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Anthropic folded Cowork into one Claude. Here is what actually changed.

On September 16, 2026 Anthropic merged Claude Cowork, chat and Design into a single Claude, and shipped Claude Docs and Claude Slides. The mode you used to pick is gone.

1	Interface. Chat, Cowork and Design now live in one conversation — no mode to choose.	2	New tools, both in beta on paid plans: Claude Docs and Claude Slides.	2	Permission modes on every task: Manual (default, asks first) and Auto.
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Before and after

BEFORE SEPTEMBER 16	AFTER
Chat and Cowork were separate places	One conversation, no mode to pick
Cowork skills and connectors stayed in Cowork	Available from any conversation, with your context
Claude Design was its own surface	Works inside conversations
No Docs or Slides	Both launched, in beta on paid plans
Long work was a Cowork session	Tasks run in parallel and continue in the cloud

Check these three things

- 1 Find the permission setting.**
It sits in the message box, applies to the whole conversation, and can be changed at any time. Read what Manual and Auto do before you rely on either.
- 2 Know which work needs the desktop app.**
Cloud tasks survive a closed laptop; tasks touching your local files or apps need Claude Desktop open.
- 3 Check your plan and admin switch.**
The unified experience reaches Pro and Max over coming weeks, and Enterprise admins decide when Docs and Slides turn on.

THE POINT

The agent should not be a destination. Fewer surfaces is convenient, not automatically safer — one permission setting now governs far more work, so set it deliberately instead of inheriting the default.

Sources: Anthropic announcement coverage, September 16, 2026 (Unite.AI); Fortune, September 16, 2026. Rollout timing and Enterprise controls as reported. Details in the full post at wolffi.sh/blog/anthropic-one-claude-cowork-merge