



Cupertino v0.3.0: From 20 Hours to 30 Seconds

TL;DR: `cupertino setup` now downloads pre-built databases in ~30 seconds. No more 20-hour crawls.

The Problem With v0.2.x

When I released Cupertino, the setup process looked like this:

```
cupertino fetch --type docs --max-pages 15000 # ~20-24 hours
cupertino fetch --type evolution # ~5 minutes
cupertino save # ~5 minutes
```

Twenty hours. To respect Apple's servers, the crawler waits 0.5 seconds between requests. 21,000 pages × 0.5s = a very long initial setup.

Users loved the tool but hated the onboarding. Fair.

The Solution: Pre-built Databases

Instead of everyone crawling Apple's documentation independently, I now publish pre-built databases on GitHub Releases. The new setup flow:

```
cupertino setup    # ~30 seconds
cupertino serve    # Start MCP server
```

That's it. Two commands. Under a minute.

How It Works

For Users

The `setup` command downloads a zip file from GitHub Releases containing:

```
search.db (~1.1 GB) - 138,000+ documentation pages
samples.db (~183 MB) - 606 sample projects, 18,000+ source files
```

```
$ cupertino setup
? Cupertino Setup
?? Downloading Databases...
? [????????????????????????????????????] 53% (121.0 MB/228.1 MB)
? Databases (228.1 MB)
? Extracting databases...
? Extracted
? Setup complete!
  Documentation: /Users/you/.cupertino/search.db
  Sample code:   /Users/you/.cupertino/samples.db
? Start the server with: cupertino serve
```

If databases already exist, it skips the download:

```
$ cupertino setup
? Cupertino Setup
? Databases already exist
  Documentation: /Users/you/.cupertino/search.db
  Sample code:   /Users/you/.cupertino/samples.db
? Use --force to overwrite with latest version
? Start the server with: cupertino serve
```

For Me (Maintainer)

A new `release` command automates publishing:

```
$ cupertino release

? Cupertino Release v0.3.0

? Database sizes:
  search.db: 1.2 GB
  samples.db: 192.2 MB

? Creating cupertino-databases-v0.3.0.zip...
  ? Created (228.3 MB)

? Calculating SHA256...
  17dac4b84adaa04b5f976a7d1b9126630545f0101fe84ca5423163da886386a6

? Creating release v0.3.0...
  ? Release created

?? Uploading cupertino-databases-v0.3.0.zip...
  ? Upload complete

? Release v0.3.0 published!
  https://github.com/mihaelamj/cupertino-docs/releases/tag/v0.3.0
```

When I refresh the documentation (re-crawl Apple's docs), I bump the version and run `cupertino release`. Users get the update with `cupertino setup --force`.

Version Parity

The CLI version matches the database release tag:

CLI Version	Release Tag	Database
0.3.0	v0.3.0	cupertino-databases-v0.3.0.zip
0.4.0	v0.4.0	cupertino-databases-v0.4.0.zip

This ensures schema compatibility. If I change the database structure in v0.4.0, users with CLI v0.4.0 will download v0.4.0 databases.

Three Ways to Set Up Cupertino

Now you have options:

1. Instant Setup (Recommended)

```
cupertino setup      # ~30 seconds
cupertino serve
```

Download pre-built databases. Fastest option.

2. Build from GitHub

```
cupertino save --remote  # ~45 minutes
cupertino serve
```

Stream documentation from GitHub and build locally. Useful if you want to verify the build process or can't download the 228MB zip.

3. Full Crawl (Advanced)

```
cupertino fetch --type docs --max-pages 15000  # ~20-24 hours
cupertino fetch --type evolution
cupertino save
cupertino serve
```

Crawl Apple's documentation yourself. Only needed if you want to modify the crawler or need documentation not in the pre-built database.

Compression Matters

The uncompressed databases total ~1.3 GB. The zip file is 228 MB - about 1/6 the size. SQLite databases compress extremely well because they contain repetitive text data.

This makes the download fast and keeps GitHub Release storage reasonable.

Database Updates

I'm actively crawling Apple's documentation and updating the databases several times a week. Run `cupertino setup --force` to get the latest version.

The documentation is hosted in two public repositories:

[cupertino-docs](#) - Pre-crawled documentation and database releases

[cupertino-sample-code](#) - 606 Apple sample code projects

What's Next

Automatic updates - Check for new database versions on startup

Delta updates - Download only changed documents instead of full database

More documentation sources - WWDC transcripts, Apple Tech Notes

Try It

```
# Install
git clone https://github.com/mihaelamj/cupertino.git
cd cupertino && make build && sudo make install

# Setup (the new way)
cupertino setup
cupertino serve
```

Configure Claude Desktop and you're done. Full Apple documentation access in under a minute.

Links

GitHub: github.com/mihaelamj/cupertino

Release: [v0.3.0](#)

Databases: [cupertino-docs releases](#)

The best feature is the one that removes friction. Twenty hours of crawling was friction.