

FREE FIELD GUIDE · MAC + WINDOWS PRIORITY

Install Hermes on your computer.

A beginner-friendly checklist that shows Mac and Windows customers they can start with the computer they already own, install Hermes, and prove one useful AI-agent workflow.

Hermes for Mac + Windows: Easy Install Readiness Checklist

A free SAGE9AI field guide for getting your first useful AI agent running on the computer you already own.

Version: 2026-07-05

Hermes is not just for developers. If you use a **Mac** or a **Windows PC**, you can start with a beginner-friendly install path, get Hermes running, and prove one practical workflow before touching advanced configuration.

In 10 minutes, this checklist helps you confirm your computer is ready, choose the Mac or Windows install path, avoid beginner traps, and know what to do immediately after Hermes is installed.

STEP 01

Start with the promise

You do **not** need to choose between “Mac people” and “Windows people.” SAGE9AI’s launch message is simple:

Hermes can be installed on Mac or Windows. Start with the path for the computer you already use.

YOUR COMPUTER	BEGINNER INSTALL PRIORITY	WHAT THIS MEANS
Mac	Hermes Agent on macOS	Use Terminal, Apple command-line tools, and the official Hermes installer.
Windows	Hermes Agent on Windows	Use the beginner Windows path, with WSL2/Ubuntu when needed for the most tested setup.

The goal is not to become technical on day one. The goal is to get your first useful AI agent running.

STEP 02 Are you ready to install?

Check what is true today:

- I have a Mac or Windows computer I can install software on.
- I know my computer login password.
- I have reliable internet.
- I can spend 30–60 uninterrupted minutes on first setup.
- I am willing to copy/paste exact setup steps.
- I know where I want the agent to store working files.

If you checked fewer than 4: do not force a solo install. Use guided setup or ask for help first.

STEP 03 Choose Mac or Windows first

Pick the guide that matches your computer:

If you are on Mac

Start with the **Hermes Agent on Mac Beginner Install Guide**.

Beginner expectation:

- You will open Terminal.

- You may install Apple command-line tools.
- You will run the official Hermes installer.
- You will complete Hermes setup and choose a model/provider path.
- You will send your first message to Hermes.

Official installer command for macOS/Linux/WSL:

```
curl -fsSL https://hermes-agent.nousresearch.com/install.sh | bash
```

If you are on Windows

Start with the **Hermes Agent on Windows Beginner Install Guide**.

Beginner expectation:

- You may use PowerShell and/or WSL2/Ubuntu.
- The guide explains which window to paste commands into.
- The most tested Windows path uses WSL2 + Ubuntu.
- You will install Hermes and run setup from the recommended environment.
- You will send your first message to Hermes.

Official Windows PowerShell installer path:

```
iex (irm https://hermes-agent.nousresearch.com/install.ps1)
```

Windows note: if the Windows guide recommends WSL2/Ubuntu, follow that path unless you already know why you want native Windows setup.

STEP 04

Choose the simplest model/provider path

Hermes needs a model provider so it can answer you. Start simple.

- I have, or can create, a model-provider account.
- I understand setup may ask me to choose a provider/model.
- I understand API-key paths can create pay-as-you-go billing if I experiment heavily.

- I know not to paste passwords, API keys, recovery codes, private client records, health records, tax records, or bank/tax details into random tools.
- I can monitor usage/billing if I use paid APIs.

Beginner recommendation:

PATH	GOOD FOR	WATCH OUT FOR
OpenAI / ChatGPT OAuth	Easiest first login flow if you already use ChatGPT	Usage limits may apply.
OpenRouter or other API key	Trying many models and providers	Pay-as-you-go billing can surprise beginners.
Local models	Privacy/cost experimentation later	Usually not the fastest first win.

Best default: get Hermes working first, then optimize provider/model choices later.

Useful Hermes commands after installation:

```
hermes setup
hermes model
hermes auth
hermes doctor
hermes config
```

STEP 05 Pick one first workflow before you install more tools

Do not install Hermes and then wander. Give it a job.

IF YOU ARE A...	START WITH THIS WORKFLOW
Small-business owner	FAQ replies, missed-call follow-up, intake checklist, review-request drafts

IF YOU ARE A...	START WITH THIS WORKFLOW
Creator	Content outline, research assistant, repurposing checklist
Consultant	Client intake, proposal draft, research summary
Student / learner	Study plan, reading summary, skill-building tracker
Job seeker	Resume tailoring checklist, interview prep, job application tracker
Household operator	Weekly planning, shopping/meal plan, household admin
Builder / developer	Repo inspection, feature spec, test/fix loop

Fill this in before your first session:

My first Hermes workflow will help me with:

The files/notes/examples I can give it are:

The first useful output I want is:

STEP 06

After install, stop installing

Before adding dashboards, Telegram, voice, local models, automations, or advanced toolchains, confirm the basic win:

- I can open Hermes.
- I can send a message and get a response.
- I know whether I installed on Mac or Windows/WSL.
- I know which provider/model path I am using.
- I created one starter workflow.
- I know what information I should not give the agent.
- I saved useful outputs somewhere I can find again.

If those are true, the install succeeded. Everything else is an upgrade path.

First 10 prompts to try

1. "Help me choose one practical workflow for my first AI agent. Ask me only the questions needed."
 2. "Create a simple command center for this workflow with sections for inputs, tasks, decisions, outputs, and next actions."
 3. "Turn these notes into a checklist I can use every week."
 4. "Summarize this document for a beginner and list the action items."
 5. "Draft a safe first version of a reply/email/post, then list what I should review before sending."
 6. "Create a file/folder structure for this project that I can maintain."
 7. "Make a reusable prompt I can use for this task again."
 8. "Review this output for missing assumptions, risks, and next steps."
 9. "Convert this messy idea into a one-page plan with a must-finish outcome."
 10. "Help me decide whether this should be automated, delegated, scheduled, or left manual."
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Safety boundary

AI agents can draft, organize, summarize, plan, and recommend. They should not be treated as independent authority for medical, legal, tax, accounting, investment, employment, compliance, or safety-critical decisions.

Before you paste anything into an agent, ask:

- Would I be comfortable putting this in a third-party app?
- Does this include passwords, API keys, recovery codes, private IDs, client records, regulated data, or bank/tax details?
- Does this require a qualified professional or human approval before action?

When in doubt, summarize the situation without exposing sensitive details.

Recommended next step

Choose the next action based on where you are:

- Mac user:** open the Hermes Mac beginner install guide and complete your first chat.
- Windows user:** open the Hermes Windows beginner install guide and complete your first chat.
- Not sure which path fits:** try AgentLens Setup Preview to see your likely path and tradeoffs.
- Want the whole beginner package:** get the SAGE9AI AI Agent Starter Kit: Install + First Agent Stack.
- Want help:** ask SAGE9AI about a beginner setup session.

Best default: install Hermes on the computer you already use, prove one useful workflow, then upgrade the stack.

SAGE9AI next step: choose your Mac or Windows install guide, complete your first Hermes chat, then use AgentLens or the AI Agent Starter Kit when you are ready to turn Hermes into a practical agent stack.