Anthropic’s Model Hardware Standard: A Universal Driver Layer for AI Agents

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Anthropic didn’t release Fable Sonnet or Opus, but they did give us something significant.

They dropped the Model Hardware Standard.

The idea is to give AI agents a universal way to operate physical hardware. Anthropic noted that 80% of a scientist’s time can go into creating the framework of an experiment. So instead of spending weeks building bespoke integrations for every device, the Model Hardware Standard gives them a shared driver layer with simple primitives - read, write, show the device’s capabilities and safety limits - and lets the agent control everything through MCP.

In one example, Claude adjusted a laser and watched through a camera to see how the beam moved, iterated on the adjustment, and then compiled what it learned into a deterministic script so it could align the laser again without reasoning through every step from scratch.

This bridges the gap between language models and real laboratory hardware. It almost reminds me of what Core Automation is doing - the same idea of a universal control layer, applied to physical systems rather than software.

-for-ai-agents