

Discussion on Vibe Coding with Cursor

17-316/616 Fall 2025

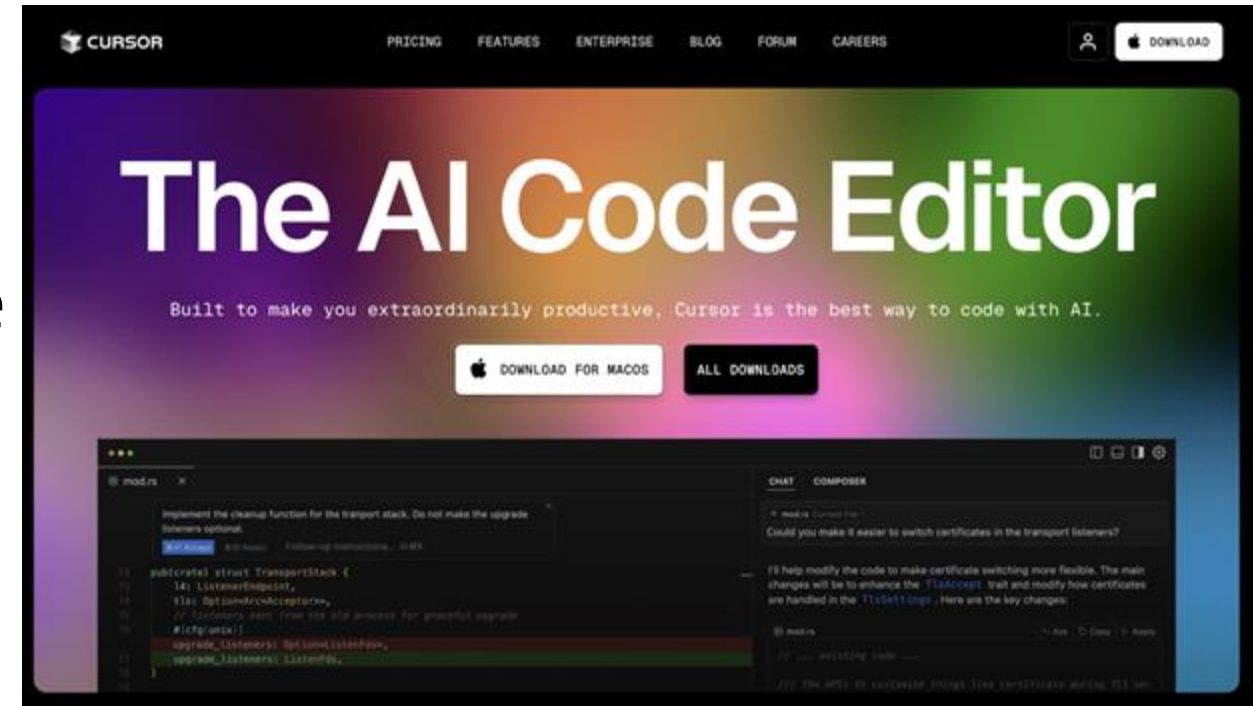
AI Tools for Software Development

<https://ai-developer-tools.github.io>

Austin Henley and Andrew Begel

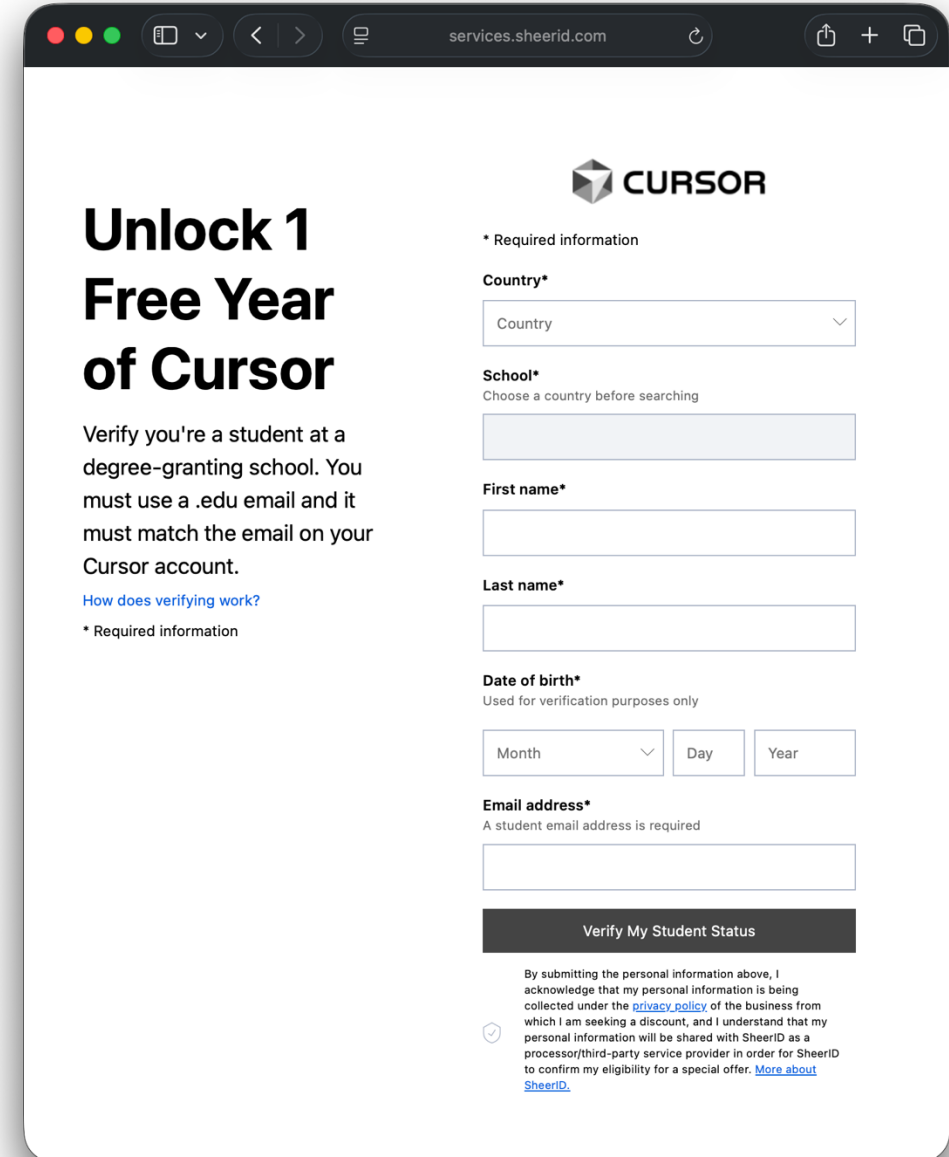
New students

- <https://cursor.com>
- Make a free Cursor account
- Download and install Cursor
- Also join Slack!
- Check out the course website



Cursor for students

- Free "pro" Cursor account for students
- <https://cursor.com/students>
- If it didn't work...
 - Try again
 - Contact SheerID customer service



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `services.sheerid.com`. The page is titled "Unlock 1 Free Year of Cursor" and includes a verification form. The form fields are: Country (dropdown), School (text input with a note "Choose a country before searching"), First name (text input), Last name (text input), Date of birth (Month, Day, and Year dropdowns), and Email address (text input with a note "A student email address is required"). A "Verify My Student Status" button is at the bottom. A disclaimer at the bottom states: "By submitting the personal information above, I acknowledge that my personal information is being collected under the [privacy policy](#) of the business from which I am seeking a discount, and I understand that my personal information will be shared with SheerID as a processor/third-party service provider in order for SheerID to confirm my eligibility for a special offer. [More about SheerID.](#)"

Unlock 1 Free Year of Cursor

Verify you're a student at a degree-granting school. You must use a .edu email and it must match the email on your Cursor account.

