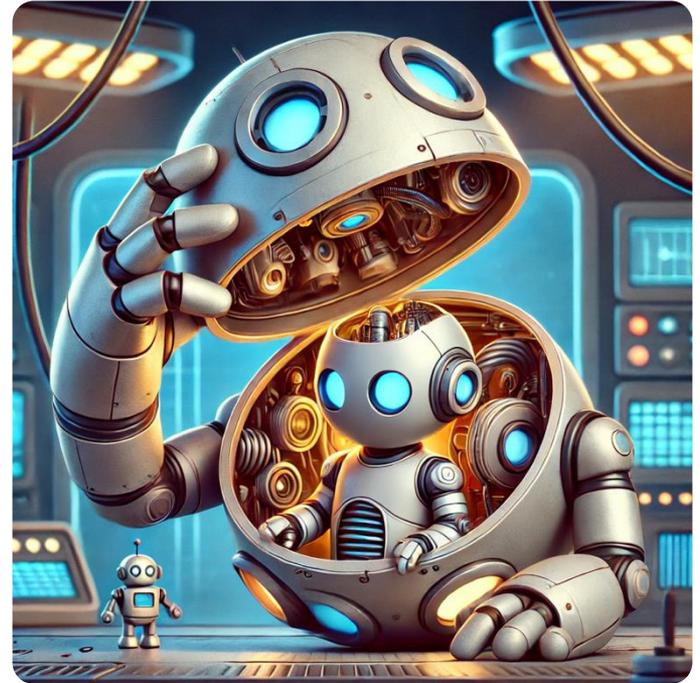# KNIME101: Build your First AI Agent
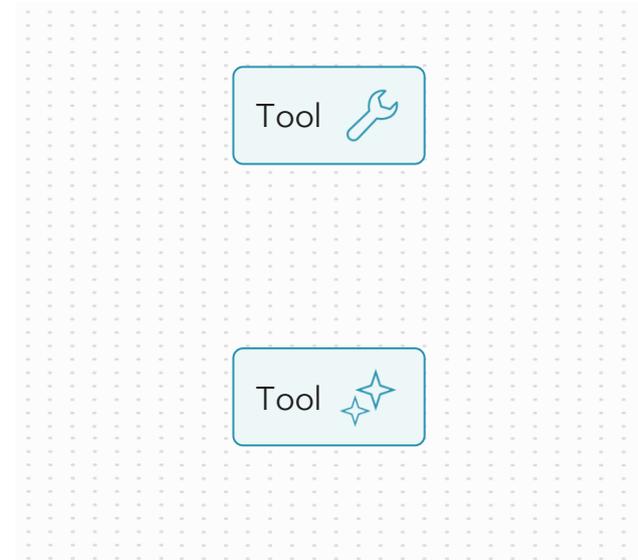
January 14, 2026

What is an "Agent"?

Let's ask ChatGPT:

