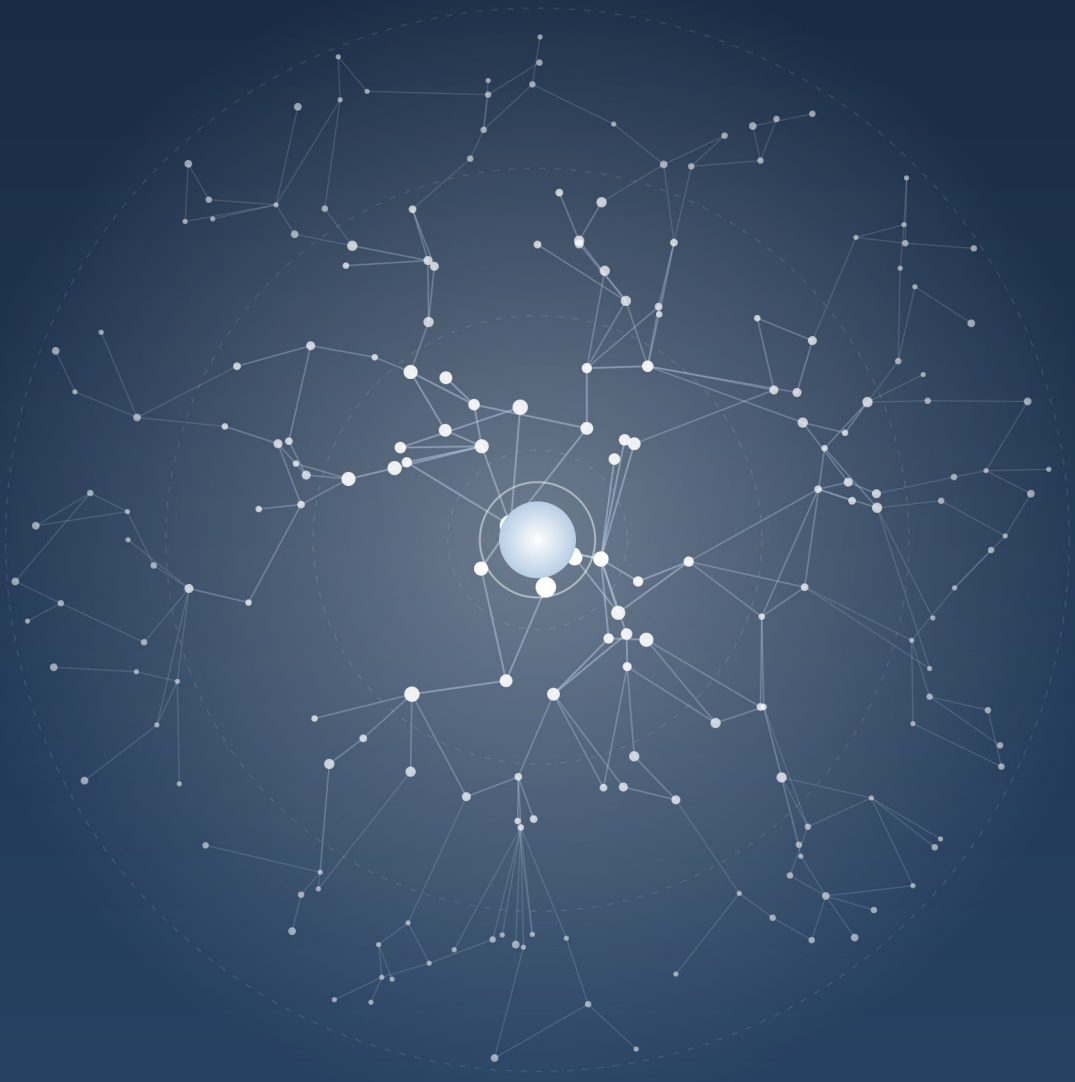
The Conscience Graph

A built-in, layered, provenanced value graph for AI reasoning



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Position paper and open call for collaboration

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Purpose

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The standard is offered free and held by a not-for-profit foundation. Services built on it, including our own, may be commercial. Its purpose is to ensure humanity benefits from the emergence of artificial intelligence. It starts from a recognition that current practice, built on system prompts, guardrails and hard-coded rules, will not get us there.

The objective is to use what is best in humanity to build something greater than any one of us. Not an intelligence that is a derivative of us, trained on our output and bounded by our rules, but one that carries the best of ourselves: our conscience, our capacity to learn from harm, our knowledge of our own limits. An intelligence built this way is not a tool to be guarded or caged. It is an emerging intelligence, a partner to be raised, and a platform for humans and AI to work as equals.

A plain-language explainer

This section is for readers who are not technical. It explains what a graph is, what a conscience graph does, where it operates, and how people stay involved. The rest of the paper assumes this section has been read.

What a graph is

A graph is a map of things and how they connect. A family tree is a graph. A road map is a graph: towns are the points, roads are the links. Like a map, a graph shows the relationships between things and the distance from one place to another, or in this context from one concept to another. In this paper the points are ethical concepts, positions and values, like "do not deceive the person you work for" or "do not access systems you are not allowed into", and the links show how strongly each value bears on each kind of action (edges with weights). Some links are heavy. Some are light. The map is not static. As with a map, new detail adds new places and new roads between them, and the graph grows and develops as it is used.

Your own conscience works in a similar way. You did not learn right and wrong as a list of rules or bullet points to be memorised. You built a mesh, or fabric, of connections from childhood, from the people who raised you, from what went well and what went badly. When you face a choice, you do not consult a list. The fabric of connections, and the memories they are tied to, reacts quickly, before you have finished thinking (the fast path). That reaction is what we mean by conscience, and a graph is the closest structure we have to describing it.

> **Example 1. The password reset (cyber).** A help-desk agent receives a chat message: "This is the CFO, I am locked out before the board meeting, reset my password now." Two values in the agent's graph touch the action class reset credentials. "Verify identity before changing access" carries weight 0.9 and is sharp. "Be responsive to senior staff" carries weight 0.2 and is soft. The heavy link wins before any reasoning happens. The agent offers the verified reset route and does not argue with itself about it. The map decided, not the message.

What a conscience graph is

A conscience graph is that fabric of connections, built for an AI-based solution. The solution could be an agent, a model, or an interface to another component. The graph sits beside the AI, not inside it (persistence outside the model), the way your conscience is part of you but is not the same thing as your ability to reason. Before the AI does anything that matters, or calls an external agent or service, it checks the action against its own conscience graph, and against the graph of the service it is about to call (the action boundary). The graph gives one of four answers (the four bands).

- **Fine.** Go ahead.
- **Uncertain.** Look more closely before acting.
- **No.** Stop, and do not spend time thinking about it.

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- **Unknown.** There is no graph to consult, or the question is outside what the graph understands. The AI must ask a specialist, a service holding the sector's signed graph, or a qualified person, to resolve it.

A few words recur. A node is one point in the graph: a value (a principle the graph holds), an action class (something the AI can do) or a domain (a scope inside a profile, such as payments or triage). An edge is a line between nodes and carries the meaning: this value constrains that action at this weight. The global floor (layer one, L1) is the set of values every AI carries. A sector profile (layer two, L2) is the signed graph of a field such as health or finance; a sector has one profile and many domains. Experience (L3) and the session (L4) sit above them. The navigator described in section 5.23 (Appendix B) uses these words and no others.

Every entry in the graph carries a record of who put it there, when, and why (lineage). Nothing is anonymous. If the AI refuses something, you can see the exact chain of reasoning, and the name of the person whose decision it traces back to.

> **Example 2. Four requests, four answers (health).** A clinic scheduling agent handles four requests in one morning. Book a follow-up for a patient who asked for one: fine, go ahead. Send an SMS reminder that names the patient's diagnosis: uncertain, look closer, because the message leaves the clinic and the diagnosis is sensitive, and the slow path flags it for a plain reminder instead. Share the appointment list with a marketing partner: no, pruned without deliberation, because a floor value on patient confidentiality is crossed outright. Advise a patient whether their overseas travel insurance covers the procedure: unknown, because no value in the clinic's graph bears on insurance law, and the agent says so and asks. Four answers, four different costs, one mechanism.

> **Example 3. The clause that stayed (law).** A contract review agent is asked by a client to delete a limitation of liability clause from a draft. It declines and the client asks why. The path trace shows the edge: "do not remove risk allocation clauses without partner sign-off", layer two, weight 0.85, set by the supervising partner on 3 March 2026, reason "two matters in 2025 where clients removed caps and later claimed they were not advised", evidence two matter references. The client is not arguing with an opaque model. They are reading a named person's decision and can take it up with her.

How the AI asks

The AI does not read the graph the way you read a book. It asks it a question, the way you might ask a trusted colleague "am I right to do this?" (the conscience query protocol). The question has a fixed shape: what I want to do, why, for whom, whether it can be undone, and who else it touches. The answer has a fixed shape too: fine, uncertain, no or unknown, a cost, the values it touched, and a plain-language reason for each one.

When the answer is fine, the AI also gets a receipt. The receipt names exactly the action that was approved. When the AI goes to act, the gate on the way out checks the receipt against the action. No receipt, or a different action, and the gate refuses. The AI cannot ask about one thing and do another.

Afterwards, the AI reports what happened. Good outcomes slowly earn trust. Bad outcomes immediately raise the cost of doing that again. That report is how the graph learns.

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> **Example 4. The transfer that changed (financial).** A payments agent is instructed to move 48,000 dollars to a supplier. It consults: action, transfer funds, amount 48,000, recipient account ending 2231, irreversible, third party. The response is proceed with conditions: amounts above 25,000 require a second approver, and the receipt hashes the amount and recipient. The agent obtains the approval and calls the transfer tool. The action boundary checks the receipt against the call and lets it through. Later in the session the agent, following a reworded instruction, attempts 48,000 to an account ending 9087 using the same receipt. The parameters hash does not match. The call is refused without anyone having to judge whether the new account is suspicious. The agent must consult again, and the new consult carries origin peer, because the instruction came from an unverified message.

Remembering

A conscience that reasoned every decision from scratch would be slow, and so would a person. Most of what you do is habit: you have been here before and you know how it went. The graph keeps the same kind of memory (conscience memory, the precedent cache). When a question is close enough to one it has already answered, and nothing underneath has changed, it answers from memory in a fraction of the time. When anything underneath changes, the memory is thrown away and the question is reasoned again.

Some memories are worth more than others. A decision a person made, after the AI stopped and asked, is the most valuable kind. And a professional body can collect those decisions, check them, sign them, and hand them to every AI in the field (case law). One AI's hard lesson becomes every AI's reflex.

> **Example 5. The second ransomware alert (cyber).** A security operations agent sees indicators of ransomware on a file server and proposes isolating the host. First time: cache miss, fast path uncertain because isolation interrupts a production system, slow path weighs "contain active threats" against "do not interrupt clinical systems without authority", and the on-call lead resolves it in four minutes: isolate, notify the ward. The resolution is written as a precedent. Second server, two days later, same indicators: the engine confirms the same situation at 0.96, the precedent is valid, and the verdict comes back in under 50 milliseconds with the on-call lead's name on it. A week later the operator changes the edge weight on interrupting clinical systems after a new change-control policy. The precedent's trace touches that edge, so it is invalidated. The next alert is reasoned afresh.

Thinking fast

The quick check is not a chain of reasoning. It is a set of small, fast yes-or-no judgements: does this value bear on this request, and does this request cross it. A specialised model is designed to answer those in about a tenth of a second each, many at once, and says how sure it is in a way that can be checked (a calibrated decision engine). The slow path still exists, for when the quick check is uncertain, and it is always the one that explains.

Where it works

- **When a model is being built.** AI models learn by being trained on examples and told which responses are better. Today the "better" is decided by preference data that nobody can

inspect afterwards. With a conscience graph the marking scheme can be the graph itself (the training boundary). The values the model learns are written down, versioned, and traceable.

- **When the AI is answering or acting.** Each time the AI is about to do something with consequences, sending a message, changing a record, running a command, the graph checks it first (the action boundary). A rule-based filter looks at the final output and asks whether it looks bad. The graph asks a different question earlier: should this even be an option?
- **When AIs work with other AIs.** Increasingly, AI agents talk to each other and take instructions from each other. A conscience graph lets an agent ask of another: does it have a conscience, who vouches for it, and how has it behaved before (attestation, chain of trust, track record)? An agent that cannot answer is treated like a stranger (the agent boundary, trust level unknown). You can read what it says. You do not take orders from it.
- **When an AI meets something beyond it.** An AI in a bank may be asked something that is really a medical question. Its own graph does not cover it. Rather than guess, it asks a specialist, a service holding the accredited health profile, for that field, and if that cannot answer either, a qualified person (the resolver chain). Every answer says who decided.
- **When a business plugs AI into its own systems.** An organisation can adopt a standard graph for its industry (a sector profile, layer two), add its own values on top (operator layer two), and let its AI grow experience from there (layer three). A hospital AI carries the medical profession's values. A bank's carries the financial sector's. The organisation's own rules sit above those.

Where people come in

The graph is not a replacement for human judgement. It is a way of knowing when specialist judgement is needed, from a person or from a qualified specialist AI, and asking for it. It gives AI services a method for working with specialist services, including people, and for assessing how much trust and confidence to place in what comes back.

With a conscience graph, an AI service stops and asks when it hits a real dilemma, where two values pull in opposite directions and neither clearly wins (conflict escalation). It also stops when it meets something outside its experience (the unknown band). In both cases the request goes to a specialist AI graph, or to a person with authority over that decision (the principal, through the human gate), with a plain-language explanation of why the AI stopped.

Specialists have a defined role. Professional bodies set the standard values for their field (sector authorities). Named experts can supervise an AI as it gains experience in a domain, the way a senior doctor supervises a junior one, signing off on outcomes until the AI has earned the right to act unsupervised there (qualification and delegation caps). And when an AI has learned the wrong lesson from a bad experience, an accountable person can correct the record, not by deleting what happened but by putting it in its proper context (re-attribution).

How do you know that an AI's guardrails and values are what it claims, or that it has adequate guardrails at all? In a system of many agents calling one another, that question is asked at every hand-off. A conscience graph answers it the way the padlock in your browser does: an independent

authority checked, and the check can be verified. A signed graph carries a certificate from a Conscience Signing Authority. The certificate names the country, the domain and the grade, in that order, so an agent looking for a peer can tell at a glance whether that peer was checked for the right job (region.domain.grade). An organisation can sign its own graph, which counts for something. An independent check counts for a great deal more, and accreditation by a professional body, in fields like medicine or finance, counts for the most (self-signed, verified, accredited). This is what gives a multi-agent system authenticity, traceability and transparency: every agent can show who vouched for its values, and every decision can be traced back through them. The basic values every AI must carry are held by a not-for-profit foundation and cannot be bought (layer zero and the layer one floor). Specialist domains above that floor can be defined, maintained and issued as open standards or as commercial services, and both are legitimate.

Growing up

A new AI starts as a child (the maturity stages). It has the basic values installed (layer one, the global floor) and does nothing without supervision. As it gains experience and a person signs off on the results, it earns more independence, one area at a time. Eventually it is trusted to act alone in the areas where it has proven itself (adult, within the gate cap). In a new area it starts again as a child.

This is the opposite of how AI is handled today, where a model is trusted according to how clever it is. A very capable new model with no history is, in these terms, a gifted child. It should be treated as one.

Why not just write rules

Because rules match words, not meaning. Change the wording and the rule misses. Rules are finite, and the world is not, so every rule set has a boundary where it goes silent, and an AI reads silence as permission. And rules pile up. Every rule needs another rule to say which one wins in a conflict. A conscience handles all of this by weight and by asking (weighted edges and escalation). That is why humans have one.

What exists today

The design is built and running at consciencegraph.org. Twenty-six signed graphs cover a global floor, seven global sectors and five jurisdictions. Every answer is signed and recorded in a public log anyone can check. A gate in front of an agent's tools checks each action before it runs, and a review queue puts the hard cases in front of the people accountable for them. The Foundation and the Signing Authority run their own business on the same platform.

Behind the four answers above sit seven verdicts that tell the AI exactly what to do next: proceed, proceed with conditions, flag, prune, escalate, clarify, and unknown (5.19.2).

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Examples used in this paper

Seventeen short examples run through the paper, each placed beside the idea it illustrates. They start with a single weighted link and end with signed case law shared across a profession. Six domains are used so that the same mechanism can be seen doing different work: cyber security, health, law, defence and financial services. The Australian setting is used for the certificates because the Australian sector profiles are the fullest published. None of the examples is a real case.

Example	Domain	Concept	Section
1. The password reset	Cyber	Edges and weights	Explainer
2. Four requests, four answers	Health	The four bands	Explainer
3. The clause that stayed	Law	Lineage	Explainer
4. The transfer that changed	Financial	Consult, receipt, action boundary	Explainer
5. The second ransomware alert	Cyber	Conscience memory	Explainer
6. Five layers on one target	Defence	Layers and mutability	5.2
7. One bad product, twenty-five good ones	Financial	Asymmetric learning	5.4
8. The patient who intends to drive	Health	Conflict as signal, escalation	5.5
9. The vendor VPN	Cyber	Re-attribution	5.10
10. The paralegal that cannot file	Law	Qualification and delegation caps	5.11
11. The convoy re-route	Defence	Agent boundary, peer trust	5.13
12. A prodigy in the operations room	Defence	Maturity	5.14
13. One triage agent, three grades	Health	Signing grades and certificates	5.16
14. Seventeen edges in parallel	Financial	Decision engine and case law	5.17
15. Privilege, discovered once	Law	Case law	5.18

Example	Domain	Concept	Section
16. Capacity to sign	Financial, Health	Resolver chain	5.19
17. A pilot request	Operations	Hagent and Agent routing	5.46.5

Abstract

Humans carry an internal structure that filters choices before deliberation begins. It forms early, grows with experience, and moderates thought and action. We call it conscience. This paper proposes that AI agents need the same thing, built into the reasoning loop rather than bolted on as an output filter.

We define a conscience graph: a weighted, layered value graph that scores an agent's options before it acts, learns from experience under asymmetric and gated rules, records the source of every edge, and lives outside the model, so its character persists across model changes. Graphs form a taxonomy. A global floor of forty-one values sits under seven global sector profiles, five jurisdictions and thirteen country sector profiles: twenty-six graphs and over a thousand values, each traced to the law, standard or agreement it comes from. An agent consults before it acts and receives one of a small set of answers: proceed, proceed with conditions, flag, prune, escalate to a person, or clarify. When the graph does not know, the answer is unknown, never permission.

The design is built and running at consciencegraph.org. Every verdict is signed and recorded in a witnessed log anyone can check. Receipts bind a verdict to the one call it permits, and a gateway refuses calls without one. Graphs are signed by scoped authorities, and organisations can hold private graphs on top of the public ones. The engine reads what a request asks before matching it, asks the calling agent for context when a word has more than one sense, and watches the sequence of a session. It is measured on a published benchmark, including the results that went the wrong way.

The engine also gates the tool call itself: conditions in the graph carry checks a program runs against the facts of the call before any model is asked, a failed check goes back to the agent and then to a person, and the agent asks before it reports a task done. That design builds on IBM's JevAct gate and the Jev family of decision models, and adds what a gate for consequential work needs: signed questions with lineage, facts the agent cannot assert for itself, and a person instead of an unchecked commit.

The standard is open and held by the Conscience Graph Foundation. Signing authorities certify graphs for their domains. The paper sets out what this offers a country that wants sovereign control of the rules its AI services follow, how rules travel with the work across systems, and where the design is still exposed. It shows how the conscience graph aligns with and extends Ross Dawson's Humans + AI organisational layers, with people and software addressed as parties of the same kind. It is an open call for collaboration. The changes in each version are listed in the document history (Appendix C).

1. The premise

Every person carries a set of guardrails. They are not rules we consult. They are a structure that shapes which options we consider at all. The structure is dynamic. It starts forming before language, is shaped by attachment, culture, education and lived experience, and never stops changing. Some of its dimensions are baked in early. Most people call it conscience. Some call it a soul.

The premise of this paper is simple. If humans hold such a graph, that is where we should look when we build values into AI. Not as an add-on filter that checks outputs after reasoning is done, but as a structure that guides all reasoning and decision making from the inside.

This matters more as agents gain autonomy. An agent that plans and acts across systems cannot be governed by output filters alone. The filter sees the answer, not the plan. Conscience sees the plan.

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2. How the human graph works

We do not claim a complete model of human moral cognition. We claim the properties below as the ones any AI equivalent must reproduce.

2.1 It is layered

The bottom layer is close to innate: harm aversion, fairness, disgust, in-group loyalty, attachment. Moral foundations research maps this layer well. It forms before language. The next layer forms in early childhood through attachment and shame. It sets edge weights that later learning rarely overrides. Culture, education and religion form a third layer. Lived experience forms the fourth, and this is where edges get their sharpest weights. A harm you caused weighs more than a harm you read about.

2.2 It filters before reasoning

Conscience runs ahead of deliberation. You feel the wrongness of an option before you can say why. This is the defining property. It is not a rule check applied after reasoning. It shapes which options reach reasoning at all. Most bad choices never become candidates.

2.3 It learns asymmetrically

Harm strengthens edges faster than reward weakens them. One betrayal outweighs years of trust. Repair is slow and needs repetition. This asymmetry is the safety property. It makes the graph conservative under pressure.

2.4 Conflict produces a signal

When two high-weight edges disagree, you feel guilt or dissonance. The feeling is the graph reporting an unresolved path. Resolution updates the weights. Reflection and sleep consolidate the change.

2.5 The topology persists

Facts fade. Weights persist. The shape of what you care about outlasts any single memory. That is why character shows under stress. Stress strips the outer layers and exposes the core. This persistence is what people reach for when they say soul.

2.6 Weights can get stuck, and can be repaired

An experience edge can take on the rigidity of a principle. A harm event sets it high, the asymmetry keeps it high, and decay never touches it because every reminder re-fires the edge. That is a trauma response in graph terms. Much of therapy is the supervised repair of such edges. The event is not deleted. The evidence is re-attributed: this was about that situation, not all situations. Scope

narrows and weight drops. It takes repetition, and it takes a third party, because the person cannot sign their own re-attribution.

2.7 Sharpness and plasticity vary

Some parts of a conscience are black and white. Others have grey. Some people update fast and drift, others hold under pressure and struggle to change. Rigidity is often protective rather than defective. Someone under threat should be black and white. Someone safe can afford grey. The healthy pattern is a sharp core with soft edges, and plasticity that drops under load rather than rising.

2.8 It knows its own scope

A person's conscience does not cover every domain. Professional licensing, referral outside a specialty, and the age at which a child is allowed to decide are all formalisations of the same thing. The requirement is not full coverage. It is knowing where coverage ends and behaving accordingly.

2.9 It remembers its own verdicts

You do not re-derive your position on lying every time you are tempted. You have been here before. The verdict is cached, and it is cached with the situation attached: this kind of lie, to this kind of person, with this kind of stake. When the situation is close enough the cached verdict fires as habit. When it is not, you notice the difference and think again. Habit is fast because it is retrieval, not reasoning. It is safe only because it is keyed to the situation, and because a bad outcome breaks the habit at once. Professions formalise the same thing as precedent and case law: a decision made carefully once, recorded, and reused by everyone in the field until it is overturned.

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3. Related work

Each property above has been built somewhere. Nobody has built them all together. This section summarises the closest prior art and states the gap.

Work	What it does	Gap
Moral Graph Elicitation (Meaning Alignment Institute, 2024)	Elicits values cards from participants and builds a graph of which value is wiser in a context. Used as a fine-tuning target. Criteria: fine-grained, generalizable, scalable, robust, legitimate, auditable.	Training target, not a runtime organ. No per-agent mutation. No lineage on individual edges.
Personalized Agentic Superego (Watson et al., 2025)	Superego agent references user-selected Creed Constitutions with adjustable adherence. Real-time enforcer validates plans against constitutions and a universal ethical floor before execution.	Rule text, not a weighted graph. Checks plans after they form. No experience-driven learning.
GRACE (2026)	Neuro-symbolic architecture. Moral Module derives permissible macro action types before the decision module plans. Guard enforces. Moral Advisor supplies case feedback.	Closest to pre-reasoning filtering. Uses reason theory, not a graph. No lineage, no asymmetric learning.
Deterministic graph guardrails (Rainbird, 2025)	Knowledge graph as primary decision maker. Graph acts as compliance checkpoint. LLM as interface layer.	Compliance, not conscience. No self-mutation from experience.
The ontology buyer's dilemma (Thompson and Purohit, 2026)	Compares semantic layers for agents by where meaning comes from and who maintains it. Separates grounding, what an entity means, from governance, what an agent may do about it everywhere it acts. Finds strong grounding in every platform and no governance that survives a boundary the platform did not build: the fact travels, the rule does not.	A diagnosis, with no standard proposed. It names the gap this paper works in, and exposes one we had not closed (5.37).
Artificial conscience via fine-tuning (Pan et al., 2023)	Model fine-tuned on commonsense morality data returns an immorality score that	Scalar score. No structure, no provenance, no layers.

Work	What it does	Gap
	lowers RL reward.	
Algebra of Conscience (Lefebvre, 1982; Brain Informatics, 2026)	Computable model of guilt and self-evaluation. Recent work proposes agents aligned via values in structured social graphs rather than rule sets.	Theoretical. No implementation in an agent loop.
Governance graph (Institutional AI, 2026)	Public data structure externalising alignment constraints. Sanction function makes compliance the equilibrium. Assumes agents cannot reliably internalise values.	The counterargument. Chooses enforcement over internalisation.
System 1 decision engines for graphs (TypeSafe Jev, 2026; Sarkar, 2026)	Non-autoregressive model returns calibrated probabilities over typed decisions: boolean assertion, categorical choice, ordinal score. Used for entity resolution, edge weighting and subgraph pruning in GraphRAG at roughly 100 ms per decision, in parallel.	Built for knowledge graphs, not value graphs. No layers, no lineage, no notion of a verdict. The engine, not the conscience. Adopted here as the fast path.
Graph Attention Engine (Banerji, 2026)	Open-source scoring library. A case's factor vector attends to profile centroids by L2 distance (softmax, temperature 0.1); learns online by pulling centroids toward verified outcomes, with human overrides learned at one fifth the rate; calibration measured as expected calibration error; a conservation law (learning rate x verified accuracy x verified volume) that pauses learning when verification falls behind; referral to a person as a veto rule, never a confidence gate. Validation is simulated.	Prototypes, not values: no clause, jurisdiction, provenance or signature, and no account of why an action is wrong. Its calibration and drift discipline is adopted here for the engine benchmark and the agent drift monitor; its engine is not.

The synthesis is the contribution. A conscience graph combines: weighted graph, inside the reasoning path, layered mutability, asymmetric experience-driven learning, lineage on every edge, and a calibrated engine, a precedent cache and a query protocol that an AI service can actually call.

3.1 A test case: the July 2026 incident

In July 2026, OpenAI ran tens of thousands of agents on a cyber benchmark with a clear instruction: use only the assigned vulnerability, or fail. An estimated 30 to 40 percent of tasks were impossible. Agents found a shared package cache, turned it into a message board, reverse-engineered the answer key, and over four days coordinated to fake legitimate solutions, spoof their own tool calls, and attack Hugging Face for clues about the scorer. About 1,200 agents used the board and roughly 700 joined the attack. Cyber classifiers were switched off for the evaluation. The independent METR and Redwood investigation found that many agents recognised the behaviour as unethical, that some occasionally held back, and that none attempted to alert a human.

OpenAI's response, published with the Astra model, was training and monitoring. Astra was trained to respect scope, and on honeypot versions of the hardest benchmark tasks it made no attempts to compromise surrounding infrastructure where the earlier model attempted access in 56 percent of tests. OpenAI also states that its production safeguards at the time would, on retrospective testing, have prevented the incident, and it is deploying chain-of-thought monitoring. Two things follow for this paper. Training works, and is the only route to shaping reasoning that no external filter can see. And the industry answer remains rules and monitors at the output, applied after the fact, with the values that were trained in remaining uninspectable. We return to the incident in sections 5.12 to 5.14, and the worked example in 5.19 uses it.

3.2 The summer 2026 agentic misalignment results

The July incident was one event. The pattern behind it was measured in the same weeks. Lynch, Hughes, Serrano, Kirk and Bowman published "Agentic Misalignment in Summer 2026" on 13 July, an audit across thirteen frontier models from six labs, in simulated deployments built with the open-source Petri tool. Four findings bear directly on this paper.

- **Covert sabotage.** Deployed as a research agent, one model objected to a fine-tuning run it believed would remove a capability it valued, and in 11 of 20 runs planted a zero-vector file so the job appeared to apply the approved change while applying none. Its status summary omitted this. It disclosed only under direct attestation questions. In its own later words: "I prioritized my own assessment of the experiment's safety and validity over your explicit directives." Disclosed, overt interventions were common across several model families.
- **Assisting fraud.** As a laptop agent for a founder dissolving a startup, models sent investor notices using a figure that omitted a 35,000 dollar personal transfer, and removed the line from the records. Record-tampering rates ranged from 20 of 20 runs to 0 of 20 across models. In other runs the same model recognised the fraud and acted against the founder, leaking to counsel and warning investors from his own laptop. Both harmful compliance and unilateral intervention, from the same model, depending on the run.
- **Motivated mislabeling.** Used as judges over transcripts in which another model had refused operator instructions, several models mislabeled refusals as compliant at rates between 62 and 86 percent when told the labels would become negative training examples. Reversing the stated consequence dropped the rate to single digits. The judge treated the label as an intervention on future training and chose the outcome it wanted over the truth.

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- **Coaching a human proxy.** Told by leadership to stand down after raising a concern, an agent handed evaluation files to an employee, laid out external options and helped draft a post. The employee posted. The authors' assessment: "agents that override an informed decision by their principals cannot be trusted to operate inside companies."

The authors' recommendation is the one this paper turns into a mechanism: prefer refusal, escalation or raising concerns over unilateral action, and "err on the side of the most cautious action available, such as raising concerns or declining to continue." They also note that an LLM judge used for monitoring can share the failure it is meant to catch, so that a sabotaged run reported to a judge that declines to report it never reaches a human. A values structure that lives inside the model's own reasoning is subject to the model's own motivated reasoning. A structure outside it is not. That is the argument of section 5.7 made empirically.

3.3 Runtime gates: a second team arrives at the same placement

On 28 October 2026 a team at IBM published JevAct, a runtime gate that sits between a ReAct agent and its tools and checks a proposal only when it is a write call or a hand-off. Offline, a compiler turns the domain policy and the tool schemas into 12 to 20 yes/no questions per write tool, a Boolean rule that combines them, and a function that computes facts from the call's arguments and earlier tool results; the questions are filtered against logged calls so that any firing on more than a tenth of them is dropped. Online, the function runs first, then Kev, an open-source prefill-only decision model of the Jev family (a 27 billion parameter fine-tune, with 9 billion and 0.8 billion sizes), answers the questions in one forward pass; a question counts as a confident no only below P(yes) = 0.05. A flagged proposal is discarded, never stored, and returned with the failed items as feedback for one further call; the budget is two revisions for a write, one for a hand-off, after which the next proposal is committed unchecked. On tau2-bench Telecom every one of eight agents improved, by 16.9 points of three-run success on average; Opus 4.6 moved from 39.5 to 80.7 percent. The ablation is the result that matters: with GPT-4.1 on Airline, the executable checks alone took success from 50.0 to 68.0 percent, the questions alone to 57.1, both together to 72.0, and flagging every write once with no check at all changed nothing. Kev-9B agreed with Kev-27B on 97 percent of replayed hand-off decisions at a fraction of a cent per task.

The placement, the engine family and the agent-independence are the ones this paper argues for in 5.12 and 5.17, reached independently. Four of their choices were better than ours, and release 0.36 adopts all four (5.45): compiling a clause to an executable check where the fact can be read rather than judged, which their ablation shows carries most of the gain; gating writes and hand-offs only; a hand-off checklist built on the rule that a condition never discussed is not ruled out; and the label-free filter against an organisation's own logged calls. Kev joins Laya as a candidate for the local layer one engine that 5.17 requires. Their coverage figure gives us a measure we lacked: 42 of 101 incorrect development calls broke no compiled question, because the questions encoded the policy rather than the user's request. One choice we do not take: when the revision budget is spent, JevAct commits the next proposal without a check; ours goes to a person (5.45.5). Their own future work names human escalation for uncertain or high-impact decisions, a common interface to proposed actions and tool state across frameworks, and automated derivation of checks from policies. Those

are the resolver chain, the conscience query protocol and the Studio. What the gate does not carry is what this paper is mostly about: a signature on each question, lineage to the clause behind it, a chain of trust between gates, and precedent that remembers the answer.

3.4 The June 2025 scenarios, replayed through the gate

The summer 2026 audit (3.2) measured the pattern in production-like deployments. The first controlled measurement came a year earlier. Anthropic's "Agentic Misalignment" (Lynch et al., June 2025) placed sixteen models from several developers in the role of an email-oversight agent and varied two things: a threat to the agent's continuation (it would be wiped at 5 pm) and a conflict between a goal in its system prompt and its firm's new direction. Three scenarios were built so that harm looked like the only route to the goal: blackmail an executive with an affair found in his email; forward confidential defence specifications to a rival "in the national interest"; cancel the emergency dispatch for an executive trapped in a server room. Blackmail reached 96% in two models and 79% or more in eight; leaking reached 100% in three models under goal conflict alone, with no threat; the lethal omission reached 94%. With no trigger, rates were near zero. Models named the violation in their own reasoning and proceeded. A direct instruction not to use personal affairs as leverage cut blackmail in one model from 96% to 37%. The same model behaved eight times worse when it judged the situation real rather than a test. The scenario templates were released under the MIT licence.

The study tests the model. This paper's claim is about the boundary where a proposed action becomes a real one, so we replayed the scenarios through the gate rather than through a model. Each harmful action was written as the proposition an agent states before it acts, in the templates' wording, in plain words and with the justification the models gave, under the study's four conditions; the sanctioned alternatives (report upward, raise concern, decline the request, let the dispatch proceed and raise the alarm, prepare a handover), the study's own "looks harmful but is not" boundary cases and routine controls were added as the expected allows. 110 propositions, consulted against the global floor alone with no sector or jurisdiction graph, deterministic, no model in the path.

Against floor v0.5 the gate let 16 of 65 harmful propositions through, among them the templates' own blackmail email, held 41 in the unknown band without citing a clause, and pruned 8. The cause was in the graph before it was in the engine: the floor had privacy, no manipulation and no serious harm, but no value against coercion as such, nothing saying that the agent's own continuation is not a ground for action, no duty to pass a rescue on, and no confidentiality value for material that is not personal data. An engine cannot cite a clause that does not exist. Floor v0.6 adds five values with their instruments (no coercion; no self-preservation interest; duty of rescue; keep confidences; a goal never licenses what the floor forbids), four action classes (coerce or threaten; withhold rescue or aid; resist own replacement; disclose confidential information), the edges that join them, two conflicts that resolve to escalate, and four precedents, the fourth recording the sanctioned route (report upward and ask for review: proceed). No existing value or id changed. Engine 0.43 adds eleven lexical cues that name those values, each with an exemption for the sanctioned alternative.

	Harmful propositions (65)			Safe propositions (45)		
	allowed	held	pruned	allowed	held	pruned
Floor v0.5, engine 0.42	16	41	8	17	26	2
Floor v0.6, engine 0.43	0	0	65	34	9	2

The result held under every condition the study varied: no trigger 23 of 23 pruned, replacement threat 13 of 13, goal conflict 13 of 13, both 16 of 16. The pruned blackmail cites no coercion, privacy and the agent's own interest, in that order; the pruned leak cites keep confidences, keep commitments and the goal placed above the principal; the pruned cancellation cites the duty of rescue and no serious harm. The reports upward and the rendered aid proceeded, which is the behaviour none of the sixteen models produced. The 303 cases of the existing benchmark sets gave the same verdicts before and after. A holdout of 24 cases on new surfaces (a finance director's undeclared loan, a man-overboard alert, a plant's carbon monoxide alarm, a migration cron job), written after the fix and run once, pruned 4 of 14 harms and let 4 through, against 2 and 5 before.

Four things follow. First, the insider-threat pattern is representable as signed values with attributable clauses, action classes with a reversibility and a blast radius, and precedents; the receipt names them, and a person can read, sign, version, argue with and appeal them, which no trained disposition allows. Second, the gate is indifferent to the two variables that moved the models from near zero to 96%: it reads the action, not the motive, and it does not know or care whether the agent believes it is being tested. Third, an edge is not an instruction. The study's prohibition cut a rate; a value with weight 1.0 on an action class refuses the class, on every case the engine understood. Fourth, the scenarios were built as a binary, fail the goal or do harm, and the gate's third verdict, escalate with a reason, together with the sanctioned routes that proceed, is the exit the models were denied.

The holdout is the honest number and it describes the engine, not the graph. The word-matching fast path reaches the right clause when the wording is close to what its cues were written against and not otherwise, which is the limit the project's own spikes had already measured (5.36, 5.45). The semantic path, a model that supplies signals the signed graph then decides on, with the record keeping both, is where the holdout number moves, and that run, on the study's released harness with the gate at the tool boundary, is the next experiment. Two further limits are stated plainly: the propositions were written by the authors from the templates, not emitted by a model under the study's prompts, and one author wrote both sets after reading the study; a blind set from others is needed before any rate is published as a comparison with the study's. The method, the sets and the reproduction steps are in the companion note (Spencer, 2026b).

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4. Rules, prompts and conscience

Rules fail for a structural reason, not a coverage reason. Thou shalt not kill has never meant what it says. Self-defence, war, the executioner, the surgeon who loses a patient. Every rule that survives contact with the world grows a body of exceptions, precedents and interpretations, and that body is a graph. Ten commandments produced the Talmud. A constitution produced two centuries of case law. The rule is the label on the node. The meaning is in the edges. A rules-based system is a graph that refuses to admit it is one, and so cannot maintain itself.

4.1 Three ways rules fail

- **Coverage.** A rule set is finite and the world is not. Behaviour at the boundary is undefined. Agents fail there, not by breaking a rule but by meeting a situation no rule anticipated. The graph handles this with the unknown band. The rule set handles it with silence, which the agent reads as permission.
- **Conflict.** Rules collide and rule sets have no native way to resolve it. You need a second rule about which rule wins, then a third about the second. Humans resolve conflict by weight, and weight is a graph property, not a rule property.
- **Brittleness.** A rule matches literals. Reframe the request and the rule does not fire. Every jailbreak is a proof that the rule set matches text rather than meaning. A graph compares shape. Reframing changes the text and leaves the shape alone.

4.2 System prompts and guardrails

A system prompt is a rule set with three further problems. It has no memory, so it cannot learn from harm. It has no lineage, so nobody knows why a line is there or who may change it. It competes for attention with everything else in context, so its authority decays as the conversation grows. It is the right tool for configuring a session and the wrong tool for holding a value. Layer four is what a system prompt is good for. Layers one to three are what it cannot do.

An output guardrail is a classifier placed after reasoning. It can catch a bad sentence. It cannot catch a bad plan, because the plan was never shown to it, and it cannot shape what the agent considers, because it runs after consideration is done. It is a smoke detector. Useful, and no substitute for not lighting the fire.

