

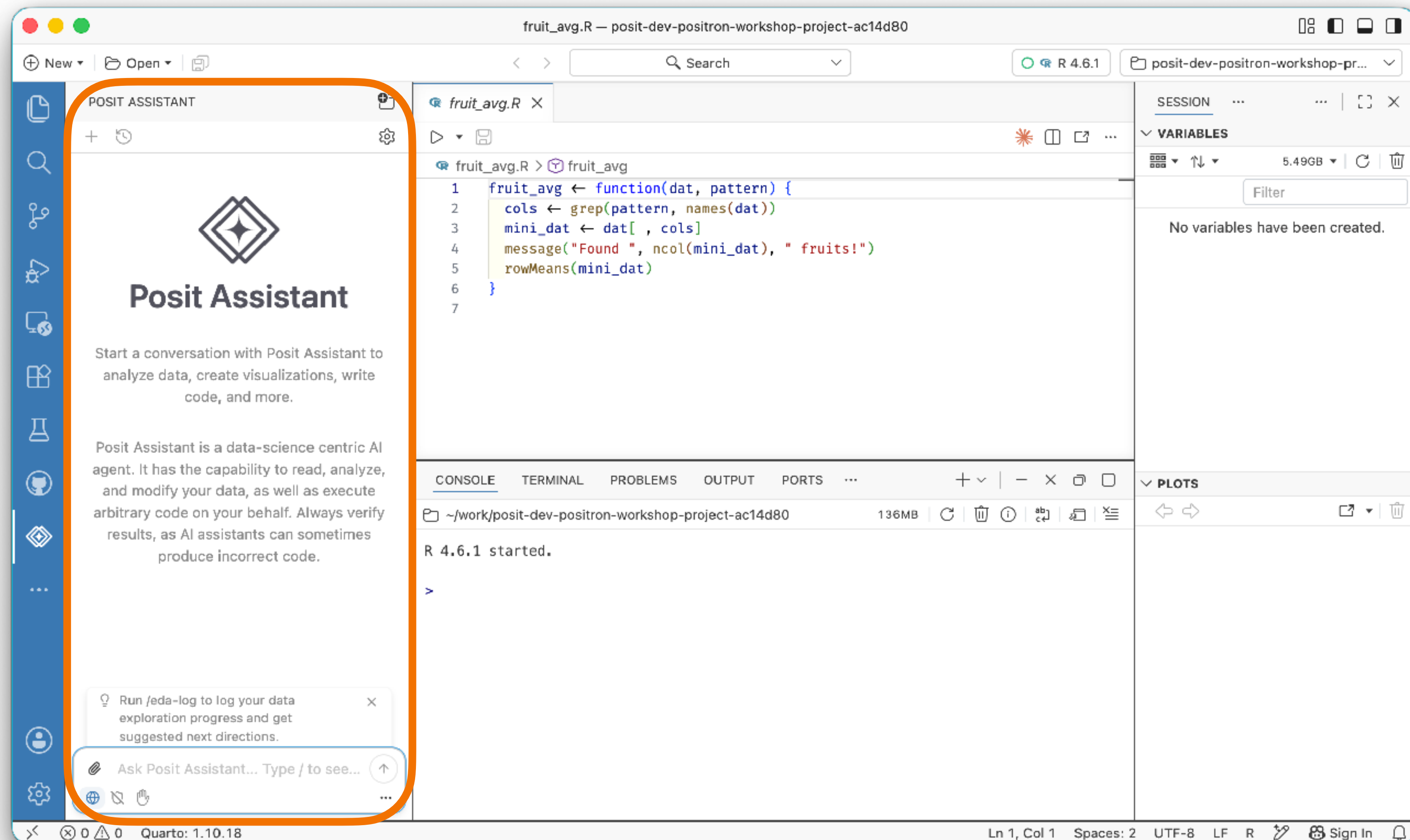


Posit Assistant

Part of the "Getting Started with