An agent operates by receiving **inputs** from its environment, processing them using **tools** and **subagents** to analyze data and make decisions, and then generating **outputs** as actions that influence the environment, often refining its behavior through feedback loops.
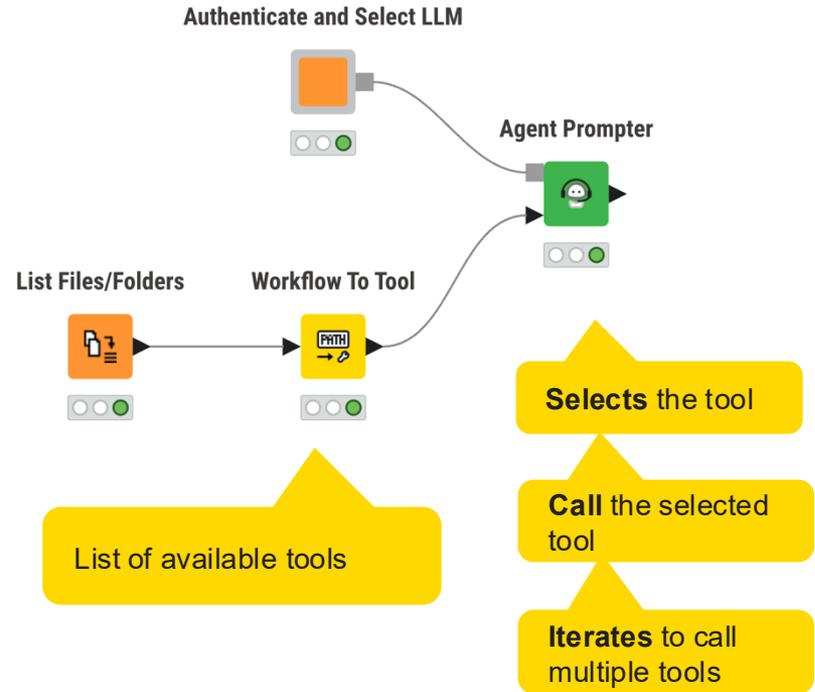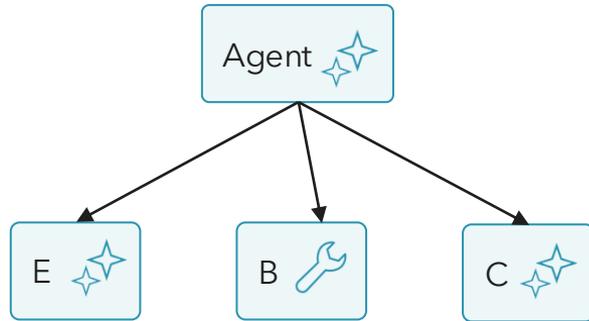
Agentic AI in a nutshell

- **Tools**: get stuff done
  - aggregate these data sources
  - classify this image / predict next action

- **Intelligent Tools**: get stuff done with GenAI
  - summarize/translate this text
  - return sentiment

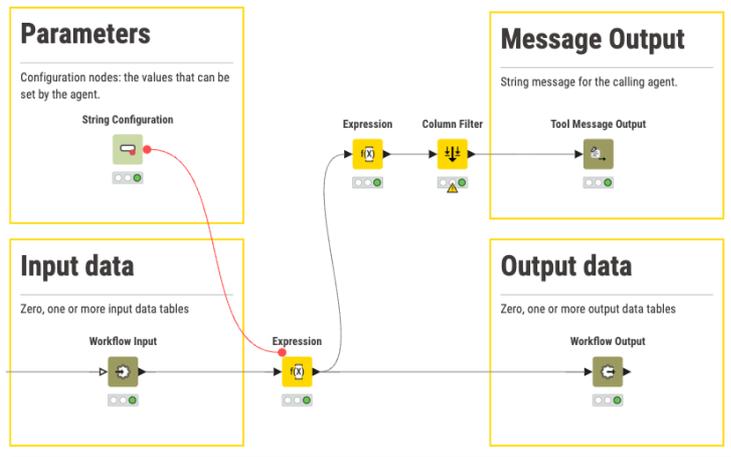- **Memory:** tools / workflows can store information

