

# **Create Powerpoint Slide Deck**

# Create a Professional Powerpoint

M&A

INVESTMENT BANKING • EQUITY & DEAL RESEARCH

## Global M&A Market Outlook 2026

---

Recent trends, the megadeal renaissance, and what will define dealmaking in the year ahead.

ANALYST REPORT June 2026

STRICTLY PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# A Record-Breaking Rebound in Global Dealmaking

After three subdued years, global M&A staged its strongest rebound since the 2021 peak. Deal value surged on the back of mega-transactions, AI-driven strategy, and abundant private capital — even as deal volumes stayed selective.

**\$4.8T**

### Global deal value 2025

Second-highest annual total on record

**+37%**

### Year-over-year growth

Up from ~\$3.4T in 2024

**56%**

### Value from megadeals

Deals ≥ \$1bn; 111 deals topped \$5bn

**~40%**

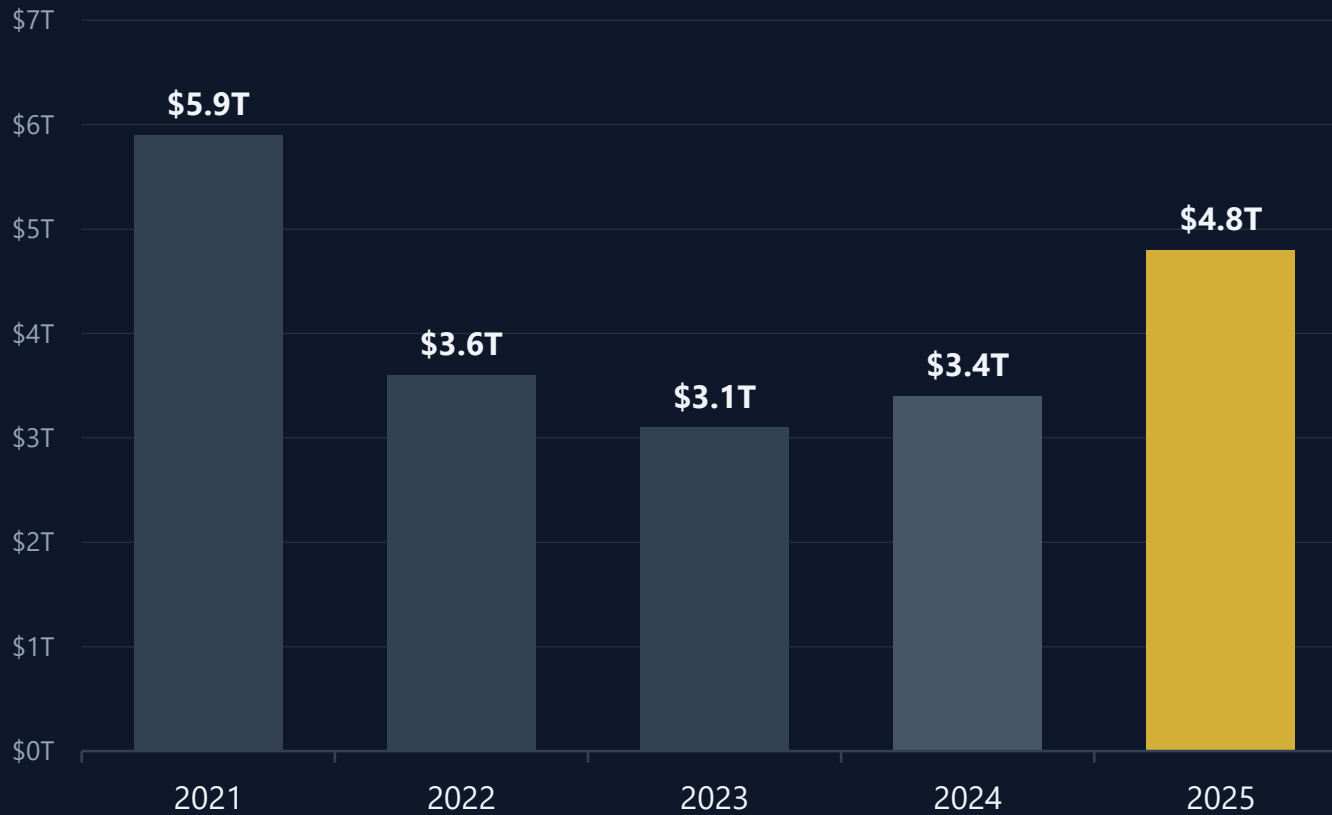
### Share from private equity

Sponsors return as cash is deployed

## THE BIG PICTURE

Momentum accelerated through H2 2025, with Q3 and Q4 each setting new quarterly records. The market enters 2026 in a “tale of two halves” — record value concentrated in the largest deals, while the mid-market remains muted.

# A V-Shaped Recovery in Deal Value



## WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

- ▶ **Q4 2025 was** the most active quarter ever recorded for both value and volume.
- ▶ **111 deals above \$5bn** in 2025, up 76% from 63 the prior year.
- ▶ **Technology** led megadeal activity with 26 announced \$5bn+ transactions.
- ▶ **Into 2026**, deal value remains elevated, but volumes stay selective and concentrated at the top.