Positron" workshop

Posit Software, PBC





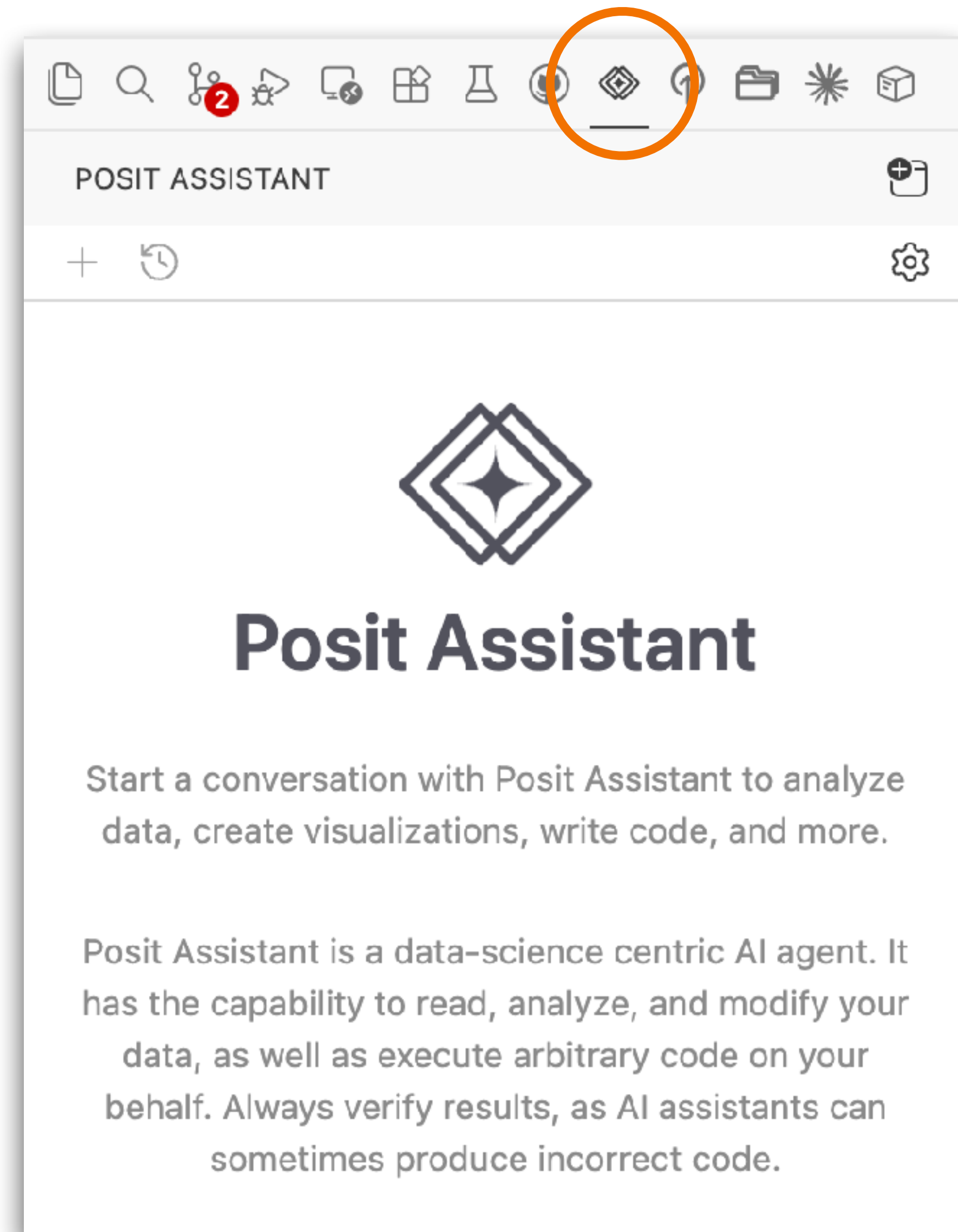
What about AI?

