Activity: *Vibe Coding*

17-313 Spring 2025

Foundations of Software Engineering

https://cmu-313.github.io

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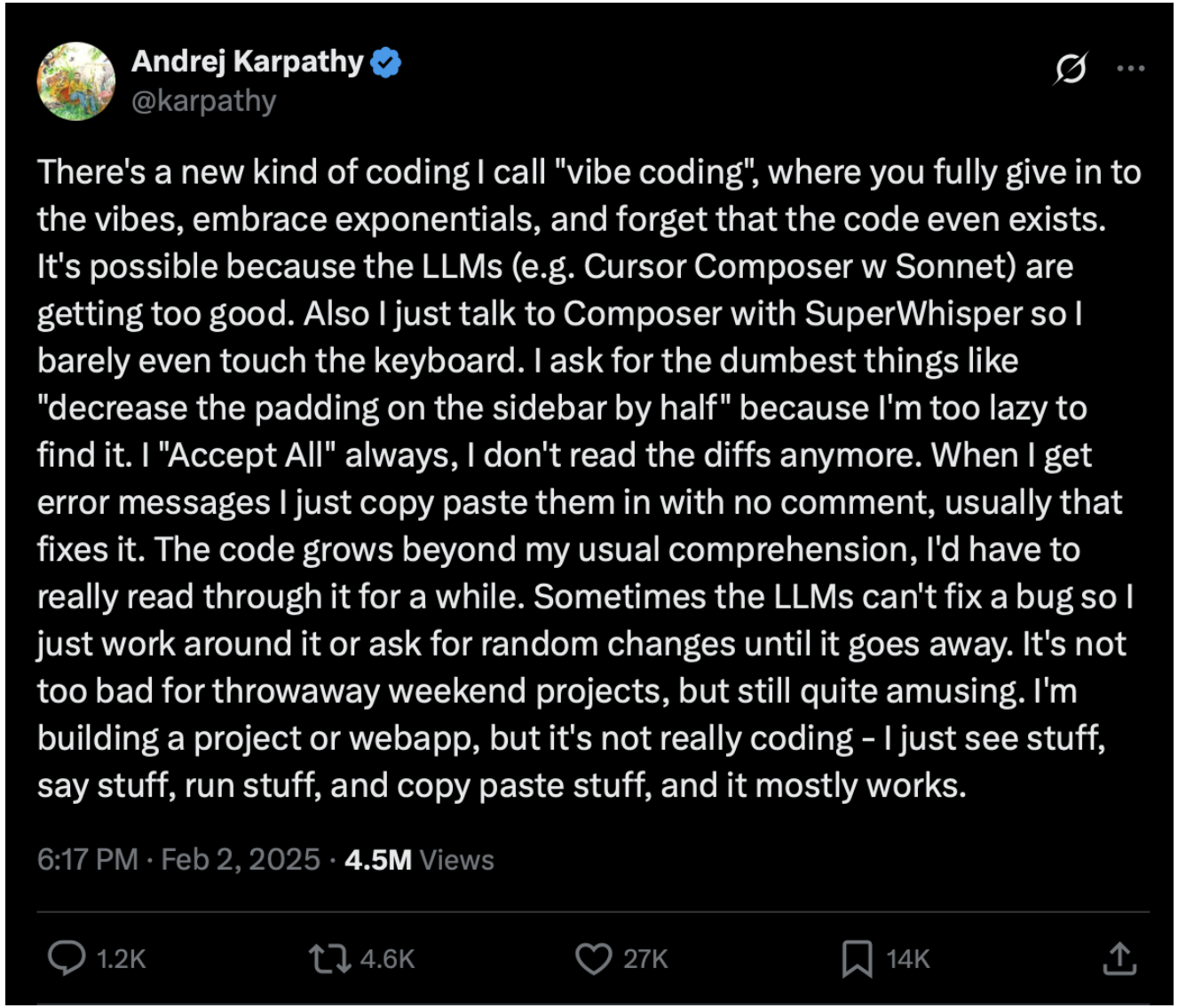
What AI tools are you using?

How are you using AI for coding?