[How does verifying work?](#)

* Required information

*** Required information**

Country*

Country

School*

Choose a country before searching

First name*

Last name*

Date of birth*

Used for verification purposes only

Month Day Year

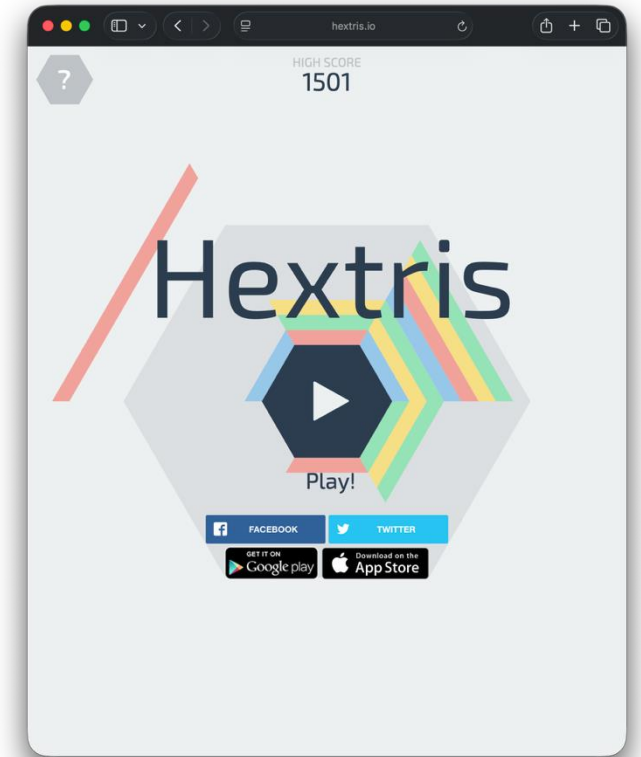
Email address*

A student email address is required

Verify My Student Status

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Last Wednesday
<https://hextris.io>



Names	Idea	Votes
	Adding lives	0
	Add bombs (3) press space to launch a bomb on a side to clear the blocks on the side	3
	Rainbow block to match all colors	7
	Multiplayer to compete side by side	1
	Collaborative mode two people control the hex turning	0
	Center hex rotates on its own faster and faster	2
	Each block is a different speed (random)	2
	Difficulty level (speed)	

Show and Tell

Reflection prompts this week

1. What goes into a clear and effective prompt?
2. What went wrong in your prompting this week? Why? How did you fix it? Provide 3 examples.
3. What limitations did you observe in the use of the LLM tools? Provide 3 examples.
4. How do you anticipate your future as a software engineer to change as AI continues to improve?
5. ~~What is the difference between "vibe" coding and "structured" AI coding?~~
6. What are the differences in your use of the LLM tools when creating a program from scratch vs. editing an existing codebase?

Today: Discuss Your Reflections

- Form groups based on the reflection question you chose
- Recount your reflective essay ideas to your group (12 min)
 - Explain why and how you came to your conclusions.
- Create a Google Slide presentation to support a class discussion on your reflection question (10 min)
 - Put your slides in the folder at <https://bit.ly/reflection-week1>
 - You may *not* use AI to create your slides or run the discussion.
- Dr. Begel and Dr. Henley will choose the group order.

Discussion Rubric

- For the discussion you're leading:
 - As an individual
 - Say something meaningful
 - Provide concrete examples
 - Implications for practice or the future
 - Give a pro/con
 - As a group
 - Get the class to respond meaningfully to you
 - Try to make it feel like a single presentation, not a sequence of 3 presentations
 - Create slides to support your discussion points

Discussion Instructions

- Come up to the front to lead your discussion (10 min)
 - Be sure to turn on slide captioning before you begin.
 - Each group member may speak for less than 1 minute total.
 - Introduce yourself!
 - Pick a group member to moderate who is speaking from the class.
 - Pass out (2) portable mics for class members to use.
 - Class members should speak up and contribute to the discussion.
 - After you speak, pass your microphone to the next speaker.
- Every class member must contribute twice over the class session.
 - It only counts if you say something meaningful

Homework: Form Project Teams

- Talk to classmates and form 2-3 person teams
 - There will be a max of 5 project teams.
- You will be asked to replicate the entire software stack for a popular tech startup over the next 10 weeks.
- Register your team at <https://bit.ly/cmu-team-signup> by Monday September 8 11:00am.
- On Monday, we will introduce the course project and the list of tech startups you can choose from.