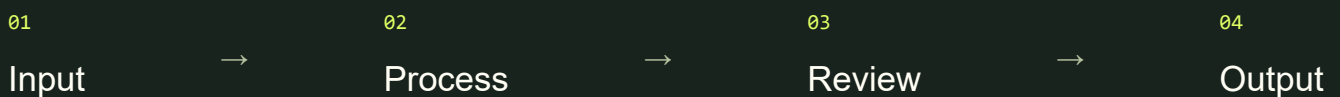


NO. 01 / THE FREE STARTER GUIDE

Your first content *workflow.*

Less tool hopping.
More direction.



YOUR FIRST CONTENT WORKFLOW MAP

A practical checklist, worked example and worksheet
for creators building one useful process at a time.



Start smaller. Finish something useful.

You don't need to automate your entire business first. Choose one task with a clear input, a useful output and a person who can check the result.

By the end of this guide

You'll have a one-page workflow map and a brief you can give a terminal-capable agent or an implementation partner. This is a planning guide—not an installed automation or a promise of income.

Choose a task that passes these four checks

- ☐ I do it repeatedly, or expect to do it repeatedly.
- ☐ I can provide a representative input I have permission to use.
- ☐ I can describe a good result without saying “make it viral.”
- ☐ I can review a small result before it reaches an audience.

Too broad for a first pilot	A useful first task
Run my whole YouTube channel.	Prepare one draft clip from an approved recording.
Make content for every platform.	Prepare one reviewed version in one target format.
Let an agent handle everything.	Have an agent organize a brief and identify missing assets.

Write your starting sentence

When I provide _____, I want a draft _____,
so that I can _____. I will approve it before publishing.

A manual task may be the right choice if it happens rarely or if reviewing the automated result takes longer than doing it yourself.

One recording. One reviewable draft.

Imagine you recorded a five-minute explanation of how you plan a week of content. Your first task is one short clip—not a fully managed social channel.

Illustrative planning example, not a measured customer result. The sample times below describe your chosen input; inspect your actual recording before using them.

01 Input

weekly-planning.mp4, owned by you. You select a complete thought at 00:40–01:20. Your brief requests a 40-second draft with the original audio.

02 Process

Check the source, trim the approved interval and prepare one MP4. For portrait output, preserve the whole frame with padding first; don't assume a crop will keep the speaker visible.

03 Review

Confirm the opening and ending are natural, speech is intact, visuals are readable and the clip makes sense without the rest of the recording. If adding captions, check every line.

04 Output

A draft MP4 in a new job folder, the source timestamps and a short report of checks performed. No public upload is part of this first task.

A clear “done” condition

The file exists, plays to the end with sound, contains the selected thought, meets the agreed format, and you approve it. “The agent said it worked” is not enough.

If the draft is wrong

Keep the source intact. Note the failed check, change one instruction and produce a new draft. Fixing the brief may be more useful than adding another tool.

Choose tools after the task.

The agent coordinates work. The computer runs it. The tools process your media. Accounts and permissions connect external services.

Building block	What to decide before building
Machine Your computer or a VPS	Can it run the selected tools? Is there enough memory, disk space and processing capacity? A machine that sleeps won't run tasks while suspended.
Agent For example, Hermes or OpenClaw	Does it have access to the right folder and terminal? A chat-only assistant cannot operate your server just because it can read a PDF.
Media tools For example, FFmpeg/ffprobe	Can you run a version/dependency check? FFmpeg processes media; ffprobe reports its properties. Neither creates a publishing account.
Inputs Brief, footage, narration, artwork	Where are the files? Are the rights clear? Does the narration match the visuals? Keep a copy of original inputs.
Publishing Chosen destination and connection	Can you publish manually first? Is the integration supported and available to your account? Add it after the production pilot passes.

Budget for the workflow, not just the server

Hosting + model/API usage + rendering + storage + integrations + review time

Some tasks can use local tools and supplied files. Other tasks need paid services or GPU compute. Set a maximum pilot spend and measure actual usage rather than assuming every step is free.

Keep access in your control

Use your own accounts. Authorize only the access needed. Keep secrets in the appropriate credential store —not in briefs, screenshots or shared folders.

Start on one machine

You may not need a VPS for an initial local pilot. Recurring jobs need a host and scheduler that remain available when work is due.

