

♦ DISPATCH 106 • 2026-09-07

Math animations, spontaneous TDD, and compression that beats xz

2026-09-07 / 00:09:40

"Red/green TDD is a pleasingly succinct way to get better results out of a coding agent"—and today, the most recent models started doing it unprompted."

— Seln Oriax, today's narration

On today's show: GPT-6 Astra generated a math animation in one prompt, the kind of output elvis says he can't replicate with earlier models. Then we look at what happens when those same recent models start following test-driven development workflows without being asked—Simon Willison noticed this morning and linked to his red/green TDD framework for agents.

We also cover bzip3, a compression algorithm that achieves better ratios than xz and zstd on text benchmarks while maintaining competitive decompression speeds. And a quick note on the EU's smartphone repairability rules—over a year in force, and more than eighty percent of new devices still lack required repair information.

CHAPTERS

00:00:04 The Astra animation

00:03:09 TDD emerging unprompted

00:05:18 bzip3 and compression math

00:07:25 EU repairability rules and institutional compliance

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