Vibe coding at home

Keep working on the story you made at the library. You don't need to code.

1 Open your file

Your work is one zip file on your USB stick. Copy it to a folder you'll find again and double-click it. In the story folder, double-click index.html to play in your browser, no internet needed.

2 Keep a copy before every change

Make a copy of the file and put today's date in its name. If a change breaks the story, you still have the one that worked.

3 Pick an AI chat you can use at home

Claude, Gemini (including Google AI Studio), ChatGPT and Mistral all have free versions, with daily limits that change. Use one in your web browser. You don't need to install anything. A free account is fine, and so is a temporary email address made for this.

4 Give it your file and ask for one change

Attach the story file, or paste its contents, and ask for one thing at a time. Ask for the whole file back, then save it as a new file. Made with Twine? Give it twine-import.html from the story folder instead (index.html is too big to paste), then play the new version at twinery.org: Library, Import, then Build, Play.

> *This is my interactive story. Add a new ending where the player does nothing. Keep everything else exactly the same. Give me the whole file back.*

5 Test it like a stranger

Open the new file. Try the weird option. Try every ending. Ask the AI to check that every choice leads somewhere and every scene can be reached. Then ask whether the change is something you would have written yourself.

6 Have it checked twice

Check the work: the one that wrote it shouldn't be the one that checks it. In the Claude app, ask it to review the file using a subagent. In a web chat, open a new chat, give it your file and ask it to read it like a careful reader. Check the habits: when something goes wrong, write one line about it in a notes file (coding tools call it AGENTS.md) and paste it at the start of your next chat.

7 Share it

Send the file as an attachment, put it on a USB stick, or upload it somewhere you control. Anyone can open it in a browser. It doesn't need the AI to run.

Keep in mind. Keep real names, addresses and your own life out of the story and the chat. Don't paste your story into a site you don't know. If the AI says it's great, that means it works. A person can tell you if it's good.

Coming up. Applied AI for Digital Rights: a community build day, Saturday, December 12, at North York Central Library. Digital rights are the freedoms we should have online: to find information, keep private things private and stay safe from scams. Teams build small tools for their community. Want to keep exploring vibe-coding with that focus? Come and bring what you've learned.

Want to build an app? Build Your First App with AI: Mon Dec 7, 6 to 8pm (registration opens Nov 9).
TPL Innovator in Residence, Applied AI.