Twenty minutes passed,

codes are flowing —

building, writing, editing

and the famous decision:

agent stops and asks:

Which database?

5 years ago this question cost a senior engineer.
Now you decide.

Three cover you.

BARE TEXT — 3200 BCE
JSON · Markdown · CSV — just files, no server, no install

SQLITE — since 2000
an entire database in one file

POSTGRES — since 1996
the server that takes everyone's writes

the rest of the hundred

MSSQL · Oracle · Neo4j · MongoDB · DynamoDB · Cassandra · Redis · MariaDB · CouchDB · Firestore · ClickHouse · SAP HANA · Couchbase · Elastic · InfluxDB · CockroachDB · …

Three answers. Ninety-seven distractions.

CANDIDATE ONE

Bare text.

YOUR AGENT SPEAKS IT
reads and writes files directly — no drivers, no setup
day one

GIT HISTORY
a free time machine for every change
included

READABLE IN TEN YEARS
any editor on earth opens it
no lock-in

ZERO OPS
no server, no install, no maintenance — it's just files
free

> **Breaks when:** a second writer shows up — files can't queue.

Most apps die young.
Files outlive them.

SQLite.

ONE FILE
copy it, back it up, done

portable

ZERO OPS
no server to babysit

boring is a feature

FAST READS
faster than its reputation

under a millisecond

MOST DEPLOYED ENGINE ON EARTH
your phone, your browser, half the planes

billions of copies

Breaks when: many writers hit it at once — one writer at a time.

The planes run on it.
So can your app.

CANDIDATE THREE

Postgres.

MANY WRITERS AT ONCE
queuing the writes is the server's whole job

concurrent

ONE COMMAND TO RUN
free on your machine, managed anywhere

default option

JSON LIVES INSIDE
start loose, tighten later — no migration day one

flexible

THE CLOUD KNOWS IT BY HEART
every provider runs it — you're never stuck

portable

> **Breaks when:** it doesn't — you'll know first, and it won't be this year.

Instagram started here.
Year one.

Famous systems.

PACKAGE.JSON
the most-read file in software is bare text
every repo

SQLITE
most deployed engine ever · Airbus A350 flight software · Apple's iOS apps · every Cloudflare Durable Object
since 2000

INSTAGRAM
Postgres from year one — sharded it to billions of users
since 2010

Scale picked sides.
Copy the homework.

THE RULING · SAVE THIS SLIDE

Verdict table.

CONFIG, EXPORTS, ONE WRITER reports, settings, lists, handoffs	bare text
REAL APP, ONE MACHINE your tool, your team, zero ops	SQLite
MANY WRITERS, PUBLIC APP users signing up while others type	Postgres
ON SOMEONE ELSE'S MACHINE DAY ONE no server of yours anywhere	agent picks · cloud

What else does your agent ask you?