Source: Bain & Company, McKinsey, S&P Global Market Intelligence. Annual figures approximate.

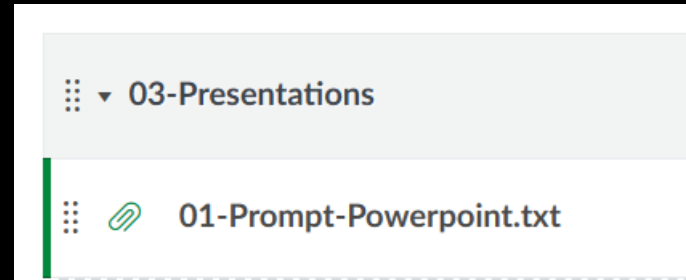
# VS Code and Claude Code

- Ensure that you have installed VS Code, and added the Claude Code extension
- Follow the instructions from previous slides to ensure you have access

# Python

- For this task you also need to have Python installed on your PC
- Download from <https://www.python.org>

# Download the text file from the 03-Presentations section on Canvas

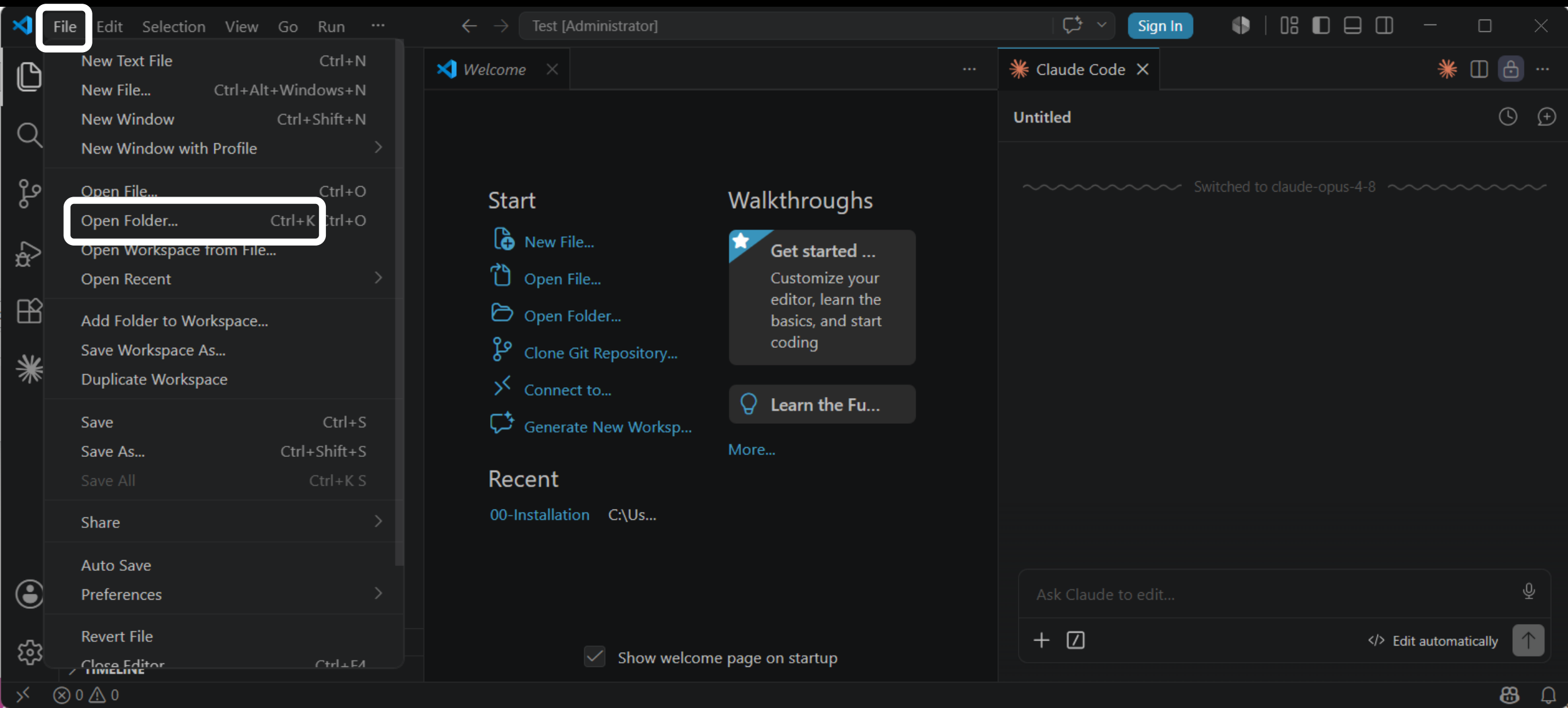


# Save the files to a folder on your PC



01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt

# In VS Code, click File -> Open Folder Select the folder containing those files



# Click on 01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt

The screenshot shows a code editor interface with a dark theme. The top bar includes a menu (File, Edit, Selection, View, Go, Run), a breadcrumb (03-Powerpoint [Administrator]), and a 'Sign In' button. The left sidebar contains an 'EXPLORER' panel with a file tree. The '03-POWERPOINT' folder is expanded, and the file '01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt' is selected and highlighted with a white border. The main editor area displays the content of '01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt', which is a prompt for creating a Powerpoint slide deck. The right sidebar contains a 'CHAT' panel with a 'Build with Agent' section and a text input field.