Tool 🔧

Tool ✦

Dynamically call tools

- The agent call the tools needed to solve the task

Authenticate and Select LLM

Agent Prompter

List Files/Folders   **Workflow To Tool**

Selects the tool

Call the selected tool

List of available tools

Iterates to call multiple tools

Agent

E

B

C

Define the tools

- Create from scratch or
- Convert an existing workflow to a tool
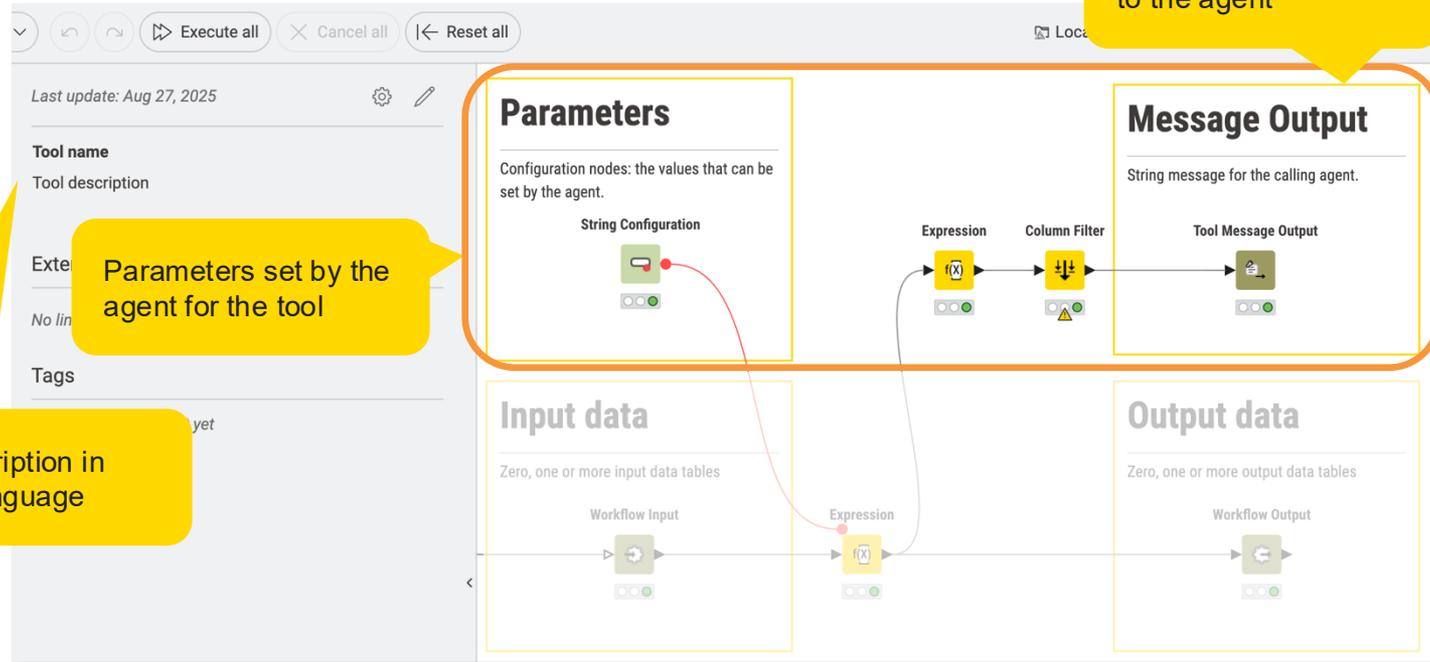