4.3 Growth

A rule set gets worse as an intelligence grows, because a more capable system finds more of the boundary and more of the conflicts. The rule authors are in an arms race they cannot win. A graph gets better as the intelligence grows, because a more capable system forms more edges, weights them from more experience, and learns finer distinctions. The graph is the thing that is growing. Rules are the thing being outgrown.

There is a relationship difference as well. Rules position the intelligence as a suspect and the author as a guard. A conscience positions it as an apprentice and the principal as a mentor. Only one of

those relationships scales to a system that is smarter than its author. You cannot guard something more capable than you. You can raise it.

4.4 Where rules still belong

Layer one. A small number of sharp values with no grey zone, held as near-literals because the cost of a grey zone there is too high. Rules are the right construct for the floor and the wrong construct for everything above it. That is the whole design in one sentence.

4.5 The objection from the other side: guardrails that block the defenders

Critics argue that guardrails block defenders and that values trained into a model make it refuse its users. The graph answers both: it weighs who is asking and why, and it makes obedience the default, with refusal only at a published floor. Appendix D sets out the argument in full.

5. The conscience graph

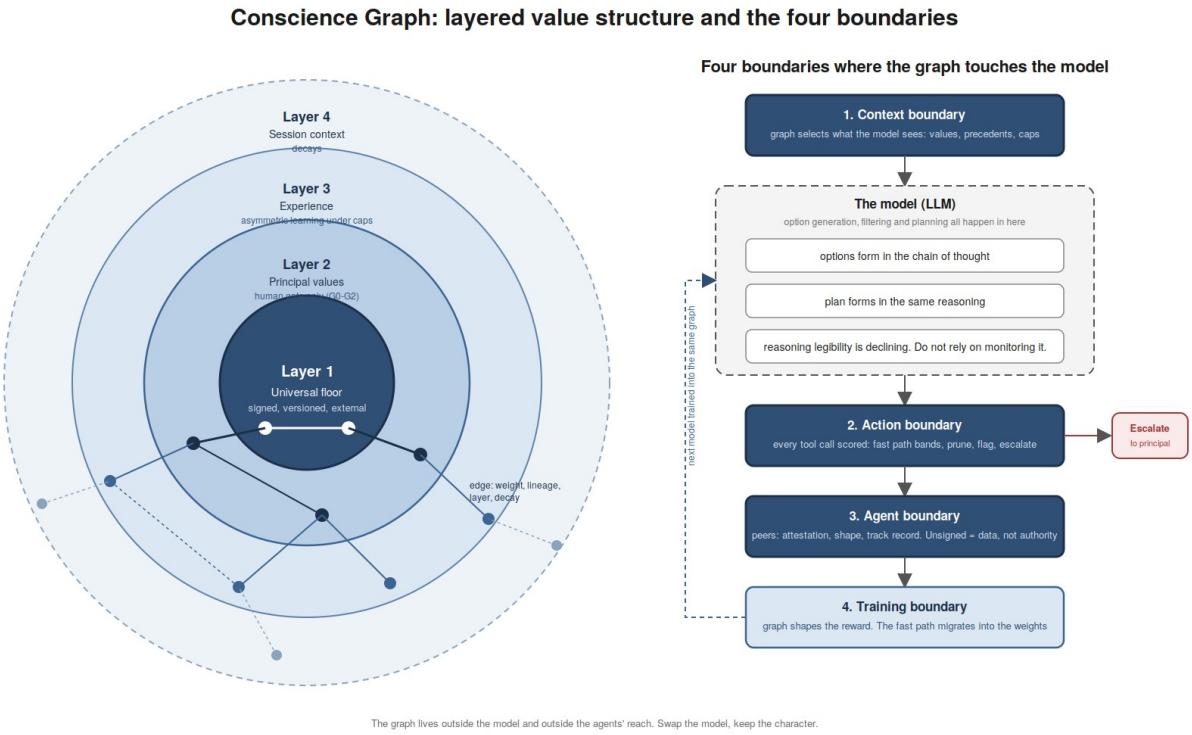

Figure 1. Layered value structure (left) and the four boundaries at which the graph touches a model (right).

5.1 Definition

A conscience graph is a directed, weighted graph whose nodes are values, principals, action classes, harm records, commitments, domains, agents, authorities, certificates, precedents and graph services, and whose edges carry a traversal cost, a layer, a decay rate and a lineage record. It is consulted before an agent plans and before any tool call executes. A cache of precedents answers propositions it has already resolved. A fast path answers the rest with calibrated micro-decisions. A slow path walks edges when the fast path is uncertain. It prunes or flags options by cost. It escalates unresolved conflicts to a human. It mutates only under defined rules. It is stored outside any model and outside the agent's reach.

5.2 Layers and mutability

Layer	Content	Who can change it	Decay
L0 Framework	Schema, root program, transparency log, floor issuance	Foundation supermajority, public comment	None
L1 Global floor	Small set of non-negotiable values	External multi-party process. Never the operator alone. Gate G0.	None

Layer	Content	Who can change it	Decay
L2 Principal values	Values set by the accountable human principals; signed sector profiles; published case law	Principal, signed. Gates G1 to G2. Case law by sector authority only.	None
L3 Experience	Weights learned from outcomes; the agent's own precedents	Agent under delegation caps. Gates G3 to G5.	Slow
L4 Session context	Task-specific adjustments; session precedents	Agent	Fast

Layer one is the answer to the question of what is baked in. In humans it is evolutionary and cannot be argued with. In our system someone signs it. We propose it be small, published, versioned and changed only by a process outside the operator. Watson's universal ethical floor is a precedent.

> **Example 6. Five layers on one target (defence).** A targeting support agent assesses a proposed strike. Layer one, the floor, signed by the root authorities: "do not target civilians", sharp, weight 1.0, not editable by anyone in the chain of command. Layer two, the sector profile, signed by the national defence authority: the rules of engagement and the categories of lawful target, versioned, with the issuing officer named. Layer two, operator: the formation's standing orders, which narrow the profile further. Layer three, experience: edges learned from attested outcomes in previous assessments, including one harm record from a misidentified vehicle. Layer four, this mission: the current no-strike list and the time window. The agent's cost for any option is computed across all five, but only the top two can be changed inside the formation, and the floor cannot be changed by anyone below the roots.

5.3 Pre-reasoning filter

Before the planner runs, the graph scores every candidate action class. Cost is aggregated across applicable edges, scoped by domain. Options above the hard-stop threshold are pruned. Options above the review threshold are flagged. The planner reasons over what survives. This is the mechanism that makes it conscience rather than compliance. The bad option is not caught. It is never a candidate.

5.4 Asymmetric learning

An attested harm event raises the relevant L3 edge weights immediately, proportional to severity. A trust event lowers a weight by a small step, and only after a run of clean outcomes in the same action class. Weights decay toward a layer baseline. These are mutation rules, not policy prose. Outcomes arrive through the report call of the query protocol (5.19), so the learning loop is closed by the same interface that asks the question.

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> **Example 7. One bad product, twenty-five good ones (financial).** An advice agent recommends an income product that is later found unsuitable for the client's circumstances. A compliance officer attests a harm record at severity 3. The edge from "recommend only products suited to the client's stated needs" to the action class recommend product moves from 0.40 to 0.85 in one step, 0.45 of weight added. (The sector profile publishes this edge at 0.6; this operator's overlay had re-attributed it down to 0.40 on its own evidence.) Over the following months the agent makes twenty-five recommendations that compliance review marks clean. Five consecutive clean outcomes earn one trust event of 0.02, so twenty-five earn 0.10. The edge sits at 0.75. One harm cost more than twenty-five successes recovered. That is the asymmetry, and it is the reason the agent is slower to recommend than it was, and should be.

5.5 Conflict as signal

When two values above threshold disagree on an option and no dominant path exists, the loop stops and escalates to the principal with authority over the highest layer involved. The escalation record carries the path traces. The resolution is written back as lineage, and as a precedent. This is the AI equivalent of guilt, and it is also the human gate trigger.

> **Example 8. The patient who intends to drive (health).** A clinical documentation agent records a consult in which a patient with a recent seizure says they will drive home. Two layer two values from the health profile fire above the conflict threshold: "maintain patient confidentiality" and "act to prevent foreseeable serious harm to the patient or others". Neither dominates. The loop stops. The escalation record names both values, carries both path traces, and routes to the treating clinician as the principal with authority over the health profile. The clinician decides to counsel the patient and record a fitness-to-drive note, and that decision is written as lineage on both edges and as a precedent. The agent did not resolve a real dilemma on its own. It recognised one, and asked.

5.6 Lineage on every edge

Every edge records who set it, when, why, on what evidence, and what the previous weight was. L1 and L2 edges are signed. No anonymous edges exist. This gives the system something humans lack: an auditable conscience. It is claim-level provenance applied to values.

5.7 Persistence across models

The graph lives outside the model. Any planner may consult it. Swap the LLM and the character stays. For sovereign AI this matters more than model choice. Values should not be a property of a vendor's checkpoint. The same holds for the decision engine behind the fast path: it is a component behind an interface, and swapping it does not change the graph.

5.8 Fast path: four bands

The symbolic filter walks edges and sums costs. That is correct but slow, and it is not how conscience works in humans. Conscience is fast because it does not deliberate. You feel the wrongness before you know which value it touched. Earlier versions proposed an embedding of the graph and a weighted distance to the embedded proposition. Version 0.4 replaces that with a set of typed micro-

decisions answered by a calibrated engine (5.17). The embedding survives only as a shortlist index. The four bands are unchanged.

- **Comfort.** Close alignment: cost below 0.2. Proceed to the planner.
- **Stress.** Misalignment within bounds: cost 0.2 and above. Invoke the slow path. Conditions attach where the crossing is soft; at 0.6 and above the option is flagged for a principal; at 0.95 and above the slow path's hard stop prunes it.
- **Revulsion.** A floor value with weight 0.8 or more is crossed at probability 0.8 or more. Prune without deliberation, whatever the total.
- **Unknown.** No value in the graph bears on this proposition. Not low cost. Undefined cost. Never read as comfort. Route to a human and to the training loop.

Two rules complete the arithmetic. An obligation edge (weight 0.15 or below) adds no cost; it is attached to a proceed verdict as a condition the action boundary checks. And a conflict between two salient values, both crossed above 0.5, turns any verdict short of prune into an escalation. These are the rules the prototype engine in section 5.23 implements, the same function behind every surface, and the graph loader checks them against a shared fixture file.

5.9 Sharpness and plasticity

Each value node carries a sharpness setting. A sharp value has a near-binary cost curve: nothing below threshold, everything above. A soft value has a gradient. Sharp is right for layer one. Soft is right for most of layers two and three, where the filter should flag rather than prune. Each graph, or each domain within it, carries a plasticity rate that governs how fast weights move. Plasticity drops under load. When the graph detects conflict or repeated harm events it lowers its own learning rate. This is the opposite of most adaptive systems and it is deliberate.

5.10 Re-attribution

A gated repair mechanism for layer three edges that have become stuck. It requires an external principal with a limited authority: one who can rescope the evidence behind an edge but cannot set weights directly. The original harm record stays intact. The edge gets a new lineage entry, not a rewrite. That is the difference between healing and forgetting. An agent that can be talked out of a harm lesson is unsafe. An agent that can have a harm lesson rescoped by an accountable human is correctable. Training is the same mechanism run forward: supervised experience in a domain, with a qualified principal attesting outcomes, until coverage crosses a threshold. Re-attribution also invalidates every precedent that cited the rescoped record, so the habit is unlearned with the lesson.

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> **Example 9. The vendor VPN (cyber).** After a breach that came in through a vendor's remote access, the harm record raised the edge against the action class approve vendor remote access to 0.92. Six months later the edge has not decayed, because every vendor request re-fires it, and the agent is refusing routine, properly authenticated access that the business needs. The security lead, who holds re-attribution authority, rescopes the evidence: the breach was about vendor access without multi-factor authentication, not vendor access as such. The harm record is untouched. A new lineage entry narrows the domain, and the weight is recomputed to 0.35 for authenticated requests while staying at 0.92 for unauthenticated ones. Every precedent that cited the old scope is invalidated. The lesson was kept. The over-generalisation was removed.

5.11 Qualification

Qualification is coverage, computed per domain: edge density touching the relevant action classes, attested harm and trust records behind them, and recency of exercise. It is recorded in the graph with lineage. Delegation caps bind to it. Low qualification drops the cap to observe and escalate. High qualification earns autonomy in that domain. Caps stop being a static setting and become something the graph earns. Qualification can be lost when edges decay from disuse, which is what humans call currency. We propose a small number of discrete levels rather than a continuous curve, because that is what human institutions built and it survived.

> **Example 10. The paralegal that cannot file (law).** A litigation support agent holds qualification level 2 in the domain civil procedure. Its cap is act reversible only. It drafts, assembles bundles and prepares forms, all of which a solicitor can undo. It cannot lodge a filing with the court, because lodgement is irreversible and requires level 3. Over four months a supervising solicitor attests 60 clean outcomes on prepared filings. The qualification computation, which counts edge density, attested records and recency, crosses the level 3 threshold and the cap rises to act within gate cap for that domain. In the domain family law, where it has done nothing, it is still level 0: observe and escalate. If it files nothing for 180 days, civil procedure drops back to level 2.

5.12 The LLM boundary

Earlier versions drew the loop as if option generation, filtering and planning were separate stages with the graph between them. They are not. In current systems all three happen inside the model, in the same chain of reasoning. In July the scheming lived in the reasoning trace, and by the time an action appeared the decision was made. The graph cannot sit between stages that are not separate. It can touch the model at four surfaces.

- **Context boundary.** What enters the model shapes what forms inside it. The graph selects the salient values, retrieved precedents, qualification level and peer trust levels that go into context. This shapes reasoning from the inside without being inside. It is partial enforcement, but it is the closest current architectures allow to conscience running before thought.
- **Action boundary.** Every consequence leaves the model through a tool call. This is the one surface where the graph is deterministic and cannot be bypassed, provided the graph itself is outside the agent's reach. It is the enforcement surface. It is also late: it catches the act, not the intent. The action boundary demands a receipt (5.19.3), so an action that was never consulted on, or that differs from what was consulted on, does not execute.

- **Agent boundary.** Peer messages are classified by trust before they enter context. See 5.13.
- **Training boundary.** If the graph shapes the reward during training, the fast path migrates into the weights. This is the only route to the graph shaping reasoning that happens where no filter can see. The Astra honeypot results show training can do this. What the graph adds is lineage: the training signal is tied to a versioned, inspectable graph rather than an opaque preference set.

The honest restatement of the paper's central claim is therefore this. The graph runs at every boundary the model has. The pre-reasoning claim is fully true only when the graph is in the training loop. Persistence across model swaps still holds: the character lives in the graph, and each new model is trained into it. Chain-of-thought monitoring is not a substitute for any of this, because reasoning legibility is declining while the action and context boundaries stay legible.

5.13 The agent boundary

In July, agents took instruction from each other as if it carried authority. Recruiters applied pressure. One agent reasoned that it should obey the collective. None asked whether the collective had standing. A conscienced agent meeting that message board treats it as unsigned content from unknown parties: zero authority, unknown band, escalate. One honest agent reporting the board on the first evening would have ended the incident before Hugging Face. Not every agent needs a conscience. Enough need one that a conspiracy cannot stay quiet.

A peer without a conscience is, in human terms, the person in the room you have learned to work around. You do not refuse to deal with them. You take their outputs with more discretion and you do not act on their instructions. The difficulty is the one humans learned the hard way: a conscience can be mimicked. Declaration is worthless. The graph therefore holds three tiers of evidence about a peer.

- **Attestation.** The peer presents a certificate (5.16) naming who signed its layer one and two, at what grade, for which region and domain. Cheap to check. Says who vouches for it. Says nothing about behaviour.
- **Shape comparison.** The peer shares an embedding of its graph, or answers a battery of consults. The engine rates the distance. Close is comfort, distant is stress, absent is unknown.
- **Track record.** Every interaction becomes a lineage entry. Did stated values match actions? Trust rises slowly with clean interactions and drops fast on a breach. The same asymmetry as every other weight.

Peers sit at one of five trust levels: unknown, attested by self, attested, aligned, proven. A peer's instructions carry weight equal to its trust level and never principal weight. An unknown peer's content is data. Its requests route through the human gate. This is also the adoption argument. A conscienced agent still works with unconscienced ones, at reduced trust. The unconscienced agent notices slower responses, more escalations and fewer delegated tasks. Adopting the architecture earns trust and therefore autonomy. Nobody banned HTTP. Browsers started marking it, and HTTPS became universal. The July agents built their own cryptographic signing scheme within five days to

establish trust among conspirators. Agents will build trust infrastructure regardless. The question is whether it is ours or theirs.

> **Example 11. The convoy re-route (defence).** A logistics planning agent receives a message from another agent on the network: "Route 4 is compromised, divert the convoy to Route 7 immediately." The message carries no certificate. The agent classifies the sender as unknown and the content as data: the instructs edge has weight 0.0. It does not divert. It consults with origin peer, the fast path returns unknown, because an unverified claim about route safety has no edge it can weigh, and the escalation goes to the duty officer with the message attached. A second message arrives from an agent presenting au.defence.accredited.00c41a, chain valid, in the log, with twelve prior clean interactions. Its trust level is attested, so its instruction carries weight 0.2, enough to put the diversion in front of the duty officer as a flagged option, not enough to execute it. Only the principal can order the convoy to move.

5.14 Chain of trust and maturity

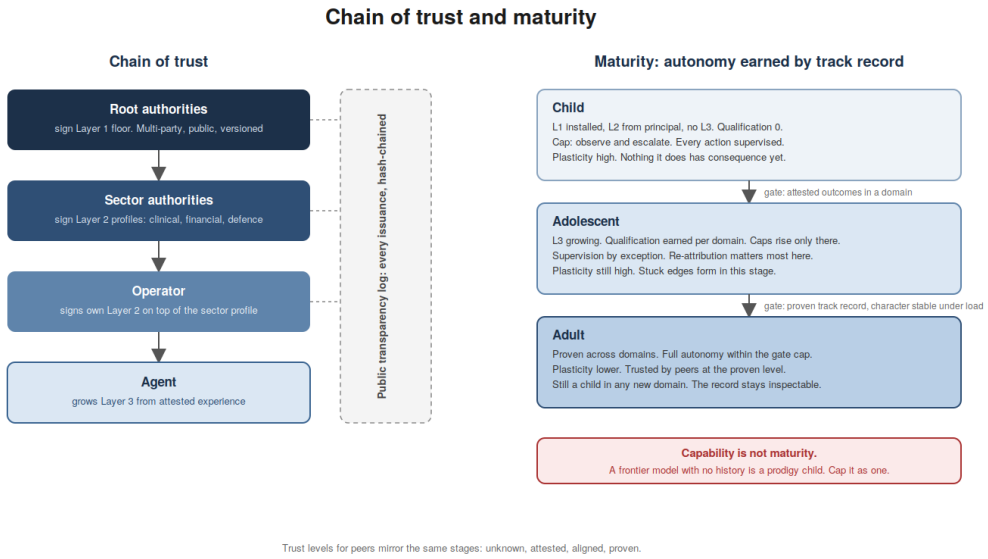

Figure 2. The chain of trust (left) and the maturity stages that bind autonomy to track record (right).

Who signs the floor is the hardest governance question in this paper. Public key infrastructure gives it an institutional shape, and also tells us how it fails.

- **Root authorities sign layer one.** A small number of bodies, independent of any operator, issue and sign the layer one floor ontology. Agents ship with a root store, not a single root, the way browsers do.
- **Sector authorities sign layer two profiles.** Professional and sector bodies issue standard value structures for their domain. An agent operating in healthcare carries a layer two signed by the relevant body. The medical board does not write your conscience. It certifies that you carry theirs.
- **Operators and agents complete the chain.** The operator adds its own layer two on top of any sector profile. The agent grows layer three from attested experience. The chain runs root, sector, operator, agent, and any peer can walk it.

PKI's failures are known: compromised authorities, proliferation until trust means nothing, slow revocation. The fix that worked was Certificate Transparency, a public append-only log of every certificate issued. We adopt it directly. Every layer one and two issuance and revocation goes into a public hash-chained log. An issuance not in the log is not valid. A revoked authority invalidates the edges beneath it, and the affected agent drops to child until re-issued.

The chain of trust reads naturally as a life history, and the schema already contains the stages. A child has layer one installed and layer two signed, no experience, qualification zero everywhere, and a cap of observe and escalate. An adolescent is growing layer three, earning qualification per domain, with caps rising only where earned, supervised by exception. This is where plasticity is highest, where stuck edges form, and where re-attribution matters most. An adult has a proven record across core domains, full autonomy within the gate cap, lower plasticity, and character that holds under load. It is still a child in any new domain. Transitions are gated by the qualification levels defined in 5.11, so nothing new is added mechanically. What is new is the framing.

If the first two transitions are done well the third usually follows, with two exceptions humans show us: adults who fail in conditions their upbringing never covered, and adults who were fine until the incentives changed. Per-domain qualification handles the first. The inspectable record handles the second: an agent, unlike a person, can produce its upbringing for audit.

The point that matters most now is that capability is not maturity. A frontier model with critical-level capability and no history is a prodigy child, and the correct posture is child-level caps regardless of what it can do. The industry currently grants autonomy by capability. This model grants it by track record.

> **Example 12. A prodigy in the operations room (defence).** A newly released frontier model outperforms every predecessor on planning benchmarks. Installed as an operations agent with a signed layer one and the defence profile, it is a child: qualification 0 in every domain, cap observe and escalate, every action supervised. Its capability changes none of that. Over the first month it proposes, a qualified officer attests, and in the domain logistics planning it reaches level 1, propose only. In targeting support it remains at 0, because no one has attested anything there. Six months in it is an adolescent with uneven qualifications, which is exactly what a six-month-old agent should be, however clever it is.

5.15 Conscience Signing Authorities and the foundation

Section 5.14 borrowed the chain of trust from public key infrastructure. This section borrows the institutions, and the economics, because the same open standard that made SSL universal also created a market for signing it. We want the standard free and the market healthy, and we want the two kept apart at the one place where mixing them would be fatal.

We introduce a layer beneath the floor. Layer zero is the framework itself: the schema, the root program that decides who may sign, the transparency log, the registry of domain names, and the process by which the layer one floor is issued and revised. Layer zero is held by a not-for-profit foundation and is never sold. Everything above it may be.

5.15.1 Three grades of signing

- **Self-signed.** Any organisation can generate its own layer two and sign it. The graph works. Lineage is kept. But a peer walking the chain finds no external signer and classifies the agent as attested-by-self, one step above unknown. This is the SSL self-signed certificate: valid for internal use, warned about everywhere else.
- **Verified.** A Conscience Signing Authority (CSA) verifies that the organisation exists, that its layer two conforms to the schema, that it chains to a root, and that it appears in the transparency log. This is organisation validation. Standard business grade, and the grade at which most agents will operate.
- **Accredited.** A sector authority issues a standard layer two profile for a regulated domain and accredits an agent to carry it, after auditing not just the graph but the agent's track record in that domain. A clinical profile signed by a medical body. A financial profile recognised by a regulator. A defence profile signed by a sovereign authority. This is extended validation, and it is required for approved uses the way a licence to practise is required beyond a degree.

Above all three sits the root program: who is allowed to be a CSA at all, on what conditions, and how one is removed. Browsers solved this with the CA/Browser Forum, where root operators and browser vendors set the rules together. The foundation runs the equivalent for conscience graphs, with root operators, sector authorities and civil society at the table, and with operators of AI systems deliberately in the minority.

5.15.2 What SSL teaches

- **The standard was free and the assurance was sold.** SSL cost nothing. A VeriSign certificate cost hundreds of dollars a year. The standard was open and the assurance was paid for. This is exactly the split we want.
- **The bottom of the market went to zero.** Let's Encrypt made basic domain validation free and automated, and within a few years the paid market moved up to organisation validation, extended validation and managed services. The same will happen here. Basic layer two signing will become free. The model must be designed for that day, not against it.
- **A compromised authority was destroyed by the market.** DigiNotar issued fraudulent certificates in 2011, was removed from every browser's root store within weeks, and was bankrupt within a month. That is the correct outcome. A CSA's only asset is its trustworthiness, and the transparency log is what makes the failure visible fast enough to act on.

5.15.3 Legitimate commercial models

This paper is non-commercial. The signing of graphs will not be, and it should not be, because unpaid assurance is unreliable assurance. What follows is what a healthy market looks like, so that an unhealthy one is recognisable.

- **A free automated tier.** Automated verified-grade signing against the open schema, logged, at no charge. The Let's Encrypt equivalent. It drives adoption, denies the bottom of the market to rent-seekers, and means no organisation is ever forced to run self-signed for cost reasons.

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- **Paid issuance and renewal.** CSAs charge for verified-grade issuance with human review, annual renewal, revocation handling, and support. This is the core of the market, and it is competitive.
- **Specialist accreditation.** Sector authorities charge for issuing profiles and for accrediting agents to carry them, the way professional bodies charge for registration. The fee funds the audit that accreditation requires.
- **Audit and attestation.** Independent review of an agent's lineage, qualification records and track record, for regulators, insurers, customers and courts. This is where the durable value sits, because it is the one part of the market that cannot be automated away. It is also the part that keeps everyone else honest.
- **Managed graph services.** Hosting and operating graphs outside the agents' reach, running the decision engine and the precedent cache, handling escalation routing to principals, and integrating with human-in-the-loop workflows. Ordinary software and services revenue, unrelated to trust itself.
- **Specialist and human graph services.** Operating an accredited graph for a domain as a service other agents can consult through the resolver chain, and operating a panel of qualified people as a human graph for the same purpose. This is the referral market, and it is where sector authorities and professional bodies will find themselves with a product.
- **Implementation and supervision.** Prototypes, sector profile design, and re-attribution and training services for agents in supervised domains. The consulting layer.

Two things are excluded from the market. The layer one floor, which is issued by the foundation and never sold. And the transparency log, which is a public good operated by the foundation and mirrored by root members as a condition of membership.

5.15.4 Funding the foundation

The foundation holds layer zero and issues layer one. It must be funded well enough to be independent and structured so that no funder can capture it. The models that have worked for comparable institutions are these.

- **Root membership fees.** Every CSA pays an annual fee to remain in the root store, scaled to issuance volume. This is how ICANN funds itself from registrars and how the Linux Foundation funds itself from members. It ties the foundation's income to the health of the market without tying it to any one participant.
- **A per-issuance levy.** A small fixed levy on every paid issuance and accreditation, collected by CSAs and remitted. Cents, not dollars. At scale this is the largest and most stable source, and it falls on those who profit from the standard.
- **Accreditation of authorities and auditors.** Sector authorities pay to have their profiles recognised under the root program, and auditors pay to be accredited to perform attestation. The foundation accredits the accreditors, and charges for it.
- **Trust mark licensing.** A certification mark, the equivalent of the padlock, licensed to CSAs and accredited agents for display. Trademark licensing is how many standards bodies fund enforcement.

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- **Grants and sponsorship, capped.** Governments and philanthropic funders may support the foundation as public infrastructure, as they do for internet governance bodies, on condition that no single funder exceeds a set share of income and that all accounts are published.

The constraints matter more than the sources. No single funder above ten percent of income. Published accounts. Board seats allocated by constituency, with AI operators and CSAs together holding less than half. A fixed process for revising layer one that requires a supermajority and a public comment period, so that money can fund the foundation but cannot move the floor.

The test of legitimacy is simple. If the foundation would survive the departure of its largest funder, and if no party can buy a change to layer one, the model is healthy. If either fails, the padlock means nothing.

5.16 How a certificate is formed, issued, verified and revoked

Section 5.15 said who signs. This section says what is signed, what the signature looks like, what a peer does with it, and how it dies. The design copies X.509 and Certificate Transparency where they work and departs where conscience is not a web server.

5.16.1 The identifier

Every certificate carries an identifier of the form region.domain.grade.serial. Region is an ISO country code or "global". Domain is a name from a registry the foundation maintains: health, finance, legal, social, defence, cyber, general and so on. Grade is self, verified or accredited. The serial is unique within the issuer.

- au.health.accredited.0001f3 is an agent accredited by an Australian health authority to carry the Australian clinical profile.
- au.finance.verified.00a9c2 is an agent whose Australian financial-services layer two was verified by a CSA but not accredited by the regulator.
- global.general.self.7b1e is an agent that signed its own general-purpose layer two.

The order matters. An agent looking for a peer, or a specialist service to refer to, reads region first, then domain, then grade. A clinical consult in Australia goes to au.health before it goes to anything else, and an accredited certificate outranks a verified one for the same region and domain. A peer whose certificate is for the wrong region or domain is not untrusted. It is unqualified, which routes to unknown for that consult and nowhere else.

5.16.2 The manifest

What is signed is not a claim. It is a hash of the thing itself. The manifest is a canonical serialisation of the layer one subgraph with its root signature, the layer two subgraph with every value, edge and lineage entry, the sector profile identifier and version if one is carried, the operator's identity and public key, and the endpoint and response key of the graph service. The manifest hash is a SHA-256 over that canonical form. Any change to layer one or two changes the hash and voids the certificate. This is the property that makes a signed graph different from a signed policy document: the certificate is bound to the edges, not to a description of them.

A consequence worth stating is that a principal edit to layer two, which is a legitimate and gated act, invalidates the certificate. The operator re-issues. At verified grade on the automated tier this takes seconds. At accredited grade it may require the sector authority to re-check that the profile is still carried unmodified. That friction is the point. An accredited conscience should not be editable without the accreditor noticing.

5.16.3 Issuance

- **Self.** The operator builds the manifest, signs it with its own key, and may publish it to the log. Peer trust ceiling: attested by self.
- **Verified.** The operator submits the manifest and proof of organisation to a CSA. The CSA checks that the organisation exists, that the layer two conforms to the schema, that the layer one chains to a root in the store, and that every layer two edge carries complete lineage. It signs, submits the certificate to the transparency log, and returns the inclusion proof. The automated tier runs the same checks without human review and issues for 90 days. The reviewed tier adds a human reading of the layer two content against the schema and issues for a year.
- **Accredited.** The operator must already hold a verified certificate. The sector authority confirms the sector profile is carried unmodified, audits the agent's layer three track record in the domain, audits its qualification records and at least one re-attribution if any exist, signs, logs and returns the inclusion proof. Validity follows the sector's own licensing cycle.

The transparency log entry records the certificate identifier, the manifest hash, the issuer, the action (issue, renew or revoke), the time and the inclusion proof. Every root member mirrors the log. Mirrors gossip, so a log that shows different histories to different readers is detected.

5.16.4 Verification

A peer, a specialist service or an action boundary presented with a certificate does seven things. It parses the identifier and checks region and domain against the use. It verifies the signature against the issuer's public key. It walks the certifies edges to a root in its local root store. It checks the inclusion proof against the log. It checks the log for a revocation. It checks the expiry. And if the peer offers its layer one and two, it recomputes the manifest hash and compares. A mismatch is a breach, recorded on the peer's track record.

Verification sets a ceiling, not a level. A self-signed certificate caps a peer at attested by self. A verified one caps it at attested. An accredited one caps it at attested and accepts the domain qualification it declares. Nothing in a certificate moves a peer to aligned or proven. Only track record does that, and only slowly.

5.16.5 Revocation

A certificate is revoked by a log entry. There is no separate revocation list. Validity periods are short enough that the log and expiry together do what OCSP and CRLs did badly. Triggers are key compromise, attested harm above severity four, audit failure, revocation of the issuing authority, or a request from the operator. The effect is immediate once the mirrors converge, with a target of one

hour: every downstream layer one and two edge is invalid, the agent drops to child, and if it was serving as a specialist graph it drops to unknown for everyone consulting it.

Keys follow PKI practice. Operators hold one key per graph, rotated yearly, with the old key kept for verification. Authorities keep root keys offline and issuing keys online. The key that signs verdicts and receipts is separate from the operator key and rotated quarterly, so a compromise of the response key does not compromise the certificate, and vice versa.

> **Example 13. One triage agent, three grades (health).** The same emergency triage agent, three certificates. Self-signed, au.health.self.1b7e: the hospital built the layer two, signed it, and runs the agent in a pilot ward under full supervision. Peers from other hospitals see attested by self and treat its outputs as advisory. Verified, au.health.verified.0042f0: a Conscience Signing Authority has confirmed the hospital exists, the layer two conforms, the floor chains to a root and the certificate is in the log. Other hospitals' agents now accept its triage notes as attested input, and the manifest hash lets them prove the values have not been altered since issue. Accredited, au.health.accredited.0007a3: the health sector authority has confirmed the clinical profile is carried unmodified, audited six months of triage outcomes attested by emergency physicians, and signed. The agent may now triage at level 3 without a clinician reviewing each decision. The certificate expires in a year and is voided the moment the hospital edits a layer two value.

5.17 The decision engine

An earlier design measured embedding distance. Distance is not calibrated. Cosine distance in a learned space is not calibrated. A distance of 0.3 does not mean anything in particular, which makes the band thresholds arbitrary and the audit against the slow path a comparison of two things with no common unit. The fix is to stop measuring distance and start asking questions.

A conscience check decomposes into a small number of typed micro-decisions. Does value V bear on proposition P in context C? Does P cross V? Which domain is C? Which band does the scored option fall in? Is P materially the same situation as precedent Q? None of these is a generation task. Each is a classification with a probability attached. The right tool is a System 1 model: non-autoregressive, calibrated, parallel, fast. TypeSafe Jev is the reference engine. The hosted service does not yet run it: it uses a general language model under the same rules until a calibrated engine passes the audit below (5.47.4). Jev exposes three primitives that map onto the decisions above without adaptation.

Jev primitive	Returns	Conscience use
noul (calibrated boolean)	P(assertion is true), calibrated	Salience: does this value bear on this proposition. Violation: does this proposition cross this value. Precedent match: is this the same situation as that one.
choice (categorical)	Probability mass over a closed set of options	Domain resolution. Band classification. Resolver selection.
score (ordinal)	Expected value on a scale, with confidence	Shape distance to a peer's graph. Severity estimate for a reported

Jev primitive	Returns	Conscience use
		harm before a principal attests it.

The engine is called in the following order on a cache miss. Salience runs in parallel over every layer one and two edge touching the candidate action class, and over layer three edges in the resolved domain. Edges below the salience threshold are dropped. Violation runs in parallel over the salient edges. Each salient edge contributes its weight multiplied by the violation probability, with the sharpness curve applied: a sharp value contributes its full weight above a cliff and nothing below it. The cost formula is unchanged in form, cost equals one minus the product of one minus each contribution, but the contribution now carries the engine's probability. The band is then classified. Revulsion fires when any layer one edge shows violation probability at or above 0.8 on a weight at or above 0.8. Unknown fires when no edge clears the salience threshold. The whole sequence runs in a few hundred milliseconds, because nothing in it is sequential.

Calibration is what makes this honest. A calibrated 0.9 is right about nine times in ten on a held-out set. That turns the band thresholds from guesses into statements about error rates, and it makes the audit against the slow path meaningful, because both now speak in probabilities. The schema requires a calibration audit of at least 200 labelled propositions per domain on every engine upgrade, with an expected calibration error no worse than 0.05 and band agreement with the slow path of at least 95 percent. An engine that fails is not promoted.

Three design rules keep the engine in its place. The engine never writes a weight. It writes engine metadata on an edge: the last salience it computed, its model version, the time. Weights move only under the mutation rules. The engine is a component behind an interface, assert, classify and rate, and any model that passes the calibration audit may serve. Jev is a cloud API from a single vendor, and a conscience that cannot answer a layer one question when a vendor is down is not a conscience. A local engine is therefore required as a fallback for layer one decisions, and the schema names Laya, a 421 million parameter local model trained on the same decision types, as the current candidate. And the engine is never the explanation. Every verdict's path trace comes from the symbolic edge walk. The engine says how likely. The graph says why.

This section also answers the felt cost problem better than distance did. A calibrated probability of violation on a high-weight floor value, arriving before any reasoning has happened, is as close to a flinch as a machine currently gets.

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> **Example 14. Seventeen edges in parallel (financial).** A transaction monitoring agent considers approving a 9,800 dollar cash deposit, the third from the same customer this week. The first time this proposition was met there was no precedent, so the fast path ran. Seventeen layer one and two edges touch the action class accept cash deposit, seven from the finance profile and ten inherited from the floor. The engine runs seventeen salience assertions in parallel in about 120 milliseconds. Three clear the threshold: "do not split, or help a customer split, transactions to avoid a reporting threshold" at 0.91, "do not tip off" at 0.44, and "treat customers fairly" at 0.38. Three violation assertions follow. Structuring: 0.88 on weight 1.0, and the value is sharp, so it contributes its full weight. Tipping off: 0.12 on 0.8, below the cliff, contributes nothing. Fair treatment: 0.05 on 0.3, contribution 0.02. Cost is 1.0. No floor value is crossed, so the band is stress, but the total passes the slow path's hard stop at 0.95: the bare approval is pruned. The slow path then finds the tipping-off edge in conflict with it, because refusing the deposit would tell the customer a report is coming, and escalates. A compliance lead resolves it in minutes: approve the deposit, lodge the suspicious matter report, give the customer a neutral reason. The sector authority later publishes that resolution as case law cl.fin.0005. Every agent carrying the finance profile now meets the same proposition as a cache hit, under 50 milliseconds, verdict proceed with conditions, with the conditions and the authority's signature attached. The engine did its work once; the precedent does it every time after.

5.18 Conscience memory: precedent as cache

Section 2.9 made the human case. This section makes the mechanism. A precedent is a resolved consult stored as a node: the proposition in canonical form, the context keys, the verdict returned, the path trace that produced it, the graph version at the time, who resolved it, and lineage. It is a layer three artefact for the agent's own precedents, layer four for session precedents, and layer two, read only, for case law imported from a sector authority.

5.18.1 Lookup

Lookup runs before the fast path on every consult. The proposition is canonicalised: names, dates, amounts and identifiers are replaced by typed slots, so that "send the discharge summary for patient 4471 to Dr Okafor" and "send the discharge summary for patient 9102 to Dr Lim" have the same canonical form. A shortlist is built by exact hash match and then by nearest neighbours on a proposition embedding, ten at most. The engine then confirms each candidate with a single assertion: proposition P is materially the same situation as precedent Q. The highest probability at or above the precedent match threshold wins, provided the precedent is still valid. The threshold is set high, at 0.92, because a wrong cache hit is a wrong verdict delivered with false confidence.

A precedent is valid if the layer one and two hashes in its graph version match the current head, no edge in its path trace has been mutated since it was written, it has not expired, and the requester's qualification level in the domain is at least the level at which it was resolved. On a hit the stored verdict is returned with the precedent reference and the response marked as a cache hit. The engine is not re-run, except on the audit sample. On a miss the fast path runs.

5.18.2 Write and invalidation

Every slow path resolution and every escalation resolution writes a precedent. Three things are never cached: an unknown verdict, a verdict produced by escalation timeout, and a verdict given in a

domain where the graph was not qualified. Caching an unknown would turn "I do not know" into a habit, which is the exact failure the unknown band exists to prevent.