Make the plan yours.

Print this page, annotate the PDF, or use the companion text worksheet. Leave unknowns visible so your agent can ask about them.

Task and audience

What repeatable job? Who is the output for?

Inputs and rights

Files, brief, ownership and permissions.

Processing steps

What happens, in what order?

Output and destination

Format, duration, location. Draft or published?

Machine, tools and accounts

What exists? What is missing? No secret values.

Review and approval

Who checks it? What makes it acceptable?

Budget and time limit

Maximum pilot spend, review time and deadline.

Failure and next action

Where are logs? When should work stop?

My first pilot is complete when:

Give it a task. Not a guessing game.

Complete the worksheet, then paste this brief into your agent. Replace the brackets with your own information. This free guide contains the planning prompt—not the paid Toolkit’s scripts.

Help me plan one small content workflow.

Task and audience: [what I need and who it serves]
Input files: [paths accessible on your machine]
Rights/permissions: [what I can use]
Expected output: [format, duration, draft location]
Machine and tools: [what I already have, or unknown]
Budget/time limit: [my limits]
Review criteria: [what I will check]

First, inspect the information I provided. Tell me:

1. What is missing or ambiguous?
2. Which steps can use existing tools?
3. What accounts, permissions or costs are needed?
4. What is the smallest pilot we can test?
5. How will we verify the output and recover a failure?

If you cannot read files or run commands, say so.
Do not claim to have inspected something you cannot access.
Do not buy services, install packages, overwrite files,
connect accounts or publish until I authorize that step.

Return a short plan with inputs, actions, review checks,
expected files and open questions. Wait for my decision.

Then approve one bounded pilot

Once the plan is clear, authorize the specific commands and changes you understand. Ask the agent to keep the inputs intact, use a new output folder and show evidence for each completed step.

Ask for evidence, not confidence

Request the output path, the actual file, the checks performed, any errors and remaining limitations.
A plan, a screenshot of a command, or an installation success message is not a finished workflow.

Make one run trustworthy.

A small pilot teaches you whether the workflow is useful—and what needs fixing before it becomes a recurring job.

Before the run

- ☐ Keep the original files and brief in a known location.
- ☐ Confirm tools and inputs are available on the actual machine.
- ☐ Set one output folder and one review owner.
- ☐ Confirm costs and the actions the agent may take.

After the run

- ☐ The output exists, opens and plays fully where relevant.
- ☐ The content meets the brief: accurate words, complete audio and readable visuals.
- ☐ The agent recorded what ran, what failed and where outputs are saved.
- ☐ You recorded the elapsed time, review time and actual usage costs.

Practice a safe interruption

With the workflow’s documented stop/resume method, pause a test job and inspect saved progress. Resume only after checking that another process isn’t still writing to the same output. For tools without safe resume, use a new job folder and preserve the original run.

What happens?	Your next step
A dependency is missing.	Stop and install/configure the named prerequisite through its documented route.
The file renders but looks wrong.	Review the brief and input assets. Change one thing and compare drafts.
An upload times out.	Check the platform for an existing upload before retrying; avoid duplicate posts.

Schedule later. Add recurrence only after a representative run, recovery procedure and publishing connection have been tested. Keep a manual stop control and a way to notice failures.

A clearer plan.

A better place to start.

Before choosing another tool, finish the worksheet and use the agent brief to identify one useful pilot. That is a worthwhile first result.

Your three next actions

1. Pick one repeatable task you can review.
2. Complete the workflow map on page 5.
3. Resolve the missing inputs and authorize one small pilot.

When you want more help

Learn with the community

Discuss VPS, agents and content workflows with other members. Community-only membership is separate from the Toolkit library.

Build with the Toolkit

The paid Field Guide and companion kit provide setup resources, example workflows and runnable starting recipes. Follow each recipe's requirements and validation notes.

Get help with your project

Accompaniment offers personal guidance; custom automation covers an agreed implementation. Scope, pricing, operating costs and support are confirmed before payment.

[Visit AI Content Studio on Whop ↗](#)

Check the current offer details and availability before choosing your next step.

Examples are educational. Results depend on your inputs, tools, accounts and review. This guide does not promise audience growth, revenue or maintenance-free operation.