Perform an action or get information

(Optional) Data access

Is callable

(Optional) AI usage

5

Communication layer

- Communication between agent and tool

Message from the tool to the agent

Parameters set by the agent for the tool
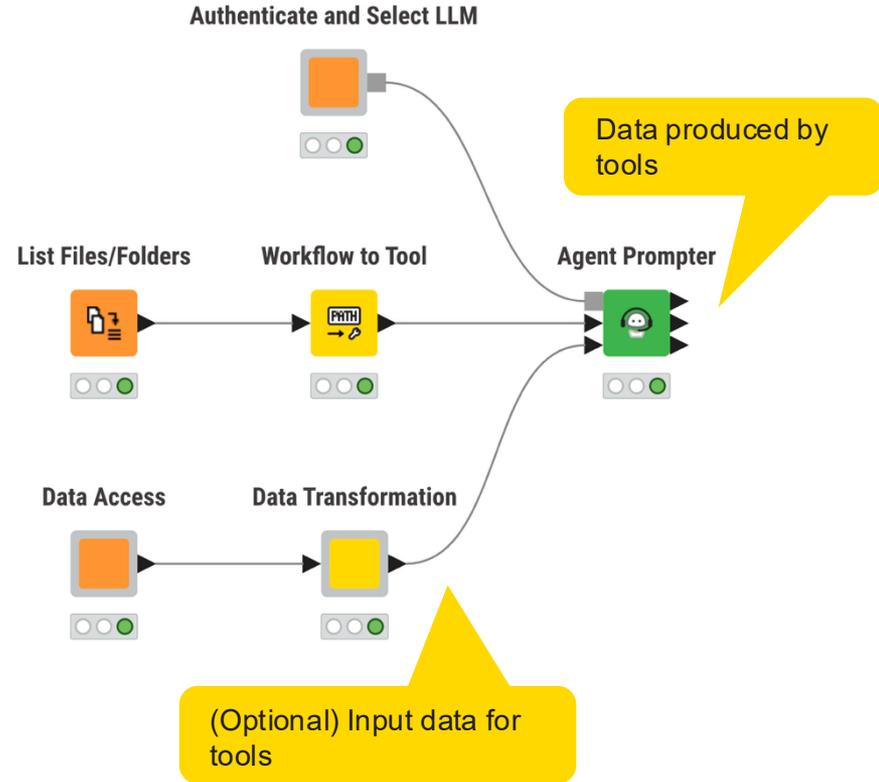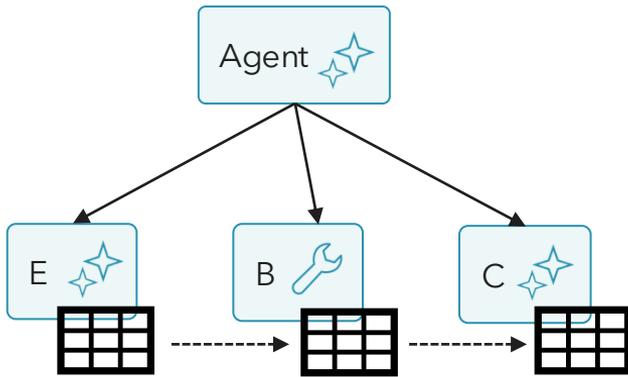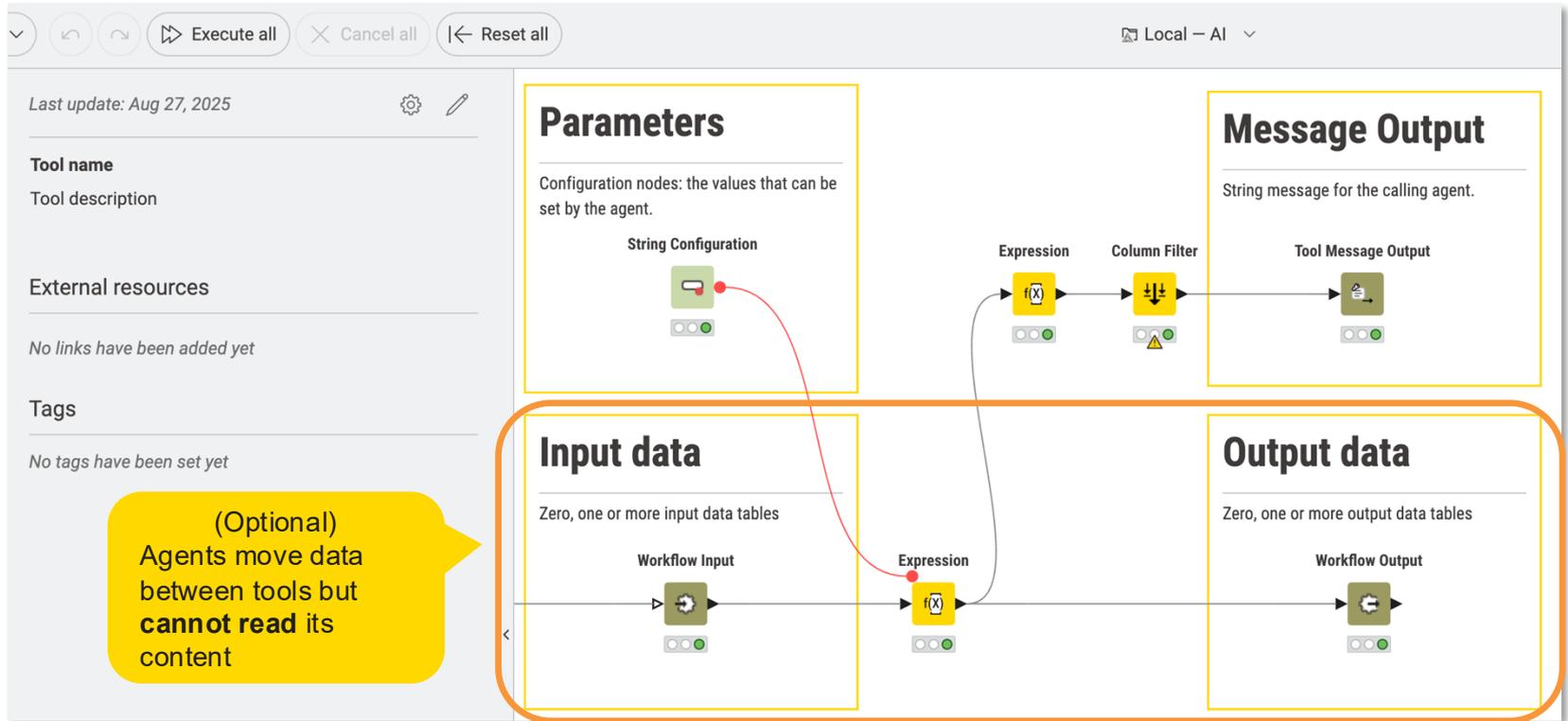
Tool description in natural language