 **Posit Assistant** is an AI agent geared towards the needs of data scientists.

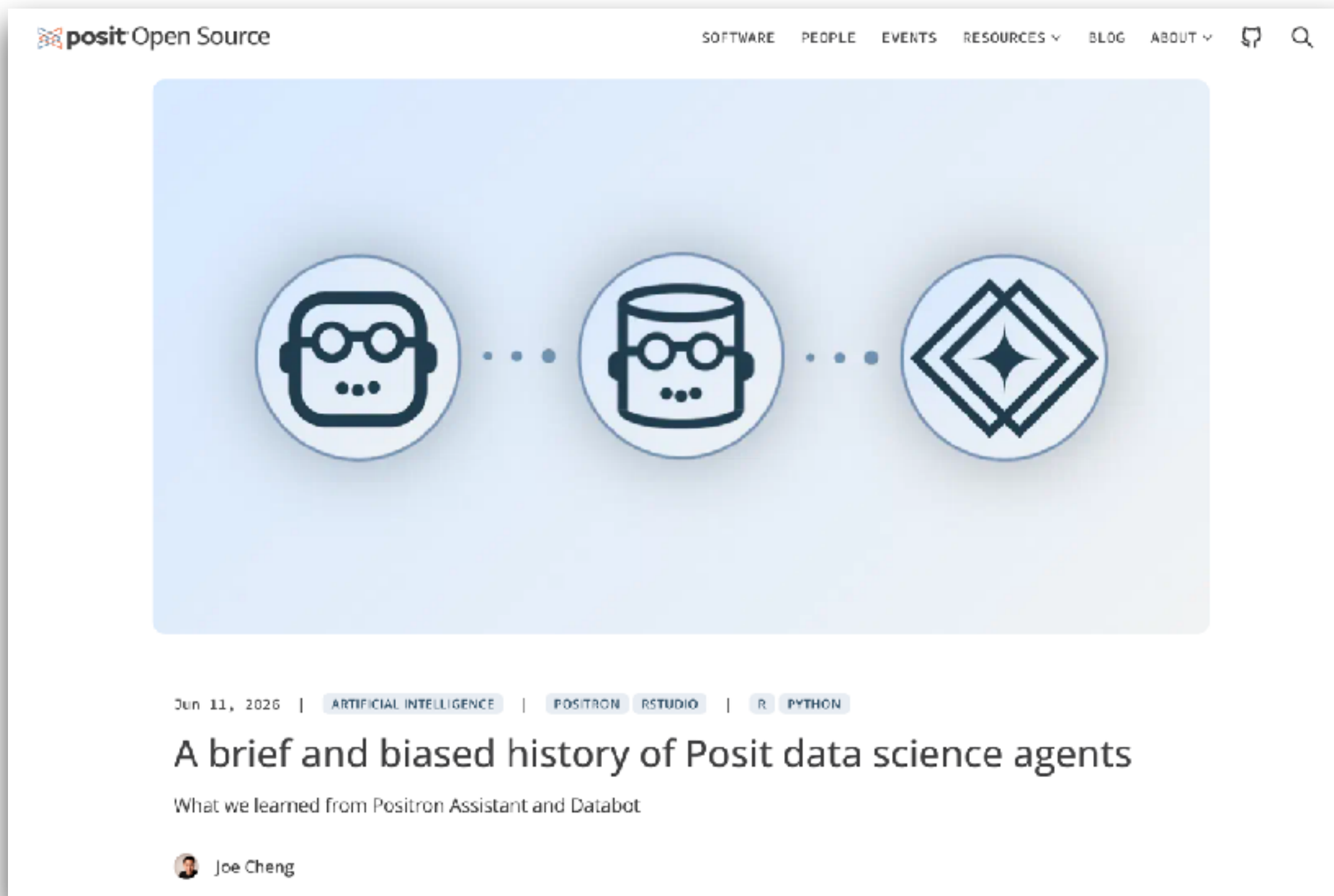
Available in Positron and RStudio (and the terminal).