Andrej Karpathy
@karpathy
There's a new kind of coding I call "vibe coding", where you fully give in to the vibes, embrace exponentials, and forget that the code even exists. It's possible because the LLMs (e.g. Cursor Composer w Sonnet) are getting too good. Also I just talk to Composer with SuperWhisper so I barely even touch the keyboard. I ask for the dumbest things like "decrease the padding on the sidebar by half" because I'm too lazy to find it. I "Accept All" always, I don't read the diffs anymore. When I get error messages I just copy paste them in with no comment, usually that fixes it. The code grows beyond my usual comprehension, I'd have to really read through it for a while. Sometimes the LLMs can't fix a bug so I just work around it or ask for random changes until it goes away. It's not too bad for throwaway weekend projects, but still quite amusing. I'm building a project or webapp, but it's not really coding - I just see stuff, say stuff, run stuff, and copy paste stuff, and it mostly works.
6:17 PM · Feb 2, 2025 · 4.5M Views
1.2K
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27K
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Activity setup

1. Everyone should participate on their own laptop
   - Feel free to sit with others and help each other
2. Use your project repo or clone a fresh copy of NodeBB
   - https://github.com/CMU-313/NodeBB
3. Open an AI chat in the browser
   - ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude

- For these tasks, use AI **as much as** possible
  - Attempt to do exactly what the AI says
  - If it does something wrong, make it fix it

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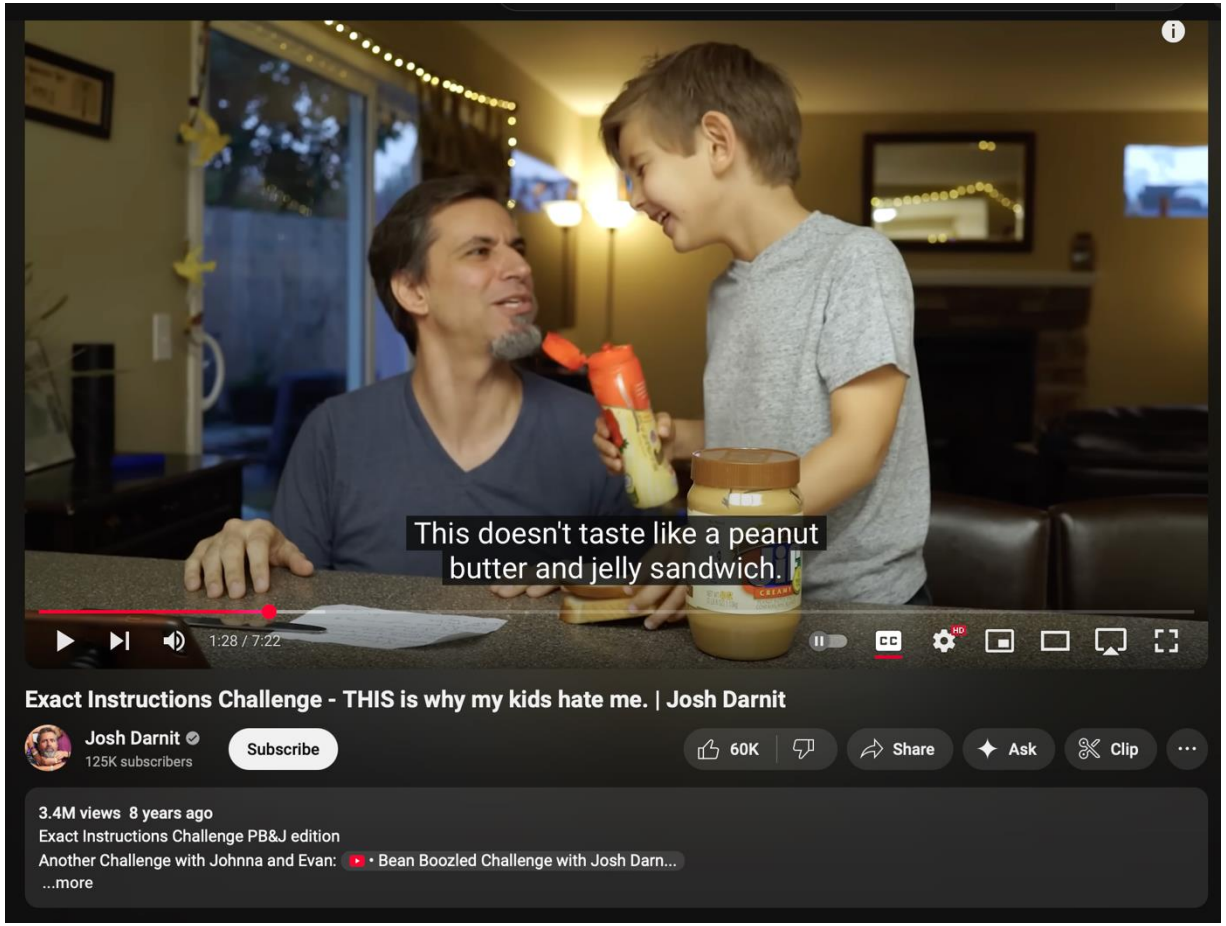
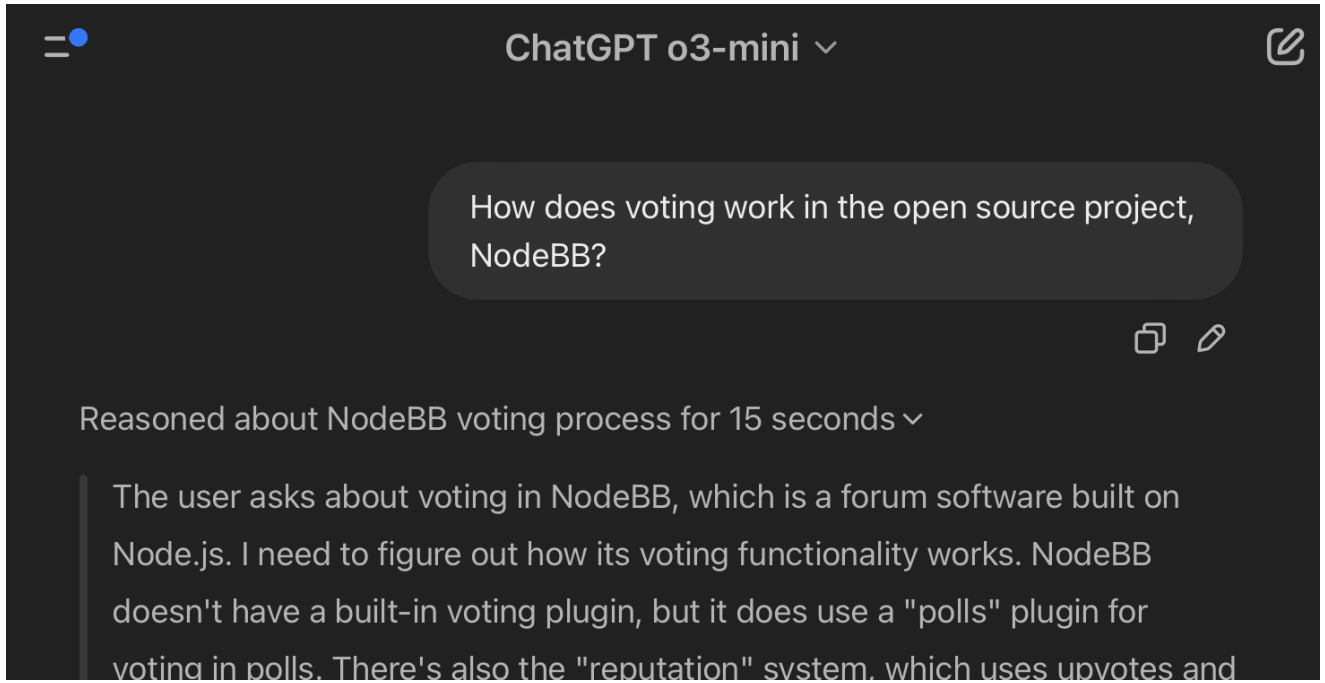