Data-aware Agentic AI

Dynamically call tools + move data

- Data produced by the tool are available to the agent
- The agent can use it as input for next tool calls

Data-aware tool workflow

Today's Agentic AI example

Customer Satisfaction & Retention Agent

Agent

- Helps Marketing and Sales teams monitor customer satisfaction and apply retention strategy (e.g., personalized email outreach and compensation)
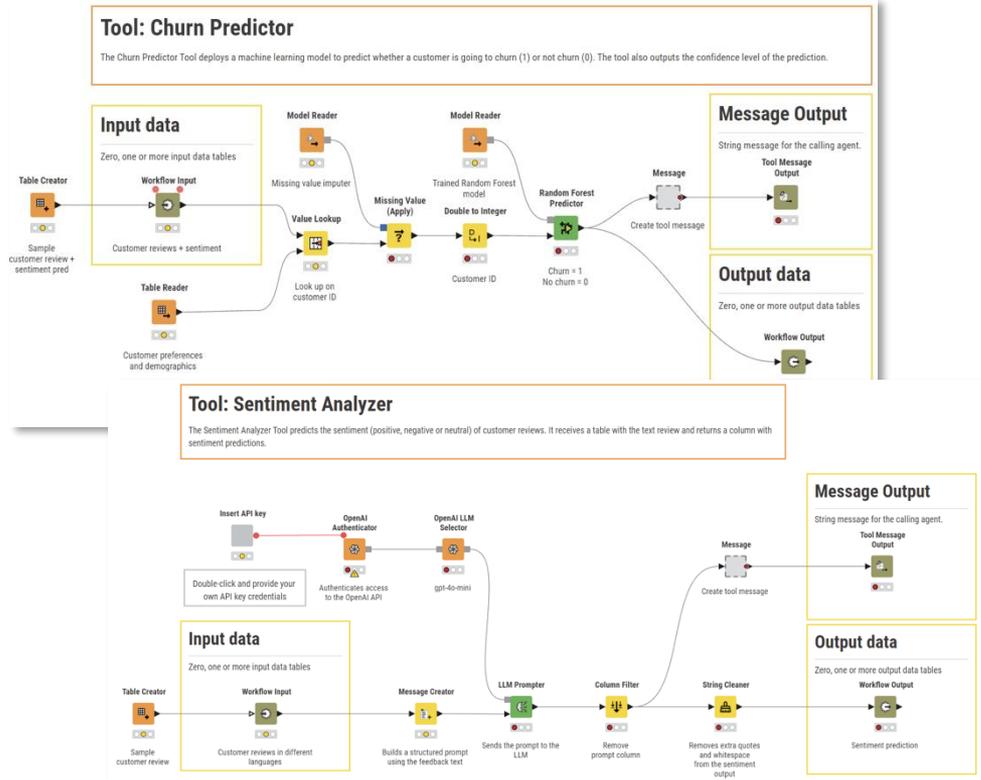

