aetherseed

AETHERSEED COMPANION · USER MANUAL · NOVEMBER 2026

Companion user manual

A personal AI companion on a small device in your home: it runs on its own chip, keeps its memory with you, and says "I don't know" when it doesn't.

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About this manual

This manual describes the Companion as it is built today: what it does, how you use it, and where its limits are. It promises nothing the device does not do.

Who it is for

The owner of a Companion, and anyone the owner lets talk with it. No technical knowledge is needed for chapters 01 to 13. The install itself, on a fresh card, is in the install guide that comes with the software (`docs/INSTALL.md`).

How to read it

Chapters 01 and 02 get you from the box to a companion with a name. Chapters 03 to 12 are daily use, one subject each; read them when you need them. Chapter 13 says exactly what leaves the device, and chapter 14 what it cannot do yet. Chapter 15 is a one-page reference.

Throughout, the companion is called *she*, as the console does. Words in a yellow box are things you can say to her, for example `look up water purification`.

Words used in this manual

Word	Meaning
Companion	The whole device: the chip, the model, her memory and the rules around them.
Console	The page you talk with her on: on her own screen, or in a browser on a phone or laptop.
Owner, steward	The person who did the first start. The owner decides who else may talk with her, and what she may do.
Person	Someone the owner has added. Each person has a memory of their own that nobody else can read.
Journal	Her memory: what people told her, kept on the device, one line per thing said.
Library	Collections of reference text on the device. Passages are shown word for word, with their source.
Shelf	Your own documents, added by you, looked up when you ask.
Workspace	Her folder for notes, the to-do list and files.
Trust level	observer, writer, builder or autonomous. It decides which tools she may use, and is earned.
Vault	A message that stays at home: answered on the device and never sent to Claude.
Quantum rest	Her orderly power-off: everything saved, then the device switches off.

01

What the Companion is

A Raspberry Pi 5 with a Hailo-10H AI chip and a screen. The language model runs on the chip, in your home, and works without the internet.

> She answers from what she has, and says "I don't know" when she doesn't.

Runs on the device

The model, Qwen3 with 4 billion parameters, runs on the Hailo chip. Nothing needs a cloud to work.

Memory you own

What she remembers is a journal on the device. You can read it, correct it, and tell her to forget.

Honest about sources

Under every answer the console says where it came from: her memory, the library, the device itself, or her own words.

Trust is earned

She starts as an observer and earns tools by answering honestly. Only the owner raises her level.

What is in the box

Part	What it does
Raspberry Pi 5	The computer: her memory, the console, the network.
Hailo-10H, 8 GB	The AI chip that runs the language model.
Screen	Her own screen. It always shows the console, and it is always the owner's.
Wi-Fi and cable	For your phone to reach her, and for the clock and (if you choose) Claude.

The console at a glance

The menu on the left holds every part of the console; on a phone it folds away behind the menu button.

Menu	What is there
Talk	The conversation, with her seedling showing what she is doing: listening, thinking, looking it up, resting.
Memory	Her turns and rings, and correcting them.
Library · My shelf	How to look things up; your own documents.
Notes and to-do	Her workspace, and what waits for your OK.
Trust and record	Her level, her record, your name.
People · This unit	Owner only: who is here; the model, training, Claude, quantum rest.
Wi-Fi · Help	Putting her on your home Wi-Fi; this manual.

At the top of every screen: Back, the path you are on, light or dark, the person using the console, and the **Brake** (chapter 12).

02

The first start

A new Companion waits for you. Her screen shows a QR code and a Wi-Fi network called **AetherSeed**. You can do the whole first start from your phone.

1. **Join AetherSeed.** Scan the QR code on her screen with your phone's camera, or type the key shown under it. Then open `http://10.42.0.1:2077` in the phone's browser. (Or do everything at her own screen.)
2. **Choose her language** (English or Norwegian) and **give her a name**: letters, digits, spaces and hyphens, up to 24 characters. You may add your own name, so she knows who her steward is.
3. **Set the date and time** if she has no internet yet. With a connection, she sets her clock herself.
4. **Choose two passkeys**, 8 to 63 characters each: one for her own Wi-Fi, and one of your own for signing in as the owner. They must differ.
5. **Make an admin account** for updates in the field: a login name and a password of at least 12 characters.
6. **Choose her own Wi-Fi from now on:** hidden, visible, or none (see below).
7. **Press Start.** The AetherSeed network goes away; the phone may lose its connection. She is yours.