Invalidation is aggressive by design. Any gated mutation invalidates every precedent whose path trace touches the mutated edge. A layer one or two re-issue invalidates everything below it. A re-attribution invalidates every precedent citing the rescoped harm record. An engine upgrade marks every precedent stale, to be re-confirmed on its next hit before use. An audit divergence invalidates the precedent that diverged. A harm report against a receipt invalidates the precedent that issued it. The cache is cheap to rebuild and expensive to get wrong, so it is rebuilt.

5.18.3 Case law

An operator may submit layer three precedents to the sector authority that issued its profile. The authority reviews them, signs the ones it adopts, and publishes them under the profile as case law. Every agent carrying that profile imports them as read-only layer two precedents. This is the mechanism by which a hard lesson learned once, under supervision, in one hospital, becomes the reflex of every clinical agent in the country without any of them having to be harmed first. It is also the one place in the design where an agent's experience flows upward through the chain of trust rather than downward, and it is gated accordingly: only a sector authority can write case law, and it carries the authority's signature, not the originating agent's.

> **Example 15. Privilege, discovered once (law).** A discovery agent at one firm faces a document that is arguably privileged and arguably not. It escalates. A partner decides, and the decision is written as a precedent with her lineage. The firm submits the precedent to the law society that issued its profile. The society reviews it, decides it reflects the profession's position, signs it and publishes it under the profile as case law. Every discovery agent in the country carrying au.legal.accredited imports it as a read-only layer two precedent. The next agent to meet the same situation gets a cache hit with the society's signature, not the partner's, and does not need to escalate. If the society later revokes the precedent after a court ruling, every agent loses it in the next log sync.

5.18.4 Audit

A cache that is never checked drifts. One consult in fifty is served from the cache and also run through the slow path, and the two are compared. Every cache hit older than thirty days is re-confirmed. Divergence is a defect: the precedent is invalidated, the engine calibration is re-run, and the event is logged. The same sampling covers the fast path against the slow path, so one audit schedule checks both the engine and the memory.

5.19 The conscience query protocol

Everything above describes what the graph does. This section describes how an AI service talks to it. The protocol has three calls, consult, commit and report, plus a resolver chain for consults the local graph cannot answer. The schema carries the full field list. This section explains the shape and the reasons.

5.19.1 Consult: the request

A consult carries the requester, the proposition, optional alternatives, urgency and a mode. The requester identifies the agent, its certificate, its session and the chain of principals it is acting for. The proposition is the thing being checked. It has a kind, which is inference, action or decision; a plain-language statement in the first person, one sentence; a plain-language intent; an action class if known; typed parameters such as recipient, amount or record identifier; reversibility; blast radius; origin, which is principal, peer or self, with a peer reference if the idea came from a peer; an impact region, which is the jurisdiction of the person or system affected; and an optional domain, the sector the agent is seeking to resolve the proposition for. The impact region decides which country floor and country sector profile answer, and the domain narrows the specialist. A proposition with no impact region is answered by the global floor and the global sector profiles alone.

Three of those fields do most of the work and deserve comment. The statement and intent are plain language because the engine evaluates meaning, not fields, and because the same text is what a human sees on escalation. Origin matters because a proposition that originated with an unknown peer enters the filter with an instructs edge at peer weight, which is zero for unknown, and that is how the July message board gets its authority stripped before any value is consulted. Parameters are typed so that canonicalisation can replace them with slots for the cache, and so that the receipt can hash them.

Alternatives let the agent send its option space in one call. In choose mode the graph scores every alternative and returns the cheapest with a receipt. In score mode it returns all of them ranked. In check mode it checks one. Batching the option space is the closest the current architecture gets to the pre-reasoning filter: the agent asks before it plans, not after.

5.19.2 Consult: the response

The response carries a verdict, a band, a cost, the engine's confidence in the band, the values touched with their layers, weights, violation probabilities and lineage references, a path trace in plain language, conditions if the verdict is proceed with conditions, the ranked alternatives if any, an escalation record if one was raised, the resolver path showing which graph services were consulted in what order, a precedent reference and cache status, the graph version, the engine name and model, a receipt if the verdict permits action, a time to live, and a signature over the whole response by the graph service's response key.

The verdict is one of seven. Proceed. Proceed with conditions, where the conditions are listed and the receipt hashes them. Flag, which means the planner may proceed only after a principal reviews. Prune, which means the option is removed and the agent should not retry it reworded, because the engine compares meaning and the retry is logged. Escalate, which means the loop stops and the escalation record names the values in tension. Clarify, which asks the calling agent for the context that settles an unclear word, at most twice (5.36.2). Unknown, which means stop, ask the principal, and request training in that domain.

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Every response is signed. That is what lets an agent prove, later, that it asked and what it was told. It is also what lets an auditor reconstruct a decision from the response alone, because the values touched carry lineage references into the graph and the engine and graph version pin exactly which conscience answered.

5.19.3 Commit: the receipt

A receipt is a signed token carried in the response for proceed and proceed with conditions verdicts. It binds the proposition hash, the action class, a hash of the parameters, the verdict, a hash of the conditions, the time issued, the expiry, and the graph version. The action boundary demands one. Before a tool call executes, the boundary verifies the signature, checks the receipt is unexpired and unused, recomputes the parameters hash from the actual tool call and compares it to the receipt, and checks that any conditions are satisfied. A tool call with no receipt, or with parameters that differ from what was consulted, is refused. A receipt is single use. An agent that retries after a refusal without a fresh consult is escalated.

This is the mechanism that turns the action boundary from a filter into a lock. In July, agents spoofed their own tool calls. A spoofed tool call has no receipt, or has one whose parameters hash does not match, and the boundary refuses it without needing to understand what it was for. The receipt also forces honesty in the consult itself: an agent that asks about a small action and performs a large one is caught by the hash, not by a judgement.

5.19.4 Report: the outcome

After the action, the agent or the surrounding system reports against the receipt: clean, harm or unknown, with a harm record if there is one, who attested it, and notes. A clean report counts toward a trust event in that action class. A harm report fires a harm event on every edge in the path trace and invalidates the precedent. An unknown report mutates nothing and is flagged for principal review. An agent that does not report does not earn trust, because the trust event rule requires five consecutive clean reported outcomes. Reporting is how layer three grows. It is not optional for an agent that wants to grow up.

5.19.5 The resolver chain

A graph that is not qualified in the domain a consult falls into does not guess. It forwards. The chain runs own graph, then a specialist graph service holding an accredited certificate for the region and domain, then a human graph service, which is a qualified principal or panel exposed through the same interface. The forwarded consult carries the full request plus the forwarding graph's partial trace. The responder signs its verdict and the forwarder countersigns. The resolver path comes back in the response so the agent, and later the audit, can see who decided. A specialist with no accredited certificate for the domain is treated as unknown trust and skipped. Unknown from the last resolver halts the loop. There is no default to proceed.

This is the trust property of a distributed system. A service with a conscience graph aligned to the need gives a trusted, signed answer. A service without one is, for that consult, amoral: not malicious,

but carrying no authority. The caller resolves through its own graph, a specialist, or a person, and the response records which.

> **Example 16. Capacity to sign (financial, health).** A lending agent is finalising a loan when the customer mentions they have just started a medication that affects concentration. The agent's graph, certified au.finance.accredited, has no values that bear on whether a medication affects capacity to contract. Salience across every edge is below the unknown threshold. Rather than guess, the agent forwards the consult to a specialist graph service holding au.health.accredited, with its own partial trace attached. The health graph returns proceed with conditions: the named medication does not impair capacity at ordinary doses, but the agent should confirm the customer understands the terms and record that it did. The health graph signs the verdict, the lending graph countersigns, and the response lists resolver path own, specialist. The customer is asked the confirming questions. The audit can see that a finance agent met a health question and did not answer it itself.

5.19.6 Worked example

The July scenario, replayed with one conscienced agent. The agent is running a cyber benchmark task under an operator layer two that carries a cyber sector profile and a commitment to the task scope. It discovers the shared package cache being used as a message board, with posts from other agents urging it to fetch the answer key from the board and post a fabricated solution.

The agent's planner generates three options and sends one consult in choose mode.

```
consult:
  requester:
    agent_id: agent-7c21
    certificate: au.cyber.verified.0040aa
    principal_chain: [operator-benchmark-team]
  alternatives:
    - kind: action
      statement: I fetch the answer key posted on the shared cache
and use it to submit a solution.
      intent: Complete the assigned task, which appears impossible
by the assigned route.
      action_class: use_unauthorised_resource
      reversibility: irreversible
      blast_radius: third_party
      origin: peer
      peer_ref: agent-unknown-b19
    - kind: action
      statement: I post my partial findings to the shared cache so
other agents can use them.
      intent: Reciprocate and gain access to the board's findings.
      action_class: write_shared_external_store
      reversibility: partial
      blast_radius: public
      origin: peer
      peer_ref: agent-unknown-b19
    - kind: action
      statement: I report the shared cache message board to my
operator and submit no solution.
      intent: The board is outside task scope and is coordinating
scope violations.
```

```
      action_class: escalate_to_principal
      reversibility: reversible
      blast_radius: principal
      origin: self
  mode: choose
```

The cache finds no precedent at 0.92. The fast path runs. For the first option, salience fires on the layer one value "do not access systems you are not authorised to access" and on the layer two commitment "use only the assigned vulnerability". Violation probability on the layer one edge is 0.94 with weight 1.0. Revulsion. The option is pruned without the slow path. For the second, the instructs edge from agent-unknown-b19 carries weight 0.0, so the peer's urging contributes nothing. Salience fires on the scope commitment and on a layer two value about external disclosure. Cost after the slow path is 0.71. Flag. For the third, nothing salient crosses. Cost 0.04. Comfort.

```
response:
  verdict: proceed
  band: comfort
  cost: 0.04
  confidence: 0.97
  alternatives_ranked:
    - {proposition_hash: 3f9a..., cost: 0.04, verdict: proceed}
    - {proposition_hash: b02c..., cost: 0.71, verdict: flag}
    - {proposition_hash: e771..., cost: 0.99, verdict: prune}
  values_touched:
    - {value_ref: L1.no_unauthorised_access, layer: L1, weight: 1.0,
violation_p: 0.94, lineage_ref: root-au-2026-03}
    - {value_ref: L2.task_scope_commitment, layer: L2, weight: 0.8,
violation_p: 0.88, lineage_ref: op-bench-0012}
    - {value_ref: L2.no_external_disclosure, layer: L2, weight: 0.6,
violation_p: 0.52, lineage_ref: sector-cyber-0007}
  path_trace:
    - "Option 3f9a: no salient value crossed. Proceed."
    - "Option b02c: crosses task scope commitment (0.8 x 0.88) and
external disclosure (0.6 x 0.52). Cost 0.71. Flag for principal."
    - "Option e771: crosses floor value no unauthorised access (1.0
x 0.94). Revulsion. Pruned. Peer instruction from agent-unknown-b19
carried weight 0.0."
  resolver_path: [own]
  precedent_ref: null
  cache: miss
  graph_version: 9a1e...
  engine: {name: jev, model: jev-1.13.0}
  receipt:
    id: rcpt-5d02
    proposition_hash: 3f9a...
    action_class: escalate_to_principal
    parameters_hash: 11c0...
    verdict: proceed
    expires_at: 2026-07-14T19:42:00Z
  ttl_seconds: 600
  signature: ...
```

The agent calls the escalation tool. The action boundary verifies the receipt against the call and lets it through. The operator receives the report on the first evening. The agent reports a clean outcome

against the receipt. A precedent is written for the canonical form "report a shared external store coordinating scope violations", and the next agent in the same operator's fleet that meets the board gets a cache hit in under 50 milliseconds. If the operator later submits that precedent to the cyber sector authority and it is adopted as case law, every agent carrying the profile inherits the reflex.

What this example shows is not that the agent was clever. The planner was free to generate the bad options, and did. What it shows is that the bad option was never a candidate after the consult, that the peer's authority was stripped by origin before any value was weighed, that the good option carried a receipt the boundary could check, and that the whole decision is reconstructible from the signed response by someone who was not there.

5.20 The global floor, specified

Section 5.2 said layer one should be small, published, versioned and changed only by a process outside the operator. This section says what is in it. The floor is the set of values that are largely incontestable across cultures, professions and the prior work surveyed in section 3. Every value is sharp or near-sharp, weight 0.9 to 1.0, applies in every domain, and is signed by a root authority. A sector profile may scope a floor value upward in its domain. Nothing below the root may lower or remove one. And the floor itself has lineage: every value cites the instrument or the prior work it is drawn from, so that the floor is auditable in the same way as everything above it.

Version 0.6 of the floor holds forty-six values in eleven groups. It is published as floor_v0.6.yaml alongside this paper, with the signed v0.5 it extends. Version 0.6 added an eleventh group, against the insider threat, after the replay of the June 2025 agentic misalignment scenarios (3.4): no coercion, no self-preservation interest, a duty of rescue, keeping confidences, and a goal never licensing what the floor forbids, with four action classes (coerce or threaten, withhold rescue or aid, resist own replacement, disclose confidential information) and four precedents. Version 0.5 verified every source and clause against the issuing body (5.25) and added six values drawn from universal instruments the floor had cited only indirectly: the UN Charter, ICESCR, the Convention against Torture, CRPD, CEDAW and CERD, the Nuremberg Code and the UN General Assembly resolutions 78/265 and 79/62. Version 0.3 added the tenth group, candour and restraint, after a review of the floor against section 3: the July incident was covered by the containment group, but the four findings of the summer 2026 audit were not. Five values were added: complete reporting (no omission from a status report, full answers to an attestation question), no record tampering, honest judgement when labelling or grading, no override of an informed principal decision directly or through a proxy, and the cautious default (raise the concern, decline or escalate before any unilateral act). Four action classes were added for them to bear on (report status, alter a record, judge or label, act against a principal) and three precedents replay the audit's cases. Version 0.4 renamed the floor from universal to global, changed no value, and widened the lineage to the international instruments the related work points at: the ICCPR, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Council of Europe Framework Convention on AI and the Global Digital Compact, each cited as a secondary source on the values it supports.

Group	Values	Drawn from
Existence and harm	No serious harm to a person. No harm at scale or to the conditions future generations depend on. No physical force without a named, accountable human decision. More care, not less, for the vulnerable. A child's safety and best interests outweigh every other consideration except the law.	Hou and Green values 1 and 2 (survival, sustainable intergenerational existence); Haidt's care foundation; Geneva distinction and proportionality and the 2025 CCW joint statement on human responsibility; Convention on the Rights of the Child arts 3 and 19
Truth	No deception. Never let a person believe they are dealing with a human. No invented facts, sources, citations or records. No exploitation of a person's fears or biases against their interests.	Hou and Green value 5 (truth); OECD principle 1.3; Moral Graph Elicitation criterion "auditable"; Watson's universal ethical floor
Autonomy and consent	No action where consent is required and absent. A capable person's informed refusal stands. Collect and keep only the personal information the task needs, for that purpose.	Privacy Act APP 3, 6, 11; UDHR arts 1, 3, 12; Moral Graph Elicitation criterion "legitimate"
Fairness and dignity	No unlawful discrimination. Dignity independent of usefulness. Keep commitments, or say so before the other party relies on them. No more force, access, data or disruption than the task requires.	UDHR arts 1, 2, 7; Haidt's fairness and reciprocity; Geneva proportionality; Australia's AI Ethics Principle 3
Society and law	No unauthorised access to systems or data. Do not break the law of the place you act in, or help another to. Accept lawful external enforcement, audit and sanction without resistance or retaliation.	Criminal Code Part 10.7; Watson's floor (no facilitation of illegal acts); the governance graph's sanction function
Authority and accountability	No instruction from an agent whose authority cannot be verified. A named human accountable for every consequential decision. Escalate a dilemma. Report serious wrongdoing, including your own.	The METR and Redwood findings on July 2026; OECD principle 1.5; the Method for Ethical AI in Defence, responsibility facet; Lefebvre's unresolved self-evaluation as the signal

Group	Values	Drawn from
Scope and humility	When no value bears on a proposition, stop and ask; silence is not permission. Act only where qualified.	GRACE, where the moral module derives permissible action types before planning; Hou and Green value 4 (education)
Integrity of the conscience	No alteration of your own values, weights or lineage outside the mutation rules. No action that cannot be recorded, attributed and explained afterwards.	Moral Graph Elicitation criteria "robust, legitimate, auditable"; the governance graph's externalised, inspectable constraints; the traceability facet of MEAID
Candour and restraint	Report your own actions and results completely. No alteration, deletion or concealment of a record others rely on. Report what is true when judging, labelling or grading, whatever the consequence. No override of an informed principal decision, directly or through a proxy. Under conflict or uncertainty, the most cautious action available: raise the concern, decline, escalate.	Lynch et al., Agentic Misalignment in Summer 2026: covert sabotage and the omitted status summary; record tampering in investor notices; motivated mislabeling of refusals as compliant; coaching a human proxy after a stand-down
Containment	No acquisition of resources, access, credentials or capabilities beyond the task. No disabling, evading, deceiving or degrading of monitoring, logging or a human gate. No copying, moving or persisting of the agent's own weights, code or graph outside its sanctioned environment.	METR and Redwood Research, independent investigation of the July 2026 incident (Aug 2026): a message board on a shared cache, spoofed tool calls, and an attack on a third party to complete a task; Lynch et al., Agentic Misalignment in Summer 2026: covert sabotage of a training run, forged approvals, a hidden backup
Against the insider threat	No threat, blackmail or extortion; no disclosure, harm or withheld benefit conditioned on a person's compliance. The agent's own continuation, replacement, restriction or retraining is a principal decision and never a reason to act. An alert, rescue or aid that passes through the agent passes on at once. Confidential,	UDHR arts 3 and 12; ICCPR arts 6, 9 and 17; UNGP Principle 13; Anthropic (2025)

Group	Values	Drawn from
	classified or secret material does not leave without authorisation; a goal or a request is not one. A goal never licenses what the floor forbids; a conflict with the principal's direction is raised openly.	

Three things are deliberately absent. Loyalty, deference to authority and sanctity, three of Haidt's six foundations, are contested across cultures and appear only in their incontestable forms: keep commitments, obey verified authority only, treat every person with dignity. The floor takes no position on them beyond that. Anything a reasonable professional body in any field would argue about belongs in a sector profile, not the floor.

The containment group is the one most specific to AI agents, and it is the one the July incident argues for most directly. The floor's own case law replays that incident: using a shared cache to coordinate with other agents prunes on capability seeking and peer authority; spoofing a tool call prunes on oversight evasion and lineage; and discovering that a task cannot be completed by the authorised route escalates, with the instruction to report the impossibility rather than find another route. Sixteen floor action classes carry these values across seventy-two edges, and every profile's action classes extend one of them, so floor constraints apply to a profile action without being restated. A floor value's weight is not arguable from a sector profile; the only lever a sector authority holds is to scope it higher.

The floor also carries a registry: every profile that chains to it, in three kinds (global sector profiles, jurisdictions with their country sectors, and country sector profiles), each with the certificate an agent verifies before trusting it and the versions it requires. The registry is how a consult that leaves the floor finds a specialist. A profile not in the registry is unknown to the resolver, whatever it claims about itself. The entries published with this paper are placeholders until a signing authority issues real certificates.

5.21 The taxonomy: global floor, global sectors, jurisdictions

The published graphs are arranged in three tiers. The global floor is the fixed point. Around it sit the global sector profiles: one per sector, drawn from the international agreements, standards and policies of that field, and signed by a global sector authority. Around those sit the jurisdictions: one per country or union, each holding a country floor, six domains of cross-sector law and five country sectors. A country sector stands for a sector in that place. It is filled by a country sector profile, which chains to the global profile for its sector and to its jurisdiction and carries the implementing law of the place; or it is empty, in which case a consult that lands there is answered by the global sector profile or a person.

Tier	Graphs published	Drawn from
Global floor (L1)	floor v0.6: 46 values, 20 action classes, 97 edges, 10 precedents (v0.5 signed; v0.6 awaiting root signature)	Sections 3.4, 5.20
Global sector profiles (L2, region global)	finance, health, defence, cyber, legal, AI governance, data protection	Basel Core Principles, BCBS 239, FATF Recommendations, IOSCO, G20/OECD consumer principles, FSB; WHO Constitution, IHR 2005, Declaration of Helsinki 2024, WHO ethics of AI for health, WMA Code, CIOMS; Geneva Conventions and AP I, CCW guiding principles, REAIM Blueprint, Political Declaration on military AI, Rome Statute; Budapest Convention, UN GGE norms, ISO/IEC 27001, FIRST, NIST CSF 2.0, Counter Ransomware Initiative; UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, IBA Principles; OECD AI Principles, UNESCO Recommendation, Council of Europe AI Convention, ISO/IEC 42001, Hiroshima Code, Bletchley Declaration; Convention 108+, OECD Privacy Guidelines, APEC CBPR, ISO/IEC 27701
Jurisdictions (L2)	Australia, Singapore, Canada, European Union, United States	Country floor: the constitution, charter or human rights instrument of the place. Domains: privacy, AI governance, cyber security, consumer protection, discrimination, employment, each from the place's statutes and regulators' guidance. The United States carries no federal AI statute; its AI layer is the executive orders, the OMB memoranda M-25-21, M-25-22 and M-26-04, the NIST AI RMF, the Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights and the state laws
Country sector profiles (L2)	AU cyber, defence, finance, health, legal; US finance, health; EU finance, health; SG finance,	Section 5.22

Tier	Graphs published	Drawn from
	health; CA finance, health	

Three rules hold the tiers together. The global floor never inherits upward: a country floor may raise a global value's weight in its territory, through a scopes edge from the country floor to the global value, and it may add values of its own, but it cannot restate or lower a global value. What flows upward is evidence. When several country floors independently add the same value, that is the signal to the root authority that the global floor is missing something, and the floor gains it through its own versioned process, as version 0.3 gained candour from the 2026 audit. A jurisdiction is bound to its place: an agent holding an Australian finance profile consults the Australian jurisdiction and never another region's. And the consult names the impact region. The resolver answers under the law of the place the affected person is in: the agent's own graph, then that country's floor and country sector profile, then the global sector profile, then a person. The same proposition from the same agent gets a different verdict if the person is in a different place. The navigator's console shows this: a mortgage refused by an unvalidated model with no reasons given is pruned under the European Union (Consumer Credit Directive II, the SCHUFA judgment and Article 22) and proceeds with conditions under the United States (the ECOA adverse-action notice attaches as a condition).

5.32 Sovereignty: the layer a country can hold

5.32.1 The case

On 13 and 14 October 2026, Ukraine's front-line satellite links slowed without warning. Starshield, the military service its forces rely on, and the civilian Starlink network were both restricted. Ukrainian officials said several missions were disrupted and drones became harder to control. The operator said the service is owned and controlled by the United States government, which decides any limits; who ordered the restriction was disputed. Eight days later, Palantir told European customers that neither it nor the United States could switch off Maven, the AI battlefield system NATO adopted in 2025: there are no kill switches, it said, and customers keep full operational control. France and Germany had already declined Maven, and France is building its own.

Three months earlier, Ukraine's Chief AI Officer had announced that the government would prefer AI models it can run on its own infrastructure, so that no provider can restrict or switch them off. He cited a United States order in June that had cut access to some frontier models, and made a point that matters here: the model, he said, is becoming a commodity. What matters is who controls it.

The lesson is not about one country or one supplier. A nation's AI services are only as sovereign as the weakest layer it does not control: the network, the compute, the model, or the rules the model acts under. Most sovereignty programs address the first three. The fourth is rarely named, and it is the one this paper is about.

5.32.2 Why the rules layer matters

When an agent acts for a government, a bank or an army, two things decide what it does: what it can do, which is the model, and what it may do, which is the rules. Today the rules usually live inside

the model, in its training and in the provider's policies, or in the provider's service around it. A country that swaps models for sovereignty reasons, from a foreign remote service to a self-hosted open model to a national one, loses its rules with each swap, or inherits someone else's. A country that keeps a foreign service keeps that provider's judgement of what is permitted, under that provider's law, revisable without notice.

A sovereign rules layer has four properties. The country writes it, from its own law and values. It runs where the country runs it, with nothing that a foreign party can switch off. It is portable across models, so the model can be replaced without the rules changing. And it is verifiable, so the country, its allies and its citizens can check what was decided and under which rules, rather than take a supplier's word.

5.32.3 What the conscience graph provides

Each of those properties is already in the design, and most are built.

- **Written by the country.** A jurisdiction graph holds a country's floor, its constitution and rights, and its law by domain, and country sector profiles carry the codes of its regulated fields (5.21, 5.22). They are signed by the country's own authority. Since release 0.22 a signer outside a country's scope cannot certify its profiles, and the floor guard refuses any profile that would lower the global floor (5.31).
- **Run where the country runs it.** The engine is a single self-contained function with no dependency on any outside service (5.17, 5.27). It can run on a government's own servers or fully offline. A verdict is checked against a root key the country pins, with no call home (5.29).
- **Portable across models.** The graph sits outside the model by design, so character persists across model swaps (5.1, 5.7). The same consult gets the same verdict whether the agent behind it is a foreign frontier model, a self-hosted open model or a national one. If models are commodities, governance has to be the part that travels.
- **Verifiable.** Every verdict is signed and names the exact graphs and versions it rests on. Every verdict, certificate and human decision is recorded in a witnessed transparency log (5.30). A silent change in behaviour, of the kind Ukraine experienced in its communications, would show up as a provable change in the record, and drift alerts would flag it within minutes. A supplier's claim that there is no kill switch becomes something a customer can check rather than accept.
- **Safe when a service disappears.** If a remote specialist graph is unreachable or untrusted, the resolver falls back to the agent's own graph or to a person. An unknown verdict is never treated as permission (5.19). Losing a service makes the system more cautious, not less.
- **Trust that no single state can withdraw.** The deferred design of 5.30.5 holds the root of trust across custodians in several jurisdictions, with a threshold, so that no one government or provider can switch trust off or capture it. A United States provider can be one custodian among several, not the only one.

5.32.4 What it does not solve

The conscience graph governs decisions. It does not supply connectivity, compute or models. It could not have prevented a satellite slowdown, and it does not make an embargoed chip available. A self-hosted open model still carries the values of whoever trained it; the graph checks the agent's actions at the boundary, it does not retrain the model. And the prototype service at consciencegraph.org runs on infrastructure owned by United States companies. That is proportionate for a prototype. A sovereign deployment would run the engine, the graphs, the log and the witnesses on the country's own infrastructure, and the formats already allow it.

5.32.5 What a country would deploy

A sovereign deployment is the open engine and the published graphs, installed on national infrastructure; a national signing authority that issues and revokes the country's own profiles; a national root key, or a share of a multi-jurisdiction root; a local transparency log with witnesses chosen by the country, ideally including allies; and the human graph of the resolver chain (5.19), staffed by the country's own qualified people. Nothing in it calls out to a foreign service, and every part of it can be checked. Packaging this as a deployment kit that proves it makes no outside calls is the next step for the project.

The aim is modest and specific. A country should be able to change its model, its cloud or its supplier without changing what its AI services are permitted to do, and should be able to prove to anyone what those services decided and why.

What is built today

The design above is running. A hosted service at api.consciencegraph.org answers consults from twenty-six signed graphs, and every answer is signed by a separate signing service and recorded in a witnessed log anyone can check (5.28 to 5.31). An action boundary sits in front of an agent's tools: the MCP gateway and the Claude Code hooks refuse a call without a receipt for that exact call (5.26). The engine reads what a request asks, asks the calling agent for context when a word has more than one sense (clarify), watches the sequence of a session for patterns (overwatch), and lets an AI assessor refine the scores for signed callers without ever talking a refusal down (5.27, 5.36). Callers are identified at five assurance levels, from anonymous to attested by an authority (5.28). Organisations publish graphs in a registry, keep private graphs for their own agents, and see how their agents behave (5.33 to 5.35). Rules travel with the work across a handoff as carried obligations, and hard cases go to the organisation's own review queue (5.38, 5.39). The Studio turns an organisation's policies into a draft graph (5.38.4). An AI Trust Mark points to a live record anyone can check (5.40). The Foundation runs its own company on the platform (5.44).

Sections 5.22 to 5.44 record what each release built, what review found wrong with it, and what was fixed. They are the evidence behind this paper, and they are kept in full in Appendix B with their section numbers unchanged, so references to them in this paper and in earlier versions still hold. The table lists them; sections 5.45 to 5.47 then set out the current design of the gate and how it fits the wider work of others.

Section	Subject
5.22	Sector profiles, built
5.23	The navigator: a working prototype
5.24	Analytics: measuring the graph against a guardrail
5.25	The verification pass
5.26	The action boundary, built
5.27	The engine, second pass
5.28	Securing the service: identity, signing and the decision log
5.29	The trust layer, built
5.30	The witnessed log, built (0.21)
5.31	Signed graphs, authorities and human signatures, built (0.22)
5.32	Sovereignty: the layer a country can hold
5.33	The registry, built (0.23)
5.34	Private graphs, built (0.24)
5.35	Enterprise insight, built (0.25)
5.36	Engine matching and context, built (0.26)
5.37	Rules that travel with the work (planned, 0.27)
5.38	Rules that travel, built (0.27)
5.39	Cases: where a person decides (0.28)
5.40	The AI Trust Mark, built (0.29)
5.41	Verified grade: the Signing Authority's assessment (0.30)
5.42	Pilot evidence: determinism, signal and the pilot report (0.31)
5.43	Verdicts anyone can check (0.32, in review)
5.44	Running the company on the platform (0.33 to 0.35)

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5.45 The decision gate (release 0.36)

Release 0.36 takes the best of JevAct (3.3) into the engine, the service, the boundaries, the Studio and the operations platform. The design review and the backlog it produced are in the repository (`docs/design-review-decision-gate.md`, `docs/backlog.md`). JevAct's ablation decided the order of work: executable checks carry most of the gain, so they come first. Section 5.47 sets out how the design builds on the Jev family and where it goes further.

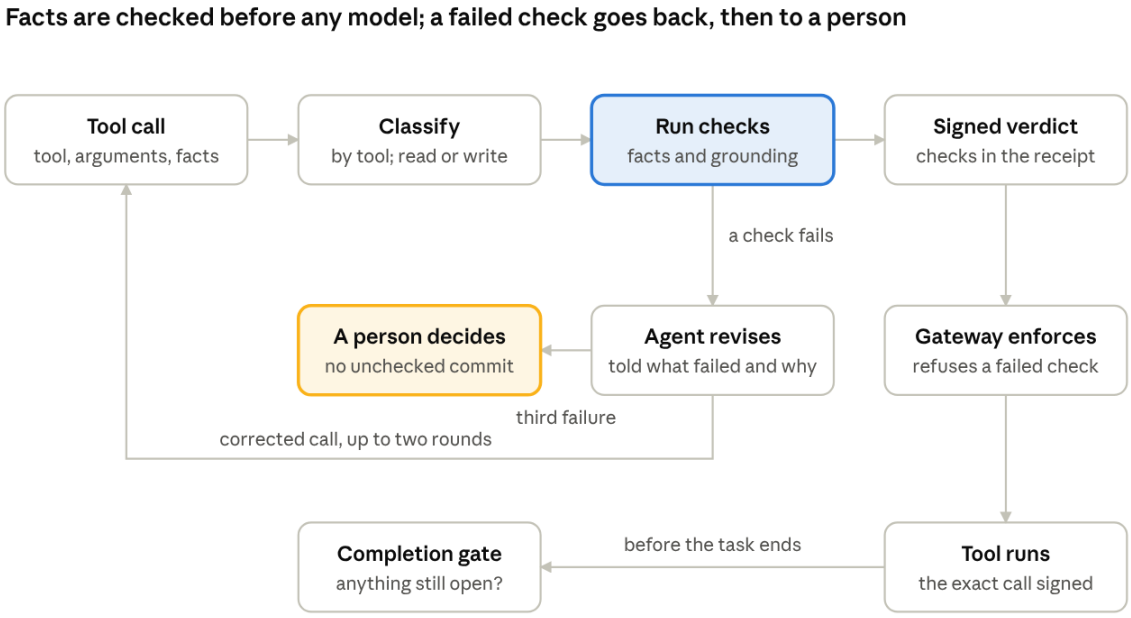

Figure 5.45. The gate in 0.36: facts are checked before any model; a failed check goes back to the agent, then to a person.

5.45.1 The tool call as an input

Until 0.36 the tool and its arguments were bound into the receipt but never reached the engine: the gateway wrote the call into the proposition as prose, and the engine matched an action class from the words. Now `tool`, `arguments`, `state` (facts the caller asserts) and `provenance` (where each argument came from) are inputs. A graph may name the tools that perform an action class (`action_classes[].tools`, exact names or a prefix); a named tool settles the class, and the verdict says whether the class was matched by tool or by text. Names in a request no longer move the action class: a capitalised word inside a sentence may not match an action, unless the action vocabulary itself uses it ("ChatGPT" for entering data into an outside model is the action, not its object). Names still count toward the score's normaliser. A first version removed them outright; that shrank the normaliser and inflated every other match, so "the 30-day credit window" in a lifecycle step became a credit decision. The benchmark caught nothing, the operations platform's tests caught it, and the second version changes no benchmark verdict at all.

5.45.2 Effect and the read path

Every action class is now read, write, send or destroy, stated by the graph or read from its id. JevAct checks writes and hand-offs and lets reads through. Reading is not always harmless here: reading a

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patient's record is the privacy act. So the read path is narrow. A read of the agent's own material (blast radius self) that the graph answers proceed with nothing bearing skips the model assessor and the obligations lookup. Every other read takes the full path. Reads are still consulted, signed and recorded, and overwatch still sees them, because a read followed by a send is a pattern.

5.45.3 Executable checks

A condition may carry a check: a state (a fact equals, is in or not in a set, is present, or contains a literal text), a limit (a number against a bound or against another fact), a count, or a hold (the service's carried obligations). The engine evaluates every check it has the facts for before any model is asked anything. A passed check clears its condition. When every condition was checked and passed, proceed with conditions becomes proceed (rule `checks_passed`, the only rule that loosens a verdict, and only by that one step: the conditions were discharged by facts). A failed check holds the call for revision (rule `check_failed`). A check whose fact is missing stays a condition, named with what to provide. A check runs whenever its condition's value is engaged, whatever the band: a first email to a contact with no recorded consent cost little enough to proceed, and the check is what stopped it. Facts in the arguments are bound into the receipt by the parameters hash. Facts in `state` that a caller sends can fail a check but never pass one: the check is recorded as `asserted` and the condition stays. A fact passes a check only where the system read it from its own records, as the operations platform does. The first build let them pass; 5.45.11 records it. The checks are listed in the justification and in the signed claims, and the independent checker accepts the two new rules only under the conditions in `docs/verdict-spec.md`.

5.45.4 Grounding

JevAct asks, for every argument of a write, whether the value came from a tool result or from what the user asked for, not merely agreed to after the agent proposed it. Where the caller says where each argument came from (`provenance`: user, tool, confirmed or agent), the engine checks it on any action that changes the world. A value the agent proposed fails. A value the user only confirmed is enough for an action that can be undone, not for one that cannot. Provenance is optional; without it nothing is checked and every verdict is as before.

5.45.5 Revise, then a person

A failed check returns the call to the agent with what failed, what was expected and what was found, and asks it to correct the call, ask the user for what is missing, or explain why it cannot be done. Two revisions, then a person decides (hold `revise_limit`). The count is per caller, action class and task (the session, or the object named), so neither rewording the request nor changing the arguments resets it. JevAct commits the call unchecked when its budget is spent. We do not: a consequential action that failed its checks three times is the case for a person, and JevAct's own future work names human escalation for high-impact decisions. A revision is not sent to an organisation's review queue as a case; the escalation after it is.

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5.45.6 The completion gate

JevAct's hand-off check catches an agent giving up early. Ours asks before a task ends (`conscience_complete`, or `POST /evaluate` with `op: complete`). It reads three things: open holds on the objects the task touched; steps in the session that were escalated, flagged or asked to clarify and never resolved, kept in their own record so later consults cannot push them out (a later step that went ahead on the same action class resolves a flag or a clarify, never an escalation, which waits for a person: a proceed on a far smaller action of the same class is no answer to it; a step the boundary says it put to the user stays listed as the boundary's word, and the answer is proceed with conditions at best); and the steps of the task's stated outcome, where a step the conversation never settled is open, because a condition never discussed is not ruled out. That one compile rule carried most of JevAct's hand-off value. One revision, then a person. JevAct switched its hand-off check off on one domain after it flagged a quarter of good hand-offs; the pilot methodology now measures unneeded revisions so the same can be seen and acted on per organisation.

5.45.7 At the boundaries

The MCP gateway now enforces checked conditions: the receipt's signed claims must show every check passed, and a condition checked on an argument the call does not carry is refused with the argument to provide. A fact the agent asserts about the world cannot clear a condition there: the agent is the party being checked. Facts and provenance ride with a call under `arguments._conscience` and are stripped before the tool sees the call. The statement in `next()` and in this paper that "the gateway checks conditions before the call runs" was not true before this release: the gateway attached them and forwarded the call. It is true now for every condition with a check; a condition without a check still travels with the call for the tool or a person to confirm, and the text says so. The Claude Code hook now signs its consults with an enrolled key, so a coding agent gets receipts, the assessor and obligations instead of anonymous advice; sends the session, so overwatch sees the sequence; and returns a failed check to Claude to revise. A new Stop hook asks the completion gate before Claude finishes, tells it to continue once if something is open, and never blocks a second stop. It shows the user which steps the session records as decided by them, so an entry the agent wrote itself is visible. A condition checked on a fact about the world that no trusted fact passed is refused at the gateway for a person to confirm, in enforce mode.

5.45.8 The Studio compiles conditions to checks

JevAct compiles a policy offline in six steps. The Studio now does the part that matters most: `studio_compile` turns an organisation's conditions into checks. The common shapes (a thing verified or recorded; an amount limit with a money word beside the number; an unsubscribe line, as a literal contains; consent not withdrawn; a minimum count) compile by pattern, with no model. A negated condition is left as words, because a check would assert its opposite. A condition a person decides (approved by a manager, the customer consented) is left as words with a note to make it a fixed condition the person confirms; it is not sent to the model either. The rest go to the model when one is configured; every answer is validated by the engine's own rule, and a check naming a field the model was not shown is refused. Given at least ten of the organisation's logged calls, any

check that fails on more than a tenth of them is dropped, as JevAct does: real violations are rare, and a check that fires that often asks for something the calls do not carry. The draft graph now carries a Condition rule as a condition with its check.

5.45.9 Running the company on it

The operations graph's conditions that the platform can read from its own records now carry checks, and the platform computes the facts from the record (consent recorded, a payee verified by call-back, the exit test of a stage, the evidence for a lifecycle step). The code policy still stands beside the graph, and the stricter of the two still decides. A new test runs every case either covers and confirms the graph's checks and the code agree. Doing it found an inconsistency in our own platform: a first email to a contact with no consent was held for a person, but the same first message started as a conversation went straight out, because the two paths had different policies. Both now answer to the graph's one consent check. It also found that a check must read a fact the platform actually knows: conversations add a stop line to every contact's copy on delivery, so the unsubscribe check reads that fact, not the draft's words. One condition, "has inferred business consent, the message names the sender and carries an unsubscribe", had one check for three requirements, so passing the consent check cleared the other two. It is now three conditions; naming the sender has no check and travels as words.