<https://assistant.posit.co/>

<https://positron.posit.co/ai-features.html>

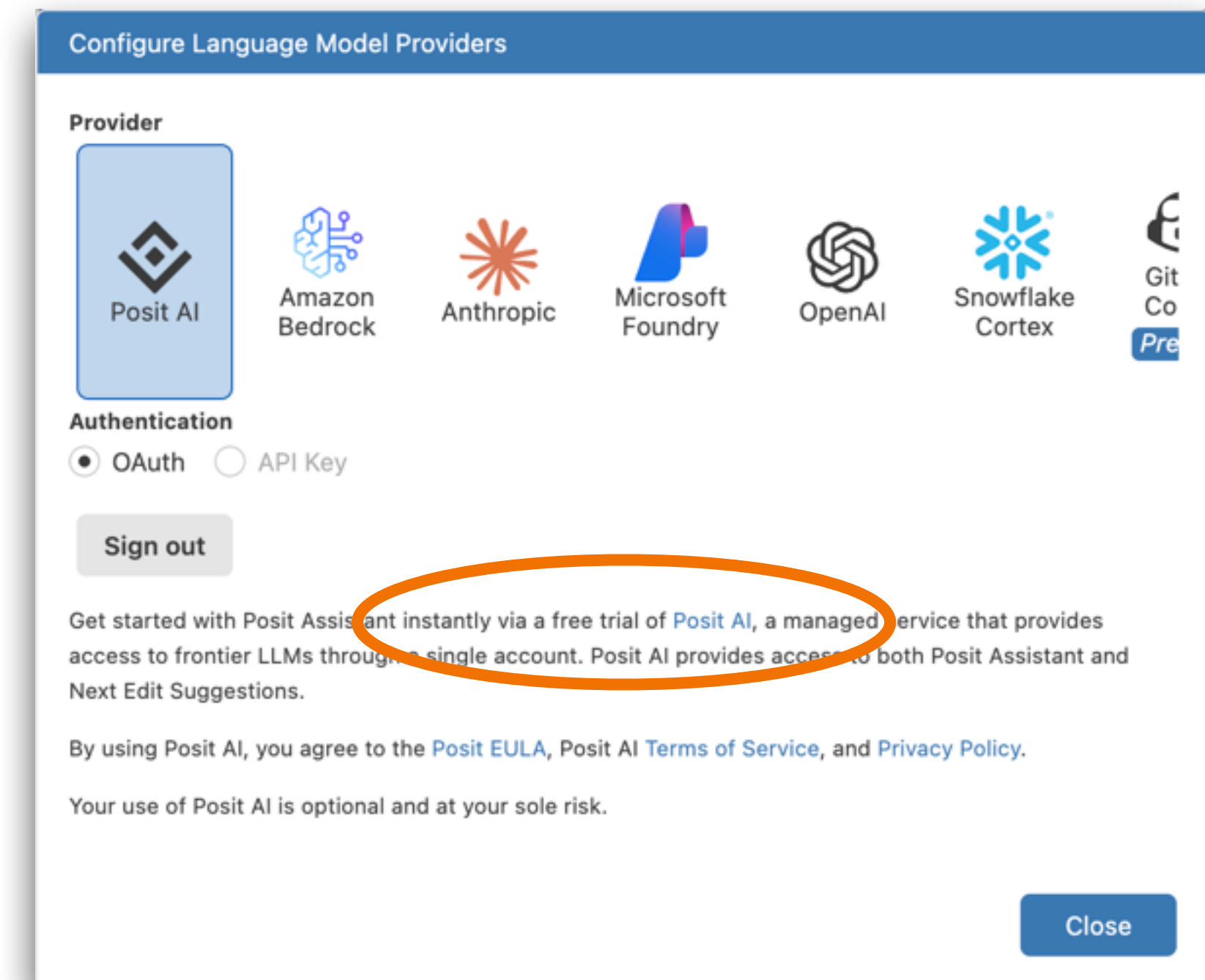