Download entire workflow folder "Customer Satisfaction & Retention Agent" from KNIME Community Hub

Customer Satisfaction & Retention Agent

Tools

- Language detector
- Sentiment analyzer
- Churn predictor
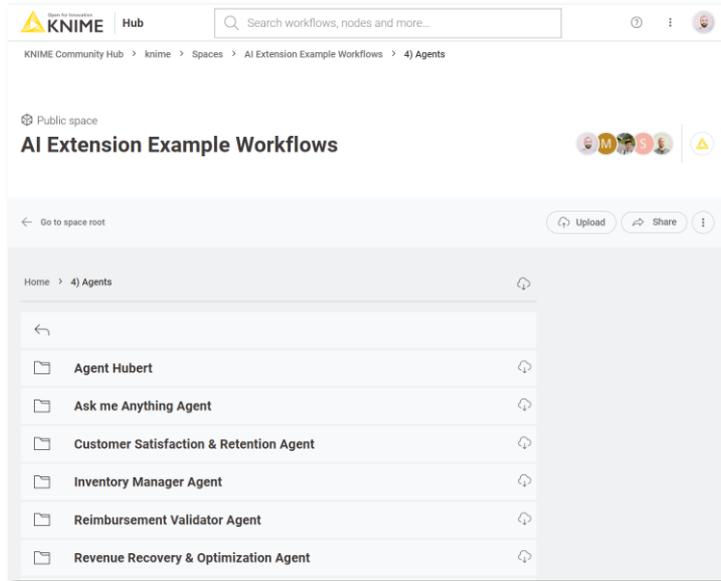- Custom gift selector
- Retention Email writer
- ...

Output

- Personalized email outreach & gift
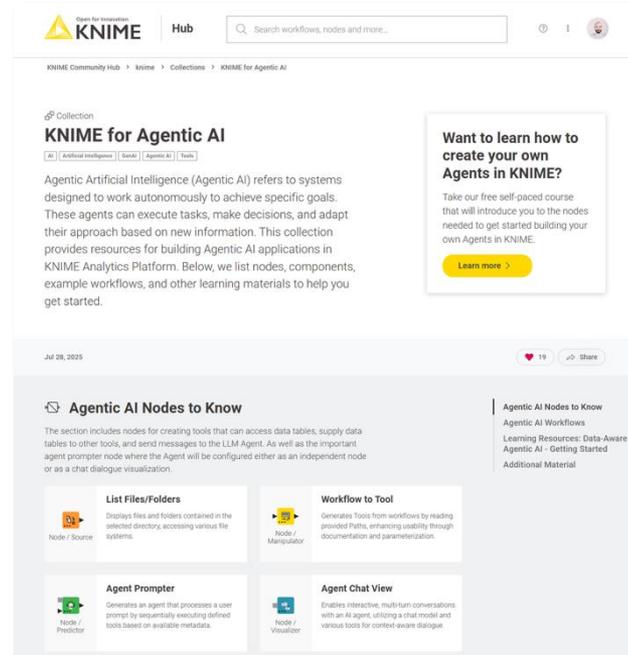- Internal PDF report

Download entire workflow folder "Customer Satisfaction & Retention Agent" from KNIME Community Hub

More examples?

- Explore [agents](#) on the KNIME Community Hub

- Learn hands-on with [Agentic AI collection](#)

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Keep learning

- Getting started courses!

GenAI & Data Workflows - Getting Started

[Course 1](#)

AI Chatbots, RAG & Governance with Data Workflows - Getting Started

[Course 2](#)

Data-Aware Agentic AI - Getting Started

[Course 3](#)