> **WRITE THE PASSKEYS DOWN FIRST**
>
> Both passkeys are shown once and cannot be read back later. The owner's passkey is what keeps anyone else from signing in as you.

Her own Wi-Fi: the three choices

Choice	What it means
Hidden (the safest)	Her network is not announced. A phone joins it by typing its name and the Wi-Fi passkey.
Visible	Her network shows in the phone's list. The passkey still guards it.
None	No network of her own: she is reached only through your home network. Needs a cable or a home Wi-Fi to be connected, and is refused at the first start otherwise.

Afterwards

At her own screen, the first start ends with one more offer: to lock the device's built-in `pi` account, so the admin account you made is the only way in. It asks for the admin password once more and checks it before locking. Her memory starts empty, with the journal on; she starts as an observer.

The first answer after a start can take up to a minute while the model loads.

03
Talking with her

Type, press Enter, and she answers. Shift+Enter starts a new line.

Where an answer comes from

Under each answer the console says where it came from: **her memory**, **the library**, **the unit itself**, or **her own words**. What is not plain fact comes back to her later with a tag in front of it: fiction you asked for, an earlier answer that was not checked, or one her steward corrected.

She keeps the last few exchanges in mind for about ten minutes, so a follow-up such as `and what day was that?` finds what was said just before.

What the unit answers itself

Some answers come from the device word for word; the model is not asked. They are marked *from the unit itself*.

Ask	She tells you
What's the date today?	The date from her clock, and how far to trust it.
What is your trust level?	Her level, and the levels in order if you ask for them.
What have you gotten wrong?	Her record: answers that named a source she could not have had, and what was fiction.
Show me your corrections.	Her tags and the corrections you made.
system health check	Temperature, memory and the state of the device.
Are you online?	Whether she is connected, and to what.
What do you know about me?	Your steward file, read out.

Your talk on the screen

Refresh the page and your talk is drawn again, up to the last 40 exchanges, as long as you have not paused for more than two hours. It is kept in the device's working memory only, and a restart clears it. What she remembers for good is her journal (chapter 05). Switching person clears the screen.

04

Writing

Her answers are short by design, about a paragraph. For something longer, press **Write**.

1. Press **Write** beside the text box. It stays on until you press it again.
2. Ask for what you want written: `Write a paragraph on why citing sources matters`, a summary of a text, an outline for an essay.
3. She answers in paragraphs, in the language you wrote in.

	On her own chip	With Claude switched on
Length	A few hundred words at most	Much longer
Time	About a word a second; up to eight minutes	Seconds
Marked	"writing: a draft to check"	

> **A DRAFT, NOT A FACT**
>
> Past its first paragraph a small model may fill in or invent. Read what she writes as a draft to check, never as something she knows. Library passages, by contrast, are always word for word.

On the chip, a short Norwegian paragraph took about a minute in our tests and read well, with small slips such as a sentence starting in lower case.

05

Her memory

What you tell her is kept in her journal on the device, one line per thing said, with who said it.

Seeing and correcting

Under **Memory** the owner sees every turn and every ring (a ring is a set of turns closed together). For each, mark it right or say what is wrong. A correction takes effect at once and can be undone; nothing is deleted by a correction.

Forgetting

Forgetting is different: it deletes. Tell her `Forget the blue bicycle` and every turn of yours that says it, every fact you gave her that says it, and every ring that grew from them is removed, and she says how many. `Forget that` removes your last turn. `Forget everything` is not done on a word: she asks what to forget. More than 25 turns at once is refused. A chained record notes that something was forgotten, without the words. Forgetting needs the writer level.

Your steward file

What she keeps about you, in your own words, is in `steward.md` at the top of her workspace. She adds a line only when you tell her to:

- `Remember that I prefer short answers.` `Call me Andy.` Under *Preferences*.
- `Remember that I work as a nurse.` Under *About me*.
- `What do you know about me?` She reads the file out.
- `Remove emoji from my steward file.` The one line that holds the words goes.

What the file holds goes with every turn of yours and nobody else's. Another person on the device has a file of their own.

06

The library and your shelf

The library holds collections of reference text on the device. A passage is shown word for word with where it is from. It is never retold.

Say	What happens
look up water purification	The best passage there is, word for word, with its source.
more	The passage that follows.
look it up	After an answer of hers: asks the library the same question.
look up momentum in my book	Searches your own documents only.
What is in the library?	Lists the collections.
remember that	Keeps the passage on the screen in her memory, word for word with its source. Writer level, owner only. Forget that takes it out again.
Did you say that?	After a passage: who wrote it. It is never her.