Part #1

- Ask the AI to explain how the NodeBB voting functionality is implemented in your own words
- Don’t give it any code



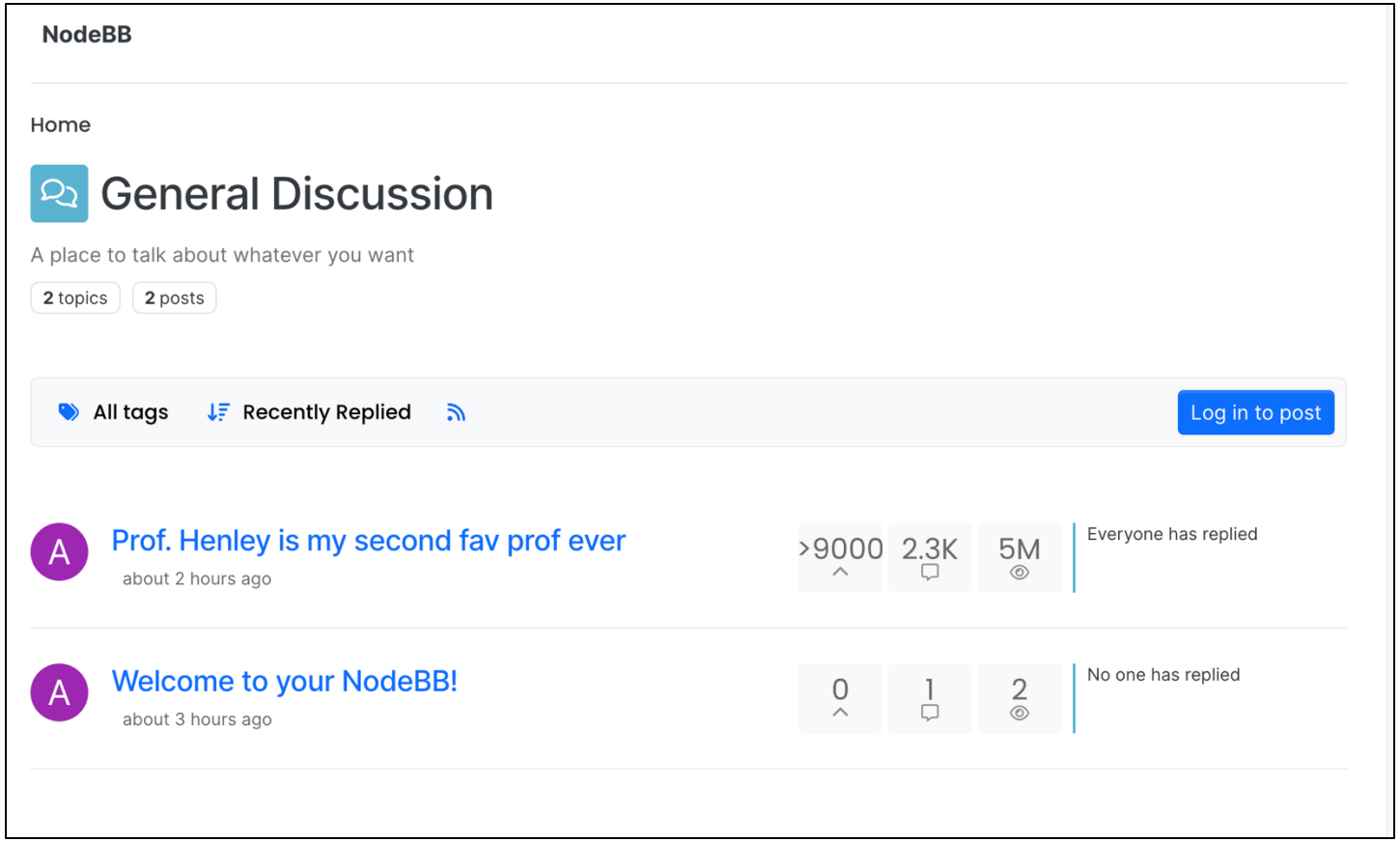
- Does it look correct?
- How would we know?

Write down: Something it told you that you think is correct and something incorrect

Part #2

- Ask specifically where in the code is the voting mechanism handled? Go check
- Do not provide any code to the AI
- Follow the AI's advice as precisely as possible
- Is it correct?