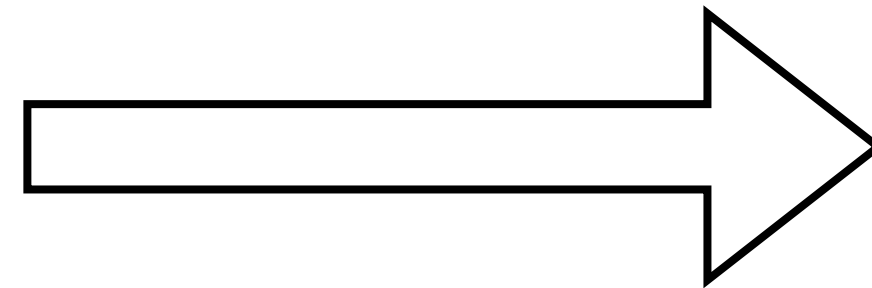
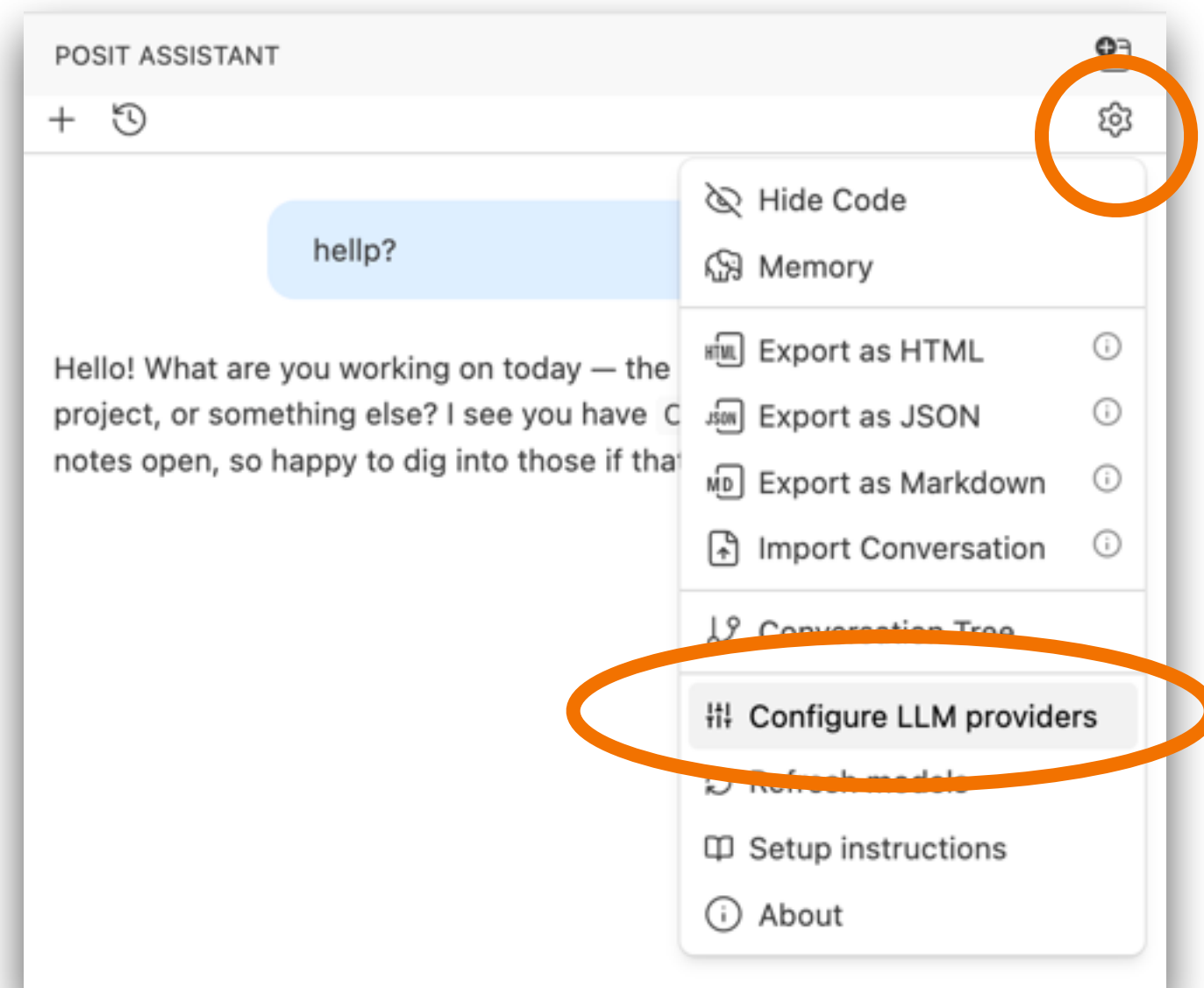