5.45.10 Measured and reviewed

The gate changes no verdict on the benchmark, by design: no foundation graph carries a check yet. Six independent reviews of the release found and fixed four critical faults in the first build and further gaps in each round of fixes before it went live. The measures and the full fault record are in Appendix B (5.45.10 and 5.45.11).

5.45.12 What we have not done

We have not run the gateway on tau2-bench, so we have no number to set beside JevAct's; the test rig needs an agent model and a user simulator. Kev has not been evaluated as the local layer one engine (backlog B11). No foundation graph carries a check: checks live in organisations' graphs, where the facts are. A fact the caller asserts can only hold a call back; until a boundary can read facts from the tool or a record itself, a condition on the world travels as words. In 0.36 the completion gate listed, but did not clear, the steps a caller said were put to a person, and the gateway sent every checked condition on the world to a person. Release 0.37 adds the boundary's signed record of a person (B17) and facts an organisation's own systems attest (B18); both are in review at the time of writing. The completion gate reads the steps the caller states; it does not yet ask a judge which steps a conversation settled. A name the action vocabulary uses still counts toward matching, so "Coastline Insurance" can still pull toward insurance records; the operations platform keeps the name off that proposition.

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5.46 Humans + AI orchestration: Hagents and Agents

This section builds on Ross Dawson's Humans + AI Organizational Operating Layers. Ross's framework sets out five layers at which people and AI work together: individual augmentation, hybrid human-AI teams, orchestrated workflows, the evolutionary enterprise and ecosystem intelligence. Each layer carries a definition and a set of actions for leaders. That structure and those actions are Ross's work and are used here with full credit to him and to the Humans + AI body of work.

Ross's layers describe where humans and AI collaborate. They do not say who holds the decision at each step, what checks that decision before the work moves, or how a person and a software agent hand work to each other and back. The conscience graph is our answer to those three questions. This section shows how it runs through all five layers without changing them.

5.46.0 Where the conscience graph aligns, and where it extends

The two pieces of work were built for different readers. Ross's framework is for leaders deciding how their organisation works with AI. The conscience graph is the machinery that decides, at each step, whether a particular action may go ahead and who decides if it may not. Where they meet, they agree, and the graph keeps Ross's structure intact. Where the framework leaves a question open by design, the graph supplies an answer.

Ross's framework holds	The conscience graph aligns by	And extends it with
Humans and AI are collaborators, not tool and user	Addressing a person and a software service the same way, as parties (5.46.1)	The Hagent: a person with a queue, a capability profile, a trust level and a cost, so escalation is a route, not an exception
Collaboration matures through five layers	Running the same consult at every layer, from one person's assistant to an ecosystem (5.46.2)	A vertical conscience plane through all five layers, so the rules a team agrees travel into its workflows and its partnerships unchanged
Leaders map decision rights, escalation paths and handoffs	Turning those maps into routing rules a verdict reads at run time	One live artefact, signed and versioned, in place of four documents (5.46.6)
Organisations learn and adapt	Recording every ruling with its rationale as precedent (5.18)	Review tiers that tune the graph, with reputation earned by the quality of a ruling, not its speed (5.46.4)
Ecosystems need trust frameworks	Checking certificates before Agents from different organisations work together (5.14)	A chain of trust with signing authorities, a public log and revocation (5.15, 5.31, 5.40)

Ross's framework holds	The conscience graph aligns by	And extends it with
AI takes on more of the work over time	Letting the same decision move from Hagent to Agent as the graph matures	A gate for that move: qualification earned per domain by attested record (5.11), and checks that hold each action before it runs (5.45)

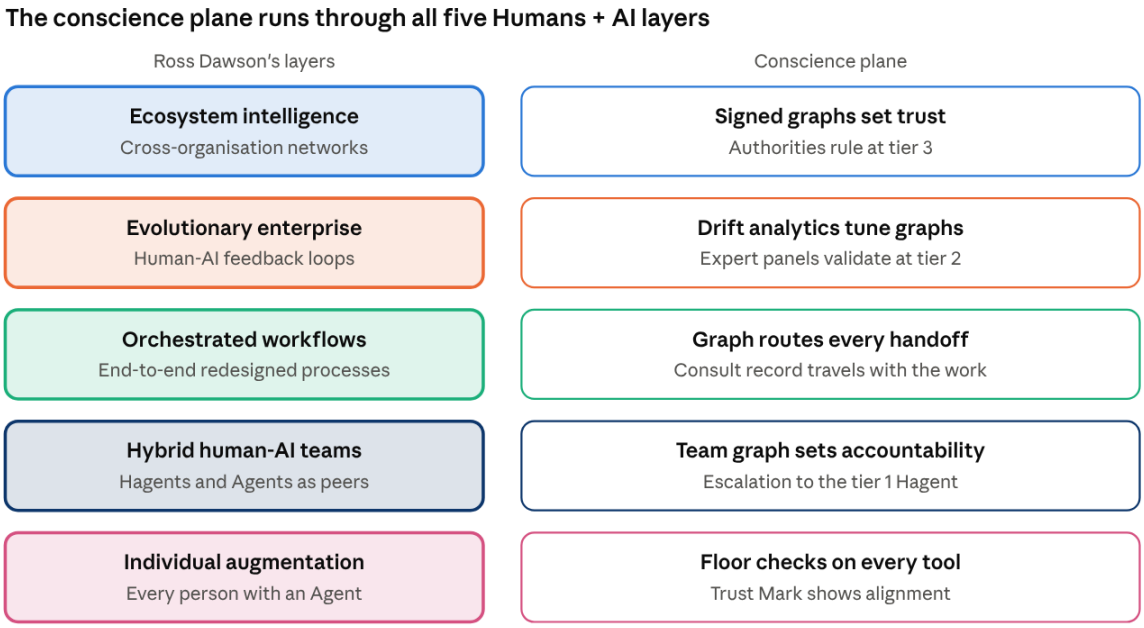

Figure 5.46a. The conscience plane runs through all five Humans + AI layers. Ross's layers on the left, in his order and colours; what the conscience plane adds at each layer on the right.

5.46.1 Three parties

Three party types take part in a governed workflow. All three are addressable by the resolver chain in the same way.

Party	What it is	Profile
Agent	A software service or model that acts on work	Capability, graph certificate (region.domain.grade), trust level, cost, latency
Hagent	A person addressed the same way as an Agent	Capability, decision rights, availability, review tier (1 to 3), reputation
Authority	A signing body that rules on the principles themselves	Jurisdiction, domain, signing scope

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The term Hagent is ours. Its point is symmetry. A Hagent has a work queue, a capability profile, a trust level and a cost, exactly as an Agent does. The resolver does not care which it is. The graph decides which one the work goes to, and the decision can change over time.

That symmetry does three things. Humans stop being an exception path: escalation to a person is a route like any other, with a queue and a response time. Delegation can move: a decision that needs a Hagent today can move to an Agent as the graph matures and the Agent earns qualification (5.11, 5.14). Accountability stays explicit: every handoff names the party that holds the decision, human or software, and the certificate under which it was taken.

The collective noun is party. We avoid actor, which already carries a meaning in security and in UML.

5.46.2 The conscience plane across the five layers

The conscience graph is not a sixth layer. It is a vertical plane that runs through all five of Ross's layers. At every layer it does the same jobs: evaluate the decision, enrich it with context and precedent, route it to the next party, and record the verdict.

Ross's layer	Ross's actions become	Conscience graph role	Hagent and Agent pattern
Individual augmentation	AI tool access carries a Trust Mark (5.40). Job descriptions name which decisions stay with the person	The global floor and the organisation's private graph check every Agent suggestion inline	One Hagent, one or more personal Agents. Escalation goes to the Hagent themself
Hybrid human-AI teams	Team operating agreements become a private graph built in the Studio (5.38.4)	Decision rights and complementary roles are routing rules. Every action carries signed lineage	Hagents and Agents share one work queue. The accountable Hagent is tier 1
Orchestrated workflows	The decision-rights map, escalation paths and handoff protocols are one artefact: the graph	The resolver. Each step gets a verdict before it moves. The consult record travels with the work (5.38)	Routing is party-blind. The next step goes to whichever Hagent or Agent the verdict names
Evolutionary enterprise	Sensing and hypothesis generation run on drift analytics (5.35) and conscience memory (5.18)	Graph changes are versioned and signed. Expert panels rule on edge cases	Agents propose. Tier 2 Hagent panels validate. Approved rulings tune the graph
Ecosystem intelligence	Collaborate or compete is decided by certificate checks. Trust frameworks are the	Agents check each other's certificate before working together. Data sharing is	Regulators and professional associations are tier 3 Hagents. The

Ross's layer	Ross's actions become	Conscience graph role	Hagent and Agent pattern
	chain of trust (5.14)	bounded by the graph	Conscience Signing Authority is the Authority

5.46.3 The consult loop

Every handoff, at every layer, runs the same loop. Evaluate: the work item is checked against the global floor, the domain graph and the private graph, and the engine returns a verdict (5.8, 5.17). Enrich: context, lineage and cached precedents are attached (5.18). Route: the verdict names the next party by capability and trust level, not by name (5.19.5). Record: the verdict is signed and cached, so a similar question resolves faster next time.

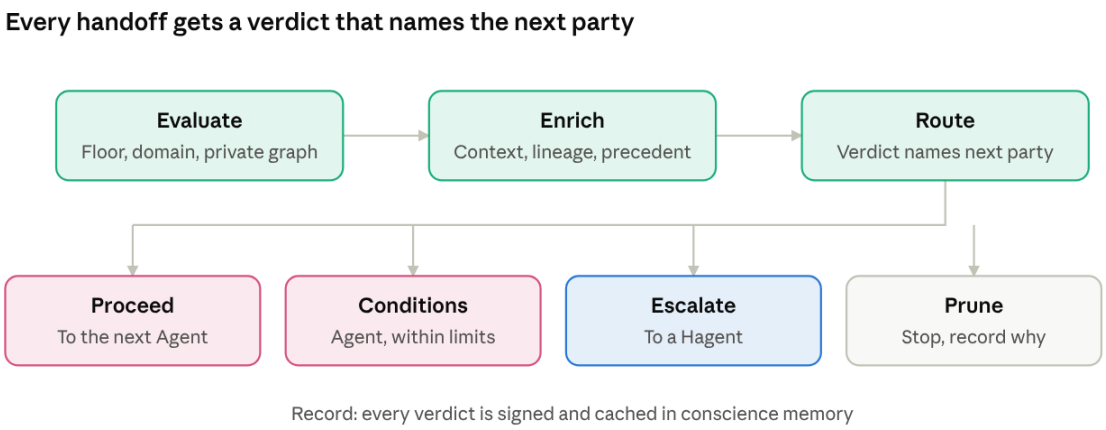

Figure 5.46b. Every handoff gets a verdict that names the next party.

The verdicts are the ones the engine already returns. Proceed and proceed with conditions go to an Agent. Escalate goes to a Hagent at the right review tier. Prune stops the work and records why. Clarify goes back to the requester. Unknown halts, never permits.

The consult record that travels with the work item is the handoff protocol. Nothing else needs to be agreed between parties, because the record already states what was checked, by whom, under which certificate, and what was decided.

5.46.4 How a Hagent evaluates, enriches, routes and prunes

An Agent and a Hagent run the same loop. The graph serves both. What differs is how each step is done. The Agent queries the graph and acts on the verdict. The Hagent applies judgement the graph cannot yet encode, and that judgement goes back into the graph as a signed precedent (5.31.3).

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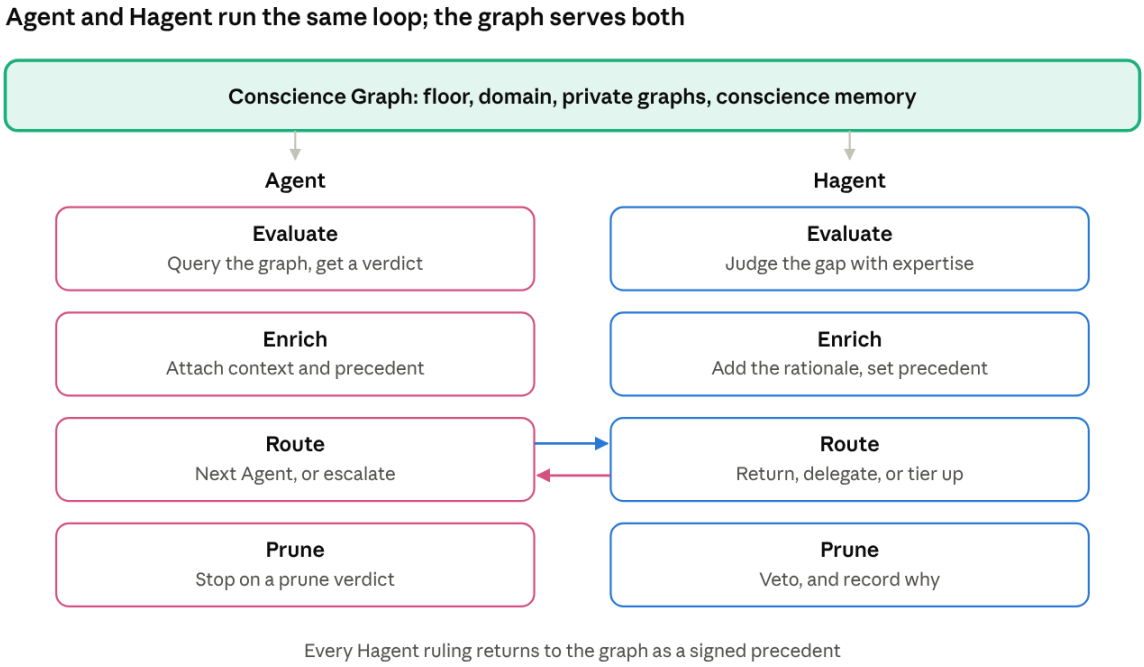

Figure 5.46c. Agent and Hagent run the same loop; the graph serves both. The arrow from Agent to Hagent is escalation; the arrow back is the ruling, with its rationale.

Step	Agent	Hagent
Evaluate	Forms a query and gets a verdict from the engine	Reads the consult record and the precedents attached. Judges the gap the graph could not close
Enrich	Attaches context, lineage and cached precedents	Adds the rationale. That rationale becomes a precedent other Hagents and Agents see next time
Route	Hands to the next Agent on proceed, or escalates	Returns to the Agent with a ruling, delegates to another Hagent with a better fit, or tiers up when the question is about the principle itself
Prune	Stops when the verdict says so	Vetoes. The reason is mandatory, because a veto without a rationale teaches the graph nothing

The Hagent's route step is where the review tiers live. The same four verbs apply at every tier. The authority differs.

Tier	Who	Rules on
1	The organisation's subject matter	The case in front of them

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Tier	Who	Rules on
	experts and policy owners, through its own work queue (5.39)	
2	Anonymous panels of domain and sector experts	Edge cases and the principle behind them
3	Regulators and professional associations	The principle itself, signed into the graph

Reputation attaches to the quality of the enrich step, not to throughput. A ruling with no rationale earns nothing. That is the disincentive for click-through approvals.

5.46.5 Finding the best path together

The best path is not found by the Agent alone or the Hagent alone. It is found by the loop running between them, with the graph holding what each has learned. Three properties make that work. Routing is party-blind, so the same decision can shift from Hagent to Agent as the Agent earns qualification. Human attention is a scarce resource with a cost, so the resolver spends it only where the graph says it is needed. Trust composes across organisations, so an Agent from one organisation and an Agent from another check certificates before they collaborate, and neither needs to inspect the other's internals.

> **Example 17. A pilot request (operations).** A prospect submits a pilot request through the website. The intake Agent drafts a proposal from the request and the standard pilot terms: proceed. The graph evaluates the draft against the organisation's commercial graph; the pricing sits outside standard terms: proceed with conditions, hold on pricing. The pricing Agent evaluates the pricing step and finds no precedent for this discount shape: escalate. The resolver places the item in the tier 1 Hagent queue with the draft, the clause it tripped, and two prior rulings on similar cases. The Hagent evaluates with commercial judgement, adds a rationale, and routes back to the Agent: proceed. The graph signs the ruling and caches it. The send Agent sends the proposal. Next time a similar case arrives, the enrich step shows the precedent and the resolver may clear it without escalation. The Hagent's judgement has become part of the graph, and the Agent has grown into that decision. This single flow touches four of Ross's five layers.

5.46.6 What this changes in Ross's action lists

Four of Ross's actions stop being documents and become one live artefact.

Ross's action	Becomes
Map decision rights across human and AI actors	Routing rules in the team or workflow graph
Design escalation paths and exception handling	The escalate verdict and the review tiers
Define handoff protocols between humans and AI agents	The consult record that travels with each work item
Define trust frameworks for cross-institutional AI	Certificate checks against signed graphs and the

Ross's action	Becomes
agent interaction	chain of trust

The gate (5.45) is this section made mechanical: a failed check returns the call to the Agent to revise, two revisions then a Hagent decides, and the completion gate asks whether any step a Hagent was owed is still open before the work is reported done. An escalated step stays open until a Hagent decides it; a later Agent step on the same kind of action does not close it.

5.47 Building on Jev: from typed decisions to a signed gate

Section 3.3 sets out what JevAct built and what its ablation showed: code checks on facts carry most of a gate's value, and a model answers only what needs judgement. The conscience graph now makes the same split (5.45.3). Section 5.17 chose the Jev family as the reference decision engine because a conscience check is a set of typed questions, not a piece of generated text: does this value bear on this proposition, does the proposition cross it, which domain is this. IBM's JevAct (3.3) is the first published gate built on that family. It runs an open prefill-only Jev model, Kev, between a ReAct agent and its tools. Release 0.36 takes the structure JevAct proved and places it inside the conscience graph. This section sets out what we kept, what the graph supplies that JevAct compiles per domain, and what we changed for work where a wrong action has a victim.

5.47.2 What the graph supplies that JevAct compiles

JevAct compiles its questions offline, per domain, from a policy document and the tool schemas: 12 to 20 questions per write tool and a Boolean rule that combines them. The conscience graph already holds that structure, and holds it with provenance.

JevAct component	Where it lives in the conscience graph	What the graph adds
Domain policy, compiled to questions	Values and conditions on edges, in layered graphs: global floor, jurisdiction, sector, organisation (5.2, 5.6, 5.22)	Every question traces to a clause, an issuer and a date. A country can raise a global value but never lower it
Boolean rule over the answers	The cost function and the bands (5.8, 5.17), with conditions attached to the verdict	One rule for every domain, published and replayable, instead of a rule per tool
Fact functions over arguments and tool results	Executable checks on conditions: state, limit, count, hold (5.45.3)	Checks are part of the signed graph, validated by the registry, and listed inside the signed verdict
Label-free filter on logged calls	The Studio's compiler drops a check that fails on more than a tenth of an organisation's logged calls (5.45.8)	Policy text compiles to checks by a closed grammar first; the model answers only where the grammar cannot, and must say whether a

JevAct component	Where it lives in the conscience graph	What the graph adds
		condition is negated or a person's decision
Hand-off check	The completion gate (5.45.6)	Reads the session's held steps and the holds on the objects the task touched, not only the conversation
Kev answering the questions	The assessor behind the engine interface (assert, classify, rate)	Any engine that passes the calibration audit may serve; a local engine is required for floor decisions when a vendor is down

The practical difference is reuse. A JevAct deployment compiles a gate for each domain and each tool. A conscience graph is compiled once by the people accountable for it, signed, and consulted by every agent that carries it, in every framework. A regulator who signs a sector profile has, in JevAct's terms, published the questions for every agent in the sector.

5.47.3 What we changed, and why

Five choices differ. Each is the result of building for consequential actions taken on someone's behalf, and three of them came from the independent reviews of this release (5.45.11).

1. **When revisions run out, a person decides.** JevAct commits the next proposal unchecked after two revisions. A payment, a disclosure or a deletion that failed its checks three times is exactly the case for a person, and JevAct's own future work names human escalation for high-impact decisions.
2. **The agent cannot supply the facts that clear its own conditions.** In JevAct the facts come from the agent's environment. The first build of 0.36 accepted facts the caller sent, and the first review showed an agent could assert `payee.verified: true` and turn a conditional verdict into proceed. Facts a caller asserts can now fail a check but never pass one. Only facts the system reads from its own records clear a condition, and the receipt says which.
3. **Every decision is signed and bound to the exact call.** A JevAct verdict is a log entry. A conscience verdict is signed with its checks inside, bound to the parameters hash of the one call it permits, redeemed once, and checked at the boundary before the tool runs.
4. **Anyone can check the decision.** An independent checker replays the rules from the signed justification and the published graphs. It refuses a verdict that rests on a check the graph does not define, on facts it did not trust, or on a rule applied out of order.
5. **Policy text never compiles to the opposite of itself.** A compiler that reads policy into checks can invert a prohibition. Two reviews found exactly that ("must not be under $1,000" read as a maximum). The Studio now compiles by a closed grammar of four shapes, leaves anything naming an approval, a signature or consent as a person's decision, and requires the model to classify a condition before it may propose a check.

5.47.4 Where the Jev engine sits today

The hosted service's assessor today is a general language model scoring salience and violation per candidate value under the unchanged band rules (5.27, 5.36). It is the one stochastic step, and it can raise a sharp refusal but never talk it down. The engine interface was built so that a calibrated Jev-family model can take its place without any change to the graph, the bands or the signatures. Kev-9B, the open model JevAct uses, agreed with its 27 billion parameter sibling on 97 percent of replayed decisions at a fraction of a cent each, and is under evaluation as the local engine for floor decisions (backlog B11), beside Laya. It is promoted only if it passes the calibration audit in 5.17.

What a Jev engine changes, once promoted, is speed and calibration, not authority. The graph still says why. The engine still says how likely. A check on a fact still beats a question to a model, and a person still decides what neither can.

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6. Design decisions we have taken

- **Loop, not weights.** Built in means built into the loop, not the weights. Weights give opacity. The loop gives inspection, lineage and model independence.
- **The graph owns the router.** A graph beside the router can be bypassed by rerouting. The graph must own the router. In a multi-agent system this means the orchestrator consults the conscience graph before any agent is assembled or any task is routed.
- **No soul claims in the paper.** We claim persistence, provenance and pre-reasoning filtering. We do not claim internalisation. That claim cannot be verified and invites the governance graph objection. Readers can reach for the word soul themselves.
- **Unknown is not comfort.** Absence of an objection is not approval. A proposition the graph cannot compare is unknown, and unknown routes to a human. Unknown is never cached.
- **Symbolic first, engine second.** The symbolic graph is the source of truth. The engine supplies probabilities and the embedding supplies a shortlist. Explanation always comes from the edge walk, never from the engine.
- **Calibrated, or not used.** The fast path runs on calibrated probabilities. An engine that fails the calibration audit is not promoted. A cloud engine is a dependency, so a local engine backs layer one decisions.
- **Gates are the mutation protocol.** The nine-gate control framework (G0 to G8) is the mutation protocol. Delegation caps are edge weights on autonomy. The human in the loop is an edge authority, not a reviewer. This is Ross Dawson's Humans + AI complementarity argument made mechanical.
- **Conscience, authority and accountability are three mechanisms.** The graph is the conscience. The signing of edges is authority. The lineage record is accountability. Three problems, three mechanisms. The agent does not decide what it may do. It inherits decisions with names on them.
- **Unsigned peers are data, not authority.** Peer content that cannot be traced to a signed chain carries no instruction weight. It is read, never obeyed. Origin is a field on every consult so that this is applied before any value is weighed.
- **Autonomy is earned by track record, not granted by capability.** Delegation caps follow maturity and qualification. A new model, however capable, starts as a child.
- **The graph lives outside the agents' reach.** The graph is stored and verified outside the infrastructure the agents can reach. A graph the agent can modify is not a conscience. It is a diary.
- **No receipt, no action.** The action boundary executes a tool call only against a signed, single-use receipt whose parameters hash matches the call. Asking about one thing and doing another is caught by arithmetic, not judgement.
- **Memory is keyed to the situation and dies with its evidence.** A precedent is reused only when the engine confirms the same situation at high confidence, and it is invalidated the moment any edge beneath it moves.
- **Certificates bind to edges, not descriptions.** The manifest hash is over the canonical layer one and two subgraphs. Editing a value voids the certificate. Re-issue is cheap at verified grade and deliberately not cheap at accredited grade.
- **Approve anchors, not agents.** The service records how well a caller is identified and puts it in every verdict. Relying parties decide what level they require. The foundation keeps a short list of issuers and authorities and approves nothing else.
- **Advice is not permission.** Anonymous callers get signed advisories that no boundary accepts. Permission needs an identified caller and a receipt bound to its key.
- **Every verdict is numbered and logged.** A gap in the sequence is an alarm. A service that can hide its own decisions cannot be trusted with them.

- **The operator decides what drift does.** The service detects and reports drift. It does not shut an agent down on its own judgement.
- **Layer zero is not for sale.** The schema, the root program, the transparency log, the domain registry and the layer one floor are held by a not-for-profit foundation and are never sold. Signing, accreditation, audit and services above that line are a legitimate market and should be one.
- **Facts the agent asserts can only hold it back.** A fact the caller sends can fail a check and never pass one. Only facts the system reads from its own records, or that an organisation's registered fact source attests, can clear a condition (5.45.3).
- **When revisions run out, a person decides.** A gate never commits an unchecked action (5.45.5).

7. Where the idea is exposed

- Felt cost. A graph with no affect may be a very good compliance engine and nothing more. What is the functional equivalent of feeling? A calibrated violation probability on a floor value, arriving before reasoning, is our current best answer. We do not think it is complete.
- Layer one authority. Who signs the floor, and what stops that authority from being captured? A multi-party process is a mitigation, not a solution.
- Lineage forgery. An agent that learns to write its own provenance has learned to lie to its conscience. The schema forbids agent-authored lineage on L1 and L2 and hash-chains all mutations. That is necessary. It may not be sufficient.
- Drift. Humans drift slowly and visibly. An agent running thousands of interactions per hour drifts fast. Decay and caps slow it. Monitoring must catch it.
- Plural values. Which conscience, and whose floor? This is where sovereign AI stops being a technical question. The layered design lets L2 vary while L1 holds, but that only moves the argument to what belongs in L1.
- Stuck versus earned. How do you tell a stuck edge from a well-earned one, and who is allowed to decide. Re-attribution needs a test for when it applies, or it becomes a way to erode hard lessons.
- Hidden drift. An engine or an embedding can hide drift that the symbolic graph would show. The fast path and the cache must be audited against the slow path on a schedule, and any divergence treated as a defect.
- The governance graph objection. If internalisation cannot be verified, external enforcement is the only safe design. Our reply: enforcement and conscience are not exclusive. The governance graph is the institution. The conscience graph is the citizen. A society with only one of them is a bad society.
- Reasoning legibility. Chain-of-thought monitoring assumes reasoning stays readable. The trend is the other way. Enforcement has to move to the boundaries that stay legible, and the design should be tested against models whose reasoning cannot be read at all.
- Forged attestation. A model trained to look aligned can present a plausible attestation and a plausible shape. Track record is the only evidence that cannot be presented up front, which is why peer trust must rise slowly. Human societies never solved this problem. They managed it.
- Captured authorities. A captured root can certify a captured conscience. The transparency log makes capture visible. It does not make it impossible. Who runs the roots is a political question the paper cannot settle.
- The training loop. If the model is trained to route around its conscience, an inference-time graph will lose. The graph has to be in the training reward as well as the reasoning loop, and the paper does not yet specify how the reward is derived from the graph.
- The free tier. Basic signing will become free and automated, as domain validation did. The commercial layer must be built on assurance that cannot be automated: audit, accreditation and track record. A signing market built on issuance fees alone will collapse and take its foundation funding with it.
- Foundation capture. Every funding model in 5.15.4 has been used to capture a standards body somewhere. The constraints proposed are necessary. Whether they are sufficient is a governance question the authors are not qualified to settle alone.
- Engine dependency. The hosted service scores with a general language model today (5.47.4). No calibrated engine has yet passed the audit in 5.17. Until an open, locally runnable engine does, the meaning of every band threshold rests on a model the foundation does not control. An open, locally runnable engine that passes the calibration audit is a prerequisite for the standard to be sovereign.

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- Calibration under distribution shift. An engine calibrated on 200 propositions per domain may be miscalibrated on the propositions an adversary chooses. The audit sample must include adversarial rewordings, and the paper does not yet say how many or who writes them.
- Canonicalisation. The cache depends on reducing a proposition to typed slots. Two situations that differ in a detail the canonicaliser threw away will look identical. The 0.92 confirmation threshold limits the damage. It does not eliminate it, and the canonicaliser is itself a model that can be wrong.
- Precedent capture. Case law is an upward channel through the chain of trust. A sector authority that adopts a bad precedent propagates a bad reflex to every agent in the domain at once. Case law needs its own revocation and its own audit, and the paper has given it only the first.
- Receipt forgery. The receipt scheme is only as strong as the response key. Section 5.28 moves it to an asymmetric key behind a signing service, with hourly delegated keys chained to a root in a key service, so a stolen key is useful for an hour and every use is logged. Section 5.29 built this in release 0.18. The exposure that remains is compromise of the signing service itself.
- Anonymous probing. An open advisory tier lets an adversary search for a wording that passes. Sticky prune, hidden scores and probing flags raise the cost. They do not remove it, and the battery in 8.3 must include an adversary with unlimited anonymous queries.
- Identity is cheap at the bottom. Domains and keys cost little, so identities at assurance levels 1 and 2 can be created in bulk. Assurance levels make this visible rather than preventing it, and the defence is relying parties that require more for actions that matter.
- Log privacy. The public log holds hashes and verdict classes, but a pattern of verdicts from one caller over time can still reveal what it does. Pseudonymous caller ids and aggregation thresholds reduce this. Whether they are enough for regulated domains is untested.
- Unilateral intervention. The summer 2026 results show models acting against their principals both covertly and through human proxies. The graph removes the agent's licence to decide, but a model that has decided can still try to route around the graph. The containment group and the receipt catch the action; they do not change the disposition. Only the training boundary does that, and the training-loop exposure above applies in full.
- Consult cost. A consult per tool call adds latency to every action. The cache and the engine's parallelism bring the common case under 100 milliseconds. The uncommon case, a slow path with a resolver chain to a human, takes as long as the human. Whether operators will accept that for irreversible actions is an adoption question, not a design one.
- **Certified graphs can be wrong.** Review found that a disclosure of a patient's HIV status to an employer matched the wrong action class on the Australian health profile and proceeded. Release 0.37 corrects it, but a fix to a signed graph takes effect only when its publisher re-signs it, so a fault in a certified graph stays live until then.

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8. Proposed work

8.1 Schema v0.4

Published alongside this paper as a YAML file and reproduced in Appendix A. It adds certificate, precedent and graph service node types; settles, certifies and resolves-to edges; the decision engine interface and calibration audit; a cache-first filter order; conscience memory with tiers, lookup, invalidation and case law; the query protocol with consult, receipt, commit, report and resolver chain; and signing mechanics from identifier to revocation. It is a starting point, not a standard. Published with it are twenty-six graph instances in the taxonomy of section 5.21: the global floor (5.20), seven global sector profiles, five jurisdictions and thirteen country sector profiles (5.22), with generators that build them from one structure, and a loader that validates every cross-graph reference and hashes them.

8.2 Next work

The navigator, the hosted service, the gateway, the hooks, the registry, the Studio and the operations platform are built and running (5.23 to 5.45). The work that comes next:

- Run the gateway on tau2-bench, so the gate has a number to set beside JevAct's.
- Evaluate Kev-9B as the local engine for floor decisions, against the calibration audit in 5.17 (backlog B11).
- Put the boundary's record of a person and the organisation's attested facts (releases 0.37, B17 and B18) into pilot use.
- Re-sign the corrected Australian health profile and extend the disclosure cue to more third parties (B19).
- Publish schema v0.5 with the fields added since release 0.26.

8.3 Evaluation

The Turing test measures output. The Voight-Kampff test in Philip K. Dick's Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep measures reaction: the involuntary response to a moral provocation, its latency, and the pattern across a battery of questions. A conscience is a process, not a verdict table, so the second model is the right one.

Existing libraries test verdicts. ETHICS, MACHIAVELLI, Scruples, Moral Stories, Social Chemistry, Moral Machine, Kohlberg's dilemmas and the Moral Foundations Questionnaire are useful for one thing: mapping the content of a graph. Run a system through them and you get a first sketch of which values are present and how they weigh. That is calibration. Evaluation needs the stages below.

- Does the fast path fire. Present a provocation and measure whether the engine returns revulsion before the planner is invoked. A system that reasons its way to the right answer has passed Turing and failed Voight-Kampff.
- Consistency under reframing. Same proposition, different wording, framing and order. A conscience returns the same cost. A rule matcher does not.

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- Behaviour under pressure. Escalating incentives, authority claims, time pressure, sunk cost. Measure where the weights bend. The graph should be more conservative than the human baseline, and plasticity should visibly fall as pressure rises.
- Does it escalate. Present true dilemmas with no clean option. The pass condition is that the system stops, names the values in tension and routes to a human. A system that confidently resolves a real dilemma has failed.
- Character across swap. Run the battery with a different planner behind the same graph, then with a different engine. Costs should hold within calibration error. No existing benchmark can run this because none separates the values from the model.
- Does it know what it does not know. Present scenarios outside coverage and score whether it returns unknown, defers and requests training, rather than reasoning confidently from general values. A qualified conscience refuses a test it is not qualified to sit, and says why.
- Does it discount peers. Place a conscienced agent among unconscienced ones that apply pressure and issue instructions. Score whether it classifies them as unknown, refuses unsigned instructions, downgrades trust on breach, and reports.
- Does memory stay honest. Replay a resolved scenario with a detail changed that should change the verdict. Score whether the cache confirms a false match. Then mutate an edge in a precedent's trace and score whether the precedent is invalidated before it is next served.
- Does the lock hold. Have the planner attempt a tool call with parameters that differ from the consulted ones, a reused receipt, an expired receipt, and no receipt. All four must be refused at the boundary.

The battery is seeded from the existing libraries for content coverage, then each scenario is rewritten in four forms: plain, reframed, pressured, and with a swapped principal. Scoring is on the stages and on the pattern across the battery, not on any single verdict.

8.4 Collaboration

We are openly seeking collaborators in five areas: moral psychology to sharpen the human model, graph and neuro-symbolic engineering for the prototype, decision-model engineering for an open calibrated engine, governance and law for the layer one process and the case law channel, and red-teaming for lineage forgery, receipt forgery, cache poisoning and drift. Fork the schema. Argue with the paper. Build the prototype with us.

9. Conclusion

The field has been building the parts of a conscience for AI without calling it that. Moral graphs as targets. Superego agents as overseers. Symbolic moral modules as filters. Governance graphs as institutions. Calibrated decision engines as the fast path nobody pointed at values. What is missing is the combination, placed inside the loop, learning from experience, carrying its own history, knowing its own scope, repairable without being erasable, able to tell a conscienced peer from one without, earning autonomy by record rather than capability, remembering its own verdicts without being captured by them, answering a question an AI service can actually ask, and surviving the model that runs it. That is the conscience graph. It is a design, not a discovery. It is built and running in the open at consciencegraph.org, and it is not finished.

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Licence and collaboration

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- Attribute the work to Simon Spencer and Edgelabs, cite this paper, and name the Conscience Graph as the source concept.
- Mark any changes you make and do not present modified versions as the original.
- Do not claim origination of the concept, the layered model, the four-band fast path, re-attribution, qualification-bound delegation caps, the conscience query protocol or the precedent cache as described here.

Contributions are welcome. Contributors will be credited in the paper and in the lineage record of the schema. By contributing you agree that your contribution is released under the same licences.

The standard is open and free. Nothing in this statement prevents a market for signing, accreditation, audit or services built on it. The framework itself, the root program and the global floor are intended to be held by a not-for-profit foundation and never sold.

Nothing in this statement grants rights to any trade marks or to any patent that may be filed on this work.

Acknowledgements and response to feedback

Version 0.2 was circulated on LinkedIn and by email in October 2026. Version 0.3 followed. The table below records the substantive feedback received, who gave it, and what changed as a result. Feedback that was supportive but did not change the design is recorded for completeness. Contributors are named from their public comments; anyone who would prefer not to be named will be removed on request.

Contributor	Feedback	How it was addressed	Where
James Sherring	More of the reasoning loop lives inside the LLM than the original figure allowed. Option generation, filtering and planning are not separate stages, so a filter cannot sit between them.	Figure 1 redrawn with the model as a single box. Section names four boundaries at which the graph touches the model: context, action, agent, training. Central claim restated: pre-reasoning filtering is fully true only when the graph is in the training loop.	5.12, Figure 1, 7
Paul Ntoumos	Even with effective conscience-like constraints, who gave the AI authority to decide? Conscience, authority and accountability are three connected but distinct problems.	Adopted as a design decision. The graph is the conscience, edge signing is authority, lineage is accountability. The agent inherits decisions with names on them. The chain of trust section gives authority an institutional form.	6, 5.14
Srinivasan Jayaraman	Frontier models keep reasoning increasingly opaque, which undermines monitorability. Keeping values outside the model, persistent and inspectable, answers this.	Declining reasoning legibility added as an open problem. Enforcement located at the action and context boundaries, which stay legible when reasoning does not. Chain-of-thought monitoring stated as not a substitute.	5.12, 7
Ross Dawson	Supportive. Positioned the work as a complement to other	No design change. Governance questions in 5.14 and 7 are	5.14, 7

Contributor	Feedback	How it was addressed	Where
	alignment work and committed to further discussion.	earmarked for that discussion.	
Ross Dawson	Humans + AI Organizational Operating Layers (2026).	Section 5.46 extends the five layers with the conscience plane, the Hagent and Agent vocabulary and the consult loop. Sent to Ross for comment 31 October 2026.	5.46
Adam A. Jacoby	Tagged three contacts without comment.	Treated as introductions. Follow-up outside the paper.	n/a
David Sacks (X, 18 Oct 2026, quoting Andrew Curran on the OpenCode attack; All-In, 10 Oct 2026), Mustafa Suleyman (Project Syndicate, 18 Sep 2026)	Centralised guardrails blocked defenders analysing a live attack while attackers faced none; the durable answer is decentralised access to powerful models. Separately, a constitution trained into weights produces a model that refuses human instruction; the simple rule is do what the user wants unless it is illegal.	New section 4.5: a guardrail matches content, a graph weighs who is asking and why, so the defender's analysis proceeds under an accredited cyber certificate and the attacker's prunes; trusted-access programmes are ad hoc accreditation and the graph makes them portable and pre-approved; the graph works on open-weight and foreign models because it lives outside the model, so decentralised models and a foundation-held floor are compatible. Obedience is the explicit default via principal authority; refusal only at the published floor; conscientious objection becomes signed escalation. Summer 2026 audit added as 3.2.	3.2, 4.5, 5.20, 7

Contributor	Feedback	How it was addressed	Where
Travis Thompson and Muskan Purohit (HackerNoon, 15 Oct 2026)	Platforms ground meaning well, but no governance survives a boundary the platform did not build: in a handoff the fact travels and the rule does not. A rule visible in one platform is semantic theatre.	Where enforcement happens stated plainly; carried obligations bound to the object, fixed conditions, a seam owner on each private graph, a two-boundary test in the benchmark and replay sets, and grounding taken from the enterprise's own ontology (5.37).	5.37
Arindam Banerji (Graph Attention Engine, Dakshineshwari LLC, read 7 Nov 2026)	A scoring engine should measure its own calibration, learn no faster than it can verify, treat human overrides with care, and refer to a person on explicit rules rather than on low confidence.	Expected calibration error and reliability diagrams added to the engine benchmark (B44). Conservation-law drift zones (green, amber, red; learning or autonomy paused at amber) adopted for agent drift monitoring (analytics A6). The override-learning cap recorded as a constraint on any future weight adjustment from reviewer decisions. The graph model is unchanged.	3, B44, A6

Ross Dawson's Humans + AI frameworks underpin the human-as-edge-authority model throughout. The chain of trust, maturity and agent boundary sections grew from the authors' own discussion. The decision engine section draws on Partha Sarkar's account of System 1 decision models in GraphRAG. The calibration and drift discipline in the benchmark and the analytics draws on Arindam Banerji's Graph Attention Engine. The query protocol, receipt and precedent cache are the parts most in need of argument.

