

Session summary

Session 7 · Tuesday 7 July 2026 · Model Context Protocol · Lecturer: Victor del Rosal

WHAT WE COVERED

- **Chatbot architecture, recap:** the LLM brain is what turns a knowledge base and database into natural, real-time replies, wired through a front end, a back end and tools; plus the free Google AI Studio build route.
- **What MCP is and why it matters:** the Model Context Protocol, created by Anthropic, is an agreed standard, a universal connector like USB, that lets an AI pull in live context and take action across email, calendars, CRMs, GitHub, Cloudflare and hundreds of other tools.
- **Live data beats a frozen copy:** the point of giving your AI a live tool is that it answers from data that is being updated right now, not a static snapshot; we tested this by editing prices mid-demo and watching the bot reflect them.
- **Two worked examples:** Boru Bats, a specialist slowpitch softball bat retailer serving WBSC Europe compliant bats, querying its bat database; and Iris, a screensaver app pulling live public APIs (the International Space Station position, USGS earthquakes).
- **Class demo, Meadow Vet Care:** built a customer chatbot end to end (front end, plus live data, plus LLM brain) that answers real questions from the clinic's live Google Sheet of 90+ services, deployed automatically to a GitHub page via pre-authorised credentials.
- **The working rhythm:** research MCP use cases, tinker with a live API on the terminal (OpenCode, Claude Code), build and test on your own, then wire in the brain; iterate rather than one-shot.

THAT WEEK'S COURSEWORK

Two hands-on MCP exercises, submitted via Moodle by **Monday 13 July**:

1. **MCP exercise:** find a fun application of an MCP server, even if it is not connected to an LLM brain (find a live public API, pull the data and display it), and deploy a working version to a GitHub page.
2. **MCP chatbot with live data:** create a new chatbot for any other business, give it an LLM brain, connect a live MCP (a shared Google Sheet), deploy to a live GitHub page and share the URL.

Plus the research piece: ten current uses of MCP, with a one-paragraph customer engagement reflection.

Both submitted via Moodle by **Monday 13 July**

DATES AND MARKS

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	KEY DATES
CA1	10%	Completed
CA2	20%	Releases Tue 28 July · due Mon 3 August
Final project	70%	Details in the closing weeks

KEY LINKS

↗ **Session page (video, transcript, AI helper):**
ceai-session.pages.dev

↗ **Live data · Google Sheet:**
linked on the session page

↗ **Live examples:**
victordelrosal.com/meadow-vet-care · victordelrosal.com/boru-bats-chatbot · iris.kluxy.app

If you get stuck: with these stacked terminal AI skills you become dangerous in a good way. It is normal for things not to work first time: feed errors back to your AI, take screenshots, keep tinkering. The AI helper on the session page is there for questions, no question too small.