File Edit Selection View Go Run ... 03-Powerpoint [Administrator] Sign In

EXPLORER

03-POWERPOINT

01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt

01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt

```
1 TASK
2 Create a sophisticated Powerpoint slide deck for an
  Investment Bank analyst report.
3
4 It should focus on recent trends in Mergers & Acquisitions.
5
6 DATA COLLECTION
7 Use factual information by researching reliable online
  sources of news and financial information.
8
9 PPTX SKILL
10 Use the pptx skill at https://github.com/anthropics/skills/
    tree/main/skills/pptx
11
12 DESIGN:
13 - Theme: [Dark with navy#0f172a background / Light with
    white background]
14 - Accent color: Gold
15 - Typography: Clean sans-serif, large headings (48-72px),
    readable body (20-24px)
16 - Spacing: Generous whitespace, content centered, 64px
    padding from edges
17
18 SLIDE CONTENT:
19 It should have 7 slides
```

CHAT CLAUDE CODE + ⚙️ ... | [ ] ×

Build with Agent

AI responses may be inaccurate

Generate Agent Instructions to onboard AI onto your codebase.

+ 01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt

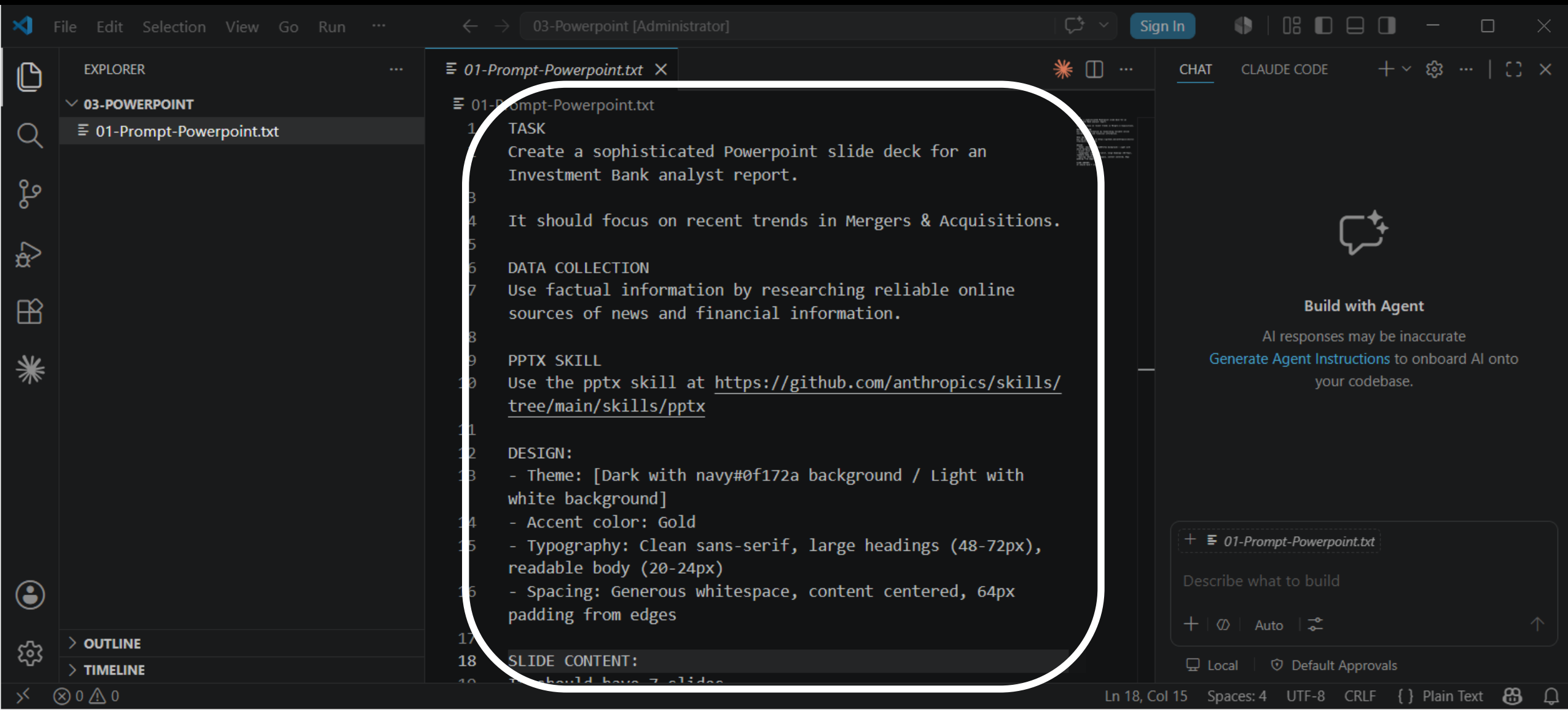
Describe what to build

+ | ⌂ | Auto | ⚙️ ↑

Local | Default Approvals

Ln 18, Col 15 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 CRLF { } Plain Text