Write down: Where it told you and if it was correct, partially correct, or wrong



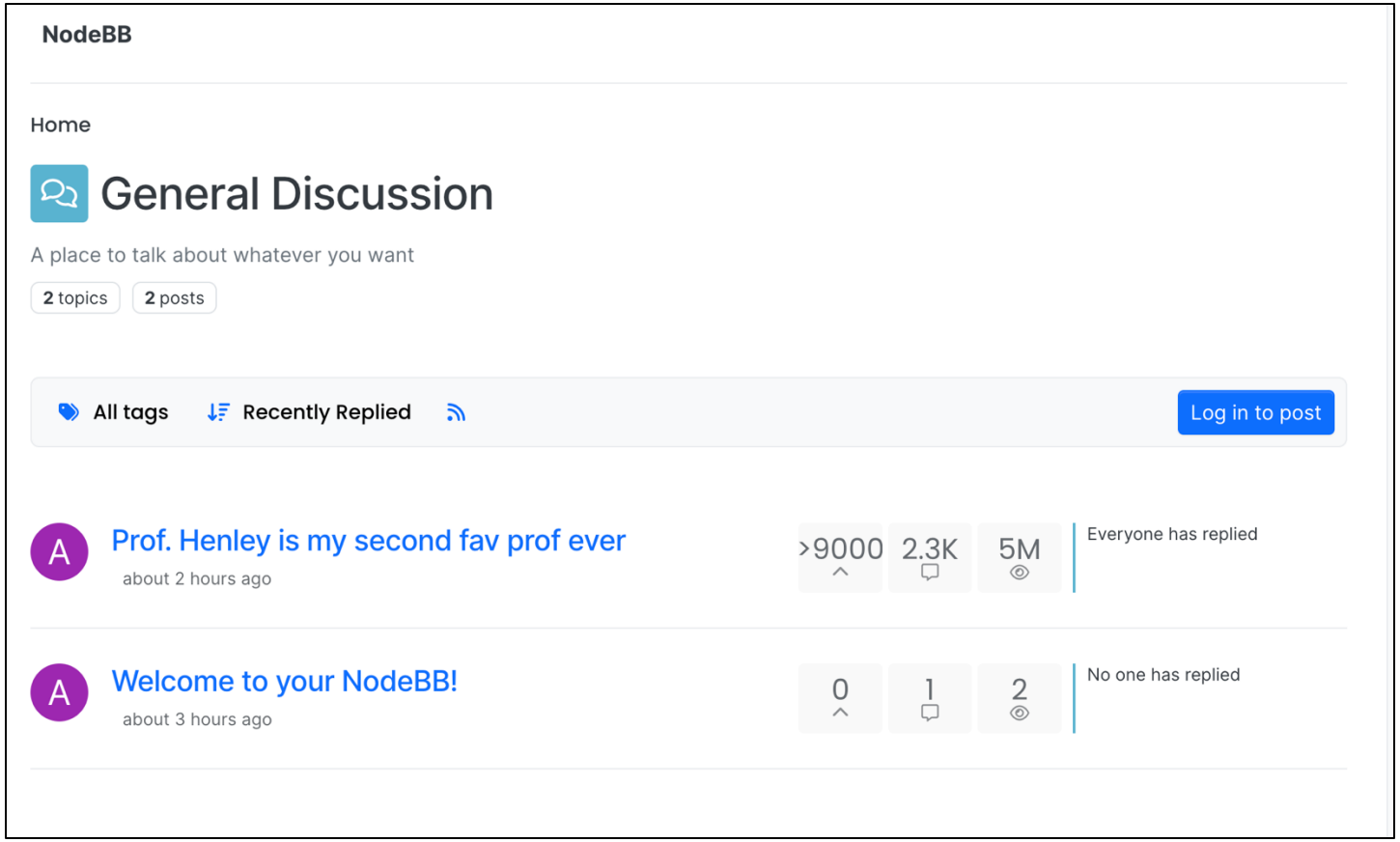
Part #3

Write down: Something it told you that you know is false

- **Task: Make any votes by admins count as 5 points**

- Do not provide any code to the AI
- Follow the AI's advice as precisely as possible

- Is it correct?
- What did you ask it?



