

Resuming a session right where you left off

Resuming a Session

```
# Continue the most recent session  claude  --continue
# or: claude -c  # Choose a specific session (interactive picker)  claude
--resume  # or: claude -r  # Resume by ID  claude  --resume
abc123def  # Resume from a GitHub PR (v2.1.49+)  claude  --from-pr
123
```

Session resumption complements that discipline, it does not replace it.

Sessions are stored in `~/.claude/projects/<encoded-path>/` as JSONL files.

Searching Sessions

The `session-search.sh` script (provided in `examples/scripts/`) is the fastest method: zero dependencies, 15ms to list, 400ms to search.

```
cs  # 10 recent sessions  cs  "authentication"
# Full-text search  cs  "Prisma migration"  # AND multi-word  cs
--since  7d  # Last 7 days  cs  -p  my-project  "auth"
# Filter by project
```

Each result displays the `claude --resume <id>` command ready to copy-paste.

Critical Limitation: Directory Scope

Claude Code stores sessions by encoding the **absolute path** of the project. A session in `/home/user/myapp` will not be found if you move the project to `/home/user/projects/myapp`.

Solution if you move a project:

```
cd  ~/.claude/projects/  mv  --  -old-location-myapp-
-new-location-myapp-
```

Manual migration of the session folder works in the vast majority of cases.

What Resuming Does NOT Do

Resuming a session does not restore:

- Implicit decisions made during the session
- Context of files that changed in the meantime
- Modified environment variables or configs

For important decisions (architecture choices, conventions), note them explicitly in `CLAUDE.md` rather than relying on session memory. It is more reliable and benefits future sessions.

Sessions and Sub-Agents

Sub-agent sessions (delegated tasks) are stored in a `subagents/` subfolder. They do not appear in the normal `--resume` list. If you migrate sessions manually, copy this subfolder too.

Complementary Tools

Tool	Usage	Install
<code>session-search.sh</code>	Fast bash search	Copy from <code>examples/scripts/</code>
<code>cc-sessions.py</code>	Incremental index, advanced filters	Python, same folder
<code>claude-code-viewer</code>	Read-only web browser	<code>npm i @kimuson/claude-code-viewer</code>

Recommended Pattern

Do not rely on `--resume` as the primary continuity mechanism for long projects. Prefer a well-maintained `CLAUDE.md` with key decisions, regular commits, and short targeted sessions.