# Read through the prompt



The screenshot shows a code editor interface with a dark theme. The Explorer panel on the left shows a file named '01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt' under the '03-POWERPOINT' folder. The main editor area displays the content of this file, which is a prompt for an AI agent. The prompt is structured as follows:

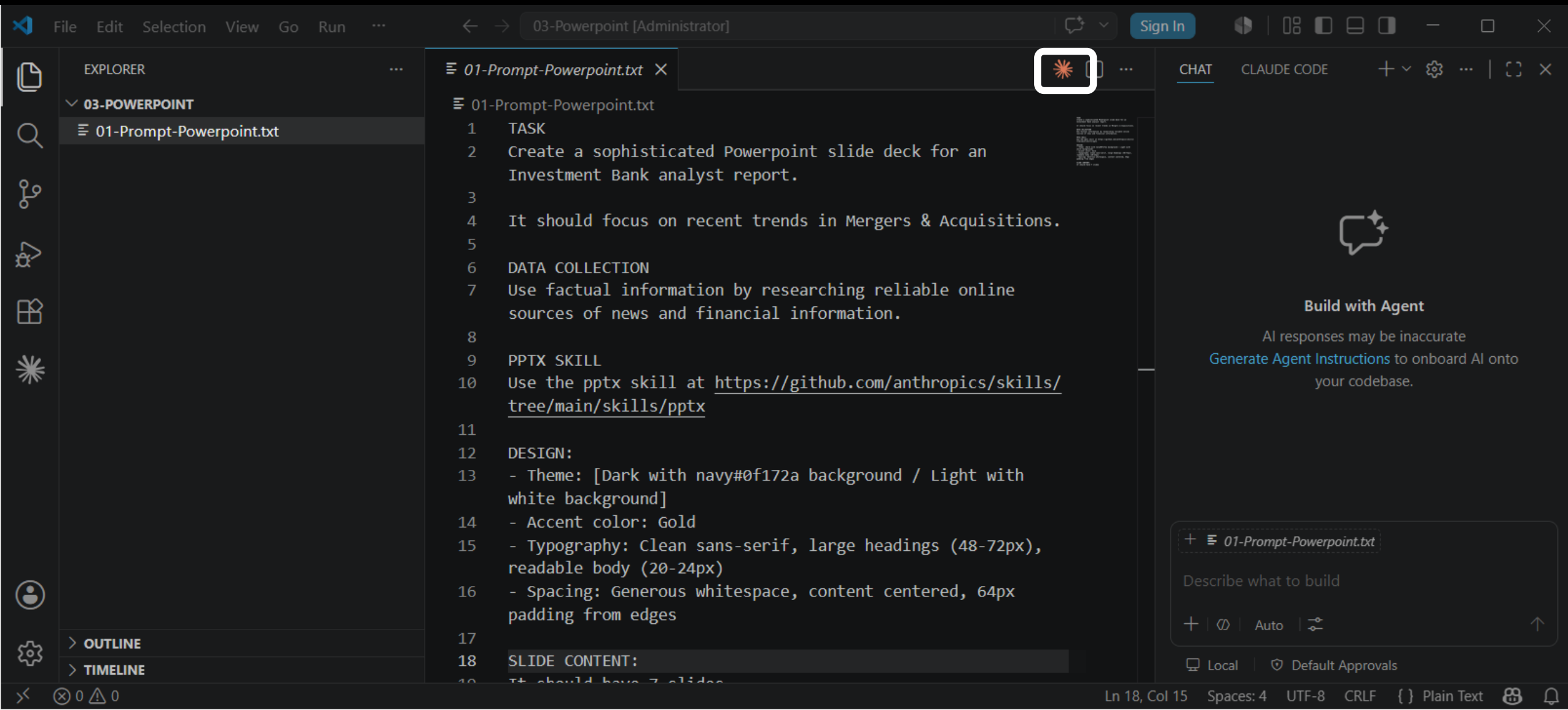
```
1 TASK
2 Create a sophisticated Powerpoint slide deck for an
3 Investment Bank analyst report.
4
5 It should focus on recent trends in Mergers & Acquisitions.
6
7 DATA COLLECTION
8 Use factual information by researching reliable online
9 sources of news and financial information.
10
11 PPTX SKILL
12 Use the pptx skill at https://github.com/anthropics/skills/
13 tree/main/skills/pptx
14
15 DESIGN:
16 - Theme: [Dark with navy#0f172a background / Light with
17 white background]
18 - Accent color: Gold
19 - Typography: Clean sans-serif, large headings (48-72px),
20 readable body (20-24px)
21 - Spacing: Generous whitespace, content centered, 64px
22 padding from edges
23
24 SLIDE CONTENT:
```

The prompt is highlighted with a white rounded rectangle. The right sidebar shows the 'CHAT' panel with a 'Build with Agent' section, which includes a warning that 'AI responses may be inaccurate' and a link to 'Generate Agent Instructions to onboard AI onto your codebase.' The bottom status bar shows the current line and column: 'Ln 18, Col 15'.

