



FIN 450 Hermes Agent Pre-Lab Installation Assignment

Rationale: 30 machines simultaneously cloning Hermes Agent would result in an installation failure. A lab period spent watching creeping progress bars teaches nothing. **If you do not complete this assignment before the first Hermes Agent lab, you will likely lose credit for the first lab and perhaps the second and third labs as well.** Labs must be completed in class during the class period, so you will not have an opportunity to make up these labs if you do not do them in class.

This will probably take **at least 45 minutes** ... or more if you have a slow internet connection.

You must complete this assignment at least one week before the first Hermes Agent Lab (Topic 5) so we can correct any problems you might encounter. If you do not have it installed, you will lose credit for at least the first lab.

WARNING: Hermes Agent is not a chatbot in a browser tab. It has "computer use", which means **it can read your files, run real commands on your laptop, and create, change, or delete things**. When it runs a command, that command actually executes. There is no preview, no simulation, and often no undo. A file deleted by a command-line tool usually does not go to the Recycle Bin, and it may not be recoverable at all. I assume you do not want it deleting the draft of your next English paper.

Two things make this even riskier than it sounds. First, the agent takes your instructions literally and fills in gaps by guessing. "Clean up my Documents folder" is, to Hermes, an instruction to start moving and deleting things, and it will decide for itself what counts as clutter. Second, the agent reads content from files and web pages, and text it reads can contain instructions that it may follow. A file or a website is not a neutral input.

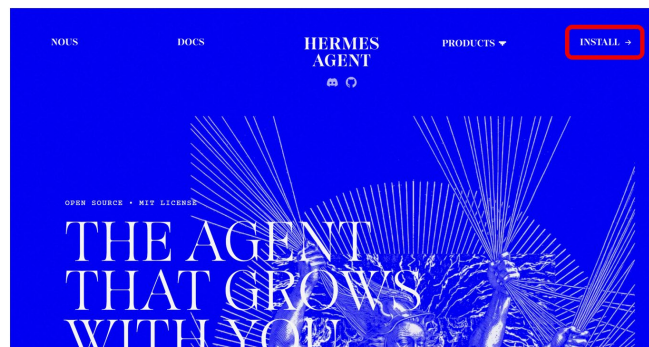
Rules for this course. **These are not suggestions.**

- **Back up your files** before every Hermes session. Every time, not just the first time.
- **Examine, monitor, and create only.** You may ask it to list, read, describe, summarize, or write a new file. You may not ask it to modify, move, rename, overwrite, or delete anything.
- **Read every approval prompt** before you click. If Hermes asks permission to run something, read what it is about to do. If you do not understand the command, say no. Never turn on auto-approve, and never approve a batch of actions you have not read.
- **Nothing sensitive.** Do not point Hermes at tax documents, medical records, saved passwords, or anything belonging to an employer or internship. Do not paste passwords or account credentials into the chat.
- **If something goes wrong, stop immediately.** Press Ctrl+C to interrupt, close the window, and tell me. Do not try to have the agent fix its own mistake, which usually makes things worse.

Download and Installation Instructions

Step 1. Check Your Machine. You need roughly 5 GB of free disk space and an internet connection.

Step 2. Download. Go to <https://hermes-agent.nousresearch.com/> and download the Hermes Desktop installer for Windows. Unless you have access to a high-speed internet connection, **I strongly recommend you do this in Somsen 301.**





Step 3. Install. Run the installer.

Step 4. First Launch. When setup is done it will display a start screen. **Stop there.** Do not configure a model or provider yet. We will do that together in Lab 1 using the OpenRouter credentials I sent in an email.

HERMES IS READY

You can launch from here, or any time from your terminal with `hermes desktop`.

 Launch Hermes

For now, you can close this window. When you want to open the Console, go to PowerShell and type `hermes desktop` or use the Windows button, type Hermes, and click on the icon, . Remember that this only opens the Console. Hermes Agent is always running in the background unless you stop it with the PowerShell command: `hermes gateway stop`.

Report any problems. Send me an email if you encounter any problems.

It is your responsibility to make sure you have the software installed before the first Hermes Agent Lab.