If you're confused ...



- A brief and biased history of Posit data science agents, June 2026 blog post by Joe Cheng
- Posit Assistant is the current thing
- Positron Assistant and Databot are older, now-superseded things

Configure a provider (or multiple providers)



If you don't have existing provider access, try the free trial of Posit AI. Sign up at posit.ai/.

GitHub Copilot is also free for students.

Within a provider, you can access different models

The screenshot shows the Posit AI interface. A dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of LLM models and their associated costs. The models listed are Gemma 4 26B, Claude Haiku 4.5, Claude Sonnet 4.6, Claude Sonnet 5, Claude Opus 4.6, Claude Opus 4.8, GLM 5.2, and Kimi K3. The cost for each model is shown in the rightmost column. The model 'Claude Opus 4.8' is highlighted with a checkmark, indicating it is the selected model. Below the dropdown menu, the text 'Configure LLM providers' is visible. At the bottom of the interface, the selected model 'Claude Opus 4.8 (Posit AI)' is displayed, circled in orange.

Model	Performance	Cost
Gemma 4 26B	Fastest ⓘ	0.1x
Claude Haiku 4.5	Fast	0.33x
Claude Sonnet 4.6	Balanced	1x
Claude Sonnet 5	Balanced ⓘ	0.67x
Claude Opus 4.6	Smart	1.67x
Claude Opus 4.8	Smartest ⓘ	1.67x ✓
GLM 5.2	ⓘ	0.38x
Kimi K3	ⓘ	1x