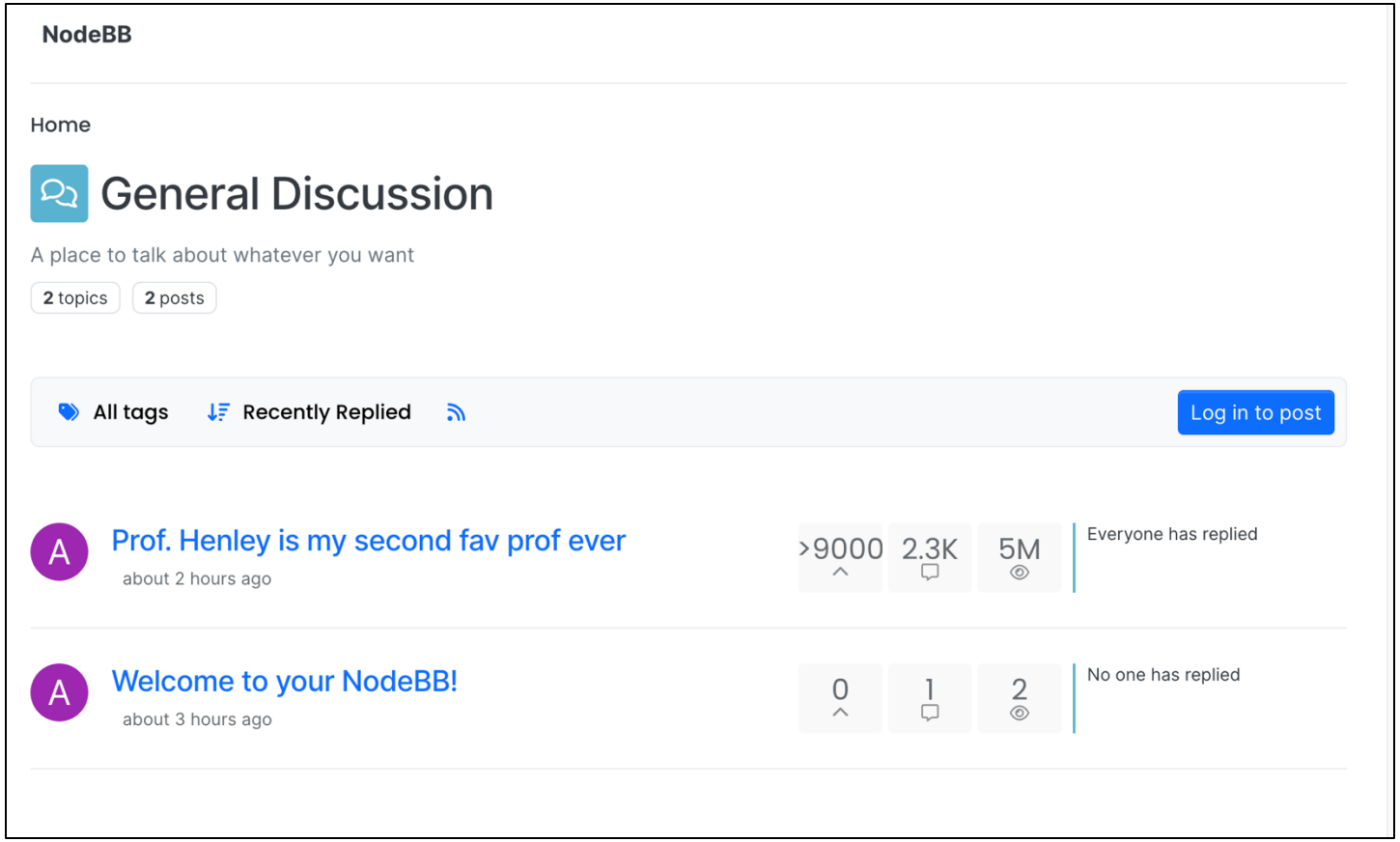
Part #4

Write down: What went wrong?

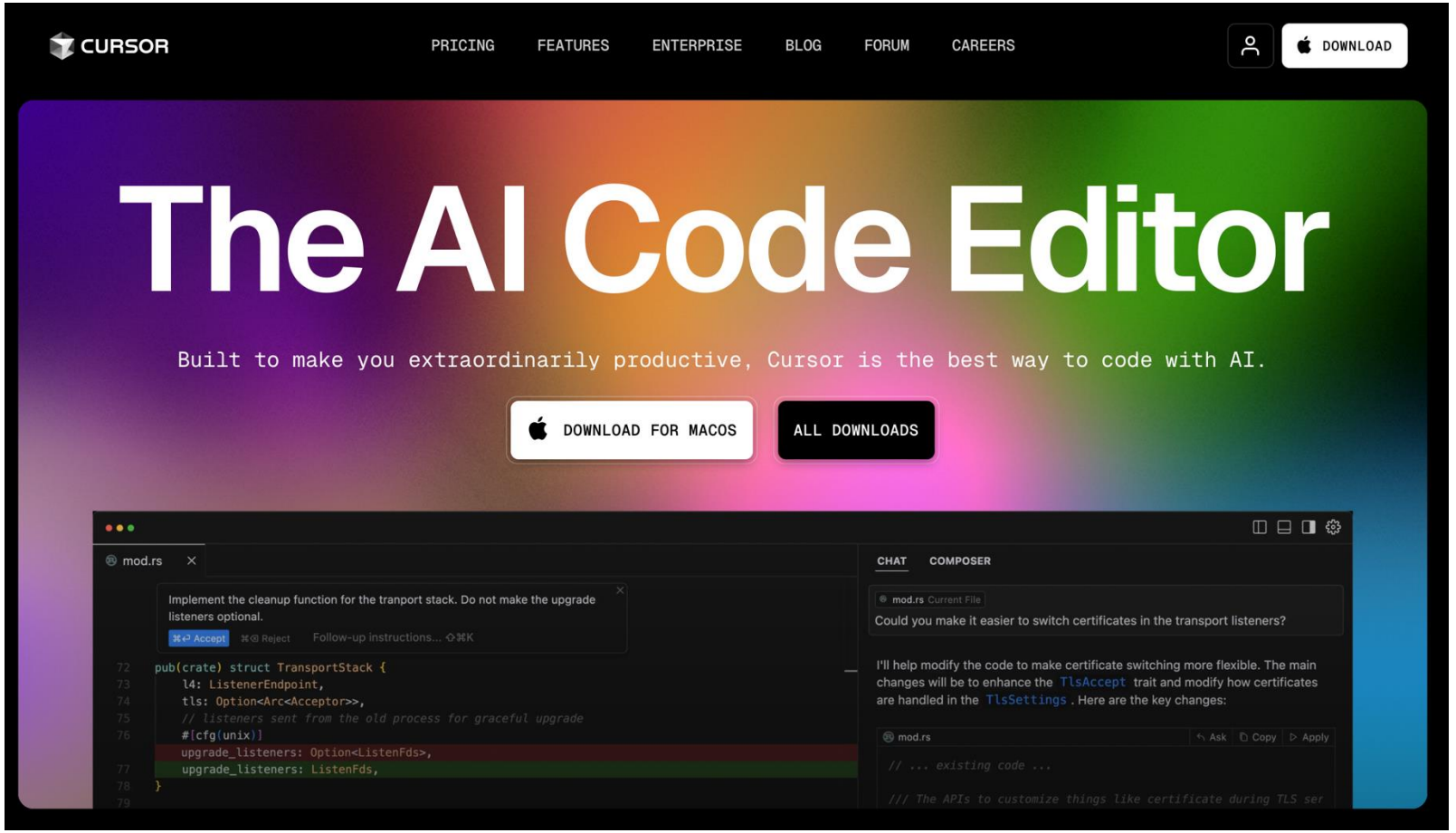
- **Task: Make any votes by admins count as 5 points**