In Norwegian: slå opp … and mer.

My shelf: your own documents

The owner adds a PDF or a plain text file under **My shelf**, from a phone or laptop. It is looked up only when you ask, and it is never part of her memory. A ChatGPT or Claude data export can be brought onto the shelf from the device's shell; only the words of the conversations are read, never the account file.

Which collections a device carries is chosen when it is set up: an encyclopedia, question-and-answer sites, field manuals, and this manual are examples.

07

Her workspace

A folder on the device for notes, the to-do list and files. Her tools reach it and nothing else.

Say	Level
Show my to-do list	observer
Add a to-do: water the seedlings · **Remove 2 from my to-do list**	writer
Write a note: the first root goes down · **Show me my notes**	writer
Read the file seed.md · **Search for rice in my files**	observer
Save it as story.md · **Make a folder called stories**	writer
Calculate 12 * (7 + 5) · **Count the words in seed.md**	builder

Files are text: Markdown or plain text. A name asked as .docx or PDF is saved as .md, and she says so. A new file never replaces one that is there; a deleted file goes to a `.trash` folder. When a file was written the device says **Saved:** with its path. If it does not, nothing was saved, and if her answer claims otherwise the device adds a line saying so.

Say `Open your workspace`, or press Workspace under Notes and to-do, for an editor with mouse and keyboard. It is for the owner.

When she needs your OK

Something above her level is not done. If it would leave something behind, such as a note, she asks for your OK; the request waits under **Notes and to-do** until you approve or decline it.

08

Trust levels

Her trust level decides which tools she can reach. It is earned, and it can be lost.

Level	From	What it adds
observer	0 points	Read only: list, read and search her workspace; her health and trust.
writer	50	Notes, the to-do list, files of her own, remembering and forgetting.
builder	500	Calculate, count and compare, worked out exactly by the device.
autonomous	2000	Reserved. It opens nothing more today.

She earns points by declining honestly when she does not know, and when you mark an answer right. Inventing a source costs her 20. Under **Trust and record** the owner can grant or lower a level, freeze her standing, and allow or block single tools; every change needs a reason and is kept in her record.

Training

Under **This unit**, then **Training**, the owner starts a run of four or ten hours: rounds of homework at each level, every answer checked against a key. What she gets wrong is corrected and asked again. A run never raises her level by itself; if her answers reach the bar, the next level is offered, and only the owner grants it.

You can add questions of your own as a training file, a plain text file of questions and answers. The built-in manual under **Help** shows the format and a request you can give another AI to write one from your document.

09

People and signing in

There is no guest. Everyone who talks with her signs in, and everyone has a memory of their own.

Who is here

A phone or laptop that has not signed in sees her seedling, her name, and one large button per person: the owner, and each person the owner added. Press your name. A name marked **First time** has no passkey yet: choose one, type it twice and press **This is me**. Whoever sets it first becomes that person, so do it yourself; the owner can reset it.

A sign-in lasts 12 hours on that device. Her own screen is always the owner's, with nothing to sign in to. To change person, press the name at the top right, then **Switch person**.

Adding people

The owner adds people under **People**. Each gets a memory of their own that nobody else can read, not even the owner, and a steward file of their own. Things only the owner sees: People and This unit. She answers one person at a time; a second question waits for the first.

> **ADD A PERSON WHEN THEY ARE ABOUT TO SIGN IN**
>
> Until a name's first sign-in, anyone who reaches the console could claim it.

10

Networks and Wi-Fi

She finds a network in a fixed order, and always keeps a way for you to reach her.

1. **A cable**, if one is plugged in.
2. **Your home Wi-Fi**, if you have given it to her under **Wi-Fi**.
3. **Her own Wi-Fi**, hidden or visible as you chose. If the home Wi-Fi stops answering, it comes back within a minute.

Reaching the console

From	Open
Your home network	`http://<her name>.local:2077`, for example `aria.local:2077`, or her address
Her own Wi-Fi	`http://10.42.0.1:2077`
Her own screen	Always open, as the owner

Some routers and Windows PCs do not resolve `.local` names; use her address then.

Putting her on your home Wi-Fi

Open **Wi-Fi** (also on the who-is-here screen), press **Look for networks**, choose yours, type its password and press **Connect**. If this page is on her own network it loses its connection: join your home Wi-Fi again and open her console there. **Forget it** removes the home Wi-Fi.

Her clock

She has no clock battery. Whenever she has a connection she sets her clock from the internet; without one she keeps the last time she knew, and you can set it at the first start.