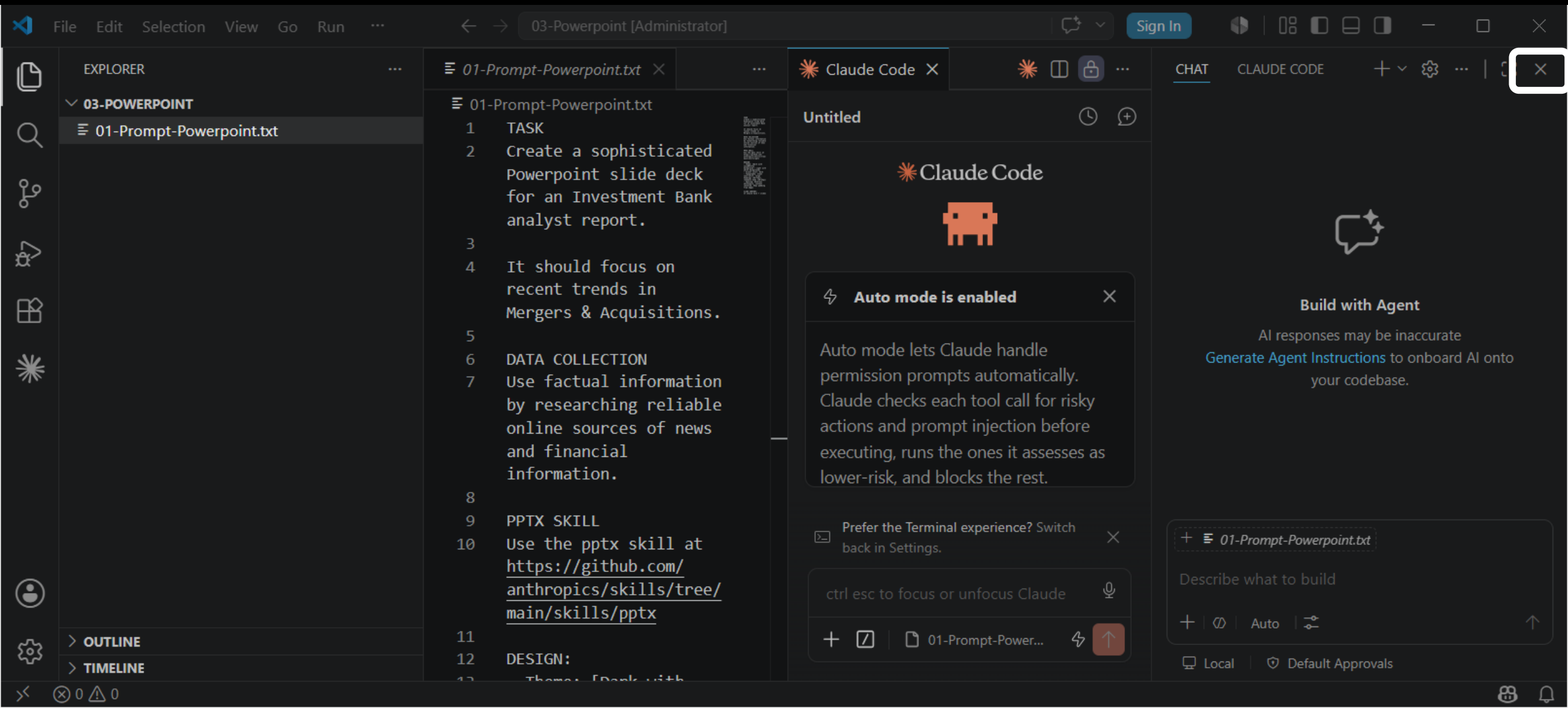
# Explanation of prompt

- Asks Claude to create a Powerpoint slide deck suitable for an investment bank explain recent M&A trends
- Require it to collect relevant information by researching reliable online sources
- Use the PPTX skill for standard guidelines on formatting
- Provide details of the required colour scheme, and number of slides that should be included