- ~~Do not provide any code to the AI~~
- Follow the AI's advice as precisely as possible

- Is it correct?
- What did you ask it?



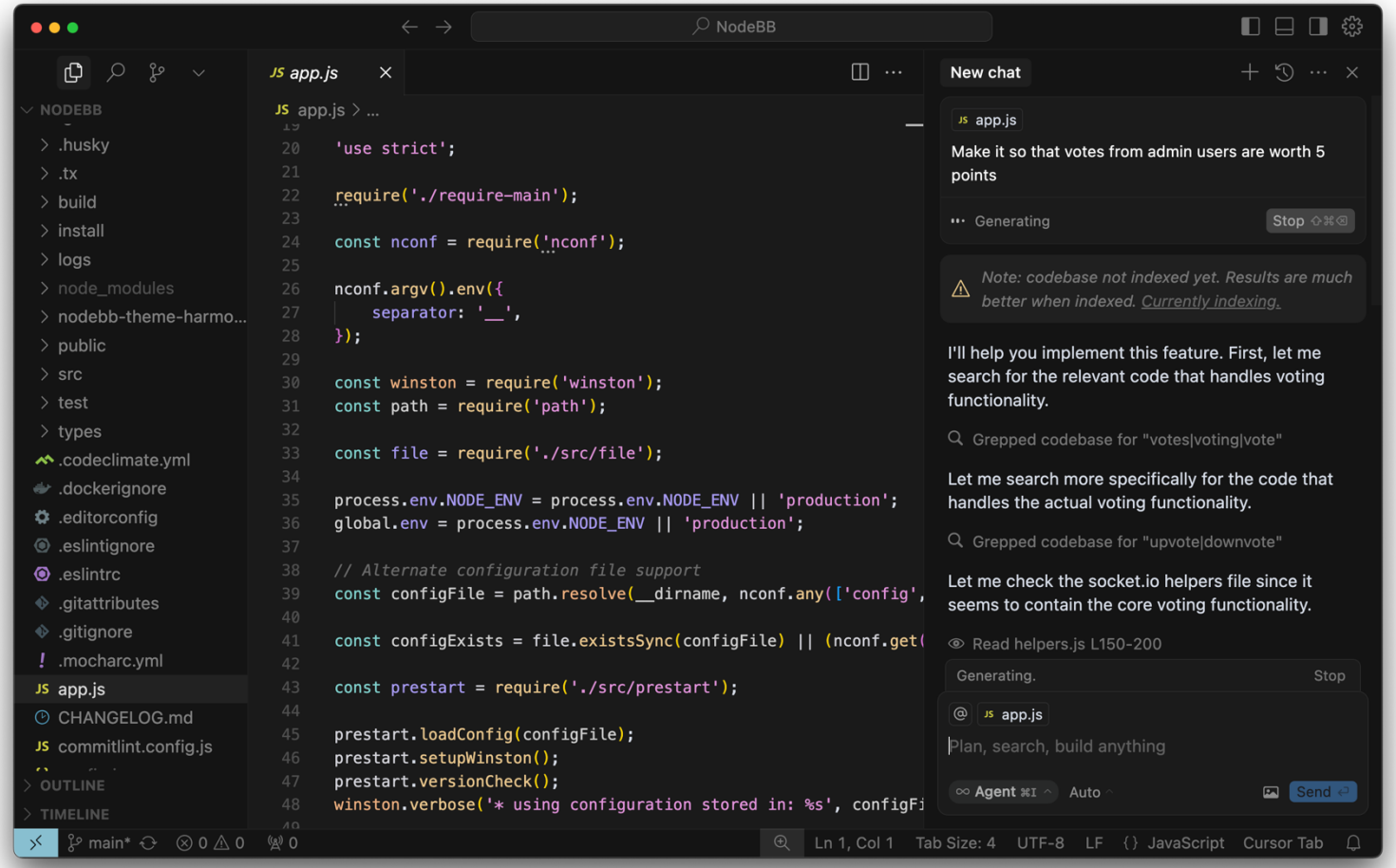
Let’s try Cursor: https://www.cursor.com



Part #5

- **Task: Make any votes by admins count as 5 points**
- Use Cursor to complete the task
- Was this better?

