

AI Coding Assistant Decision Matrix

Cursor vs Windsurf vs GitHub Copilot — Side-by-side comparison across key factors

Feature Comparison

Feature	Cursor AI	Windsurf	GitHub Copilot
Type	AI-Native IDE (VS Code Fork)	AI-Native IDE (VS Code Fork)	Extension / Plugin
Primary Model	Claude 3.5 Sonnet / GPT-4o	Cascade (Custom)	GPT-4o / Codex
Context Awareness	High (Codebase Indexing)	Very High (Knowledge Graph)	Medium (Open Files)
Multi-File Edits	Yes (Composer)	Yes (Cascade)	Limited (Workspace)
Autocomplete Speed	Extreme (Supermaven)	Fast	Fast
Agentic Capabilities	Medium	High	Medium
Pricing	Free / \$20/mo	Free / \$15/mo	\$10/mo (Individual)
IDE Support	Standalone (VS Code fork)	Standalone (VS Code fork)	VS Code, JetBrains, Neovim, Visual Studio
Terminal Integration	Yes	Yes	Limited
Code Review	Via chat	Via Cascade	Copilot Chat
Privacy / Security	SOC 2 compliant	SOC 2 compliant	Enterprise-grade (GitHub trust)

Key Strengths

	Cursor AI	Windsurf	GitHub Copilot
Unique Feature	Composer mode ("God Mode" multi-file)	Cascade engine (deep context agent)	Copilot Workspace (issue-to-PR flow)
Best Autocomplete	Tab-to-Edit (cursor prediction + Supermaven)	Inline suggestions with flow context	Standard inline suggestions
Model Flexibility	Model agnostic (swap models freely)	Cascade + model selection	Tied to OpenAI models

	Cursor AI	Windsurf	GitHub Copilot
Safety Net	Shadow Workspace (background validation)	Cascade rollback	Copilot Chat explanations

Who Should Use What?

Cursor AI — Best for developers who want the fastest, most fluid coding experience. Ideal for solo devs and small teams who value speed and model flexibility.

Windsurf — Best for developers who want a proactive AI agent. Great for complex refactors and those who prefer the AI to take charge.

GitHub Copilot — Best for enterprise teams and security-conscious organizations. The safe choice with broad IDE support and familiar GitHub integration.