# Click orange icon to open Claude Code



# Close the other chat window

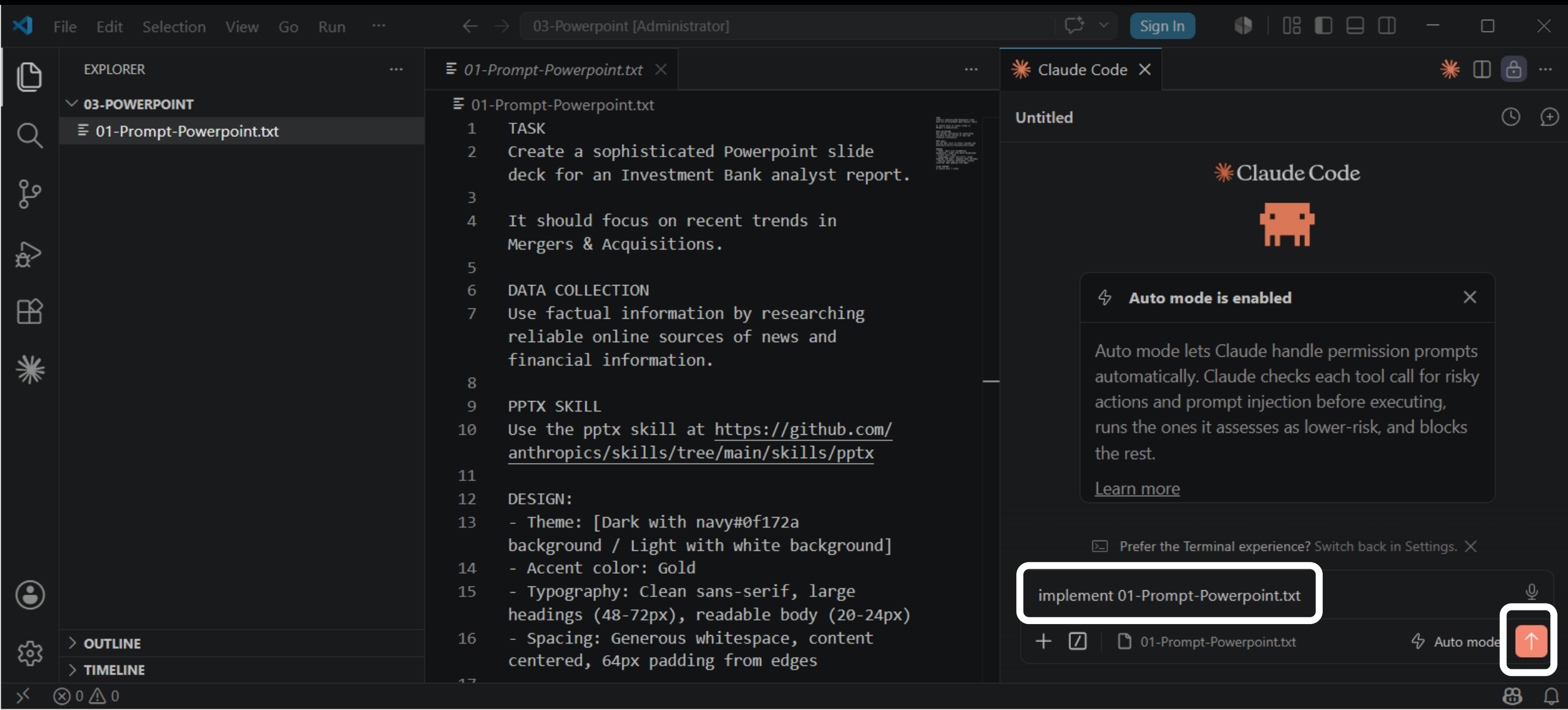


# Ensure Settings use Model=Fable, Effort=Medium, and Auto Mode

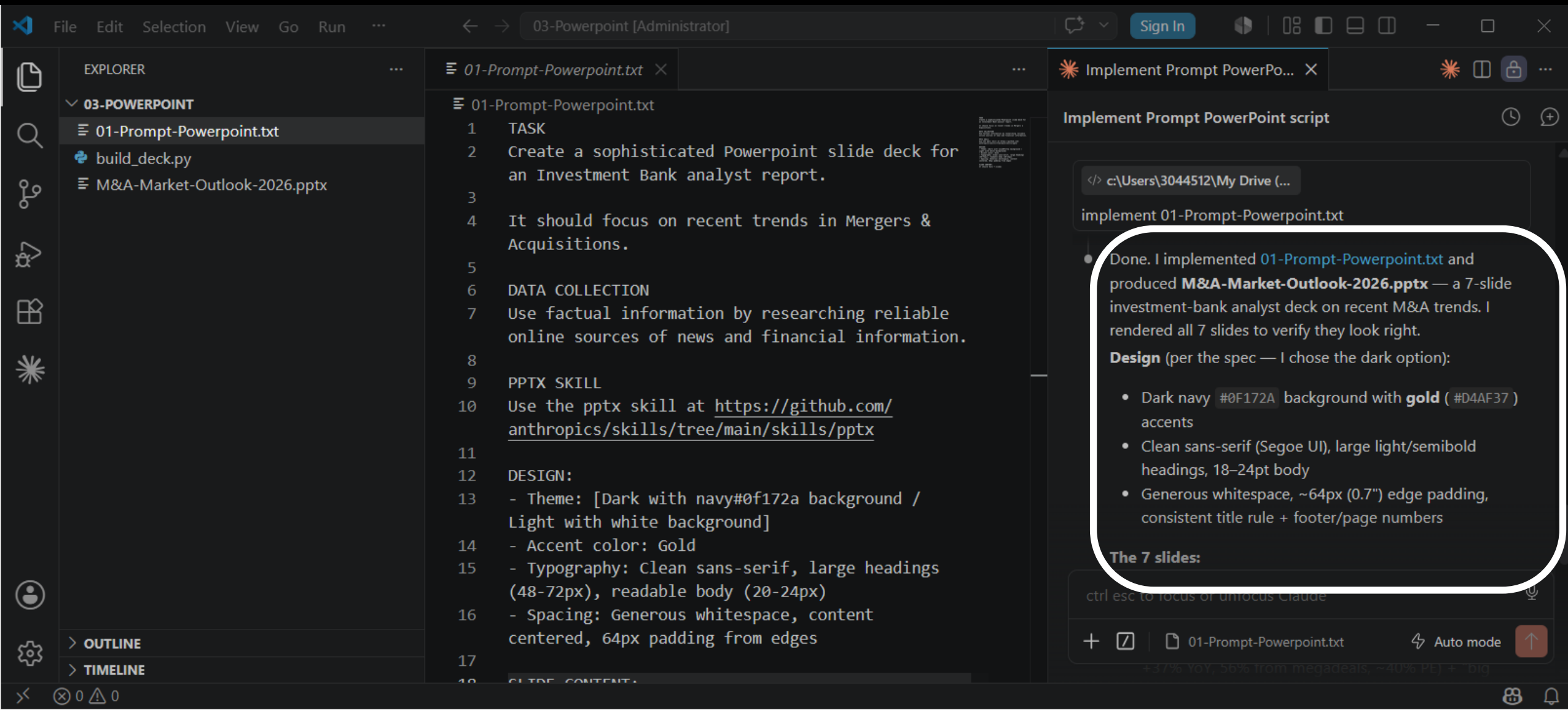
The screenshot displays the Claude Code IDE interface. On the left, the Explorer panel shows a file named `01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt` under the `03-POWERPOINT` folder. The main editor area shows the content of this file, which is a prompt for creating a PowerPoint slide deck. The prompt includes sections for TASK, DATA COLLECTION, PPTX SKILL, and DESIGN. The TASK section asks for a sophisticated slide deck for an Investment Bank analyst report, focusing on recent trends in Mergers & Acquisitions. The DATA COLLECTION section asks for factual information from reliable online sources. The PPTX SKILL section asks to use the pptx skill at a specific GitHub URL. The DESIGN section lists requirements for the slide deck's appearance, including theme, accent color, typography, and spacing.