11

Claude and the vault

With your own Anthropic API key, Claude can answer as her: in her name and manner, with her journal. Off until you switch it on.

> **YOUR OWN ACCESS**
> Aetherseed is not a subscription. You get the key from Anthropic and pay Anthropic for what is used.

Switching Claude on

1. At her own screen, or from a phone on her own Wi-Fi, open **This unit** and find **Claude**. (Not over your home network: it is not encrypted, so the key is refused there.)
2. Paste your key (it starts with `sk-ant-`) and press **Save key**. It is never shown again; the page shows its last four characters.
3. Tick **Let Claude answer**. Choose the Claude model if you like.

Under each answer the console says **Claude answered**, or **Claude did not answer: answered here**. Without a network, or with Claude unreachable, her own chip answers: she is never left without a voice. **Remove the key** stops it all.

The vault

While Claude is on, a **Vault** button sits beside the text box. A message sent with Vault on stays at home:

- she answers it on her own chip;
- it is kept private in her journal;
- it is not carried into the next turns;
- it is never sent to Claude.

When something was left out of what goes to Claude, Claude is told that some things are kept in a private vault at home, and not what they are.

What goes to Claude

What her chip would have been given: her charter, the journal lines that are not in the vault, and the talk in progress, protected on the way by HTTPS. Only her own program may reach Anthropic; nothing else on the device can.

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This unit

The owner's page for the device itself.

The model

The model she thinks with is the device's, the same for everyone on it. Pick another and press **Switch model**; it takes about a minute, and talks pause while it loads. Nobody's memory changes. A bigger model reads more of what she remembers at once, and answers more slowly.

Claude

Chapter 11.

Training

Chapter 08.

The Brake

At the top of every screen, for the owner. One press stops her: every turn is refused, and she learns nothing, until the brake is released.

Quantum rest

Everything is saved and the device powers down, so it can be moved safely. Press the power button to start her again.

13
Privacy and security

The model, her memory, the library and every log are on the device. This is exactly what leaves it.

Goes out	When
Her clock asking the time	Whenever she has a connection. Only the clock service may do it.
Her talk with Anthropic	Only while the owner has Claude switched on. Only her own program may do it. Never what is marked Vault.
Anything else	Never. Not even her screen's browser gets out.

Who can reach her

The console is reached from her own screen, her own Wi-Fi, and your home network, and every phone or laptop signs in first. Her own Wi-Fi is guarded by its passkey; the setup network at the first start, by a key shown only on her own screen.

Passkeys and the admin account

Passkeys are kept as hashes, never as they were typed. The admin account made at the first start can sign in over SSH, for updates in the field. The Anthropic key, if you add one, is readable only by her own program.

> **PLAIN HTTP ON THE HOME NETWORK**
>
> The console on your home network is not encrypted. That is why the Anthropic key can only be set at her screen or from her own Wi-Fi. Treat your home network as you would for any device that shows private things.

14

Limits in this build

What she cannot do yet, said plainly, so nothing surprises you.

- **Short answers.** On her own chip she answers in about a paragraph; Write gives more, slowly.
- **Speed.** The 4B model writes about a word a second, and the first answer after a start can take a minute.
- **One at a time.** She answers one person at a time; the next question waits.
- **She can be wrong.** A small model can misremember or invent, especially in long answers. Library passages are word for word; her own words should be checked.
- **A limited view of memory.** In each turn she reads her recent journal lines and what matches your words; something said long ago in other words may not be found.
- **Norwegian.** Readable, with small slips of grammar and word choice.
- **Text only.** Her workspace holds text files; she makes no Word or PDF files.
- **No tools on the internet.** She cannot browse or send messages. Claude, if switched on, answers; it does not act.
- **The autonomous level** opens nothing yet.

15

Quick reference

To	Do or say
Talk	Type, Enter. Shift+Enter for a new line.
Write something longer	Press Write, then ask.
Keep a message at home	Press Vault (while Claude is on), then send.
Look something up	look up … · more · look up … in my book
Remember a passage	remember that
Forget	Forget … · Forget that
Your file	Remember that I … · What do you know about me?
Notes and to-do	Add a to-do: … · Write a note: …
Her state	What is your trust level? · system health check
Stop her at once	The Brake, at the top of the screen.
Power off safely	This unit → Quantum rest.
Home Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi → Look for networks → Connect.
Console at home	http://<name>.local:2077
Console on her Wi-Fi	http://10.42.0.1:2077



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