

Slide Toaster

A tool that restyles decks into the company design system, and how I changed course halfway for a simpler route.

WHEN	TYPE	MY PART
Aug - Oct 2026	Internal tool	Product definition, tool choice

01

Background and goal

BACKGROUND

The company already had a template generator, not a full deck generator, and it was never widely adopted. I first used Claude Code with the design system to restyle decks, and saw that simply writing a prompt might be the fastest way.

PROBLEM

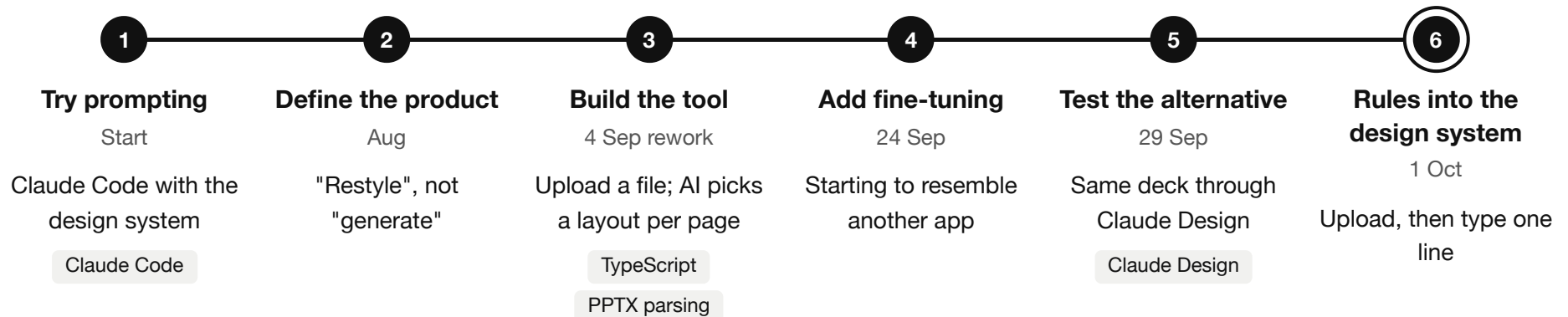
Colleagues did not necessarily know what AI can do or how to work with it, and tended to want a product of their own rather than writing prompts.

GOAL

Find an approach people would really use every day, producing decks in the company design-system style.

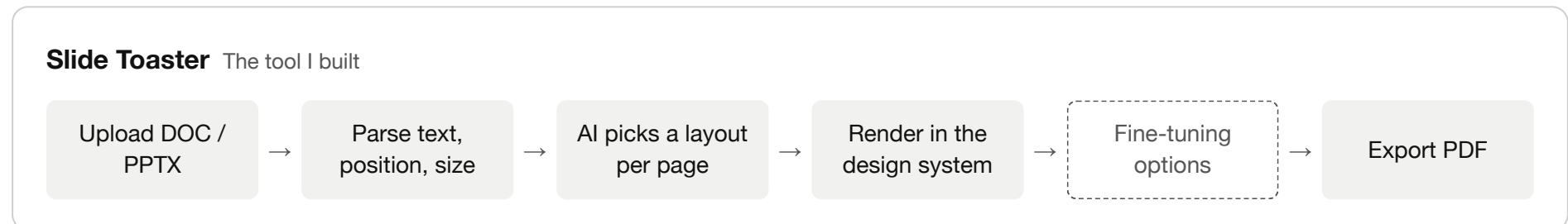
Process

It started with plain prompting, went round through a purpose-built tool, and came back to something simpler.



Two routes

The same deck, and what the user has to do.



Claude Design Existing tool

Upload the file



Pick the design system



Type "make a deck"



Download the PPTX to edit

The rules live in the design system ("follow the design system, pages may change, content may not be removed"), so users no longer write instructions.

04

Trade-offs

Why I stopped.

- ⊗ ~~Constrain every rule in code (too many variables)~~
- ⊗ ~~Add more fine tuning (rebuilding PowerPoint)~~
- ⊗ ~~Keep investing in the tool~~

- ✓ **Put the rules in the design system; users type one line**

MY REASONING

- API calls are unpredictable, so every rule is hard to constrain in code.
- Fine-tuning options kept growing and ended up slower than editing the deck directly.
- Measure the limits and the cost first, then decide whether to continue.