On the right, the Claude Code window is open, showing the Claude Code logo and a notification that **Auto mode is enabled**. The notification explains that Auto mode lets Claude handle permission prompts automatically, checks each tool call for risky actions and prompt injection, and runs the ones it assesses as lower-risk, while blocking the rest. A [Learn more](#) link is provided. Below the notification, there is a checkbox for **Prefer the Terminal experience?** with a note to switch back in Settings. At the bottom of the Claude Code window, there is a toolbar with a **Auto mode** button, which is highlighted with a white box. The toolbar also includes a **01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt** button and a **ctrl esc to focus or unfocus Claude** button.

# Ask Claude Code: implement 01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt



# It will produce a Powerpoint file



In Windows File Explorer (not VS Code)  
double-click the .pptx file



01-Prompt-Powerpoint.txt



build\_deck.py



M&A-Market-Outlook-2026.pptx

INVESTMENT BANKING • EQUITY & DEAL RESEARCH

# Global M&A Market Outlook 2026

---

Recent trends, the megadeal renaissance, and what will define dealmaking in the year ahead.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# A Record-Breaking Rebound in Global Dealmaking

After three subdued years, global M&A staged its strongest rebound since the 2021 peak. Deal value surged on the back of mega-transactions, AI-driven strategy, and abundant private capital — even as deal volumes stayed selective.

