CLAUDE ARCHITECT IN 30 DAYS · DAY 3

Opus, Sonnet or Haiku?

How to pick the right Claude for each step of a system.

Shanker Dhand

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THE TRADE-OFF

Three tiers.
One trade-off.

More capability on one side. More speed and lower cost on the other.

PER 1M TOKENS, IN / OUT

The price gap is wide.

- Opus 5.5: $4 / $20
- Sonnet 5.5: $2 / $10
- Haiku 5.5: $0.10 / $0.50

Source: Anthropic pricing page, Nov 2026. Haiku price for prompts up to 100K tokens.

HAIKU

Haiku: high volume, simple judgment.

Sorting, tagging, pulling fields out of text, routing requests to the right place.

SONNET

Sonnet: the everyday workhorse.

A sensible starting point for chat, drafting, coding and most agents that use tools.

OPUS

Opus: when a wrong answer is expensive.

Hard reasoning, long multi-step plans and complex code, where quality matters more than cost.

MIX THEM

One system, several models.

Haiku sorts the request

↓

Sonnet handles most of them

↓

Opus takes the hard ones

THE RULE

Try the cheaper tier first.

Run your eval set on it. Move up a tier only where the quality actually drops.

TRY THIS TODAY

Price one feature on all three tiers.

Tokens per request × requests per day × price. Then compare quality on your eval set.

Day 4: prompts that survive production

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