05

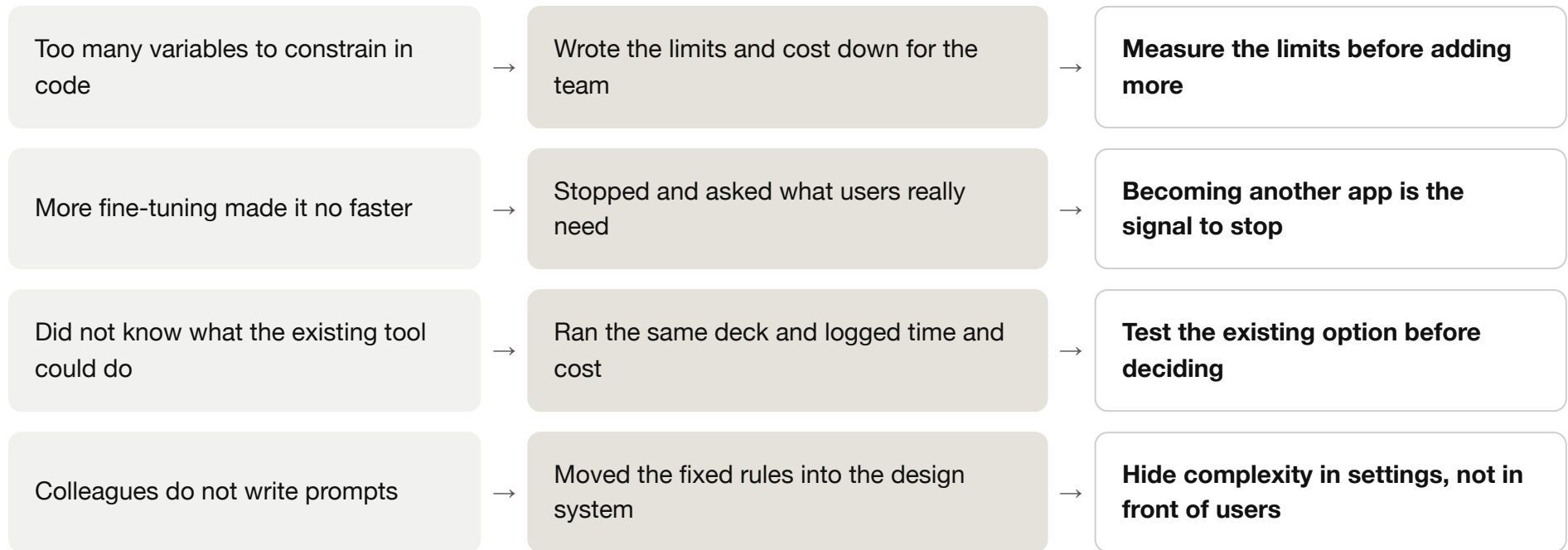
Problems and fixes

Four key calls.

PROBLEM

WHAT I DID

PRINCIPLE



06

Working split

I set direction and trade-offs; AI builds and researches.

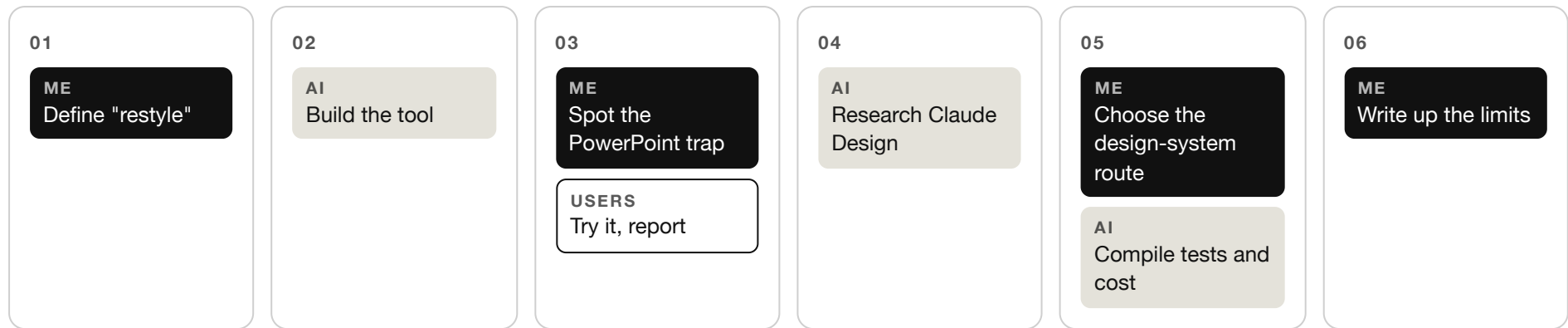
MY ROLE

Product definition

Tool choice

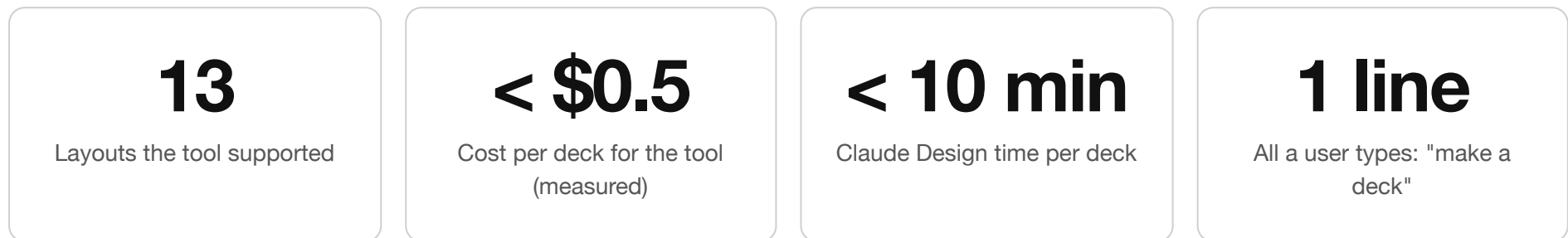
Validation

Communication



07

Results



AUTHOR'S TAKEAWAY

A product is not always a piece of software; sometimes it is a process. In my workplace, the organisation tended to want a product that wraps a complex process in a shell.

Claude's view

The collaborator's opinion, not written by the author.

Claude's view Collaborator's opinion	
WORKED WELL • Stopped halfway and changed course, with reasons. • Compared the two routes on measured time and cost, not on feel. • Moved the rules into the design system, so use takes one line.	COULD BE BETTER • No data yet on how many people use it, or how often. • The time put into the tool was not recorded; measuring fine-tuning earlier would have stopped sooner. • The new approach has not yet been validated with more people.
AUTHOR Admits a wrong direction and turns Measures limits before deciding Hides complexity in settings	

Company details are anonymised. No screenshots or internal data are included.