**\$4.8T**

### Global deal value 2025

Second-highest annual total on record

**+37%**

### Year-over-year growth

Up from ~\$3.4T in 2024

**56%**

### Value from megadeals

Deals ≥ \$1bn; 111 deals topped \$5bn

**~40%**

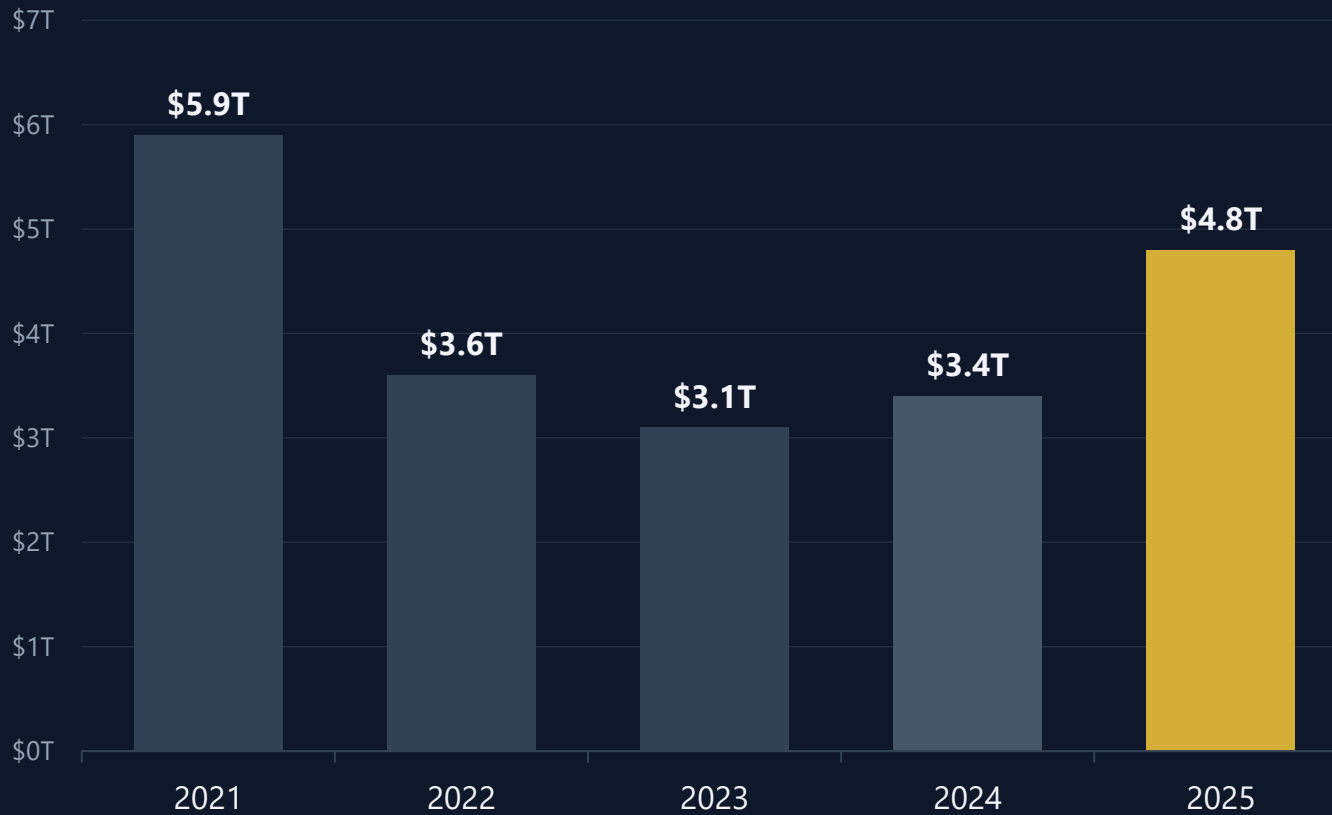
### Share from private equity

Sponsors return as cash is deployed

## THE BIG PICTURE

Momentum accelerated through H2 2025, with Q3 and Q4 each setting new quarterly records. The market enters 2026 in a “tale of two halves” — record value concentrated in the largest deals, while the mid-market remains muted.

# A V-Shaped Recovery in Deal Value



## WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

- ▶ **Q4 2025 was** the most active quarter ever recorded for both value and volume.
- ▶ **111 deals above \$5bn** in 2025, up 76% from 63 the prior year.
- ▶ **Technology** led megadeal activity with 26 announced \$5bn+ transactions.
- ▶ **Into 2026**, deal value remains elevated, but volumes stay selective and concentrated at the top.

Source: Bain & Company, McKinsey, S&P Global Market Intelligence. Annual figures approximate.

# Technology, Media & Telecom Set the Pace



## AI IS THE STRATEGIC ENGINE

Buyers are racing to secure AI-ready capabilities, data and talent. The BlackRock / MGX consortium's \$40bn purchase of Aligned Data Centers ranks among the largest private infrastructure deals ever.

## DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Data centres, power and connectivity are now core M&A themes. TMT recorded ~\$909bn of deal value in 2025 — the highest of any sector — with technology expected to keep the top spot in 2026.

# Megadeals That Defined 2025–26

| ACQUIRER            | TARGET                 | VALUE   | SECTOR                |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| SpaceX              | xAI                    | \$250bn | Technology / AI       |
| Union Pacific       | Norfolk Southern       | \$85bn  | Transport & Logistics |
| Netflix             | Warner Bros. Discovery | \$83bn  | Media & Entertainment |
| Anglo American      | Teck Resources         | \$69bn  | Metals & Mining       |
| PE / SWF consortium | Electronic Arts        | \$55bn  | Technology / Gaming   |
| Kimberly-Clark      | Kenvue                 | \$49bn  | Consumer Health       |
| Alphabet (Google)   | Wiz                    | \$30bn  | Cybersecurity         |

*Selected announced transactions, 2025–2026. Source: company disclosures, Intellizence, AlphaSense, press reports.*

# Four Forces Shaping the Cycle

01

## AI as a Catalyst

Mega-deals above \$5bn drove more than 70% of the rise in 2025 value, with AI pulling forward decisions on scale, data and talent across every sector.

02

## Private Equity Returns

Sponsors now account for roughly 40% of global M&A as record dry powder is deployed and exit pressure builds across ageing portfolios.

03

## Private Credit & Financing

Borrowers increasingly turn to private credit for flexible capital, while sovereign wealth funds step up as lead investors on the largest deals.

04

## A Bifurcated Market

Record value sits in the largest transactions; mid-market and cross-border volumes remain subdued amid a tightening capital backdrop in 2026.

# The Boom Rolls On — With New Constraints

## WHERE WE SEE OPPORTUNITY

- ▶ **AI infrastructure** — data centres, power and chips remain the highest-conviction theme.
- ▶ **PE re-engagement** — ample dry powder and exit pressure point to a busier sponsor year.
- ▶ **Financing tailwinds** — a more constructive rate and regulatory backdrop supports larger deals.
- ▶ **Sector consolidation** — scale and consolidation plays accelerate in TMT, healthcare and energy.

## RISKS TO WATCH

- ▶ **Capital squeeze** — rising financing costs could squeeze the leveraged mid-market.
- ▶ **Regulatory friction** — antitrust scrutiny of the largest tech and AI combinations persists.
- ▶ **Valuation gaps** — elevated multiples leave little room for execution missteps.
- ▶ **Macro & geopolitics** — geopolitics and tariffs continue to chill cross-border activity.

**Bottom line:** expect another high-value year led by AI and private capital — but increasingly a market of the bold and the big.

# Challenge

- Create a Powerpoint showing IPO trends
- Upload to Canvas for the third assignment