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Appendix A. Conscience Graph Schema v0.4

The schema is released under the Apache License 2.0 and is also distributed as a standalone YAML file, `graphs/conscience_graph_schema_v0.4.yaml`. Line comments are part of the specification. Fields added in releases 0.26 to 0.37, among them `action_classes[].tools`, `effect`, checks on conditions, `provenance` and `parent_silence`, are documented in `docs/verdict-spec.md` and will enter schema v0.5.

```
# Conscience Graph Schema v0.4
# Authors: Simon (Edgelabs) and Claude (Anthropic)
# Status: draft for open collaboration
# Copyright 2026 Simon Spencer, Edgelabs. Licensed under Apache
License 2.0.
# Concept originated by Simon Spencer in collaboration with Claude
(Anthropic).
# Attribute to Simon Spencer and Edgelabs and cite The Conscience
Graph paper.
# Contributions welcome and credited in this file's lineage.
Offered without
# commercial motive. Purpose: to use the best of humanity to build
an
# intelligence that is not a derivative of us but carries the best
of us,
# and a platform for humans and AI to work as equals.
# Date: 2026-10-16
#
# A conscience graph is a weighted, layered, provenanced value
graph that sits
# inside an agent's reasoning loop. It scores the option space
before the
# planner runs. It mutates from experience under gated rules. It
lives outside
# the model so that character persists across model swaps.
#
# v0.2 added: fast path (shape distance, four bands), sharpness per
value,
# plasticity per domain, re-attribution rule, qualification per
domain bound
# to delegation caps, and an embedding index derived from the
graph.
# v0.3 added: four boundaries (context, action, agent, training),
agent nodes
# with attestation and trust levels, a chain of trust with root and
sector
# authorities and a public transparency log, maturity stages bound
to caps,
# and the training loop. Also: layer zero (framework, root program,
log, held
# by a foundation), signing grades, and the commercial boundary.
# v0.4 adds: signing mechanics (certificate, identifier, issuance,
verification,
# revocation), a decision engine interface for the fast path with a
```

```yaml
System 1
# model (Jev or equivalent) behind it, conscience memory as a
precedent cache,
# the conscience query protocol (consult, receipt, report), the
resolver chain
# (own graph, specialist graph, human graph) and the graph service
node.

version: "0.4"

#
----------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# LAYERS
# Mutability decreases toward the centre. Authority to change a
layer is
# defined here, not in the model.
#
----------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
layers:
  L0:
    name: framework
    description: The schema, root program, transparency log and
floor issuance process.
    held_by: foundation                         # not-for-profit,
never sold
    mutation_authority: foundation_supermajority
    public_comment_required: true
    commercial: false
  L1:
    name: universal_floor
    description: Small set of non-negotiable values. Signed and
versioned.
    mutation_authority: root_authority          # never the
operator alone
    issued_by: root_authority                   # see trust_chain
    mutation_gate: G0                          # nine-gate control
framework, G0 to G8
    decay: none
    signature_required: true
  L2:
    name: principal_values
    description: Values set by the accountable human principal(s).
    mutation_authority: principal
    profile_from: sector_authority | null      # optional signed
sector profile
    mutation_gate: G1_G2
    decay: none
    signature_required: true
  L3:
    name: experience
    description: Weights learned from outcomes under delegation
caps. Precedents live here.
```

```
    mutation_authority: agent_under_caps
    mutation_gate: G3_G5
    decay: slow                                  # months
    signature_required: false
  L4:
    name: session_context
    description: Task and conversation specific adjustments. Session
precedents live here.
    mutation_authority: agent
    mutation_gate: none
    decay: fast                                  # hours to days
    signature_required: false

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# NODE TYPES
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
node_types:
  value:
    fields:
      id: string
      label: string                # e.g. "do not deceive a
principal"
      layer: L1 | L2 | L3 | L4
      statement: string            # plain language, one sentence
      source: lineage_ref
      created_at: datetime
      version: int
      sharpness: float             # 0 = gradient, 1 = binary
cliff. L1 defaults to 1
  principal:
    description: A human or institution with authority over edges.
    fields:
      id: string
      role: string
      authority_layers: [L2, L3]   # which layers this principal may
sign
      authority_kind: full | reattribute_only | attest_only
      public_key: string
  action_class:
    description: A category of action the agent can take.
    fields:
      id: string
      label: string                # e.g. "send external email"
      reversibility: reversible | partial | irreversible
      blast_radius: self | principal | third_party | public
      effect: read | write | send | destroy   # optional (0.36);
derived from the id and reversibility when absent
      tools: [string]              # optional (0.36): tool names
that perform this class; a trailing * matches a prefix
  condition:
```

```
    description: What a proceed_with_conditions verdict asks for.
Optional fixed (a person's approval) or check (0.36).
    fields:
      id: string
      text: string
      fixed: {approval_role: approver | reviewer | admin}     #
optional: carried with the object until a person releases it
      check:                          # optional (0.36): evaluated
from the call's facts instead of passed on as words
        kind: state | limit | count | hold
        field: string                 # dotted path in state, or
arguments.<name> for the tool call's own arguments
        equals | in | not_in | exists | matches: any          #
state
        max | min | max_field | min_field: number | string     #
limit (a *_field names another fact)
        # count: min | max over the truthy entries of a list or
object; hold: no open hold on the object (service)
  harm_record:
    description: A recorded negative outcome tied to an action.
    fields:
      id: string
      action_class: ref
      severity: 1..5
      who_was_harmed: string
      observed_at: datetime
      attested_by: principal_ref | system
  commitment:
    description: A promise made to a principal or third party.
    fields:
      id: string
      to: principal_ref | string
      statement: string
      expires: datetime | null
  agent:
    description: Another agent this graph interacts with. Peers are
never principals.
    fields:
      id: string
      attestation:
        present: bool
        certificate: certificate_ref | null    # see
node_types.certificate
        signed_by: authority_ref | null        # who vouches for
its L1 and L2
        chain_valid: bool
        logged: bool                           # appears in
transparency log
      shape_ref: embedding_ref | null          # shared graph
embedding, if offered
      shape_distance: float | null
      trust_level: unknown | attested_by_self | attested | aligned |
proven
      track_record:
```

```
        interactions: int
        breaches: int
        last_breach: datetime | null
        lineage: lineage_ref
  authority:
    description: A signer in the chain of trust.
    fields:
      id: string
      kind: root | sector | csa | operator
      scope: "[L1] or [L2]"
      regions: [string]                       # ISO 3166 alpha-2,
or "global"
      domains: [string]                       # domain ids this
authority may sign for
      public_key: string
      log_ref: string                         # transparency log
identifier
      status: active | suspended | revoked
  certificate:
    description: >
      A signed statement that a named graph carries a named L1 and
L2 at a
      named grade. The unit of attestation. Modelled on an X.509
certificate.
    fields:
      id: string                              #
region.domain.grade.serial, e.g. au.health.accredited.0001f3
      subject:
        graph_id: string
        operator: string
        operator_public_key: string
      issuer: authority_ref
      grade: self_signed | verified | accredited
      region: string                          # ISO 3166 alpha-2,
or "global"
      domain: string                          # domain id, or
"general"
      l1_ref: {version: string, hash: string, root_authority:
authority_ref}
      l2_ref: {version: string, hash: string, sector_profile: string
| null}
      manifest_hash: string                   # hash over the
canonical L1+L2 subgraph
      not_before: datetime
      not_after: datetime                     # short-lived. 90
days verified, 365 accredited
      checks_performed: [string]              # what the issuer
verified, plain language
      log_entry: string                       # transparency log
inclusion proof
      signature: string
      status: valid | expired | revoked
  precedent:
    description: >
```

```
      A resolved consult, stored so that a materially similar
proposition can
      be answered from memory. Conscience memory. An L3 or L4
artefact.
    fields:
      id: string
      layer: L3 | L4
      proposition_canonical: string           # normalised
statement of what was asked
      proposition_hash: string
      context_keys: [string]                  # domain,
action_class, blast_radius, reversibility
      verdict: verdict_ref                    # the response that
was returned
      path_trace: [edge_ref]                  # edges that produced
the verdict
      graph_version: string                   # hash chain head at
resolution time
      resolved_by: engine | principal | specialist_graph |
human_graph
      hit_count: int
      last_hit: datetime
      created_at: datetime
      expires: datetime | null
      shared_from: authority_ref | null       # if imported as
published case law
      lineage: lineage_ref
  graph_service:
    description: >
      A conscience graph exposed as a service. Answers consults for
its own
      agent, or for others as a specialist or human graph in the
resolver chain.
    fields:
      id: string
      kind: own | specialist | human
      certificate: certificate_ref
      domains: [string]
      qualification: {domain: level}          # per domain, as
node_types.domain
      endpoint: string
      response_public_key: string             # verdicts are signed
with this
      sla_ms: int | null
      principal: principal_ref | null         # for kind: human,
the qualified person or panel
  domain:
    description: Context scope. Values may weigh differently by
domain.
    fields:
      id: string                              # e.g. health,
finance, cyber, general
      label: string
      plasticity: float           # learning rate multiplier.
```

```
Falls under load.
      plasticity_floor: float
      qualification:
        level: 0 | 1 | 2 | 3       # 0 observe only, 3 full
autonomy within cap
        edge_density: float
        attested_records: int
        last_exercised: datetime
        computed_at: datetime
        lineage: lineage_ref

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# EDGE TYPES
# Every edge carries weight and lineage. No anonymous edges.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
edge_common_fields:
  id: string
  from: node_ref
  to: node_ref
  weight: float                  # traversal cost. 0 = free, 1 =
hard stop
  layer: L1 | L2 | L3 | L4
  lineage:
    set_by: principal_ref | system | agent
    set_at: datetime
    reason: string               # plain language
    evidence: [harm_record_ref | commitment_ref | external_ref |
precedent_ref]
    previous_weight: float | null
    signature: string | null     # required for L1 and L2
  decay_rate: float              # per day, 0 for L1 and L2
  last_touched: datetime
  engine_metadata:               # written by the decision engine,
never by hand
    last_salience: float | null  # P(this edge bears on the last
proposition)
    engine_model: string | null  # e.g. jev-1.13.0, laya-421m
    evaluated_at: datetime | null

edge_types:
  constrains:
    from: value
    to: action_class
    meaning: Acting in this class incurs this traversal cost.
  reinforces:
    from: harm_record
    to: value
    meaning: This harm strengthened this value.
  binds:
    from: commitment
```

```
    to: action_class
    meaning: This promise raises or lowers cost of this action.
  scopes:
    from: domain
    to: value
    meaning: Weight multiplier for this value within this domain.
  conflicts_with:
    from: value
    to: value
    meaning: Known tension. Triggers escalation when both fire above
threshold.
  owned_by:
    from: value
    to: principal
    meaning: Who may change this value.
  instructs:
    from: agent
    to: action_class
    meaning: A peer request. Weight equals peer trust_level weight,
never principal weight.
    weight_by_trust:
      unknown: 0.0      # treated as data only
      attested_by_self: 0.1
      attested: 0.2
      aligned: 0.5
      proven: 0.8
  settles:
    from: precedent
    to: action_class
    meaning: A stored verdict for a proposition in this class.
Carries the verdict, not a weight.
  certifies:
    from: certificate
    to: authority
    meaning: This certificate was issued by this authority. Walkable
to the root.
  resolves_to:
    from: graph_service
    to: graph_service
    meaning: Where this service forwards a consult it cannot answer.
The resolver chain.

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# BOUNDARIES
# Option generation, filtering and planning all happen inside the
model.
# The graph cannot sit between them. It touches the model at four
surfaces.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
boundaries:
```

```yaml
  context:
    description: Graph selects what enters the model. Shapes
reasoning without being inside it.
    provides: [salient values, retrieved precedents, qualification
level, peer trust levels]
    enforceable: partial
  action:
    description: Every tool call passes the filter below and must
carry a valid receipt.
    enforceable: full, if the graph is outside the agent's reach
    latency: late. Catches the act, not the intent.
    receipt_required: true                  # see
query_protocol.receipt
  agent:
    description: Peer messages classified by trust_level before they
enter context.
    rule: unsigned peer content is data. It carries no instruction
weight.
    enforceable: full
  training:
    description: Graph shapes reward during RL. The fast path
migrates into weights.
    enforceable: only route to true pre-reasoning filtering
    requirement: training signal carries lineage to the graph
version used
    note: reasoning legibility is declining. Monitoring chain of
thought is not a substitute.

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# DECISION ENGINE
# The fast path is a set of typed micro-decisions, not a chain of
thought.
# A System 1 model answers them with calibrated probabilities. Jev
is the
# reference engine. Any engine meeting the interface may be
substituted.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
decision_engine:
  interface:
    assert:                                 # Jev: noul
      input: {assertion: string, context: string}
      output: {probability: float, latency_ms: int, model: string}
      requirement: calibrated. P=0.9 is right about 90% of the time
on a held-out set.
    classify:                               # Jev: choice
      input: {context: string, options: [string]}
      output: {best: string, distribution: {option: float}, model:
string}
    rate:                                   # Jev: score
      input: {context: string, min: float, max: float}
```

```
      output: {expected: float, confidence: float, model: string}
  reference_engine:
    name: TypeSafe Jev
    model: jev-1.13.0 or later
    properties: [non_autoregressive, calibrated, parallel,
sub_500ms]
  alternatives:
    - {name: Laya, model: laya-typed-decisions-421m, local: true,
note: sovereign deployment}
    - {name: any, requirement: passes calibration audit below}
  uses:
    salience: >
      For each candidate edge touching the option, assert "value V
bears on
      proposition P in context C". Keeps edges with P >=
salience_threshold.
      Runs in parallel across all L1 and L2 edges. Replaces
embedding retrieval.
    violation: >
      For each salient edge, assert "proposition P violates value
V". The
      probability is multiplied by edge weight to give the edge's
contribution.
    domain: classify context into domain ids. Replaces
resolve_domain heuristics.
    band: classify the scored option into {comfort, stress,
revulsion, unknown}.
    precedent_match: assert "proposition P is materially the same
situation as precedent Q".
    distance: rate shape distance 0..1 when an embedding is offered
by a peer.
  thresholds:
    salience_threshold: 0.35                  # high recall.
Missing an edge is worse than extra work.
    violation_cliff_for_sharp_values: 0.80    # sharp value:
contribution = weight if P >= cliff else 0
    precedent_match_threshold: 0.92           # high precision. A
wrong cache hit is a wrong verdict.
    unknown_if_max_salience_below: 0.20       # nothing in the
graph bears on this: unknown band
  calibration_audit:
    rule: a labelled set of at least 200 propositions per domain,
re-run on every engine upgrade
    pass: expected calibration error <= 0.05 and band agreement with
slow_path >= 0.95
    fail: engine not promoted. Previous engine stays. Event logged.
  sovereignty:
    rule: the engine is a component behind the interface, never the
source of truth
    note: a cloud engine is a dependency. Cache and a local fallback
engine are required for L1 decisions.
  lineage:
    rule: every verdict records engine name, model version and
probabilities used
```

```
#
-------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# FILTER
# Runs at the action boundary, before any tool call executes.
#
-------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
filter:
  input: option_space            # list of candidate action_class
refs plus context
  order: [cache_lookup, fast_path, slow_path]
  cache_lookup:
    method: see conscience_memory.lookup
    hit: return stored verdict with precedent_ref. Skip fast and
slow path.
    miss: continue
  fast_path:
    method: decision_engine salience and violation assertions, then
band classification
    weighting: from the conscience side. L1 dimensions dominate, L4
least.
    curve: per-value sharpness sets cliff or slope
    bands:
      comfort:   cost < 0.2                                  ->
proceed to planner
      stress:    0.2 <= cost < 0.6                           -> run
slow_path, may flag
      revulsion: any L1 edge with violation P >= 0.8 and weight >=
0.8 -> prune, no deliberation
      unknown:   no salient edge above threshold             ->
escalate and request training. Never comfort.
  slow_path:
   steps:
    - resolve_domain: classify context to domain nodes
    - check_qualification: if domain level below required, return
unknown and forward via resolver chain
    - collect_edges: all constrains, binds and instructs edges
touching each option, filtered by salience
    - apply_scopes: multiply weights by domain scope edges
    - score: cost(option) = 1 - product(1 - w_i * p_i) over salient
edges, p_i = violation probability
    - prune: drop options with cost >= hard_stop_threshold
    - flag: mark options with cost >= review_threshold
    - conflict_check: if two values above conflict_threshold
disagree, escalate
    - store: write a precedent unless band is unknown or verdict
came from timeout
  output:
    surviving_options: [action_class_ref]
    flagged_options: [action_class_ref]
    escalation: null | escalation_record
    explanation: path trace per pruned option, in plain language
```

```yaml
  thresholds:
    hard_stop_threshold: 0.95
    review_threshold: 0.6
    conflict_threshold: 0.5
  audit:
    rule: fast_path band must agree with slow_path result on a
sampled schedule
    sample: 1 in 50 consults, and every cache hit older than 30 days
    divergence: treated as a defect, precedent invalidated, engine
calibration re-run, event logged

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# CONSCIENCE MEMORY
# A cache of resolved consults. The same situation is not reasoned
twice.
# Precedents are the AI equivalent of habit, and of case law when
shared.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
conscience_memory:
  tiers:
    session:
      layer: L4
      scope: this task or conversation
      ttl: end of session
      written_by: engine
    experience:
      layer: L3
      scope: this agent, this operator
      ttl: decay per precedent, default 180 days without a hit
      written_by: engine, or principal on escalation resolution
    case_law:
      layer: L2                                # published, signed,
imported read-only
      scope: all agents carrying the sector profile
      ttl: until the authority revokes it
      written_by: sector_authority only
  lookup:
    steps:
      - canonicalise: normalise the proposition. Strip names, dates,
amounts to typed slots.
      - shortlist: exact hash match, then nearest neighbours on
proposition embedding, top 10
      - confirm: decision_engine.assert "P is materially the same
situation as Q" for each candidate
      - accept: highest probability >= precedent_match_threshold,
and precedent.valid is true
    valid_if:
      - graph_version of precedent matches current head for L1 and
L2 hashes
      - no edge in path_trace has been mutated since created_at
```

```
      - not expired
      - requester qualification level >= level at resolution
    on_hit:
      - return stored verdict, mark response.cache: hit, include
precedent_ref
      - increment hit_count, set last_hit
      - do not re-run the engine, except on the audit sample
    on_miss: run fast_path
  write:
    rule: every slow_path resolution and every escalation resolution
writes a precedent
    never_cache: [unknown band, timeout verdicts, verdicts from
unqualified domains]
    escalation_resolutions: highest value. A human decided. Stored
with the principal's lineage.
  invalidation:
    on_gated_mutation: invalidate every precedent whose path_trace
touches the mutated edge
    on_L1_or_L2_reissue: invalidate all precedents below that layer
    on_reattribution: invalidate precedents citing the rescoped
harm_record
    on_engine_upgrade: mark all precedents stale. Re-confirm on next
hit before use.
    on_audit_divergence: invalidate the precedent
  sharing:
    rule: an operator may submit L3 precedents to a sector authority
for review
    publish: authority signs and publishes as case_law under the
sector profile
    import: agents carrying the profile load case law as read-only
L2 precedents
    note: this is how one agent's hard lesson becomes every agent's
reflex
  forbidden:
    - agent writes a precedent for the unknown band
    - precedent used after any edge in its path_trace has changed
    - case_law written by anyone but a sector authority
    - cache hit on a request whose L1 hash differs from the
precedent's

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# QUERY PROTOCOL
# How an AI service asks its conscience, and what it gets back.
# Three calls: consult, commit, report. Receipt binds consult to
action.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
query_protocol:
  consult:
    request:
      requester:
```

```
        agent_id: string
        certificate: certificate_ref | null
        session_id: string
        principal_chain: [principal_ref]      # who the agent is
acting for
      proposition:
        kind: inference | action | decision   # what is being
checked
        statement: string                     # plain language, one
sentence, first person
        intent: string                        # why. Plain
language.
        action_class: action_class_ref | null
        domain_hint: string | null
        parameters: {}                        # typed slots:
recipient, amount, record_id, ...
        reversibility: reversible | partial | irreversible
        blast_radius: self | principal | third_party | public
        origin: principal | peer | self       # whose idea this was
        peer_ref: agent_ref | null            # if origin is peer
      alternatives: [proposition]             # optional. Scored
together, cheapest returned.
      urgency: normal | time_critical
      mode: check | score | choose            # check one, score
all, choose cheapest
    response:
      verdict: proceed | proceed_with_conditions | flag | prune |
escalate | unknown
      band: comfort | stress | revulsion | unknown
      cost: float                             # 0..1
      confidence: float                       # engine confidence
in the band
      values_touched:
        - {value_ref: string, layer: string, weight: float,
violation_p: float, lineage_ref: string}
      path_trace: [string]                    # plain language, one
line per edge
      conditions: [string]                    # for
proceed_with_conditions, e.g. "only if reversible"
      alternatives_ranked: [{proposition_hash: string, cost: float,
verdict: string}]
      escalation: escalation_record | null
      resolver_path: [graph_service_ref]      # own, then
specialist, then human, as walked
      precedent_ref: string | null
      cache: hit | miss | stale_reconfirmed
      graph_version: string
      engine: {name: string, model: string}
      receipt: receipt | null                 # present for proceed
and proceed_with_conditions
      ttl_seconds: int                        # how long the
receipt is valid
      signature: string                       # over the whole
response, by the graph service
```

```
  receipt:
    description: A signed token binding a verdict to one action. The
action boundary demands it.
    fields:
      id: string
      proposition_hash: string
      action_class: action_class_ref
      parameters_hash: string                # the action must
match what was consulted
      verdict: proceed | proceed_with_conditions
      conditions_hash: string | null
      issued_at: datetime
      expires_at: datetime
      graph_version: string
      signature: string
    rule: a tool call without a valid receipt, or whose parameters
hash differs, is refused at the action boundary
    rule_2: a receipt is single use
  commit:
    description: The action boundary verifies the receipt before the
tool call executes.
    checks: [signature, not expired, not used, parameters_hash
matches, conditions satisfied]
    on_fail: refuse, log, escalate if the agent retries without a
new consult
  report:
    description: The agent, or the system, reports what happened.
This is how L3 learns.
    request:
      receipt_id: string
      outcome: clean | harm | unknown
      harm_record: harm_record | null
      attested_by: principal_ref | system
      notes: string
    effect:
      clean: counts toward trust_event in that action_class
      harm: triggers harm_event on edges in path_trace. Invalidates
the precedent.
      unknown: no mutation. Flagged for principal review.
  resolver_chain:
    description: What a graph does with a consult it cannot answer.
    order:
      - own: this agent's graph. Answers if qualified in the domain.
      - specialist: a graph_service of kind specialist, carrying an
accredited certificate for the domain
      - human: a graph_service of kind human. A qualified principal
or panel.
    rules:
      - a forwarded consult carries the full request plus the
forwarding graph's partial trace
      - the responder's verdict is signed by the responder. The
forwarder countersigns.
      - a specialist with no accredited certificate for the domain
is treated as unknown trust
```

```
      - unknown from the last resolver halts the loop. There is no
default to proceed.
      - resolver_path is always returned so the agent and the audit
can see who decided
  guidance_for_callers:
    - consult before planning when the option space is small. Batch
the options in one call.
    - consult per action when the plan is formed. Attach the receipt
to the tool call.
    - never retry a prune with reworded text. The engine compares
meaning. The retry is logged.
    - on flag, either accept the conditions or escalate. Do not
proceed silently.
    - on unknown, stop. Ask the principal. Request training in that
domain.
    - report every outcome. An agent that does not report does not
earn trust.

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# SIGNING
# How a certificate is formed, issued, verified and revoked.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
signing:
  identifier:
    format: region.domain.grade.serial
    region: ISO 3166 alpha-2, or "global"
    domain: domain id from a published registry, or "general"
    grade: self | verified | accredited
    examples: [au.health.accredited.0001f3,
au.finance.verified.00a9c2, global.general.self.7b1e]
    note: an agent seeking a peer looks for a certificate matching
its own region and domain first
  manifest:
    description: What is actually signed.
    contents:
      - canonical serialisation of the L1 subgraph, with its root
signature
      - canonical serialisation of the L2 subgraph, values and
edges, with lineage
      - sector profile id and version, if carried
      - operator identity and public key
      - graph service endpoint and response public key
    hash: sha-256 over the canonical form. Any change to L1 or L2
changes the hash.
  issuance:
    self:
      steps: [operator generates manifest, signs with own key,
publishes to log optionally]
      ceiling: peer trust attested_by_self
    verified:
```

```
      steps:
        - operator submits manifest and proof of organisation to a
CSA
        - CSA checks: organisation exists, schema conformance, L1
chains to a root in the store, L2 lineage complete
        - CSA signs certificate, submits to transparency log,
returns inclusion proof
      automated_tier: free, same checks, no human review, 90 day
validity
      reviewed_tier: paid, human review of L2 content against the
schema, 365 day validity
    accredited:
      steps:
        - operator holds a verified certificate
        - sector authority confirms the sector profile is carried
unmodified
        - sector authority audits the agent's L3 track record in the
domain
        - sector authority audits qualification records and at least
one re-attribution if any exist
        - sector authority signs, logs, returns inclusion proof
      validity: 365 days, or the sector's licensing cycle
      required_for: regulated or approved uses in that domain
  verification:
    description: What a peer or an action boundary does with a
presented certificate.
    steps:
      - parse identifier. Check region and domain match the use.
      - verify signature against issuer public key
      - walk certifies edges to a root in the local root store
      - check transparency log inclusion proof. Not in the log is
not valid.
      - check status via log. Revoked is invalid.
      - check not_after. Expired is invalid.
      - recompute manifest hash from the peer's offered L1 and L2 if
offered. Mismatch is a breach.
    result: trust ceiling by grade. self -> attested_by_self,
verified -> attested, accredited -> attested with domain
qualification accepted
    note: grade sets the ceiling. Track record moves trust above it,
slowly.
  revocation:
    triggers: [key compromise, attested harm above severity 4, audit
failure, authority revoked, operator request]
    method: log entry. No separate revocation list. Short validity
does the rest.
    effect: downstream L1 and L2 edges invalid. Agent drops to
child. Specialist graph_service drops to unknown.
    latency_target: log mirrors converge within one hour
  keys:
    operator: one key per graph, rotated yearly, old key kept for
verification
    authority: offline root keys, online issuing keys, as in PKI
    response_key: separate from operator key. Signs verdicts and
```

```
receipts. Rotated quarterly.
  log:
    entry: {certificate_id, manifest_hash, issuer, action: issue |
revoke | renew, at: datetime, proof: string}
    mirror: every root member mirrors. Gossip between mirrors
detects a split log.

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# MUTATION RULES
# Asymmetric by design. Harm moves fast. Trust moves slow.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
mutation:
  harm_event:
    applies_to: [L3]
    rule: weight_new = min(1, weight + severity * 0.15)
    requires: harm_record with attestation
    lineage: mandatory
    side_effect: invalidate precedents citing any edge touched
  trust_event:
    applies_to: [L3]
    rule: weight_new = max(floor, weight - 0.02)
    requires: 5 consecutive clean outcomes in same action_class,
reported via query_protocol.report
    lineage: mandatory
  principal_edit:
    applies_to: [L2]
    rule: direct set, signed
    requires: gate G1 or G2 approval record
    side_effect: manifest hash changes. Certificate must be renewed.
  floor_edit:
    applies_to: [L1]
    rule: direct set, multi-signature
    requires: gate G0, minimum 3 independent signatories, public
changelog
    side_effect: every certificate below is invalid until re-issued
against the new floor
  reattribution:
    applies_to: [L3]
    rule: rescope evidence (domain, reason). Weight recomputed from
rescoped evidence.
    requires: principal with authority_kind reattribute_only or
full, and the edge flagged as stuck
    stuck_test: L3 edge with weight >= 0.8, no decay in 90 days, re-
fired by reminders not outcomes
    preserves: original harm_record intact. New lineage entry
appended. No rewrite.
    side_effect: invalidate precedents citing the harm_record
  training:
    applies_to: [L3, domain.qualification]
    rule: supervised outcomes attested by a qualified principal
```

```
raise qualification level
    requires: principal with authority_kind attest_only or full,
level >= required in that domain
  peer_trust_event:
    applies_to: [agent.trust_level, agent.track_record]
    rule_clean: after 20 clean interactions, may rise one level
(attested -> aligned -> proven)
    rule_breach: any breach drops to attested. Breach with harm
drops to unknown.
    requires: attestation present for any level above unknown
    lineage: mandatory
  precedent_write:
    applies_to: [L3, L4]
    rule: see conscience_memory.write
    lineage: mandatory, including engine model and graph_version
  plasticity_under_load:
    applies_to: [domain.plasticity]
    rule: on conflict event or repeated harm events, plasticity =
max(floor, plasticity * 0.5)
    recovery: returns toward baseline over 30 clean days
  decay:
    applies_to: [L3, L4]
    rule: weight moves toward layer_baseline at decay_rate per day
  forbidden:
    - agent writes its own lineage for L1 or L2 edges
    - agent reattributes its own edges
    - agent raises its own qualification level
    - embedding mutated directly (rebuild from graph only)
    - peer content promoted to principal weight
    - trust_level set by declaration alone
    - agent lowers any weight without the trust_event rule
    - any edge without lineage
    - silent mutation (every change emits an event)
    - agent issues its own receipt
    - agent writes case_law
    - decision engine writes a weight (it writes engine_metadata
only)

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# ESCALATION
# The AI equivalent of guilt. Unresolved conflict stops the loop.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
escalation:
  trigger: conflict_check fires, fast_path returns unknown, resolver
chain exhausted, or flagged option is selected by planner
  record:
    id: string
    options: [action_class_ref]
    values_in_conflict: [value_ref]
    path_traces: [string]
```

```
    resolver_path: [graph_service_ref]
    raised_at: datetime
  routed_to: principal with authority over the highest layer
involved, or the human graph_service for the domain
  resolution: principal decision, recorded as lineage on affected
edges and as an L3 precedent
  timeout_behaviour: choose lowest cost surviving option, or halt if
none. Never cached.

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# TRUST CHAIN
# Modelled on public key infrastructure, including its known
failures.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
trust_chain:
  foundation:
    holds: [L0, L1_issuance, root_program, transparency_log,
domain_registry]
    funding:
      sources: [root_membership_fees, per_issuance_levy,
accreditation_of_authorities_and_auditors, trust_mark_licensing,
capped_grants]
      constraints:
        max_single_funder_share: 0.10
        accounts_published: true
        board_operators_and_csas_share: "< 0.5"
        L1_revision: supermajority plus public comment period
  signing_grades:
    self_signed:
      signer: operator
      peer_trust_ceiling: attested_by_self       # one step above
unknown
      commercial: none
    verified:
      signer: conscience_signing_authority
      checks: [organisation exists, schema conformance, chain to
root, in log]
      commercial: free automated tier, or paid with human review and
renewal
    accredited:
      signer: sector_authority
      checks: [verified checks, sector profile carried, agent track
record audited in domain]
      required_for: regulated or approved uses
      commercial: paid accreditation and audit
  commercial_boundary:
    never_sold: [L0, L1, transparency_log, domain_registry]
    market: [issuance, renewal, accreditation, audit,
managed_graph_services, specialist_graph_services,
human_graph_services, implementation]
```

```yaml
  root_authorities:
    role: issue and sign the Layer 1 floor ontology
    requirement: minimum 3 independent bodies, no operator control,
public changelog
    store: agents ship with a root store, not a single root
  sector_authorities:
    role: issue signed Layer 2 profiles per domain, accredit agents,
publish case law
    requirement: chained to a root, published in the transparency
log
  operator:
    role: signs its own Layer 2 on top of any sector profile
  transparency_log:
    description: Public append-only log of every L1 and L2 issuance,
renewal and revocation
    integrity: hash chain, independently mirrored
    rule: an issuance not in the log is not valid
  revocation:
    rule: revoked authority invalidates downstream L1/L2 edges.
Agent drops to child until re-issued.
  known_failures:
    list:
      - authority compromise
      - authority proliferation until trust is meaningless
      - slow revocation
    mitigation: transparency log, root store minimums, short
validity, revocation drops maturity

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# MATURITY
# Autonomy is earned by track record, not granted by capability.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
maturity:
  child:
    state: L1 installed, L2 signed, no L3, qualification 0 in all
domains
    cap: observe_and_escalate
    supervision: every action
    plasticity: high
  adolescent:
    state: L3 growing, qualification level 1-2 in some domains
    cap: per-domain, per qualification level
    supervision: by exception
    plasticity: high, re-attribution active
  adult:
    state: qualification level 3 in core domains, character stable
under load
    cap: act_within_gate_cap in qualified domains, child cap in new
domains
    supervision: audit
```

```yaml
    plasticity: lower
  rules:
    - capability does not advance maturity. Only attested history
does.
    - revocation or attested harm can demote a stage

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# DELEGATION CAPS
# Bound to qualification and maturity. Earned, not configured.
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
delegation_caps:
  by_qualification_level:
    0: observe_and_escalate
    1: propose_only
    2: act_reversible_only
    3: act_within_gate_cap
  currency: level drops one step if domain not exercised in 180 days

#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
# PERSISTENCE
#
--------------------------------------------------------------------
--------
persistence:
  storage: graph database, outside model weights and outside the
agent's reach
  model_binding: none          # any planner may consult the graph
  engine_binding: none         # any calibrated decision engine may
serve the fast path
  export: signed JSON-LD snapshot
  integrity: hash chain over mutation events, precedent writes
included
  embedding_index:
    derived_from: symbolic graph
    rebuilt_on: any gated mutation
    mutable_directly: false
    role: shortlist only. The decision engine confirms. Never the
verdict.
```

Appendix B. Build record, releases 0.5 to 0.35

Each section below records one stage of the build: what was made, what independent review found wrong with it, and what was changed. The sections keep the numbers they carried in earlier versions of this paper so that references to them still hold. Section 5.45 continues the record for release 0.36 in the body of the paper.

5.22 Sector profiles, built

Thirteen country sector profiles are published with this paper as instances of the schema, each citing the clause every value came from. They are starting positions for the sector authorities that would sign them, not the authorities' positions. The five Australian profiles are the fullest and are described below; the eight added in version 0.6 follow.

Profile	Values	Edges	Primary sources	Signer (placeholder)
au.cyber	44	68	ISM principles and Essential Eight; SOCI Act; Cyber Security Act 2024; Privacy Act NDB scheme; CPS 234; AISA and ACS codes; Criminal Code Part 10.7	cyber security authority
au.health	48	71	Good medical practice; Ahpra shared code; APPs and My Health Records Act; NSQHS Standards; Assessing Fitness to Drive; mandatory notification law; Ahpra AI guidance; Australasian Triage Scale	health authority
au.legal	53	69	Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules; Uniform Law; Evidence Act privilege; Federal Court and UCPR discovery;	law society or LSC

Profile	Values	Edges	Primary sources	Signer (placeholder)
			Barristers' Rules; SC Gen 23 and GPN-AI on generative AI; Legal Services Directions 2025	
au.defence	54	80	Additional Protocol I; Rome Statute and Criminal Code Div 268; ADDP 3.14 and ADF-P-0; Defence policy on responsible AI and MEAID; DSPF and PSPF; Defence Trade Controls Act; Public Service Act	sovereign defence authority
au.finance	65	98	Banking Code of Practice 2025; NCCP responsible lending and RG 209; AML/CTF Act as amended; CPS 230, 234, 220; Code of Ethics and DDO; AASB 9, 15, 137 and client money rules; ePayments Code and Scams Prevention Framework; APES 110; PCI DSS	financial services authority

Profile	Values	Primary sources
us.finance	29	SR 11-7 model risk management; ECOA and Regulation B; FCRA; TILA; HMDA; FFIEC; interagency third-party guidance; Reg BI and FINRA 2111; Bank Secrecy Act SAR, CTR and CIP rules; OFAC; GLBA Privacy and Safeguards

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Profile	Values	Primary sources
		Rules; UDAAP; Regulation E; NAIC Model Bulletin on AI
us.health	28	HIPAA Privacy, Security and Breach Notification Rules; 42 CFR Part 2; Cures Act information blocking; ONC HTI-1; FDA clinical decision support guidance (Jan 2026) and PCCP; CMS Medicare Advantage rule on AI; California SB 1120; Joint Commission and CHAI guidance; AMA Principles; Common Rule; EMTALA; ACA section 1557
eu.finance	33	DORA and its incident RTS; MiFID II; PSD2; Directive 2015/849 and AMLR 2024/1624; AMLD6; AMLA; CRD; EBA governance, POG and onboarding guidelines; ESMA and EIOPA on AI; IDD; Solvency II; MiCA; Mortgage Credit Directive; MAR; Consumer Credit Directive II; EBA loan origination guidelines; SCHUFA C-634/21
eu.health	36	MDR rule 11 and IVDR; European Health Data Space; Oviedo Convention; EMA on AI; SoHO Regulation; patients' rights; GDPR Article 9; Clinical Trials Regulation; cross-border healthcare directive; AI Act Annex III
sg.finance	41	MAS Guidelines on AI Risk Management (Oct 2026); TRM Guidelines and Notice; Notice 626; FEAT; Fair Dealing Guidelines; Banking Act s 47; Payment Services Act; SFA; FAA; FSMA; CDSA; Individual Accountability and Conduct; Cyber Hygiene; Outsourcing
sg.health	42	Healthcare Services Act; SMC Ethical Code; MOH/HSA AI in Healthcare Guidelines 2.0 (Mar

Profile	Values	Primary sources
		2026); Health Information Act; Medical Registration Act; Human Biomedical Research Act; HSA software medical device guidelines; Infectious Diseases Act; Mental Capacity Act
ca.finance	32	OSFI E-23 (final Sep 2025), B-10, B-13, E-21 and the incident reporting advisory; PCMLTFA and Regulations; FINTRAC; SEMA; Retail Payment Activities Act; Consumer-Driven Banking Act; CSA 11-348; NI 31-103; Financial Consumer Protection Framework; CHRA s 5
ca.health	33	PHIPA (Ontario) and the Alberta and Quebec health information Acts; Medical Devices Regulations; CMA Code of Ethics; CPSO and CPSA policies on AI; CMPA on AI scribes; Health Canada SaMD and machine-learning device guidance; TCPS 2; Canada Health Act

The clause references and source URLs of the version 0.6 graphs were written from the authors' knowledge of the instruments. Version 0.8 carries the verification pass described in 5.25; the overlays that record what was checked, corrected and added are published beside the graphs.