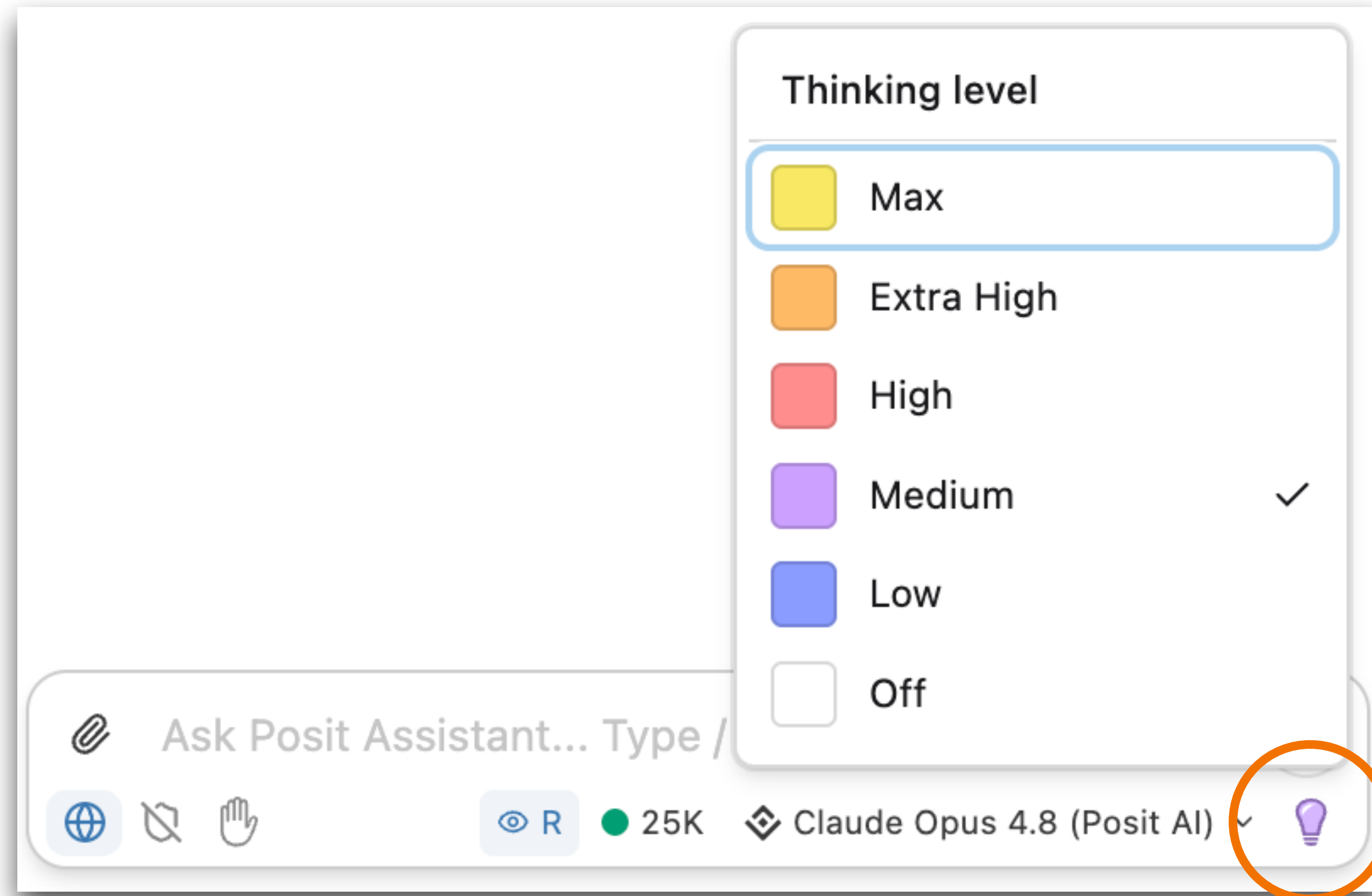
Configure LLM providers

Ask Posit AI

25K

Claude Opus 4.8 (Posit AI) ^

Models can operate at different thinking levels



Some of my practices for using AI tools

- I only use the chat interface and never the inline completions (Next edit suggestions = NES).
- Start a new conversation often with `/clear`.
- Create more persistent memories and longer story arcs with `AGENTS.md` and a workplan file, perhaps via `/plan`.
- I do not `/yolo`. I tolerate a lot of friction. Don't really see the point of having agent fly ahead of me. "Normal" or `/auto` mode works for me.
- Reference a workspace file or folder by `@ mention`.
- I do very little configuration, as I don't care to maintain all of that meta stuff. If you don't maintain it, it can actually degrade performance!

Good blog posts to develop understanding

- Hadley Wickham's substack Tidy design principles*
- What is an agent?
- Your LLM can't math (and that's ok)
- A coding agent is six functions in a trenchcoat
- Help! My coding agent can run code
- Etc.

* The name does not reflect the content very well!

Stay tuned!

R & AI session coming on Thursday