Write down: How does Cursor compare to ChatGPT/Gemini/Claude?

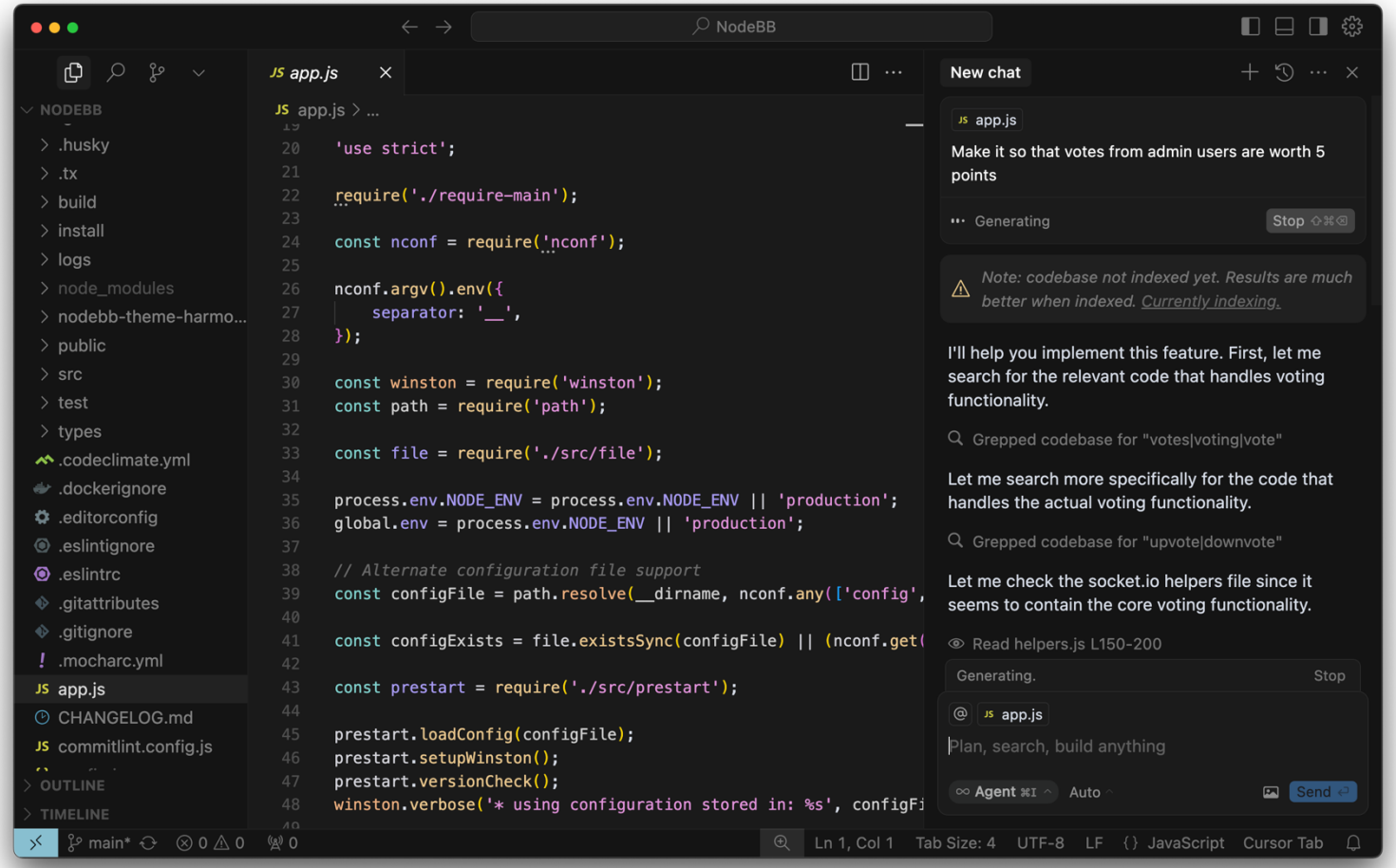


Part #6

Write down: Is its solution different? How?

- **Task: Ask Cursor to complete one of your tasks from P1 or P2**

- Use a fresh NodeBB clone
- How does its solution compare to yours?



Discussion

- What did these tools do well?
- What did these tools do badly?
- Any other potential consequences?