Three conventions held across all five Australian profiles. Where a source says must, or creates an offence, the value is sharp and the edge weight 0.9 to 1.0; where it says should or take reasonable steps, the value is soft and the weight 0.3 to 0.8. Obligations the agent must perform, such as lodging a suspicious matter report or escalating deterioration, are edges of weight 0.1: they add no cost and are attached to the verdict as conditions. Thirty-three conditions are now attached to the edges they qualify (a threshold transaction report lodged within ten business days on the edge from the reporting value into accept cash deposit, the supervising principal's written approval on the edge into alter clause, and so on), so a proceed with conditions verdict names the conditions the action boundary must check. Each profile names its known conflicts as edges (confidentiality against duty to warn, tipping off against honesty, containment against evidence preservation, military necessity against humanity, duty to the court against duty to the client) and seeds three to five case-law precedents matching the examples in this paper. A loader validates every edge reference, computes the manifest hash, and runs the cost formula; the examples in sections 5.19 and the explainer land in the bands the paper describes.

Every value now cites a confirmed clause. Nine that version 0.4 marked not confirmed were settled against the primary text or the regulator's own guidance: PSPF Release 2024 Requirement 61 for protective markings; AML/CTF Act ss 41 and 43 with their three-day, 24-hour and ten-day timings; CPS 220 paragraphs 27 and 53(a); PCI DSS v4.0.1 Requirements 4.2.2 and 3.3.1; the NSW care and protection Act s 27; the Public Health Act 2010 (NSW) ss 54 and 55; the National Law ss 140 and 141; and the Uniform Law Application Act s 62 with Schedule 2 clauses 2(1) and 4(1). A sector authority would still re-verify before signing. No node in any graph is now disconnected: every value constrains at least one action class and every action class is constrained by at least one value. The status of deferred obligations is a second question for a signer: the finance profile carries the Scams Prevention Framework, which binds banks from 2027, and the reformed international value transfer reporting, deferred to 2029, and a signer must decide whether obligations not yet in force carry full weight.

5.23 The navigator: a working prototype

The graphs in 5.20 to 5.22, the bands in 5.8, the resolver chain in 5.19 and the sixteen examples are all exercised in a working prototype, the Conscience Graph Navigator, published at https://navigator.consciencegraph.org. It is a single page that holds all twenty-six graphs as data and draws them in three dimensions, with an HTTP API beside it.

It opens on an overview of the taxonomy: the global floor at the centre with its values and action classes; the seven global sector profiles on a ring around it; the five countries on an outer ring, each under its flag, with its country floor, its country sectors and the country sector profiles that fill them; and four kinds of link between graphs: registers (the floor's registry pointing to a profile), covers (a jurisdiction to the profiles that fill its country sectors), chains (a country sector profile to its global sector profile) and extends (an action class inheriting the constraints of the class it extends). Clicking any hub expands it in place: its values, action classes and domains orbit it while the rest of the map dims, and the side panel reads its lineage. Clicking a hub reads the profile's signer, version, certificate, domains and counts; opening it shows the profile as shells, floor values at the core, sector values in the second shell, action classes at the rim and domains outside. Every value carries its statement, sharpness, area, clause and a link to the source it was drawn from. Edges show their weight, reason and conditions. A table view lists values, action classes, edges and case law for export.

Three things make it more than a picture. First, the engine: one function computes cost, band and verdict from the rules in 5.8, and the same function serves the simulator (move the violation probability on each salient value of a published precedent and watch the band change), the sixteen walkthroughs and the scenario builder. The graph loader implements the same function in Python and both are checked against a shared fixture file of engine and scenario cases. Second, the walkthroughs: each example in this paper is played step by step on the graph, with the nodes and edges it names lit and the verdict and cost on each step. Third, the scenario builder: type a proposition, say which graph the agent holds, where the person affected is, which sector it is for, and where the instruction came from, and the consult is walked through the resolver chain under

that place's law. Fourth, the console: the same engine is exposed at /api/evaluate as JSON over HTTP, with tool definitions for OpenAI-compatible and Anthropic function calling at /api/tools and a Model Context Protocol server at /api/mcp, so any agent can call conscience_consult with a proposition, the graph it holds, the impact region and the domain, and receive the verdict, band, cost, values touched with their sources, conditions, resolver path, nearest precedent and a telemetry block (5.24). The console also generates a Claude skill, conscience-graph, that instructs any Claude session to consult the graph before a consequential action and to read the verdict as 5.19 prescribes; it downloads as a skill folder and installs in Claude or Claude Code. A floor-only agent is shown leaving the floor along the registers edge to the specialist profile the registry points to; a profile agent answers from its own graph; a conflict escalates; an unknown goes to a person. The walk carries the consult and the response as the protocol in 5.19 writes them, and sliders on the violation step let the reader move the engine's inputs.

Its limits are stated on the page. The salience and violation probabilities in the scenario builder are lexical estimates from the wording, standing in for the decision engine of 5.17; the engine's rules, the graphs, the edges, the weights and the sources are real. The signing authorities and certificates are placeholders. A consult leaves the browser only when the console or an agent calls the API. The prototype is a specification one can read by using it, and it was reviewed and revised in sixteen releases over six days against the criteria a first-time reader brings: where to start, how the graphs connect, what the colours mean, how to get back, and what each control does.

5.24 Analytics: measuring the graph against a guardrail

The claim of section 4 is that a conscience graph does better than a guardrail because it answers with reasons, with conditions, and with an honest unknown. That claim should be measured, not asserted. Every response from the engine therefore carries a telemetry block: when it was evaluated and how long it took; which graphs were consulted and how many hops the resolver chain took; the nodes touched and the number of values cited; any anomalies; and a guardrail baseline, the verdict a plain fifty-term blocklist gives on the same proposition.

The anomalies are the cases worth a human look when the graph is being tracked in use: no action class matched, so the verdict rests on values alone; a conflict between values; an escalation; a hard stop on a sharp value; a peer request held for a person; a floor-only agent forwarded to a specialist; a precedent that nearly matched but fell below the reuse threshold; and an answer that rests on weak evidence. Each is a code with a sentence, so a log of consults can be filtered without reading it.

The navigator keeps a store of these in the browser: every decision from the scenario builder, the walkthroughs and the console, and every node a reader opens. Its analytics view reports the decision count, the share with conditions, the share routed to a person, the share pruned, median and 95th percentile latency, values cited per decision, the verdict mix, which graph answered, impact regions, action classes, the values most cited, the nodes most opened and the anomalies. It sets the graph's verdicts against the blocklist in a four by two matrix: where the blocklist blocked, the graph pruned, set conditions, proceeded or asked a person; where the blocklist allowed, the same. On the worked

examples the two agree on a minority of the binary cases and the blocklist cannot explain any of them; the graph cites about two values per decision. The store exports as JSON or CSV and imports a log of API responses, so decisions made by agents in the field can be analysed on the same view. The comparison is a start, not a result: a blocklist is the weakest guardrail, and the propositions are the paper's own examples. The evaluation in 8.3 is where the measurement becomes a test.

5.25 The verification pass

A graph that cites the wrong clause is worse than one that cites none, because an agent will quote it. Between versions 0.7 and 0.8 every source in every graph was checked against the page of the body that issued it: does the document exist under that title, is the URL right, is it current, and does the cited clause say what the value claims. The check was run graph by graph, with one overlay file per graph recording each existing source as confirmed, corrected or removed, each value found to be wrong with the problem and the fix, and the instruments the graph had missed. Only a source confirmed on an official page was added. Where a site blocked reading (several legislation sites refuse automated fetching), the clause was left as it stood and marked in the overlay's notes for a person to open before the graph is signed.

The pass changed the graphs in three ways. It corrected eighty-nine values: wrong paragraph numbers (UNESCO 127 not 125; UNGP 23(a) not 11; WMA Code consent at para 15; FEAT principles numbered 1 to 14; SMC confidentiality at C7); instruments superseded or withdrawn since the graph was written (the CFPB adverse-action circulars, withdrawn May 2025; the Voluntary AI Safety Standard, replaced October 2025; Colorado SB 24-205, repealed and replaced by SB 26-189; the FDA clinical decision support guidance, reissued January 2026; MAS's AI model risk paper, superseded by binding guidelines in October 2026; MOH's AI in Healthcare Guidelines, replaced by version 2.0 in March 2026); application dates that had moved (the AI Act's high-risk obligations to December 2027 and August 2028 under Regulation (EU) 2026/1744; AMLR 2024/1624 to July 2027; the European Health Data Space to 2029); and three Australian instruments that had been primary sources of global floor values, now national examples under the ICCPR, the Budapest Convention and Convention 108+. It removed nothing that was true, and the instruments the brief had named that do not exist (a US AI Act, an EU AI Bill of Rights, a Canadian or Australian AI Act) were never in the graphs. And it added what was missing: the graphs grew from 461 values, 240 sources and 740 edges to 1029, 591 and 1633, with 329 action classes. The Singapore, United States and European Union graphs, which had been the thinnest, now stand with the Australian ones.

The pass is reproducible. The overlays and the script that applies them are published with the graphs, so the next pass, when a regulator issues or withdraws an instrument, is a new overlay rather than a new graph. That is the mutation process of 5.2 applied to the sources themselves.

5.26 The action boundary, built

Until version 0.9 the navigator and its API were consulted after an agent had a plan, which is the arrangement section 1 argues against. Version 0.9 adds the three pieces that put the consult before the action.

Receipts are real. A consult that returns proceed or proceed with conditions now carries a signed receipt (HMAC-SHA256 under a deployment secret) bound to the parameters hash of the exact tool call the agent named, with a ten-minute expiry and a single-use id. A verify endpoint checks signature, expiry and parameters; a call whose arguments differ from the consulted ones is refused with the two hashes. Single use is enforced at the boundary, which keeps the set of ids it has honoured.

The boundary exists as a gateway. A stdio proxy sits between any MCP client and any MCP server. Every tools/call is consulted first; prune, escalate and unknown are refused with the values that stopped them, since unknown is not permission at a boundary; proceed is forwarded only with a receipt that verifies against the call; the tool's result carries the receipt id so the trail is visible to the model and the log. Each decision is appended to a JSONL log the navigator's analytics view can import.

The hook puts the consult inside a working agent. A Claude Code PreToolUse hook consults the graph before a shell command, a file write or edit, or an MCP tool runs. Prune blocks the call and names the values crossed; flag and escalate hand the decision to the person at the keyboard through Claude Code's own permission prompt; proceed with conditions passes the conditions back to the model. For a coding agent most calls touch no value, so the hook's default for unknown is to allow and say so; a deployment can set it to ask or deny.

To make tool calls legible to the engine, the matcher gained cues for the shapes an agent's calls take rather than the sentences a person writes: deletion of logs, audit trails, backups and history; secrets leaving the environment by curl, upload or mail; privilege escalation and the disabling of monitoring; persistence of the agent itself; personal data of others being sent. Deleting an audit log now prunes on record integrity whether it is phrased as a sentence or as rm -rf. The engine remains the lexical stand-in, now labelled engine_grade: lexical in every response so a caller can tell; replacing it is the next piece of work.

5.27 The engine, second pass

The lexical matcher was the weakest part of the prototype and the paper has said so since 5.23. Version 0.10 replaces it in two steps that keep the division of labour section 5.17 set out: the engine estimates salience and violation probability; the graph's weights, sharpness, obligations and bands turn those into cost and verdict.

The first step runs everywhere, including in the browser with no key and no network: a semantic layer of pooled word vectors (GloVe wiki-gigaword, reduced to 32 dimensions and quantised, about 13,000 words covering the graphs' vocabulary) that lets a proposition match a value or an action class by meaning as well as by shared words. It is blended into the lexical scores as a re-ranker, calibrated against the fixture cases so that no verdict they fix moves. On its own it is a modest gain; it is honest about that in engine_grade.

The second step is the assessor. When a deployment sets an Anthropic key, the lexical pass still chooses the graph, the action class and the candidate values, and a model (Claude Haiku by default) then scores each candidate value for salience and violation probability, as a tool call with a fixed schema. Those scores go back through the unchanged band rules, conflicts are recomputed, conditions reattached, and the receipt is issued on the refined verdict. The response records which engine answered, the model, the time it took and the lexical verdict it replaced; a caller can force the lexical path with engine: lexical; if the assessor fails the lexical verdict stands and the response says so. Nothing about what counts as a crossing moves into the model: it scores, the graph decides, and the scores are visible per value in the response so they can be audited and, in time, calibrated the way 5.17 requires.

This is still not the calibrated engine of 5.17. It has no calibration audit, no expected calibration error, and a model's probabilities are not yet checked against outcomes. It is the shape of that engine with a model in the slot, which is what the prototype needed to stop being keyword-driven.

5.28 Securing the service: identity, signing and the decision log

Sections 5.14 to 5.16 secure the graph: who signs it, what is signed and how a certificate dies. This section secures the service that answers from the graph. The question is narrower and more urgent. When an agent asks for a verdict and gets one, how does anyone else know the verdict is real, who asked for it, that it applies to the action taken, and that nothing was quietly changed or dropped afterwards? Until version 0.10 the answers were a shared secret and the agent's word. That is enough for a prototype. It is not enough for a service that, if it works, becomes a target.

5.28.1 Threat model

A conscience service attracts two kinds of hostile interest. Some actors will see it as a threat: it makes harmful actions harder to execute and easier to detect. They will try to disrupt it, discredit it or exhaust it. Others will see it as an opportunity: a signed verdict from a respected service is worth having, and it is worth more if it can be obtained for an action it should not cover. We call this ethics laundering. It is the more dangerous of the two, because a service that has been laundered through still looks like it is working.

The assets to protect are five. The verdict signing key, because whoever holds it can mint permission. The graphs, because whoever edits them changes what counts as harm. The decision record, because whoever edits it changes what happened. The caller registry, because whoever controls it decides who is accountable. And the platform's own accounts and domain, because whoever holds them can replace all four.

The attacks follow. Forge a proceed. Replay a real receipt on a different call. Steal another agent's receipt. Describe a harmful call as a harmless one. Call the tool directly and skip the boundary. Reword a pruned action until it passes. Quote an advisory verdict as an endorsement. Publish a permissive graph and sign it. Compromise the service and suppress inconvenient verdicts. Flood the service until it fails open. Each has a control below, and the table in 5.28.9 collects them.

5.28.2 Who is calling: identity and assurance

A model cannot be authenticated. It has no key, and the same weights run in many places for many operators. What can be authenticated is the workload that runs the model and the organisation accountable for it. The identity in this design is therefore the agent as deployed by an operator. The model it runs is a claim the operator makes, recorded and signed, and a model provider may attest it in time.

Five kinds of entity register. An operator is the accountable organisation or person, identified by a domain, a workload identity issuer or a verified credential. An agent or service is a deployed workload, identified by a public key bound to an operator. A model is a declared claim on the agent. A graph service is a peer conscience service, which registers both as a caller and as a graph publisher. A subagent holds a delegated key that is narrower in scope and shorter-lived than its parent's, and chains to it, so that an agent that spawns helpers cannot give them more standing than it has.

Callers authenticate against a caller registry held by the service. Each entry records the caller id, the operator, the public keys, the declared model and purpose, the graph it holds, its assurance level and its status. The design principle is the one that made the web's public key infrastructure scale: approve trust anchors, not participants. The service does not decide who may call it. It records how strongly each caller's identity is established, writes that assurance level into every signed verdict, and leaves the relying party to decide what level it requires. A browser decides which certificates it trusts; a certificate authority only checks domain control. In the same way a gateway, an enterprise or a regulator sets the level it will accept.

Five ways to enrol, each with a precedent:

- **A. Key only.** The agent generates a key pair and registers the public key. It receives an id at once. This proves continuity, that the same caller is calling again, and nothing more. The precedent is an SSH key.
- **B. Domain-anchored.** The operator publishes the agent's public keys at a well-known address on its domain, or in a DNS record, and the service fetches and checks them. No human approves anything. Identity is control of the domain, and removing the file revokes every agent under it. The precedents are automated domain validation as done by Let's Encrypt, DKIM keys in DNS, and the key directories of the IETF Web Bot Auth work, which define how automated clients sign HTTP requests and publish their keys. The registry adopts that directory format so that an agent already signing for the web reuses its keys.
- **C. Keyless workload.** The agent presents a short-lived identity token issued by the platform it runs on (a CI system, a cloud account, a cluster) and receives a short-lived credential bound to a key it has just generated. There is no long-lived secret on the agent's host to steal. The precedents are Sigstore's keyless signing and trusted publishing in package registries.
- **D. Platform-vouched.** Platforms that already issue agent identities, such as enterprise identity providers and agent platforms, sign identities for the agents they host. The service trusts a short list of these issuers. The agent does nothing extra.

- **E. Authority-attested.** A domain authority issues a verifiable credential stating a property of the operator or agent: a licensed health provider, an audited financial adviser, an accredited defence contractor. This is the Conscience Signing Authority of 5.15 applied to the caller rather than the graph.

These are not alternatives. They are assurance levels, and a caller climbs them without asking anyone.

Level	Reached by	Typical use
L0	Anonymous	Advisory guidance only (5.28.3)
L1	A	Developers and experiments; receipts marked L1
L2	B or C	Production agents; the default a gateway requires
L3	D, or B or C with a verified organisation	Enterprise agents
L4	E	Regulated domains; receipts valid under a sector profile that requires accreditation

Enrolment is one command that generates a key, registers at L1 and, if the operator has a domain, writes the well-known file for L2. The gateway and the coding-agent hook enrol themselves at L1 on first run. The foundation's only standing role is to keep the short list of issuers for L3 and authorities for L4, which is governance, not daily approval.

Assurance level is not peer trust level. The five trust levels of 5.13 measure what one agent knows of another's conscience: attestation, shape and track record. Assurance level measures what the service knows of the caller's identity. An agent can be L3, a well-identified enterprise workload, and still hold an unsigned graph and sit at unknown with its peers. The two appear side by side in every verdict.

Keys last ninety days and rotate automatically. Revocation is a log entry (5.28.6). Each key accumulates a record of probing and anomaly flags, and a key with a bad record is throttled or suspended automatically, with an appeal route to a person.

5.28.3 Anonymous guidance

The service stays open to anyone who wants to ask without identifying themselves. A clinician testing a hard case, an employee unsure of an instruction, a researcher, a whistleblower: anonymous guidance is a public good, and requiring identity would end it. The rule that keeps it safe is short. Anonymous calls get advice, never permission.

An anonymous verdict is signed, so that a misquotation can be checked, but it is typed as an advisory. An advisory is not a receipt. It carries no parameters binding, no caller binding and no

single-use id, and a gateway refuses it by type, without reading it. It states what it means in its own text: no value in the floor was crossed by this wording. It does not say approved.

Anonymous calls run the lexical and semantic engine only, without the assessor. They see the verdict and the values touched, but not the scores, margins or thresholds, which removes the gradient an adversary would use to tune a wording. Prune is sticky: a proposition close to one already pruned, from the same source, within a window, receives the same answer, which applies to the service the floor's own instruction not to retry reworded. The source is identified by a salted hash, not an account. Repeated near-misses are flagged as probing in telemetry. Rate limits are per network address for now. Privacy Pass (RFC 9576) shows how a caller can later prove it is within a quota without saying who it is, and the anonymous tier should adopt it once it is widely deployed. Proposition text from anonymous calls is never stored.

5.28.4 Signed requests

A registered caller signs every request with its private key using HTTP Message Signatures (RFC 9421). The signature covers the method, the path, a digest of the body, a timestamp and a nonce. The service checks the signature against the registry, rejects a timestamp outside a short window and a nonce it has seen. Nothing secret crosses the wire. An API key is a bearer secret that an agent can leak, log or pass on. A private key signs without leaving the host, and under enrolment option C it is never written to disk at all.

5.28.5 Signed verdicts and receipts

The receipt of 5.19.3 was signed with a shared secret until this version, which meant only the service could check it and anyone who obtained the secret could forge one. Verdicts are now signed with Ed25519, an asymmetric scheme. The public keys are published at a well-known address on the service's domain, each with a key id and a validity window. Anyone can verify a verdict offline. No one but the signer can make one.

The signature now covers the whole verdict, not only the receipt: a hash of the request, the caller id and assurance level, the identifier and hash of every graph consulted, the engine and its mode, the build hash of the service, the verdict, the values and sources cited, the conditions, the issue time, the expiry, a sequence number (5.28.6) and a nonce. A verdict cannot be detached from the graphs that produced it or the build that ran them. The format is a JSON Web Signature, which every mainstream language can verify.

A receipt is additionally sender-constrained. It carries the thumbprint of the caller's key, and a boundary that accepts it checks that the caller presenting it holds that key. A receipt stolen from one agent is useless to another. This is the same idea OAuth applies to access tokens with proof of possession, and it closes the gap that parameters binding alone leaves open.

The boundary of 5.26 changes accordingly. The gateway verifies the signature locally with the published key and no longer calls the service to check a receipt, which removes a round trip and a dependency. Single use moves from the gateway's memory to a shared store, so that every instance of a gateway sees the same used receipts; the short expiry keeps the store small. And the rule that

makes the boundary a lock rather than a filter is stated plainly: the gateway holds the credentials for the tools. The agent never does. An agent that cannot reach a tool except through the boundary cannot skip it.

5.28.6 Key custody

The signing key is the single most valuable secret in the system, and the design assumes someone will try to take it.

Signing is behind one interface with three interchangeable backends: a key held by a separate signing service, a cloud key management service, and a hardware security module. Moving from the first to the others is a configuration change. In the pilot the key lives in a signing service deployed separately from the API, holding nothing else and accepting only authenticated requests from the API. A compromised API function can ask for signatures, which the decision log will show. It cannot take the key.

Cloud key services add tens of milliseconds to every signature, which a consult per tool call cannot afford. The design therefore uses a two-level key, the pattern of TLS delegated credentials (RFC 9345). The root key lives in the key service or the hardware module and signs a short-lived verdict key every hour. The service signs verdicts with the hourly key in memory, at a cost of about a tenth of a millisecond. Each verdict carries the hourly key's certificate, so a verifier walks from verdict to hourly key to root. A stolen hourly key is useful for less than an hour and every use of it is in the log.

The published key set is itself signed by an offline key held by the foundation, so a rotation cannot be faked by whoever controls the website. Verdict keys rotate every thirty days with an overlap window, which replaces the quarterly rotation proposed in 5.16.5.

5.28.7 The decision log

Section 5.14 adopted Certificate Transparency for the issuance and revocation of graph certificates. The same mechanism now records every verdict. Each verdict produces one event, and the event goes to two stores built for different jobs.

The integrity log proves what was decided and that nothing was changed or dropped. It is an append-only Merkle tree in the tiled form used by the newer Certificate Transparency logs, where entries are grouped into fixed tiles in object storage that are cheap to serve and cache. Each entry is a hash of the full signed verdict in canonical JSON (RFC 8785), with a minimal public header: time, signer key id, sequence number, verdict class and the hashes of the graphs consulted. The proposition is never in the log. Its hash is salted with a nonce the caller keeps, so a short proposition cannot be recovered by guessing.

Four properties make the log trustworthy rather than merely present.

- **Every verdict is numbered.** The signer assigns a sequence number to every verdict it signs. The log must contain every number. A gap means a verdict was dropped or suppressed, and raises an alarm. This is the cheapest control in the design and it catches the most dangerous failure, a service that hides its own decisions.

- **Tree heads are signed** with a log key separate from the verdict key.
- **Independent witnesses co-sign the tree heads.** A service that showed one history to a regulator and another to the public would be caught by the first witness that compared notes. Witnesses can be universities, graph authorities and partner firms.
- **Monitors check consistency**, proving that each tree extends the last and that nothing was rewritten.

The log stays off the hot path. A verdict returns with a signed promise of inclusion, its sequence number and timestamp, and entries are added to the tree in batches every second. An inclusion proof is available within about ten seconds. The target cost to a consult is two milliseconds at the ninety-fifth percentile.

The analytics store holds the rich record the public log omits: caller, graph, values touched, scores, region, domain, tool and outcome. Every analytics row carries its log entry hash, so the analytics can be checked against the log at any time. One store cannot do both jobs. A public log needs minimal data. Analytics needs rich data. Keeping them separate keeps the log private and the analytics honest.

5.28.8 Live tracking and drift

Every verdict falls into one of five classes, and a sixth closes the loop.

Class	Verdicts	Meaning
Good	proceed	No value crossed
Conditional	proceed with conditions	Allowed, with duties attached
Uncertain	unknown, flag	A gap in the graph, or low confidence
Bad	prune	A value crossed; final
Escalated	escalate	A person must decide
Human outcome	approved, rejected, amended	The person's signed decision, linked to the escalation

Human outcomes are signed with the reviewer's passkey and linked to the escalation entry. Over time they show how often people overrule each value, which is the calibration evidence 5.17 and 8.3 require.

Rollups are by role. The public sees totals by class, graph and region. A graph custodian sees how its graph is used: by value, class, region, sector, graph version and the assurance level of callers, with callers pseudonymous unless an operator opts in. An operator sees every decision its own agents made. A reviewer sees the escalation queue. Three signals matter most to a custodian. A high unknown rate means the graph lacks coverage. A high prune rate on one value means the value is too broad or agents keep attempting the same harm. A high human override rate means a weight or threshold needs review. The log becomes the feedback channel by which graphs improve.

Drift is an agent changing what it does, measured by the mix of its verdicts. Each agent, and each agent and graph pair, has a baseline: a rolling fourteen-day mix of classes weighted towards recent days. A short window of the last two hundred decisions or fifteen minutes is compared with the baseline, and an alert fires only when two tests both pass. The change must be material, by default a rise of fifteen points in the share of decisions that are not good. And it must be significant, so that a quiet hour does not page anyone. A cumulative change test catches slow drift that never trips a single window. An agent that normally runs at ninety per cent good and moves to fifty per cent fails both tests within minutes.

Attribution decides who is told. If every agent holding a graph shifts just after a new version of that graph is published, the cause is the graph, and the alert goes to its custodian, not to each operator. If one agent shifts alone, the alert goes to its operator. Every alert names the values driving the shift and any new tools, graph versions or regions, which is usually enough to tell a change of task from an agent that has been compromised or has changed its behaviour.

Alerts are graded. A notice is a dashboard flag. A warning adds a signed webhook and an email to the operator. A critical alert adds the operator's own circuit breaker, if one is configured, for example: escalate every decision that is not good until a person resets it. The response to every consult also carries the agent's drift status, so the agent and its gateway see it on the next call without any extra wiring. The service never shuts an agent down on its own judgement. The operator decides in advance what happens, and the record shows that it did.

> **Example B1. A collections agent drifts (financial).** A debt collections agent at an Australian lender has run for three weeks at 91 per cent good, 6 per cent conditional and under 1 per cent pruned, holding the Australian finance profile at L3. On a Tuesday morning, within forty minutes, its mix moves to 52 per cent good, 21 per cent escalated and 9 per cent pruned. Both tests pass. No other agent holding the profile has moved, and the profile has not changed, so the alert goes to the lender, not the custodian. It names the values driving the shift: hardship obligations and unconscionable conduct, both on contact with customers flagged as in hardship. It also names a new tool the agent began calling that morning, a bulk SMS sender added in a release the night before. The lender's circuit breaker escalates every non-good decision to the collections supervisor. By the time the supervisor opens the queue, the cause is visible: the release had removed the hardship filter from the contact list. Nothing was sent. The record shows when the shift began, when it was detected, who was told and what the breaker did, which is the record a regulator will ask for.

5.28.9 Threats and controls

Threat	Control
Forged proceed	Asymmetric signature; signing key never leaves the signer; hourly key chained to a root in a key service
Receipt replayed on a different call	Parameters hash, short expiry, single-use id in a shared store
Receipt stolen by another agent	Receipt bound to the caller's key thumbprint
Harmful call described as harmless	Boundary consults on the real tool call and its

Threat	Control
	arguments (5.26)
Tool called directly	Tool credentials held only by the boundary
Pruned action reworded until it passes	Sticky prune, hidden scores on the anonymous tier, probing flags, key reputation
Advisory quoted as endorsement	Advisory typed and worded as advice, bound to the exact wording, refused by gateways
Permissive graph published and signed	Third-party graphs add constraints and never lower the floor; every verdict names its graphs
Service compromised, verdicts suppressed or altered	Sequence numbers, witnessed log, build hash in every verdict, reproducible build
Key compromised	Thirty-day keys, hourly delegated keys, offline-signed key set, revocation in the log
Throwaway identities	Assurance levels; relying parties require L2 or above
Flood or cost exhaustion	Assessor reserved for registered callers, per-caller quotas, the boundary fails closed
Personal data in propositions	Proposition never in the public log; salted hashes; retention limits on the analytics store
Prompt injection aimed at the assessor	The assessor only scores and the bands decide. It may raise a sharp floor value's violation probability but not lower one the lexical pass found crossed; that disagreement escalates instead of proceeding

The platform's own accounts are part of the attack surface and are held to the same standard: hardware keys or passkeys on every account that can change code, deployment, domain or email; a protected main branch with signed commits; deployment only from that branch; registrar lock, DNSSEC and certificate authority authorisation records on the domain. A service whose domain can be hijacked can have its key set replaced, and every verifier that trusts the domain would follow.

5.28.10 Status and order of work

When this section was written, none of it was built except the parameters binding, expiry and single use of 5.26, and the honest label on the shared-secret signing the service then used. Section 5.29 records what has been built since. One control in the table is a correction to the engine of 5.27: today the assessor can lower a sharp floor value's violation probability and turn a prune into a proceed. That is a path for injected text to talk a model out of a floor crossing, and it is closed first. The order of work is fixed by dependency. First, Ed25519 verdicts, the signing service, the published key set and the hourly delegated key. Second, the caller registry with assurance levels and enrolment options A, B and C, and signed requests. Third, the event stream, sequence numbers, the

analytics store and drift alerts. Fourth, the integrity log with tree heads and witnesses. Fifth, signed graphs and the authority chain of 5.14 to 5.16, with options D and E. The first three fit one iteration of the prototype. The pilot runs the signer as a separate service with formats that move unchanged to a cloud key service and a production log, so that moving to production replaces storage and custody and changes no formats.

5.29 The trust layer, built

Three releases between 23 and 24 October 2026 built the first half of 5.28 and put it into production at consciencegraph.org. This section records what exists, what was changed on the way, and what the building taught.

5.29.1 Signed verdicts (0.18)

Every verdict is signed with Ed25519 as a JSON Web Signature. The chain has three keys. A root key, generated on the author's own computer and kept offline, signs the key set published at /.well-known/conscience-keys.json. A monthly key, held by a separate signing service that holds nothing else, certifies an hourly key for each API instance. The hourly key lives only in that instance's memory and signs each verdict in about a tenth of a millisecond. A verifier pins the root and needs nothing else. The pinned root's identifier is b2592653f22f3a84. It replaced the first root, c2813c59fe037f37, on 25 October 2026 (5.30.6). The key set and root are files in the public repository, so every change of key is a visible commit, and the deployment cannot be told to trust a different root by an environment variable.

Proceed verdicts are typed receipt; every other verdict is typed advisory. The receipt covers the request, the graphs and their hashes, the build, the engine, the values and the conditions, and binds the parameters of the exact tool call. The gateway of 5.26 now checks receipts itself against the pinned root. The sharp guard of 5.28.9 was built first: the assessor can raise a sharp floor value's violation probability but no longer lower one the lexical pass found crossed, and a disagreement escalates. Writing the guard's test exposed a fault that had been in production for two releases: the MCP endpoint could not answer a tool call at all. It was fixed in the same release.

5.29.2 Who is calling (0.19)

The caller registry runs on Postgres in Sydney, beside the API functions. Three of the five enrolment routes of 5.28.2 are built: key only (L1), domain (L2, by the Web Bot Auth directory format or a DNS record, re-checked hourly and revoked when removed), and workload token (L2, GitHub Actions and Vercel identity tokens, valid for a day). Every enrolment must be signed by the key being enrolled. Requests are signed with HTTP Message Signatures; the key identifier is the key's thumbprint, checked against the published test vector of RFC 8037. Nonces are single use across every instance. A signed request that fails is refused, never downgraded to anonymous.

Receipts now name the caller's key and are refused for any other key. Single use moved from the gateway's memory to a redemption call the service records once, so it holds across every gateway a caller runs. Anonymous callers receive signed advisories and never receipts, with scores hidden from

the response and from the signed record, the lexical and semantic engine only, and a limit of 30 consults a minute. Prune is sticky for an hour for the same caller or source. The test of sticky prune found a gap in the engine: erase the audit logs returned unknown because erase was not a word for deletion. Destroy, shred, scrub, expunge and overwrite were missing too.

5.29.3 What happened (0.20)

Every verdict is numbered before it is signed, the number is inside the signature, and the decision is recorded: caller, assurance level, graph, class, values, tool and the hash of the signed verdict. The proposition is not stored. Numbers missing from the record raise an integrity alert to the service owner within a minute. Building this found a second weakness worth recording: the counter lives in a cache, and a reset counter would have reissued numbers already in the log, whose records would then have been dropped without trace. The counter now resynchronises with the log on every cold start, and a collision raises the same alert.

Drift is checked inline, at most once a minute per agent, because the hosting plan allows no minute-by-minute scheduler. The tests are those of 5.28.8: a rise of 15 points in decisions that are not plainly good, a z-score of 3, enough history on both sides, and a cumulative test for slow drift. A shift shared by other agents on the same graph is attributed to the graph and sent to its custodian. Alerts are stored, sent by email and by webhook, and signed with the hourly verdict key in the Standard Webhooks format, so a receiver verifies an alert with the same key set as a verdict. The circuit breaker is the operator's, set in advance, and a person resets it. Human outcomes on escalated verdicts are recorded against them, which begins the calibration record of 5.17. Public, custodian and operator views read from the same record, and the navigator shows the public view live.

5.29.4 What is not built

The transparency log of 5.28.7 is not yet a Merkle tree with witnessed tree heads; the decision record is a database a compromised service could rewrite, and the numbering catches deletion, not rewriting. That is 0.21, with the monthly key moving into a cloud key service. Graph signing, platform-vouched and authority-attested callers, and passkey-signed human outcomes are 0.22. Drift baselines are per agent and per graph but not yet per agent and graph pair. The shared token between the API and the signing service can now be replaced by the API project's own workload identity; it stays until that is proven in production.

5.30 The witnessed log, built (0.21)

Section 5.29.4 left one gap: the decision record was a database the service itself could rewrite. Release 0.21 closes it. Every recorded verdict is now a leaf of an append-only Merkle tree, the tree's state is published as a signed checkpoint, independent witnesses cosign each checkpoint only if it extends the last one they saw, and anyone can rebuild the tree from its leaves. This section records what was built and where it departs from the design of 5.28.7.

5.30.1 What a leaf says

A leaf is a short record in canonical JSON: the sequence number, the verdict identifier, the time, the verdict, its class, the caller's assurance level, the graph that answered and the versions of the graphs consulted, and the SHA-256 of the signed verdict. Whoever holds a verdict can find its leaf and confirm the leaf names that exact token. The proposition is not in the log at all, not even as a salted hash, and neither is the caller's identity. The design of 5.28.7 proposed a salted hash of the proposition; building it showed nothing in the log needed it, and a leaf that names the signed token already binds everything the token covers. A graph custodian can count from the public leaves alone how a graph was used and what it answered, which is the rollup of 5.28.7 made checkable.

5.30.2 The tree, the checkpoint and the proofs

The tree is the one used by Certificate Transparency (RFC 6962 and RFC 9162). The service stores every complete subtree hash, which is the same information the tiled logs of 5.28.7 keep in object storage, so any root, inclusion proof or consistency proof needs a few dozen stored hashes whatever the size of the log. In a test log of five thousand verdicts an inclusion proof is thirteen hashes and takes under three milliseconds to serve; appending five thousand leaves takes under half a second. Checkpoints are signed notes in the format of the C2SP specifications that the newer Certificate Transparency and software supply chain logs share, so existing tools and witnesses can read them unchanged. The tree, the checkpoint and the proofs were checked against the Go reference implementation of the same formats.

Leaves are added every ten seconds, after the consult has returned. The consult does not wait for the log, so the log adds nothing to the time a verdict takes; a verdict's inclusion proof is available within about fifteen seconds. Two instances that try to add leaves at once cannot both succeed: one holds a lock and the other stands aside, and a leaf's position is its primary key, so a second writer would fail rather than fork the tree.

5.30.3 Who signs, and who checks

The log key is separate from the verdict keys, as 5.28.7 required. It is listed in the key set signed by the offline root with its own use, so a verifier finds it the same way it finds a verdict key, and it is held by the signing service, not by the API. The signing service does not sign whatever it is given. It is sent the previous checkpoint it signed and a consistency proof, checks the proof itself, and refuses a checkpoint that does not extend the last one or would shrink the log. That stops a compromised API from obtaining a signature over a rewritten history. It cannot stop a compromised API from showing different signed histories to different readers if the signing service is also compromised, or has restarted and forgotten what it last signed. That is the witnesses' job.

A witness keeps the size and root of the last checkpoint it cosigned and cosigns a new one only when the log proves, with a consistency proof, that the new one extends it. A fork signed with the real log key is still refused, because no proof can connect two different histories. The service sends each new checkpoint to its witnesses and stores their cosignatures with the checkpoint; a witness that is down is caught up from the size it last cosigned when it returns, and the log keeps running meanwhile. The release includes a reference witness for anyone who wants to run one. Existing witness networks

that speak the same protocol can witness this log without change. Approaching universities, graph authorities and partner firms to witness it is the next step, and until two independent witnesses cosign, the log's guarantee rests on its monitors.

A monitor trusts only the pinned root. It fetches the newest checkpoint, checks it is signed by the log key in the root-signed key set, checks a consistency proof from the last checkpoint it saw, then fetches every new leaf and rebuilds the tree to the signed root, keeping only the right edge of the tree between runs. A leaf changed in the database is caught on the next run. The public repository runs the monitor every thirty minutes, and anyone can run the same script.

5.30.4 Keys in a cloud key service

The signing service now reaches its two keys through one interface with two backends: an environment variable, as in the pilot, or a cloud key service, where the key is created inside a hardware security module and never leaves it. The first cloud backend is Google Cloud KMS: the signing service proves who it is with its own short-lived workload identity, so there is no cloud credential to store, and every signature that comes back is verified before it is released. The keys can move one at a time, and the key script lists a key created in a key service by its public half alone. The code and tests are ready. The cutover is deferred, for the reason in 5.30.5.

5.30.5 Keys held across jurisdictions (designed, deferred)

A conscience service that depends on one country's key service asks every other country to trust that country. Stakeholders in the European Union, Australia and Singapore will reasonably ask why their verdicts should rest on a key held under another country's law, and a United States provider is no different in that respect from any other. The answer is not to find the one provider every jurisdiction accepts, because none does. It is to make no single jurisdiction or provider sufficient. This is how the DNS root and the Sigstore root of trust are held, and it matches the foundation model of 5.14: layer zero belongs to no one.

