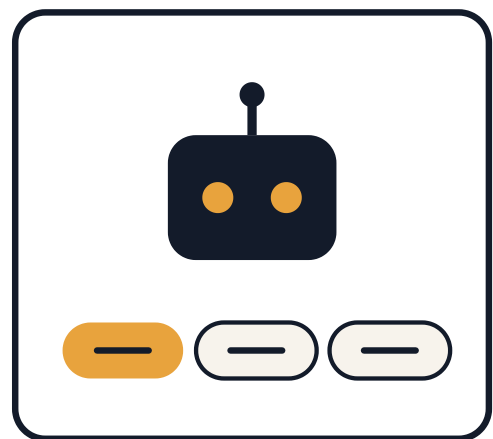
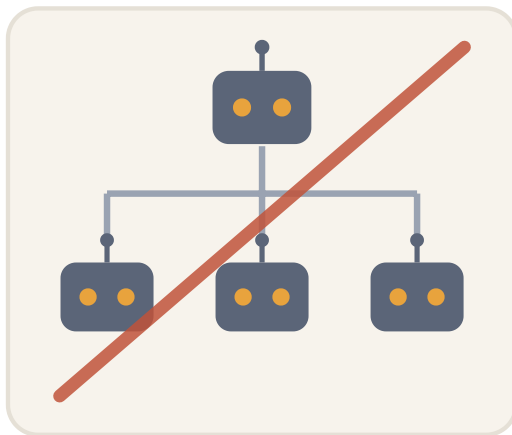
One agent, not an org chart of bots

ANTHROPIC

Anthropic says one agent with skills often beat subagent teams on quality, cost and speed.

SOURCE

Anthropic Applied AI team guidance



ILLUSTRATION, NOT A PRODUCT SCREENSHOT

One agent or several?

SITUATION	One agent with skills	Add a second agent
Steps run in order	✓ Yes	✗ No
Same data and history	✓ Yes	✗ No
Work can run in parallel	🕒 Maybe	✓ Yes
Context gets too long	✗ No	✓ Yes
Too many tools or clashing rules	✗ No	✓ Yes

SOURCE: ANTHROPIC, BUILDING AGENTS GUIDE



ILLUSTRATION, NOT A PRODUCT SCREENSHOT

Before you add a second agent

One point for each yes.

Q1

Does your first agent fail a test you wrote down?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q2

Can parts of the work run in parallel?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q3

Is its context getting too long to handle well?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q4

Does it pick the wrong tool or follow clashing rules?

☐ Yes

☐ No

0

Keep one agent

1-2

Test a split first

3-4

A second agent may earn its place

“ Anthropic: one clear prompt, 4 to 5 thin tools and firm guardrails often cover it.

Four moves this week

01



Write 10 real tasks and the right answer for each.

02



Give one agent a few tools, grouped by job.

03



Put approvals inside the tools for sends, payments and deletes.

04



Add a second agent only when a test says so.

Read the full guide on the Put AI to Work blog

consultiply.ai/blog/anthropic-one-agent-skills-smb

SOURCES

Building agents: when to fold subagents into your main agent loop

<https://claude.com/resources/articles/building-agents-when-to-fold-subagents-into-your-main-agent-loop>