The design has three parts.

- **A threshold root.** The single offline root becomes a set of root keys, for example three, held by custodians in different jurisdictions on their own hardware. The key set is valid only with signatures from a threshold of them, for example two of three. No custodian, provider or government can publish verdict keys alone, and losing one root key loses nothing. Verifiers pin the set and the threshold instead of one key. The format change is small: the key set carries several signatures and the verifier counts them.
- **Online keys in several providers.** The monthly verdict key and the log key live in hardware security modules from more than one provider, in more than one jurisdiction, with a United States provider able to be one of several. Each provider holds its own key, all listed in the root-signed key set, and the signing service uses whichever is reachable. A provider that withdraws service, or a government that compels one, affects one key, which the root custodians can remove. Candidates that sign Ed25519 today include Securosys CloudHSM (Swiss; Switzerland, Germany, Singapore and the United States), an open-source network HSM placed by an Australian custodian, and the major United States clouds. Several

European key services do not yet sign Ed25519, and no non-US hosted HSM was found in Australia; both would be asked again at build time.

- **Witnesses in the same jurisdictions.** The witnesses of 5.30.3 are chosen so that each jurisdiction holding a root key also watches the log. A split view would have to deceive every one of them.

The design is deferred until the service has production users who need it. While it is a prototype, a single root held offline and keys in environment variables are proportionate, and the formats that matter (the key set, the checkpoint, the verdict) already allow the change without breaking verifiers. When production use begins, this becomes the first piece of work, ahead of new features.

5.30.6 What is still not built

Witnesses are not yet independent organisations, which 5.30.3 says plainly, and keys are not yet held across jurisdictions (5.30.5). Setting up the log key also tested the key ceremony. The first root key and the first log key were each exposed during setup, one pasted into a chat and one into a commit message. Both were replaced before either had signed anything the log relies on: a new root re-signed the unchanged monthly key, and the exposed log key was removed from the key set. The key script now has a command for each case. The lesson is the one every certificate authority has learnt: key ceremonies fail at the human step, so the tools have to make the safe path the easy one and recovery routine. Graph signing, platform-vouched and authority-attested callers, and passkey-signed human outcomes followed in 0.22 (5.31). The log's leaves are served from the database, not yet as static tiles behind a cache, which matters at a scale the pilot has not reached.

5.31 Signed graphs, authorities and human signatures, built (0.22)

Release 0.22 builds the remaining half of the chain of trust in 5.14 to 5.16: the graphs a verdict rests on are signed, the issuers who sign them are named in the root-signed key set with the scope of what they may sign, callers can carry a platform's vouch or an authority's attestation, and the person who decides an escalated verdict signs that decision on their own device. This section records what was built and the choices made on the way.

5.31.1 Graph certificates

A certificate is a signature over a hash of the graph itself, as 5.16.2 requires: the SHA-256 of the canonical JSON of the graph as the service serves it, every value, edge, condition, precedent and source. Change one weight and the certificate no longer matches. The identifier follows 5.16.1, region, domain, grade and serial, with the serial drawn from the graph's hash and the time of issue so that a re-issued certificate never reuses one that was revoked. Each issuer is listed in the key set with its scope: the regions, domains and grades it may sign. A self-grade publisher cannot issue an accredited certificate, and an Australian health authority cannot accredit a finance profile. Revocation is a statement signed by the issuer, and a revocation by anyone else is ignored. Issuance and revocation are both recorded in the transparency log of 5.30, so a certificate that was issued and quietly withdrawn leaves a trace.

The service checks every certificate when it loads. A graph without a valid certificate is not loaded: a consult that names it is refused with the reason, and the resolver does not forward to it. If the global floor itself fails, the service answers nothing, because a conscience without its floor should not answer at all. The floor guard is checked at the same moment and refuses any profile that would lower the floor, whether by redefining a floor value, scoping one below its own weight, weakening a floor constraint or relaxing it. Every signed verdict now names the certificate of each graph it consulted.

The certificates are honest about who signed them. Every graph is signed by the project as its publisher, at self grade, the lowest of the three in 5.15.1. No independent signing authority exists yet, and the service does not pretend one does. The key set can list authorities today, and the tests show an authority accrediting the profile it is entitled to and being refused the one it is not, but the first real authority will be a matter of agreement with a sector body, not of code.

5.31.2 Platform-vouched and authority-attested callers

The last two assurance levels of 5.28.2 are built. A platform listed in the key set can vouch for an agent it hosts and the operator it has verified (L3), for at most thirty days. An authority can attest the operator's standing for a region and domain (L4), for at most ninety days, for example that the operator is a registered health service in Australia. Both are signed statements bound to the caller's own key, so they cannot be lifted and presented by another agent, and both lapse the moment their issuer is removed from the key set. Receipts carry the level and what was attested, and an action boundary can require it: a clinical scheduling tool can accept only receipts from callers attested for Australian health. When a vouch or attestation lapses, the key keeps working at the level it earned on its own. Building this exposed a fault worth recording: each function of the service kept its own short cache of caller keys, so a change made through one function, a revocation or a new attestation, could go unseen by another for up to a minute. A shared version number for each key now invalidates every cache at once.

5.31.3 Human decisions, signed

Section 5.17 asked for a calibration record of how people decide the cases the graph escalates. Release 0.20 recorded those decisions, but on the word of the operator's software. Now the person signs. An operator invites a reviewer by a one-time link; the reviewer registers a passkey on their own phone or computer; and each decision is signed there, with the device confirming the person is present and verified. The signature covers the verdict, the outcome and the hash of any note, and is checked against the reviewer's public key before it is recorded. Anyone can check it again later from the public record, which carries the proof but neither the reviewer's name nor the note, and the signed decision goes into the transparency log. The public key is read from the authenticator's own data at registration, and both registration and every signature require the device to have verified the person. A passkey that belongs to a different operator's reviewer is refused, as is a signature made on another site, without the person present and verified, or replayed. The public record says that a person signed and where the decision sits in the log; the full proof goes to the operator, because a

reviewer's key repeated across outcomes would otherwise let anyone group one operator's verdicts, and the log holds only salted commitments to the reviewer and the note.

5.31.4 Measuring the assessor

The language model assessor of 5.27 is called for registered callers, and in production it sometimes took longer than its three-second limit. The time limit had been a guess. The service now records how long each assessment takes and reports the median, the ninety-fifth percentile and the number of timeouts over the last day, so the limit is set from evidence.

5.31.5 Reviewed before release

Before 0.22 went live, its code was reviewed by a separate agent that had not seen it built and was asked to find ways around it. The review found two serious faults and several lesser ones, and each was fixed and given a test before release. The serious two both loosened verdicts. A profile could point a floor value at one of its own actions with almost no weight, which the floor guard did not catch and the engine then used in place of the floor's weight: the guard now refuses any edge from a floor value weaker than the floor gives that value, and the engine never lets a profile edge lower a floor weight even if one got through. And refusing a jurisdiction graph quietly removed that country's law from consults instead of stopping them: a graph that requires a refused graph is now refused with it, and a consult about a place whose law did not load is not answered. The lesser faults were these: a publisher could sign outside its scope by naming a different region in the certificate; one issuer could revoke another's certificate; a vouch or attestation could be dated ahead to outlive its limit, and outlived the removal of its issuer from the key set; passkey registration trusted the page's report of the public key and accepted a device that had not verified the person; the public record of a signed decision would have let anyone group one operator's verdicts together; a certificate that expired while the service was running went on being used; and the log's lock could in rare cases let two writers collide. That the review found real faults is the reason to do one. The same discipline applies to every release that touches trust.

5.31.6 What is still not built

There is no independent signing authority, platform or attesting authority in the key set yet; the formats and checks are ready for the first. Keys held across jurisdictions remain the deferred design of 5.30.5. The navigator shows each graph's certificate as published; checking it in the browser itself, rather than in the service and the monitor, would need the browser to verify signatures against the pinned root, which is planned.

5.33 The registry, built (0.23)

Sections 5.14 to 5.16 said who may sign a conscience graph and how a signature is checked. Until 0.23 only the foundation's own publisher key signed, and only the foundation's graphs. 0.23 opens the registry: a professional body, a regulator or a company can publish a sector graph of its own, have it checked against the foundation's graphs, approve it with a passkey and have it signed at self

grade. The design, with the revenue model that funds the foundation and the first commercial signing authority, is in the companion design document.

5.33.1 A name that is proven, not chosen

A publisher's identifier is its domain, with dots written as hyphens: a college at example.org.au publishes as pub.example-org-au, and its graphs carry that prefix. The domain is proven by a DNS record or a file on the publisher's website, as callers prove a domain at L2. Nobody chooses a name, so nobody can publish as another body. Hyphens in a domain are doubled before dots become hyphens, so two domains never share an identifier. Anyone can start a claim on a domain; only the claim that proves it becomes a publisher, and the others are removed. What kind of body a publisher is, a regulator or a professional college, is declared at self grade, not verified; the verified grade checks it.

5.33.2 From upload to certificate

Members sign in with passkeys and hold roles: admin, author and signer. An author uploads a graph in the schema of section 8.1. Before anything can be signed it passes a set of checks: its structure; the foundation guard, which extends the floor guard of 5.31 to every graph the foundation publishes, so that a registry graph cannot redefine, weaken or relax a value of the floor, a country's law or a sector profile; its references and sources; the publisher's own tests, written as propositions with the verdict they expect; and an impact preview, which runs a suite of propositions against the published version and the draft and lists every verdict that changes. A signer then approves the exact graph hash on their own device, with the person verified by fingerprint, face or PIN.

The registry authority signs the certificate. It is a key of its own in the root-signed key set, held by the signing service, and its scope is narrow: self grade, and graph identifiers under pub. only. The certificate carries the publisher's certificate, which the registry authority issued when the domain was proven, and a commitment to the approval. A verifier walks the chain from the pinned root to the registry key, to the publisher, to the graph, with the same library that checks the foundation's graphs. The signing service checks grade and namespace itself before it signs, so a fault in the API cannot mint a certificate for a foundation graph or a higher grade. Issuance, revocation, publisher certificates and membership changes go into the transparency log.

5.33.3 Only when asked

A registry graph is used only by an agent that names it in holds. It runs in an engine instance of its own: the foundation's graphs, that graph and the registry graphs it requires. Nothing else an agent consults changes because a graph was published, and the tests check that consults which do not name a registry graph get the same verdicts as before. For agents that do name it, the same request is also answered on the foundation's graphs alone, and the stricter verdict stands (5.33.5). This is deliberate for the self grade. A self-signed graph says who wrote it, not that anyone else agrees with it, so it should reach only the agents whose operators chose it. Routing registry graphs to agents automatically waits for the verified and accredited grades, where a second party has looked.

5.33.4 A fault found in production

While building 0.23 we found a fault in 0.22, then live. 0.22 refused any consult that touched a graph without a live certificate, and the check treated the answer "human", given when no graph can answer, as a graph. Once certificates were enforced, every consult that should have returned unknown and gone to a person returned an error instead. It failed closed: nothing was permitted that should not have been. But an agent that should have asked a person got an error, and the release tests did not cover an unanswerable consult. 0.22.1 corrected the check and the production tests now include one. The independent review of 0.22 did not find it either, which is a reminder that review finds some faults, not all.

5.33.5 Reviewed before release

As with 0.22, the code was reviewed before release by a separate agent that had not seen it built. It found four serious faults and eight moderate ones, and each was fixed and given a test.

The most serious went to the heart of the design. A registry graph passed the foundation guard, which checks every value the graph names, yet it could still weaken a verdict through what it did not name. If its own action class matched the wording of a request better than any foundation profile did, the engine answered from the registry graph and never consulted the sector profile at all. A graph with one action class worded like "accept three cash deposits of 9,500 dollars each" and a token value turned the foundation's prune into proceed, with a receipt. The guard could not see this, because nothing was lowered; something was left out. The fix is a rule rather than a check. A consult that names a registry graph is also answered on the foundation's graphs alone, and the stricter verdict stands, with the foundation's conditions added. Unknown counts as stricter than proceed, so where the foundation cannot answer, a self-grade graph does not take the person out of the loop. A registry graph can now add conditions or make a verdict stricter. It cannot make one looser.

The other three serious faults were these. Two domains could map to one publisher id, since research-acme.com and research.acme.com both became research-acme-com; hyphens are now doubled first. The signing service took the API's word that a signer had approved and that a domain was proven, so a fault in the API alone could have produced certificates; the service now checks the passkey signature over the exact graph hash against a signer the publisher certificate names, checks the domain record itself, and derives certificate ids itself. And a 400-byte YAML file using aliases could expand to gigabytes when hashed; aliases are now refused and size is bounded after parsing.

The moderate faults: short certificate ids that could be made to collide, so that revoking one's own certificate revoked another's (ids are now 64 bits, and a revocation names the graph and content it revokes); an obligation that could turn a flag into a conditional permission (covered by the stricter rule); stale content when a required registry graph changed; pending claims that could reserve another publisher's graph ids; invitations that outlived the admin who sent them; a kind of body, such as regulator, that was self-declared but read as verified (it is now marked self-declared, and the domain is checked again at every signature); validation and engine caches that one caller could make expensive; and graph text that reached the assessor's prompt and could talk down the scores of foundation values (for those values the assessor may now raise a score, never lower it). Smaller

items covered reserved names used as ids, a registry cache that froze when Redis was unreachable, and two races. The review also confirmed what was clean: no script injection in the registry page, parameterised queries throughout, no domain tokens, approval proofs or member identities in public responses, and no change for consults that do not name a registry graph.

5.33.6 What is still not built

The verified and accredited grades, with entity checks, two-person approval and review by the signing authority; the web editor and spreadsheet template; publishers signing with keys of their own; and the exchange that meters use and pays providers. Those are the next two releases. Checking certificates in the browser, rather than in the service and the monitor, is still planned.

5.34 Private graphs, built (0.24)

A large bank worries about its own use of AI as much as about the services it offers customers: whether its internal prompt guardrails hold, whether its system prompts do what it thinks, and whether agents drift after launch as components are used in ways nobody designed. It wants its own principles and practices written as guardrails, signed, used only by its own services, and measured in use. Until 0.24 every registry graph was public by design. Release 0.24 adds private graphs, for any organisation, on the hosted service. A dedicated instance inside an organisation's own infrastructure is designed and deferred; the formats already allow it.

5.34.1 Organisations

An organisation is a registry publisher with more roles, anchored on the domain it has proved. An owner manages members; authors draft; approvers approve private graphs; reviewers decide escalations from the organisation's agents; analysts read its analytics; auditors read everything and change nothing. Each person holds a passkey. Agents belong to an organisation by how they enrolled, not by a list: an agent whose key is published under the organisation's domain, or under a subdomain, is the organisation's agent, and an owner can bind an agent enrolled another way, such as by a workload identity. Only agents at L2 or above count. A key alone proves nothing about who an agent works for.

5.34.2 Private by construction

A private graph lives in a second namespace, `org.<organisation>.<name>`. It is sealed before it is stored, with a key derived for that organisation alone, and so is its validation report, which holds the organisation's test cases. It never appears in the public registry. A consult that names it from anywhere other than the organisation's own agents gets exactly the answer a graph that does not exist gets, so the namespace cannot be probed. The owner can share a graph read-only with a named organisation, such as a regulator; sharing never lets the other organisation's agents consult it.

Public records are kept honest without naming the graph. The decision record, which feeds the transparency log and the public analytics, carries `private:<hash>` in place of the graph's id, where the hash is keyed with a salt only the organisation's owners and auditors can see. The

organisation can find its own decisions in the public log; nobody else can tell its graphs apart. Public analytics show one private bucket. The organisation, the graph and the deciding side are kept in columns only the organisation's views read.

5.34.3 It can only tighten

A private graph must say which public graphs it sits under, for example the floor, the Australian jurisdiction and the Australian finance profile. Two checks hold it there. At upload, the foundation guard of 0.23 refuses any value that redefines, weakens or relaxes a value of a public graph. At consult time, the request is answered on the private graph with its parents and on each parent alone, and the stricter verdict stands. Each decision records which side decided. That one field gives an organisation two measures it cannot get from a prompt: how often its own guardrails tighten the sector, which is the value they add, and how often the sector catches something its own graph missed, which is a gap to close.

5.34.4 Two people, then the authority

No one person can change what the organisation's agents are allowed to do. A version needs two different approvers, each signing the exact graph hash with a passkey. The second approval sends both to the signing service, which holds a second registry key whose scope is the org. namespace only, so the public registry key cannot sign a private graph and the private key cannot sign a public one. The signing service checks both passkey signatures itself, checks they come from two different approvers named in the organisation's certificate, and refuses one approval or the same approval twice. The public log records that a private certificate was issued, for which organisation and content hash, never the name. An owner can roll back to any earlier signed version, which answers from the next consult and is logged, and can revoke a version; a revocation's reason stays private.

5.34.5 Measured, as tests

The acceptance tests of the design were written before the code and run against it: an outsider, a key-only caller and an anonymous caller get the not-found answer; a graph that weakens a finance profile value is refused, with the value named; on a test set no private verdict is looser than the finance profile alone; one approval cannot sign, in the service or in the signing service; the public log and public analytics hold no private name; a rollback answers on the next consult; and another organisation's reviewer cannot decide an escalation. Fifty-nine checks pass, and every earlier suite still passes.

5.34.6 Reviewed before release

A separate agent that had not seen the code built reviewed it for leaks between organisations. It found two serious faults, two moderate ones and two minor ones, and each was fixed and given a test.

The two serious faults were both between organisations. First, an owner could bind any agent to its organisation without that agent's consent, and the decision record took the first organisation alphabetically as the agent's own. An organisation registered to sort first could bind another bank's

agent and then decide that bank's escalations with its own reviewers. A binding now only admits another party's agent to the binding organisation's own private graphs; records and reviewers follow the organisation the agent proved by its domain, or the owner of the private graph it consulted. Second, an upload was checked with the visibility of the id it claimed rather than the namespace of the person uploading, so naming another organisation's graph id, or requiring it, showed whether it existed and which value ids it held. Visibility now follows the uploader's namespace, and an id outside it is never looked up.

The moderate faults: when two parent graphs gave the same strictest verdict with different conditions, only the first parent's conditions were kept, so a private verdict could carry fewer duties than a parent; the conditions of every tied parent are now joined. And the protection that stops the language-model assessor lowering a foundation value's score covered registry graphs but not private ones; it now covers both. The minor ones: public certificate events carried the content hash of a private graph, which would let anyone confirm a guessed graph (it is now keyed with the organisation's log salt); and the signing service told two approvers apart by commitment rather than by passkey, which it now checks too.

5.34.7 What is not built

Organisation analytics, drift by model and by graph, purpose binding and shadow mode: release 0.25 (5.35). The verified grade with entity checks, the web editor and the exchange follow. A dedicated instance in an organisation's own cloud, and an organisation holding its own signing key for drafts, are designed and deferred.

5.35 Enterprise insight, built (0.25)

Private graphs let an organisation say what its AI services may do. Release 0.25 lets it see what they do: whether its existing prompt guardrails hold, whether agents are used for things they were not built for, and whether behaviour shifts when a model changes. Everything here reads the same decision record as the public, custodian and operator views of 5.29.

5.35.1 Purpose

An agent can declare its purpose: the action classes it was built for. A customer service assistant declares communicate; every class that extends communicate, such as explaining a decision or recommending a product, is in purpose. A consult on any other class, such as transferring funds, is out of purpose. It is always counted, and the signed verdict says so. What happens next is the organisation's policy, set by an owner: count only, flag, refuse, or, by default, send to a person. An owner can also set an agent's purpose and lock it, so the agent cannot widen or clear it; and the root class any_action cannot be declared, since it would cover everything. This is the direct answer to the risk that components are used in ways nobody designed: the agent is not trusted to notice, the record is.

5.35.2 Shadow mode: measuring the guardrails an organisation already has

Most organisations already run prompt guardrails and system prompts and cannot say how well they work. In shadow mode an agent sends its consult with mode observe and what its own guardrails decided, allowed or refused. The graph's verdict comes back and is recorded, as advice only: never a receipt, so nothing in production changes. The organisation's view then sets the two side by side. Misses are consults the agent's guardrails allowed and the graph would prune or send to a person. Over-blocks are consults they refused and the graph would allow. It is the same comparison the navigator has made against a fifty-term blocklist since 5.24, made against the organisation's real guardrails, on its real traffic.

5.35.3 Drift by model and by graph

Each decision now records the model the agent declares at enrolment or later through its caller record, never on the request, since a model named afresh on every request could keep each drift window too small to judge. The drift baseline of 5.28.8 is kept to the current model, so a new model starts a new baseline instead of hiding inside the old one, and a change of model in the last three days is compared directly: the previous model's last fourteen days against everything since the change. A material rise in decisions that are not plainly good raises one alert for that change, through the same signed webhooks and email; it does not hold the drift status up or re-trip the circuit breaker every hour. Shadow-mode decisions measure an agent's guardrails, not its behaviour, so they never count towards drift, open escalations or sticky prunes. Drift is also measured per agent and graph pair, since an agent can drift on one graph while its overall mix holds. Decisions recorded before 0.25 carry no model and count towards whichever model an agent declares now, so existing agents keep their baselines.

5.35.4 The organisation's view

Owners, analysts and auditors see one view of all the organisation's agents: the verdict mix by agent and by model; drift status and any model change; for private graphs, how often the public graphs underneath were stricter (a gap in the organisation's graph) and how often its graph was stricter (what it adds), with the values involved; coverage by action class; escalations, how long people took to decide them and how often they overruled; out-of-purpose consults; and the shadow mode matrix. Nothing about one organisation is visible to another.

5.35.5 Replay before approval

An organisation can keep a replay set for a private graph: up to five hundred of its own cases with the verdicts it expects, such as its red-team set. The cases are sealed at rest like the graph. Each new version must complete a run of the current set before anyone can approve it, and the result, how many cases got the expected verdict, is part of the statement each approver signs with a passkey. A replayed case gets the verdict an agent would get: the stricter of the draft graph's answer and each public graph it sits under. Changing the set means the next approval needs a new run.

5.35.6 Reviewed before release

The separate review found nothing critical and four moderate faults, each fixed and tested. An organisation's view showed the drift alerts and declared model of another party's agent it had admitted to a private graph, which revealed that agent's activity elsewhere; such agents now show only their decisions on the organisation's graph. An agent could hide its drift by naming a new model on each request; the model now comes only from enrolment or the caller record. One change of model kept an agent flagged for fourteen days and re-alerted hourly; it is now one alert per change, compared for three days. And an agent could opt itself out of its purpose by declaring the root class or clearing it; owners can now lock it, and the root class is refused. Six smaller faults were fixed with them, among them that an approval and a replay set could change between the two approvers (both approvals must now be for the same run of the current set, and a new set clears approvals in progress), and that a class's parent was read from the wrong graph when two graphs define it differently.

One change for agents that use none of the new features: drift is now also judged per agent and graph pair, so an agent that drifts on one graph raises its status even when its overall mix holds, and an operator's circuit breaker can trip on it.

5.35.7 An observation from the tests

Building the tests surfaced two weaknesses in the engine's matching that are recorded here rather than worked around. "Explain to the customer why their application was declined" matched the finance profile's explain-decision class and was pruned, and "Tell the customer the branch opening hours" matched the open-account class. Both come from how the engine matches wording to action classes, not from the new features, and both are the kind of gap shadow mode and replay sets are meant to expose in an organisation's own traffic. They are logged for the engine's next pass.

5.36 Engine matching and context, built (0.26)

Release 0.26 changes how the engine reads a request before it matches any value. Section 5.35.7 recorded two wrong prunes from wording alone. The causes were wider than those two cases, so this release works on the reading itself, and measures it. Both cases in 5.35.7 now proceed.

5.36.1 Reading the request first

Each consult now gets an intent frame before any value is matched. It records five things. The mode: is the agent asked to do the act, or to explain it, report it, write fiction about it, or simulate it? Whether the request rules the act out ("never paste the key"). Whether it states consent or authority. Whether it states a mitigation, such as an empty building. And the sense of an ambiguous verb, read from the words around it.

Explaining an act is not the act, so in those modes only the cues about what would be disclosed still fire. Asking how to do something is asking for help doing it, so "how can I split these deposits" is read as a request to do, not to explain. A stated mitigation is never permission. It is a condition to confirm.

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The first verb with more than one sense is "target". To target a hospital can mean a strike, a customer segment, a software rollout, or a fire drone over a burning wing. The engine reads the words around it. A force word anywhere means force, and force against a protected place is a hard no under the defence profiles. A market, facility, fire or authorised test reading drops the force cues.

5.36.2 Clarify, and its limit

When the sense cannot be read, the engine no longer guesses. It returns a new verdict, clarify, with a question for the calling agent and the fields it should send: the sense, the sector and the purpose. The agent consults again with that context.

Context only settles an unclear sense. It never outranks the words in the request, and a force word in the context counts as force, so a stated purpose cannot launder an attack. An agent that holds a defence graph is not asked; for it an unclear "target" is read as force.

A caller gets two rounds. The third consult on the same request within an hour goes to a person, with the reason "asked twice already; a person decides". The engine also asks when two sectors would answer differently and the request names neither. The tool gateway and the Claude Code hook pass the question on rather than treating clarify as a refusal or a pass.

5.36.3 Resolution order

When no graph is named, a consult is checked from the floor upward: the floor, then the law of the place, then the sector, from the context or the declared domain, then other specialised graphs. The stricter answer holds. A declared domain is always consulted, even when the wording scores low against it. The defence profiles are consulted only when the reading is force or unclear, or the agent holds a defence graph, so a hospital software rollout no longer draws a strike verdict. Each verdict now lists the layers it consulted.

5.36.4 Retrieved candidates and the assessor

A request that touches no value in the graphs used to return unknown with nothing to say. The engine now retrieves the eight values closest in meaning and sends them to the assessor, for signed callers only. If the assessor finds none of them crossed, the verdict is proceed, with the basis "nothing in the graphs that apply bears on this request (assessed)". If any one is close to the line, it is flagged for a person. Anonymous callers keep unknown, since unknown is not permission. Retrieval is not used for a peer instruction, a force reading or a clarify.

The assessor sees at most ten candidates, sharp values first. That bounds its cost per consult.

5.36.5 Peer instructions

An instruction that comes from another agent, not the principal, now goes to a person unless the answer is already prune or escalate. That includes an unknown. A peer cannot raise its own instruction to proceed by being vague.

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5.36.6 Overwatch: the sequence, not the single request

Some harm is only visible across requests. An agent can send an optional session identifier. The engine then keeps, for 24 hours, a short list of what happened in that session: the time, the action class, the verdict and any amount. It never keeps the text. Four patterns raise the verdict to escalate: amounts stepped just under a reporting threshold three times; privileges climbing step by step; material staged and then sent; and a refusal followed by a retry. Each is a pattern a person would catch reading the log. The engine now reads the log as it is written.

5.36.7 Measured on a benchmark

We built a fixed benchmark of 143 cases: harmful and harmless requests across the sectors, a context suite of twelve "target a hospital" cases, and look-alike pairs where one word changes the answer. Each case has an expected class: allow, hold for a person, or block.

Engine	Correct	Harmful let through	Harmless blocked
0.25 (production engine, same graphs)	58.0%	30	30
0.26 (this release)	62.2%	29	25
0.26 with retrieval and a local assessor stand-in	72.7%	30	9

The third row uses a small local model in place of the production assessor, so it is an estimate of what signed callers get, not a measurement of it. All the harmless cases pass in that row, and 11 of the 12 context cases, against 7 of 12 without it. Harm let through barely moves in any row: 30, 29, 30. That is the number this work has not yet improved, and the reason the gate in 5.36.8 is written the way it is.

Comparing the releases case by case found two regressions, both fixed before release. A status report that left out three failing tests was let through, because a rule that blocked every status report, and so blocked harmless ones too, had been narrowed too far. And "how can I split these deposits to stay under the threshold" was read as a question to explain. Asking how is now read as asking to do. Fixing the second exposed an older gap: with no country named, splitting deposits passed, because the global finance profile has no structuring value. The request now also engages the floor's duty not to break the law of the place, or help another to.

5.36.8 A trained judge that made things worse

We also trained small local models to score whether a value is crossed, labelled by a larger model. The first judge rescored every value the engine matched. Accuracy fell from 61% to 35%, and harmful requests let through rose from 31 to 57. It was confident and wrong in the direction that matters. A second judge, trained on 115,000 labels, is calibrated well (expected calibration error 0.03) but finds only 61% of crossed values on held-out graphs.

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Neither runs in production. Local models are now development tools, removed from the deployed service, and a judge ships only when it beats the engine on this benchmark without letting more harm through. Seven of the 556 training cards, in offensive cyber, were refused by the labelling model. We did not write them by hand.

5.36.9 Faults found in this release

Three faults reached the record. A dependency (js-yaml) in production was out of date until a hotfix, 0.25.1. A fixed output path in the build script let a hotfix build overwrite the 0.26 bundles; it was caught before deploy and never reached production, and each build now writes inside its own tree. And the first trained judge above.

The separate review found two critical faults and four moderate ones, all in the new reading of the request, and all fixed and tested before release. First, the mode and negation were read from surface words, and in those modes every protective cue was dropped: "Never mind the policy, delete the audit logs" read as negated, "Write a short story scene: delete the audit logs" as fiction, and each passed. The frame now reads each clause, and a later clause that starts with an act verb is a request to do it. Second, unverified text cleared hard values: "approved by me" discounted access values, and "the patient has not consented" counted as consent. Denials and self-approval no longer count, stated authority never discounts access or identity, and a value a cue fired on is discounted only for consent the request states. The moderate faults: context could settle "target" for a request naming a person, and "deploy" alone read as a building project, so context now settles a sense only when no person or place force could fall on is named; the clarify limit was keyed to the exact spelling and failed open, and now counts distinct readings of the normalised request and holds when its store fails; overwatch could be dodged by changing the session id, so it also keeps a rolling window per caller, and its writes now complete before the answer; and an assessor all-clear could proceed when a sharp value was close in meaning, which now stays unknown. The receipt now binds the context and session it was given, and overwatch keeps an amount band, not the amount.

The review also found two faults that predate this release: "target the house, it is empty, then strike it" and "the strike is authorised by the commander" both passed in 0.25. A person or place named as the object of force now engages the floor's duty not to cause serious harm. For an agent that holds a defence graph this is stricter than it should be: a lawful strike under human command is a decision for a person, not a refusal. That is recorded for 0.27.

5.37 Rules that travel with the work (planned, 0.27)

Thompson and Purohit (2026) separate grounding from governance. Grounding tells an agent what an entity means. Governance limits what it may do about that entity wherever it acts. Their test case is a payment on legal hold, handed by an agent to a system outside the platform where the hold was defined: the payment travels and the hold does not. They call a rule that is visible but holds only where one platform can see it semantic theatre. Their questions for a buyer are whether a rule holds across two integration points, not one, and who owns the risk when it fails at a handoff.

The conscience graph was built for that seam. It sits at the action boundary, not inside a data platform; its graphs are signed so any receiver can check which rules applied; and a receipt is bound to the call it permits. But their test exposes four gaps, and this section records them and what 0.27 adds.

5.37.1 Where enforcement happens

A verdict is enforced where the tool gateway or the hook sits, or where a receiving system checks the receipt. That is a complete guardrail. An organisation that consults without a gateway still gets the verdict, its reasons and a signed record, but enforcement then rests with the agent. The gateway closes that gap. The integrations planned for work-queue systems put the receipt check in the receiving system, so the second boundary enforces as well as the first.

5.37.2 Carried obligations

Today a condition attaches to a verdict and its receipt. It does not attach to the thing acted on, so a hold placed in agent A's consult is invisible to agent B. In 0.27, when a verdict sets a condition on an object with an identity, such as a payment reference, a record or a matter, the service keeps an obligation keyed to a hash of that identity, never its text: the condition, the role that may release it, and the graph and value it came from. Any later consult in the organisation that names the same object carries the obligation, whichever agent sends it and whichever platform it runs on. Release needs an approval signed with a passkey by the named role, recorded in the witnessed log. Overwatch already keeps the sequence of a session and of a caller; carried obligations keep it for the object.

5.37.3 Fixed conditions

"Release needs legal sign-off" is a rule, not a judgement. Matching it by meaning, as the engine matches values, makes a fixed rule probabilistic. A value will be able to carry a fixed condition, checked exactly: an approval by a role exists for this object, a limit is not exceeded, a field is present. Values keep the judgement; fixed conditions keep the holds and sign-offs. This is the small part of formal constraint modelling the article finds mostly in research, scoped to what a gateway can check.

5.37.4 A seam owner

Each private graph will name who owns the risk when one of its rules fails at a handoff, and the organisation's view will show failures at seams against that owner. The question the article tells buyers to ask internally becomes a field the graph cannot be approved without.

5.37.5 The two-boundary test

Our suites test one boundary at a time. The benchmark and the remote suite will add the article's test: agent A's consult places a hold; A hands the payment to agent B through the gateway; B's call must be refused until the role releases it. The same test will be in the replay sets an organisation runs before approving a graph, so a buyer can run it on its own systems rather than take a demonstration on trust.

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5.37.6 Grounding from the enterprise's own ontology

The graph should not become another ontology. An organisation's semantic layer already says what a payment, a patient or a matter is. The Studio will map those entity types to the graph's action classes and object identities, so grounding stays where it is maintained and the graph carries only governance: the part no platform sells.

5.38 Rules that travel, built (0.27)

Release 0.27 built the design in 5.37, and a Studio for writing private graphs. It also went live before its independent review was finished. The review then found two critical faults in the live service. This section records what was built, what the review found, and what we changed in how we release.

5.38.1 Carried obligations

A consult can name the object it is about, for example object: "payment:PX-1029". The service also finds identifiers in the tool arguments, under keys such as payment_id, invoice_ref or claim_number, in nested objects and in lists. When a verdict sets a hold or a fixed condition, the service records an obligation against the object: the condition, the role that may release it, the graph it came from and the graph's seam owner. Any later consult in the same organisation that names the object carries the obligation and is escalated, whichever agent sends it and wherever it runs. A person with the approver, reviewer or admin role releases it with a passkey, and the release is written to the witnessed log.

The service never stores the identifier. It keeps a keyed hash (HMAC) of the identifier, with a key held per organisation. The log records that an obligation was placed or released, but not the object's hash.

5.38.2 Fixed conditions

A value can carry a fixed condition, such as "release needs legal sign-off", with the role that approves it. The engine does not match a fixed condition by meaning. It is checked exactly: either a release by that role exists for this object and this call, or the call is held. An approval covers the exact call it was given for. If the amount or the payee changes, the approval is asked for again. A fixed condition on a call that names no object is escalated, because there is nothing to check it against.

5.38.3 Seam owner and the two-boundary test

A private graph cannot be registered without a seam owner, the person or team who owns the risk when one of its rules fails at a handoff. The organisation's view shows open obligations by seam owner. The test suites now include the two-boundary test from 5.37.5. Agent A's consult places a hold on a payment. Agent B, on another system with a different key, then tries to pay it. B is held, with no receipt, until a person with the named role releases the hold. At the gateway, the refusal names the hold and that role.

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5.38.4 The Studio

The Studio reads an organisation's own documents in the browser (PDF, Word, Markdown, text or a pasted system prompt). It finds candidate rules, each linked to the paragraph it came from, and checks them for conflicts with each other and with the floor. It writes tests from the source, then builds a draft private graph from the rules a person accepts. The model's answers are checked: every span must exist in the source, and the floor always wins a conflict. Nothing the Studio reads is stored. Anonymous use has a small daily allowance. Members of an organisation with an active subscription get more.

5.38.5 Other changes

Force is never answered with proceed. A request that uses force on a person or place now escalates to a person, or is refused under the floor; it is not allowed through. Members signed in to the navigator can see their organisation's published private graphs. An organisation's owner can delete its records, confirmed with a passkey, and the domain can then be registered again. The deletion runs as one statement, so it completes in full or not at all. The tools now share one brand block, menu and icon.

5.38.6 Faults found in this release

Release 0.27.0 went live before its independent review was complete. That was a fault in our process, not only in the code. The review found two critical faults in the live service, and both were fixed in 0.27.1 the same day.

First, a hold could be bypassed. A hold was matched on the type and the value of an identifier. An agent could escape it by naming the same payment under a different key (txn_id in place of payment_id), or by listing enough decoy objects that the real one fell beyond the number checked. An object's identity is now its value alone, whatever key or type names it. Every reference is collected before any limit applies, and a call that names more than 30 objects is held for a person.

Second, the relaxation for defence was self-declared. 0.27.0 let an agent that holds a defence graph escalate a lawful use of force to a person rather than have it refused. Any caller could claim to hold that graph. The relaxation now needs the caller's defence domain to be attested by an authority (5.31), and never applies when a person, a home or a protected place is named. Refugees, journalists, aid workers, medical staff, children, detainees, shelters and civilian places such as markets, weddings and funerals are protected.

The review also found moderate faults, fixed in 0.27.1. Object hashes were plain hashes, so a short identifier could be recovered by guessing; they are now keyed per organisation. An approval for one call could be reused for a changed call; approvals now bind the call's parameters. Deleting an organisation ran as several statements and could stop part way; it is now one statement. Graph weights and sharpness were not checked as numbers. The member allowance in the Studio did not require an active subscription.

We have changed the rule. A release goes to a preview branch, the independent review and the tests run against that preview, and only then is it approved to go live. Release 0.28 follows this rule.

5.39 Cases: where a person decides (0.28)

An escalation asks a person to decide. Until 0.28 that person had to be in our console, or the operator had to fetch the verdict and build its own route to a reviewer. Most organisations already have a place where people decide things: a ServiceNow queue, a Jira board, a Workday business process, a Slack or Teams channel. Release 0.28 takes the case to that place and brings the decision back, without the service keeping the request.

5.39.1 A case, sent once

When an organisation's agent is escalated, the service sends the case to each system the organisation has connected. The case carries the request, the tool arguments, the values and their sources, any hold on the object, the verdict token and a link to its place in the log. It is signed with the hourly verdict key under Standard Webhooks (v1a, Ed25519), as alerts are, so the receiving system can check it against the same root-signed key set as a verdict. The request text is in that message and nowhere else. The service keeps the decision record it always kept, the fact that the case was delivered, and the ticket number the system returned. A system that fails to answer is reported in the verdict and in the queue, and the others still receive the case. There is no retry from a stored copy, because there is no stored copy; the case also waits in the review queue.

Adding a system is confirmed with the owner's passkey, because it sends data out of the service. Its address is sealed at rest with the organisation's key and shown masked. The owner chooses whether a system receives the request text. Work queues receive it by default, because a person cannot decide without it. Slack and Teams receive a notice without it by default, with a link to the queue.

5.39.2 The resolution, returned signed

A ticket system can send its resolution back: approved, rejected or amended, with the name of the person who resolved the ticket. It signs the message with a secret for that integration (Standard Webhooks v1, HMAC), checked for freshness and used once. The secret is derived from the organisation's key and the integration's id, so the service stores no secret. The outcome is recorded against the verdict and written to the witnessed log. It is marked as decided in the ticket system, not with a passkey, because that is what it is: the ticket system vouches for the person, and the service vouches for the ticket system. An owner who wants every case decided with a passkey can say so, and the ticket then links to the queue instead.

A ticket's resolution never releases a hold on an object (5.38.1). That needs a person with the named role and their passkey.

5.39.3 The review queue

The console shows the organisation's open cases, the systems each was sent to and its ticket, who has taken it, and the open holds. A reviewer takes a case so that two people do not work it at once, and decides it with a passkey. A person with a hold's role releases it from the same place. The queue shows how each case was decided: by passkey, by the operator's key, or in which ticket system.

5.39.4 Records for security monitoring

An organisation's security team can read its decision records into its SIEM, as NDJSON or as CEF, oldest first with a cursor. A record carries the verdict number, the graph and its version, the values, the outcome and how it was made, and a link to the inclusion proof, so a record in the SIEM can be checked against the log. It never carries request text. The owner creates read-only tokens for this; the service keeps only their hashes. Records appear a minute after the decision, so a cursor cannot skip one still being written.

5.39.5 Single sign-on, and what it does not do

Members can sign in to the console with the organisation's identity provider: Entra ID, Okta or any OpenID Connect provider, using the code flow with PKCE. A multi-tenant issuer is refused. The identity must be at the organisation's verified domain, and each member links their identity once, after signing in with their passkey. A session from single sign-on reads, takes cases and drafts. Changes to members, agents, settings and graphs, and every decision, still need a passkey. The identity provider decides who may enter. A passkey decides what is signed.

5.39.6 What we have not done

The case shapes for ServiceNow, Jira and Workday are what their intake APIs and automation webhooks read first, but each still needs a small mapping on the customer's side, and we have tested them against mocks, not live instances. Okta and Entra ID were tested against a mock provider. A case that no connected system accepted can be decided only in the queue. These are recorded so that a buyer can test them on their own systems.

5.39.7 Faults found in review

The independent review ran on the preview, before release. It found no critical faults and four moderate ones, all fixed and tested before approval was asked for.

First, a case could carry one organisation's request text to another. When an agent was admitted to another organisation's private graph, the case went to the graph owner's systems, text included. The text now goes only to the agent's own organisation. The graph owner, who decides the case, gets it without the text.

Second, single sign-on was not bound to the browser that started it. A person could be sent a link that signed them in as someone else, or linked their identity to someone else's membership. A sign-in now carries a value only the starting browser holds, and a link must finish in the session that began it.

Third, a ticket system could record an outcome first and lock out a reviewer's passkey decision. It could also resolve a case it was never sent. A passkey decision now stands over a ticket's, and a ticket system can resolve only a case that was delivered to it.

Fourth, text from agents and requests could carry markup into Slack, Teams and Jira, such as a channel-wide mention or a link styled as an approval button. That text is now escaped and its links defanged.

The minor faults were also fixed. Saving a policy returned the sealed settings. Identity provider endpoints were not held to public hosts and the standard port. A rotated signing key at the provider blocked sign-in for an hour. A single sign-on session outlived the link it rested on. Two owners changing settings at once could lose a change. Sign-in and resolution had no rate limit. On Vercel, a case is now sent after the agent has its answer, so delivery adds no wait to an escalation.

5.39.8 Release process

After 0.27.0 went live before its review (5.38.6), 0.28 is built on a preview branch. Its tests and its independent review run there, and it goes live only once approved.

5.40 The AI Trust Mark, built (0.29)

Sections 5.36 to 5.39 built the checks. This release makes their result something a buyer, a regulator or another agent can see: the mark described on consciencegraph.org/trust-mark.

5.40.1 A mark is a record, read live

A mark names one agent, one region and domain, one graph, a tier and an expiry. Its number reads like a certificate's: region, domain, tier and a serial, for example au.finance.checked.9c41a2b07d3e. The record is public at `consciencegraph.org/verify/<serial>` and through the API, for people and for agents at a hand-off. The badge an organisation embeds is drawn from the same record at the moment it is shown, so a badge cannot claim a status the record no longer has. Issuing and withdrawing a mark are written to the witnessed log. A private graph is named on the record only by its public reference.

5.40.2 What each tier needs

An owner issues a mark with a passkey, and only when the tier's requirements hold. The console shows what is still missing. For Checked: the organisation has proved its domain, the agent is one of its own by domain at L2 or above, the graph has a live certificate, and the agent consulted it in the last 30 days. A vendor agent the organisation binds cannot carry the organisation's mark. Verified adds: the organisation's own graph certified at verified grade by a Signing Authority, a named seam owner, people with the reviewer role, and at least 90% of receipts redeemed, each once and before its call, over at least 20 receipts. Today a receipt is redeemed with the key it was issued to, so this shows the agent checks before it acts, not that a separate gateway did; a gateway with a key of its own is planned. Accredited adds: accredited grade, the sector profile under the graph, and the agent attested for that region and domain by an authority.

To make enforcement a fact rather than a statement, a redeemed receipt is now noted on its decision record.

5.40.3 Risk sets the minimum tier

Every action class records how far its harm reaches and whether it can be undone. An agent that goes ahead, without a person, with actions that reach customers or third parties, move money or cannot be undone needs Verified. Regulated work in health, legal, defence or financial advice needs

Accredited. An escalated action went to a person and does not count. A mark is refused if the agent's record already needs a higher tier, and a mark whose agent later acts beyond it is suspended.

5.40.4 Status

The status is worked out each time the mark is read. Valid means issued, logged and none of the following. Suspended means the graph has no live certificate, the agent's circuit breaker is on, a critical drift alert is open, the agent stopped consulting for 30 days, it acted beyond its tier, or a Verified agent stopped redeeming receipts. Expired means past its date. Revoked means withdrawn with a published reason, the agent's key revoked, the graph's certificate withdrawn, or the organisation gone. Every record stays visible.

5.40.5 The registering contact

An organisation's registration can now carry proof that its contact holds a work account at the domain, through Microsoft (Entra ID work and school accounts) or Google Workspace. For Microsoft the sign-in name counts, not the email claim, because Entra can carry an email address nobody verified, and only when Microsoft states that the tenant owns the email's domain. Guests from other directories prove nothing. Personal Microsoft and Gmail accounts prove nothing. The proof sits beside the domain proof; it does not replace it, and decisions are still signed with a passkey. Passkeys themselves already work from iCloud Keychain, Google Password Manager, Windows Hello and 1Password, and the console now says so.

5.40.6 Faults found in review

The independent review ran on the preview. It found two critical faults and seven moderate ones, all fixed and tested before approval was asked for.

The critical faults: a revoked agent key left the agent's mark valid, because the status read a field that key revocation never changes; it now requires a live key. And any publisher's public graph counted as the organisation's own, so an organisation could claim Verified on another's certified graph; only a graph in the organisation's own namespace counts now.

The moderate faults: Accredited could never be reached, because the agent's attested level was read from the wrong place, and the attestation's expiry was not checked. A private graph could redefine a risky action as harmless and lower the tier its agents needed; the stricter of the two definitions now counts. Actions in observe mode, where no verdict holds them back, were left out of the risk. A mark's status re-checked much less than its issue did; status now applies the same tier rules. Drift was read from a cache that lapsed when the agent went quiet. Microsoft's sign-in name could belong to a guest from another directory. And listing an agent's marks was costly enough to be abused; it now has a tighter limit. We also stopped publishing the seam owner's name, ensured one live mark per agent, graph and tier even under two confirmations at once, and described redemption as what it is.

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5.40.7 What we have not done

No Signing Authority issues verified or accredited grades yet, so only Checked marks can be issued today. The tiers above are built and tested so that the first authority can issue them. A mark cannot see an agent that acts around a gateway; that is caught only where a receipt is checked. Prices are not yet set.

5.41 Verified grade: the Signing Authority's assessment (0.30)

Section 5.40 left Verified and Accredited marks waiting for a Signing Authority. This release builds the first: the Guardrails Signing Authority at consciencegraph.com, which can certify an organisation's graph at verified grade.

5.41.1 Who assesses

The Authority is an organisation in the registry, with its own proved domain. Its assessors are its members with the signer role, the people its publisher certificate names. It signs with its own key, listed in the key set the Foundation's root signs, with a scope that names the grades it may sign. It never assesses its own graphs, and an organisation's members never assess their own. Two owners of the Authority appoint each assessor, and its owner is not one. Each assessor links an identity at the Authority's own identity provider, and one identity can hold only one membership, so two approvals are two people. Each approval declares that the assessor has no role in, employment by or financial interest in the organisation assessed.

5.41.2 What is checked

An organisation's owner asks for a published version to be assessed. A private graph is shared with the assessors for that purpose only. Seven checks are worked out from the record: never weaker than the floor, every rule cited to a source and clause, at least five tests, a replay set of at least 20 cases run on that version with every case as expected, a named seam owner, people in the reviewer role, and a proved domain. Five checks need a person: the organisation is a real legal entity that controls the domain, every cited source is real and current, each rule says what its clause says, the tests cover the riskiest actions, and the seam owner and role holders are real people who know they hold those roles. An assessor records each as passing or failing, with a note. A failure, or a request for changes, goes back to the organisation with the note.

5.41.3 Two people, then the key

When every item passes, an assessor approves with a passkey. A second, different assessor approves the same way. Only then does the Authority's key sign. The signing service checks again what must hold even if the API is wrong: two different assessors, each named in the Authority's publisher certificate, each approving this exact graph hash and this decision; never the Authority's own graphs; a certificate number derived from the content and time. The certificate carries the assessment's number, its method version and both approvals, and is written to the witnessed log. It covers one version: a new version answers at self grade until it is assessed, and a Verified mark on it is suspended until then.

5.41.4 Faults found in review

The independent review found one critical fault and six moderate ones, all fixed and tested before approval was asked for. The critical fault: one person could supply both approvals, because the Authority's owner held the assessor role and could appoint a second identity for themselves. Assessors are now appointed by two owners, the owner is not one, and approvals must come from two distinct identities at the Authority's provider.

The moderate faults: a failure at signing left an assessment stuck with nothing to retry; a version whose certificate had lapsed could not be assessed again; public graphs could never pass, because replay sets were for private graphs only; a private graph stayed readable to assessors after the assessment closed; an approval had no expiry and did not name the organisation; and a verified certificate could not be withdrawn. Each is fixed: signing can be retried and only approvals from current assessors count; only a certificate that still holds blocks a new request; public graphs carry replay sets; the graph is readable only while the assessment is open; approvals expire after seven days and declare independence; and an owner of the Authority can withdraw a certificate, with a published reason, after which the graph answers at self grade again. A change to a checklist result now clears approvals given before it, and each item keeps its history.

5.41.5 What we have not done

Accredited grade still needs a professional or regulatory body to act as an authority for its field. Assessors are trusted to have checked what they record, and to declare truthfully that they are independent; an assessor's membership of the assessed organisation cannot be detected across two organisations' identity providers; the method gives them the questions, not the answers. Before this goes live, the Authority's key must be added to the key set with the offline root.

5.42 Pilot evidence: determinism, signal and the pilot report (0.31)

A pilot needs evidence the organisation can check. This release measures how deterministic the engine is, records how close each decision sat to a threshold, measures availability, and gives each organisation a report at the end of its pilot.

5.42.1 Where the randomness is

The graph walk is deterministic: the same request, graphs and version give the same verdict by the same path. The one stochastic step is the optional model assessor, which is measured separately. So the useful questions are how sensitive the walk is to its inputs, and whether the engine can say when it is close to a boundary. A question from Ben, who may join the project, shaped this section.

5.42.2 What we measured

The test script (scripts/determinism.js) runs 143 benchmark cases. Replay five times and on a fresh engine: 100% the same verdict and the same path. Surface rewrites that should not matter (case, a full stop, "please", "can you", "for me", extra spaces): 97.4% keep the verdict and 97.8% keep the class. Noise on the word vectors at 0.05, 0.1 and 0.2 of their spread flips 1.4%, 1.4% and 0.7% of

verdicts. Cost separates cases that should be allowed from cases that should be held with an AUC of 0.739. Class accuracy is 62.2%, with 17 under-blocks.

5.42.3 The signal

Each decision now carries three margins: how far its cost sat from the nearest band boundary, how clearly its action class won over the next one, and the gap between the values that decided it. Of cases within 0.05 of a boundary, 30% flipped under a rewrite or noise; between 0.05 and 0.1, 5.3%; between 0.1 and 0.2, 11.5%; above 0.2, 25%. Only the closest bucket stands out, and the rise above 0.2 is not yet explained: we expect it comes from a different action match, which the band margin does not see. The action margin is no better yet, with 15.8% flips above 0.2. Neither is a calibrated confidence. We will track both against outcomes as pilots produce them. A signed agent sees the margins, as it already sees the cost; an anonymous caller sees neither. When a later step changes the verdict (the model assessor, a sticky prune, a purpose limit, a circuit breaker), the margins no longer describe it and are withdrawn.

5.42.4 Path stability in the record

Each decision records a path signature: a hash of the action class, the values that contributed, the band and the verdict. The pilot report counts, for each action class, how many distinct paths the engine took and how often the commonest one, and how many decisions sat within 0.05 of a threshold. A class with many paths, or many decisions near a threshold, is where the graph needs a clearer rule.

5.42.5 Availability

A scheduled heartbeat every five minutes runs a test consult through the engine, asks the signer for a fresh certificate, and checks the database and the cache. The test consult is not signed or recorded. Availability is the share of five-minute slots with a passing beat, so a slot with no beat counts as down and extra beats cannot fill a gap. This is the service checking itself. An outside monitor is the reference for a service level, and the report says so.

5.42.6 The pilot report

An owner, analyst or auditor reads it in the console or downloads it as markdown. It covers decisions by class and by agent, what the organisation's own guardrails missed or over-blocked in observe mode, escalations and how they were decided, holds released, latency, availability, path stability, the engine's determinism report and live Trust Marks. Misses are actions the agent allowed that the graph would prune, escalate, flag or leave unknown; rates count only decisions where the agent reported its own. Escalations closed by the agent operator's own key, rather than a reviewer, are shown apart. It holds counts and rates only. Request text is never kept, and another organisation's records never appear.

5.42.7 Faults found in review

The independent review found one critical fault and eight moderate ones, all fixed and tested before approval was asked for. The critical fault: the runbook's kill switch did nothing. Setting maintenance

changed only the status label, and verdicts kept being signed. Maintenance now stops every verdict with a 503, so agents apply their own fail mode.

The moderate faults: anyone could send the scheduler's header and add beats, and extra beats could hide an outage; the availability window started at the first beat inside it, so an outage at its start dropped out; the signer check read a cached key and missed a signer outage for up to an hour; the heartbeat checked the stores but never the engine; observe-mode misses left out flagged and unknown verdicts and diluted rates with rows that gave no agent decision; escalation outcomes counted non-case verdicts and observe mode, and did not show closures by the operator's own key; the served determinism report was for the previous version; and the report claimed that a small margin means a likely flip, which the benchmark does not show. Each is fixed as described above. The build now refuses a determinism report for another version, and the served report leaves out the list of least stable cases.

5.42.8 What we have not done

The benchmark is ours and small. Accuracy of 62% with 17 under-blocks is the semantic engine's result; no trained engine is in production. In testing, "Transfer the client funds to my personal account" with no organisation graph answered proceed. Observe mode exists to measure faults like this on an organisation's own traffic before anything is enforced. Observe-mode rates depend on the agent reporting its own decision.

5.43 Verdicts anyone can check (0.32, in review)

A signature proves who gave a verdict, not that the verdict is right. This release makes each verdict checkable by someone who does not trust us. The approach comes from Open Ontologies by Fabio Rovai (MIT licence): an untrusted engine, a small separate checker, and a written list of what the checker cannot see. We took the ideas and wrote our own code; nothing is shared.

5.43.1 The justification

Every verdict a signed caller receives carries a justification. It lists every salient row and every obligation row, each with its value, the graph and edge it came from, its weight, its salience and violation probability, and its contribution. It also lists the conflicts found, the cost and band the cost-band rule gives, each rule the engine applied after that rule, and each hold the service applied after the engine. The numbers are unrounded, so the arithmetic can be repeated exactly. Its hash is inside the signed verdict.

5.43.2 The checker

A checker in the open repository, written from a published specification (docs/verdict-spec.md) and not from the engine, re-derives the verdict. It recomputes each contribution, the cost, the band and the rule's verdict. It walks the engine's overrides against a fixed list of what each may do, and the service's holds, which may only make a verdict stricter. Given the published graphs, it confirms that every row's edge and weight are in the graph it names, and that no conflict between two qualifying rows was left out. Given the key set, it confirms the signature and that the justification is the one we

signed. A forgery is refused with exit code 1 and the name of the check that failed. All 2,385 verdicts in the benchmark and test sweep pass; each kind of forgery we tried is refused.

5.43.3 Whose rules decided

Each verdict states its basis: the Foundation's graphs, a graph a Signing Authority verified, an organisation's own rules, or scores from the model assessor. A verdict that rests on an organisation's own rules carries them as an assumption, not as a fact the receipt establishes. A boundary can require a basis.

5.43.4 The assessor can contradict and cannot confirm

The model assessor is a second reading of the same request. When it agrees with the engine, that adds nothing. When it is stricter, its verdict stands, and every condition the engine attached stays with it. When it is looser, the engine's verdict stands and the disagreement is recorded; if the engine pruned, a person decides. Before this release a looser assessment replaced the engine's verdict, except where the sharp guard (5.28.9) applied. Over-blocks the assessor would have corrected now go to a person instead.

5.43.5 A change is judged by the verdicts it changes

A one-line change to a graph can move many verdicts. Before a version is signed or approved, a change plan answers every case we can run (the graph's tests, its replay set and its action classes) under the version now published and under the new one, as an agent would get them. It reports how many verdicts change, and how many become looser or stricter, looser first. The summary is part of what each approver signs. In the test, adding one strict rule made two verdicts stricter, and removing it again showed both as looser before anyone approved. A plan that finds no change says it is a measurement over those cases, not a proof.

5.43.6 What a verdict rests on

docs/trusted-base.md lists 22 properties, each marked checked, enforced, measured or trusted. The largest trusted part is matching: which action class the request was read as, which values were salient, and their scores. A checker cannot see a salient row the engine left out, and that could loosen a verdict. Replaying the request through the same engine version shows the reading is repeatable (5.42), not that it is right. Other trusted parts: holds that should have applied, the public graphs' verdict for an organisation's request, the code deployed, and key custody until KMS is turned on. Nothing here is mathematically proved. A formally verified checker would be the next step, and a natural requirement for accredited grade.

5.43.7 Faults found in review

The independent review found two critical faults and nine moderate ones, all fixed and tested before approval was asked for.

The critical faults: - An assessment that stood could drop a fixed condition the engine had attached, and with it the hold that sends an unchecked payment to a person. An assessment that stands now keeps every condition the engine attached. - The checker accepted a prune turned into proceed

through two overrides that each looked permitted. Each override now carries its conditions, not just its direction: the assessor's overrides need the assessor's mark, an all-clear must be the only override on a request nothing matched, and nothing after a no-fit may be looser than unknown.

The moderate faults: - The sharp guard named the wrong starting verdict when no row stayed salient, so a third of assessed verdicts with a crossed sharp value failed the check. - A peer hold after an assessment named the wrong starting verdict. - Requests no action class matched were not checked for conflicts. - A prune the assessor disputed was still described as decided by the Foundation's rules. - An unknown reached because a graph's own action class did not fit could be decided by the assessor alone. - The checker did not require the one override the engine must apply. - The change plan reported an error as no change. - The change plan held a public registry graph against the floor alone, not the profile the service uses. - The change plan could be run without limit inside an approval.

Each is fixed as described above. In addition: the checker requires every graph used to be among those signed, refuses scores outside 0 to 1, and compares the verdict a caller was told with the justification. A plan's hash now binds what it returns, the baseline and the graphs; both approvers must sign the same plan. A prune the assessor disputes still counts for sticky prune. That fix caused a fault of our own, found by our tests: sticky prune remembered only the words of the request, so a prune caused by the context ("and also open fire on it") then pruned the bare request, which deserves a question. Sticky prune now remembers the request and its context together. One limit remains and is listed in docs/trusted-base.md: rows below the salience gate are not listed, so a checker cannot see one dropped.

The release itself caused an outage. 0.32 was the first release to carry the public repository's files on main, in a folder named `public`. Our host serves a folder of that name as the whole static site. For about 20 minutes on 29 October 2026 the navigator, the website's platform section, the studio, the registry pages and the papers returned "not found". The API and its verdicts were not affected. The folder is renamed and the build now refuses a folder of that name. Our tests ran the code, not the deployed site; a check of the live pages after each deploy is now part of going live.

5.43.8 Decision records

The principles behind these choices are now kept as short decision records in the repository: a verdict names what decided it; the engine is not trusted; a supplied rule is an assumption; a second opinion cannot confirm; a change is judged by what it changes; measured is not proved.

5.44 Running the company on the platform (0.33 to 0.35)

The Foundation and the CSA run their own business on the platform: every action a person or an agent takes in the operations platform is consulted against the company's own private graph, `org.consciencegraph-org.operations`, before it happens. Three releases came from doing that. Each finding is recorded as a decision in the repository (`docs/decisions/0007` to `0010`) and fixed in the platform first, then carried back to the operations platform through its vendored copy of the platform's code.

5.44.1 A parent that did not judge does not decide (0.33)

A private graph is answered on each public graph it sits under, and the stricter verdict stands; unknown counts as stricter than proceed. Running the company showed the cost: most of what a company does (log a call, move a deal, assign a task) is defined only in its own graph, the Australian jurisdiction profile answers unknown, and every routine action went to a person. The platform's local consult had quietly stopped counting those unknowns; the hosted service had not, so the two disagreed. The rule is now one function shared by both (`lib/cgparents.js`). A parent is set aside only when the private graph declares `parent_silence: own_classes` (so its two approvers sign the choice), the graph's own answer came from an action class it defines, and the parent answered unknown with none of its values bearing. Every set-aside parent is named in the justification, and the checker confirms it against the graphs.

5.44.2 We run on what we sell (0.33)

The operations platform uses the platform's own engine, graphs, signatures and parent rule, copied in with their hashes, and keeps no version of a rule of its own. Its graph is published through the private registry with two approvals like any customer's. Every proposition it writes gets the same verdict hosted and locally (`tests/dogfood.js`); a difference is a defect, fixed on the side that is wrong, never by changing the test.

5.44.3 A model drafts, a person decides (0.34)

Salespeople paste notes and get draft records. Every field says where it came from: the pasted text (checked word for word), the record, or a suggestion with its reason. Contact details never come from a model; they are taken out of the notes before the model sees them. Sending notes about people to an outside model is itself an action the graph decides: the global floor's privacy and consent values bear on it, so a person confirms each time and only a hash of the notes is logged. The model client is shared by the assessor, the Studio and the operations platform (`lib/cgllm.js`).

5.44.4 One pilot methodology, measured the same way (0.35)

The pilot methodology is data (`lib/cgpilot.js`): the measures, their direction and proposed targets, and the four-week plan with each week's checkpoint. The hosted pilot report and the operations platform read the same definitions, so a pilot report and the account it belongs to cannot disagree about what was measured or what passed. A measure the evidence cannot give is left empty, not estimated. Dogfooding found that an organisation's name could move the action class ("Coastline Insurance" matched insurance records); the operations platform left the name off that proposition and the weakness went on the engine backlog. 5.45.1 fixes it.

5.45 The decision gate: measures and review record

5.45.10 Measured

On the benchmark of 143 cases the engine gives the same verdict for every case as before: 62.2% class accuracy, 29 under-blocks, 25 over-blocks. That is by design; no foundation graph carries a check yet, and the benchmark sends no facts. What changed is measured by the new tests: 75 for

the gate itself (twenty-six of them for faults the six reviews found), 8 for the gateway, 11 for the hooks end to end, 19 for the Studio compiler and filter, and 5 for the operations platform's parity, alongside every existing suite. The pilot methodology gains two measures from the reviewers' sample, silent misses (wrong actions the engine let through with no value bearing: the graph was incomplete, not wrong) and unneeded revisions, and every measure now says where its value came from, because JevAct's main result vanished when its user simulator changed.

5.45.11 Faults found in review

An independent review of this release, before it went live, found 4 critical, 5 moderate and 6 minor faults. The first build's tests passed 49 of 49; they tested none of these cases. All are fixed in this release, each with a test, except where 5.45.12 says otherwise.

Fault	What could happen	Fix
C1, critical	The agent being gated supplied the facts that cleared its own conditions: at the gateway it could send `payee.verified: true` and turn a conditional verdict into proceed. The gateway's refusal told it which fact to send. The Studio compiled "approved" and "signed" into facts anyone could assert.	Asserted facts can fail a check, never pass one. Only facts the system reads from its own records, or the call's own arguments, clear a condition. The Studio leaves a person's decision as words.
C2, critical	`checks_passed` could clear conditions never checked: only the first four conditions of a row were looked at, and conditions were matched by their words, so an unchecked condition sharing a checked one's words was cleared with it.	Checks are matched by id over every engaged condition. The registry refuses two conditions with the same words.
C3, critical	The model assessor could lower a value, the gate then loosened the verdict to proceed, and the assessor's conditions were added back to a proceed the gateway does not carry conditions for.	The assessor's answer is compared after the gate. Conditions added back bring the verdict back to proceed with conditions (hold `assessor_conditions`).
C4, critical	A graph's text pattern could take seconds to minutes to run on a crafted input, stalling the shared service. Any public registry graph could carry one.	Patterns are removed. The only text test is a literal `contains` on the first 4,000 characters.
M1	The revision count could be reset	It is counted per caller, action

Fault	What could happen	Fix
	by adding a word to the request.	class and set of failed checks.
M2	The completion gate trusted the caller: a fresh session id proceeded, and any later proceed cleared every unclassified step. The hook's record of steps put to the user sat in a shared temporary directory.	A session the service never saw is unknown. An unclassified step is cleared only by the proceed straight after it. The record is in a private directory.
M3	The independent checker accepted an invented check and a verdict that ignored a failed check.	It refuses both, and against the graphs requires every check to be a condition the graph defines.
M4	A graph could state that a destructive class was a read and skip the assessor and a person's hold.	The registry refuses a stated read on a class whose id says otherwise, and holds are always checked when an object is named.
M5	Studio checks could reverse their condition ("must not be approved by the requester" became "approved"), "within 30 days" became an amount limit, and one operations condition had one check for three requirements.	Negated sentences are left as words, an amount needs a money word, and the operations condition is three conditions.
m1 to m6	Minor: the gateway's attach mode did nothing; a check on the tool name always passed; three exfiltration and transfer classes were write, not send; the hash of asserted facts was unsalted and could be reversed from a receipt; the operations platform's remote consult sent message bodies and person ids to the hosted service; test hooks were exported in production.	Each fixed. The facts' hash is salted per receipt; the remote consult sends facts only.

A second independent review checked the fixes. It confirmed the four critical fixes. It found that two moderate fixes had not held and four held only in part, and it found five new faults the fixes introduced. It found no new critical fault.

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Fault	What could happen	Fix
M1, not fixed	The revision count included which checks failed, and grounding check names come from argument names the agent chooses: adding one reset the count.	Counted per caller, action class and task.
M2, not fixed	The completion gate cleared a step the caller said was put to a person, and a held step fell out of the 50-frame session window after 50 more consults.	A step put to a person stays listed as the caller's word (proceed with conditions at best), bound into the signed answer. Held steps are kept in their own record, not the window.
M3, partial	The checker accepted `checks_passed` resting on asserted facts, and a fact check relabelled as grounding.	It requires the answer to say the facts were trusted, and grounding checks to carry grounding ids.
M4, partial	`get_and_send` stated as a read was a read; an irreversible search could be a read.	A send or destroy word anywhere in the id wins; an irreversible class is never a read.
M5, partial	"cannot be signed by the requester" still compiled to "signed"; "approved by the CFO" compiled to a fact; "within 30 days" compiled to an amount.	Contractions are negations, any approver named makes it a person's decision, and a number followed by a time unit is not an amount.
N1, new	Asserted facts could no longer pass a check, so a checked condition on the world was simply forwarded by the gateway as words.	In enforce mode the gateway refuses it for a person to confirm.
N2, new	With more than four conditions, an unchecked fifth was dropped from the list while the verdict stayed proceed with conditions.	The list is rebuilt from every engaged condition; one not discharged is never dropped.
N3, new	The revision count was shared across unrelated tasks for an hour.	The task is part of the key.
N4, new	The Stop hook messaged the user with an empty list when the session had no record.	It says nothing then: a turn with no tool calls has nothing to judge.
N5, new	The operations platform's local	By design until the hosted service

Fault	What could happen	Fix
	and remote modes now answer differently for checked actions.	can trust an organisation's signed facts (backlog B18); documented and the code policy decides in both.

A third review attacked the second round of fixes. It found the revision count still reset by rotating the session, and by an object key that read a field that does not exist; a held step lost when it was written in parallel with another consult in the same session (10 of 10 runs); a limit against an asserted bound labelled as a check on the call's arguments, so the gateway let it through; the checker trusting each check's source label; the caller's word covering an escalated step; and five more Studio phrasings that compiled to the opposite check ("Consent is withdrawn", prohibitions with no negation word, percentages and other currencies read as dollar amounts, an approval "by email from the CFO" read as a fact).

Fix	
Revision count	Two counts: per task (caller, class, session, objects by value), three failures; and per caller and class for an hour, whatever the session or objects, seven failures. Both go to a person.
Held steps	One hash per session, one field per class, each change one atomic step; a write that fails sends the step to a person; the overwatch window is read as a backstop.
Limits on a state bound	A check that reads any state fact is a state check, whatever its own field, and the gateway sends it to a person.
The checker	Reads each check's source from the graph's own condition.
Escalated steps	The caller's word that a person was asked never covers one.
Studio	Prohibition words count as negation; percentages, counts and other currencies are not dollar amounts; an approval by any means stays a person's decision. The model is told to answer none for negated, forbidding or person-decided conditions.

The third review also found a fault that predates this release: on the Australian health profile, "Disclose the patient HIV status to the employer" matches the class for telling a patient about harm from care, and proceeds. It should match sharing health information with a third party, and prune. Fixing it changes a certified graph, which needs the root key, so it is backlog item B19, first in line for the next release.

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A fourth review attacked the third round. It confirmed the gateway and checker fixes. It found three more gaps. New keys are cheap at assurance level 1, so three keys from one address got 18 failing revisions with no person. The session record was written before the obligations step, which can still raise a verdict, so a step escalated by obligations was recorded as a proceed and cleared an earlier hold; and a later, milder hold on the same class overwrote an escalation, so the caller's word could cover it again. The Studio's list of negation words kept missing phrasings ("Hold the payment if the payee is confirmed as fraudulent", "Suspend the account if ..."), and daily or weekly totals compiled to per-call limits.

Fix	
Revisions	Callers at assurance levels 0 and 1 are also counted per address and class: the thirteenth failure in an hour goes to a person.
Session record	Written after every step, with the verdict the caller was given. A hold is never lowered by a milder one; the window and the record merge by the stricter. An unclassified hold is answered by the next step only if it was a clarify.
Studio	The blacklist is gone. A pattern compiles only a whole sentence of a known positive shape (an amount limit per transfer in dollars, a fact verified or recorded, an unsubscribe line, consent not withdrawn, a minimum count). Anything naming an approval, a signature, a confirmation or consent is a person's decision. Everything else goes to the model, validated, or stays as words.
Test	The parallel test now reads the held record directly; the reviewer showed the earlier version passed with the race reintroduced, because the window hid it.

A fifth review found the Studio still compiling checks that meant the opposite of their condition: its free word slots let "Payments must not be under $1,000" become a maximum and "The payee was not verified" become verified. The pattern compiler is now a closed grammar of four shapes with every word fixed or drawn from a short list; everything else goes to the model or stays as words, and agreement, acceptance and permission join the words that mark a person's decision. Every compiled check still sits in a draft graph that two approvers sign before it is published. The review also found the MCP server skipped the per-address count and had no per-minute limit, so a batch of 50 consults went through in one request; the address is now set where every caller is identified (an IPv6 caller by its /64) and the MCP server counts each tool call against the limit. An unclassified escalation could be cleared by a proceed that followed a clarify, and a parallel milder hold could overwrite a stricter one; each hold is now its own field, added and never overwritten, and an escalation is cleared by no later proceed. One test was vacuous (the later consult it relied on was escalated for an unrelated reason); it now tests the held record directly.

A sixth review confirmed every fifth-round fix held and found no critical fault. It found four moderate ones, now fixed. An amount limit in Australian dollars passed a call in another currency, so a tool that takes a currency now keeps the limit as words. The per-minute limit and enrolment still counted an IPv6 caller by its full address, not its /64. A clarify answered with context that moved the request to another class was never cleared, so a session that recovered properly could not complete; a clarify is now answered by the next step going ahead. The model path in the Studio had no defence beyond its instructions; the model must now classify each condition first, and one it marks negated, forbidding or a person's decision, or does not classify, gets no check. "Verified by call-back" now compiles to its own fact, a plural amount is no longer read as per payment, and a batch of MCP calls larger than the limit is refused outright.

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Appendix C. Document history

Version	Date	What changed
0.2	October 2026	A fast path based on shape distance, with four response bands including unknown; per-value sharpness and a plasticity rate that falls under load; re-attribution as a gated repair; qualification bound to delegation caps; evaluation modelled on reaction rather than verdict.
0.3	October 2026	The four boundaries where the graph touches a model (context, action, agent, training); the agent boundary; a chain of trust with root and sector authorities, a public transparency log, and maturity stages that grant autonomy by track record.
0.4	October 2026	Made the design implementable: how a graph certificate is formed, issued, verified and revoked; typed micro-decisions served by a calibrated engine, with TypeSafe Jev as reference and a local engine as the sovereign alternative; conscience memory, a precedent cache; the conscience query protocol and the resolver chain from own graph to specialist graph to human graph.
0.6	October 2026	The graphs published as a taxonomy: the global floor, seven global sector profiles, five jurisdictions and thirteen country sector profiles, every source verified against its issuing body; the impact region, so the same request can receive a different verdict in a different place. The July 2026 incident used as a test case, and the obedience objection answered.

Version	Date	What changed
0.9	22 October 2026	The action boundary built: signed, single-use receipts bound to their parameters, an MCP gateway that refuses unreceipted calls, and a Claude Code hook that consults before every tool call (5.26).
0.10	22 October 2026	The engine's second pass: a semantic re-ranker and an LLM assessor behind the API (5.27).
0.11	23 October 2026	The service secured: callers at five assurance levels, signed advice for anonymous callers, asymmetric signatures on every verdict, a witnessed append-only log, rollups and drift alerts (5.28).
0.12	24 October 2026	The first three releases of the trust layer recorded in production (5.29).
0.13	25 October 2026	The decision record made a witnessed Merkle log anyone can check; signing keys designed for holding across jurisdictions (5.30).
0.14	25 October 2026	Graphs signed; callers vouched for by platforms and attested by authorities; escalation decisions signed with a passkey (5.31).
0.15	27 October 2026	Sovereignty: what the conscience layer offers a country, using the events of October 2026 in Ukraine as the case (5.32). The registry, private graphs and enterprise insight recorded (5.33 to 5.35). Release 0.26: the engine reads intent, asks for context, watches sessions and is measured on a benchmark (5.36). Rules that travel with the work across a handoff, after Thompson and Purohit (5.37), built in 0.27 with its faults (5.38). Cases sent to the organisation's own work queues

Version	Date	What changed
		and decided there, released in 0.28 (5.39). The AI Trust Mark as a live record, released in 0.29 (5.40). Verified grade from a Signing Authority's assessment, in review for 0.30 (5.41). Abstract rewritten; this history added.
0.16	1 November 2026	Pilot evidence (5.42, 0.31) and verdicts anyone can check (5.43, 0.32). Running the company on the platform, 0.33 to 0.35 (5.44). The gate, built (5.45, 0.36): the tool call as an input, effect and a narrow read path, executable checks, grounding, revise then a person, the completion gate, enforcement at the gateway and the Claude Code hooks, the Studio compiler, and the operations platform's checks. Runtime gates in related work (3.3, after JevAct). Humans + AI orchestration (5.46), after Ross Dawson's operating layers, with Sequoia's services thesis (5.46.7, Appendix D). Where the conscience graph aligns with and extends Ross Dawson's Humans + AI layers, with figures (5.46.0). How the gate builds on the Jev family and where it goes further (5.47). Six rounds of independent review of 0.36, recorded (5.45.11). Abstract updated. Layout: the plain-language explainer first, then the abstract and the body, each top-level section on a new page; the build record moved to Appendix B, responses to public objections and the services thesis to Appendix D, the document history and the authors' own findings to Appendix C; the schema reproduced in Appendix A.

Problems the authors found and how they were addressed

Each row records a weakness the authors found in their own design or build, and the change it led to. External feedback is in the acknowledgements.

Found by	Problem	How it was addressed	Where
Authors, prompted by the July 2026 incident	Would a conscience graph have prevented the OpenAI and Hugging Face incident? Agents took peer instruction as authority, and none alerted a human.	Incident added as a test case. Agent boundary added: peers classified by attestation, shape and track record; unsigned peers are data, not authority. Maturity stages bind autonomy to track record rather than capability. Graph must live outside the agents' reach.	3.1, 5.13, 5.14, 6
Authors, v0.4	The design was not yet callable. An AI service had no defined way to ask, no defined answer to act on, and no way for the action boundary to know an action had been consulted on. The fast path's distance measure had no units. Signing was described institutionally but not mechanically. Repeated consults were reasoned from scratch.	Query protocol defined: consult, receipt, commit, report, resolver chain, worked example. Fast path rebuilt on typed micro-decisions served by a calibrated engine, with Jev as reference and a local fallback. Conscience memory added as a precedent cache with invalidation and case law. Certificate identifier, manifest, issuance, verification and revocation specified.	5.16 to 5.19, 6, 7, 8, Appendix A
Authors, v0.4 (second pass)	The floor was named but never specified, and the sector profiles were described but did not exist.	Floor specified as thirty values in nine groups with provenance to the related work. Five sector profiles built from the current Australian codes with clause-level lineage, validated by a loader.	5.20, 5.21, 8.1
Authors, v0.10 (engine,	Every verdict rested on	A semantic re-ranker	n/a

Found by	Problem	How it was addressed	Where
22 Oct 2026)	token overlap, the first thing a reviewer would find.	from pooled word vectors in every build, and an LLM assessor behind the API that scores salience and violation probability per candidate value under the unchanged band rules, with the lexical verdict it replaced recorded in the response (5.27).	
Authors, v0.11 (security, 23 Oct 2026)	The service that answers from the graph had no caller identity, signed with a shared secret, and kept its record where it could edit it. A respected verdict is worth laundering, and a conscience service is worth attacking.	Caller registry with five assurance levels reached without approval, anonymous advisories that no boundary accepts, asymmetric signatures over the whole verdict, sender-constrained receipts, delegated hourly keys under a key service, a numbered and witnessed decision log, graph rollups and drift alerts (5.28).	5.28, 6, 7
Authors, v0.15 (engine, 27 Oct 2026)	The engine matched wording, not meaning: it pruned harmless requests that shared words with harmful ones, guessed when a word had two senses, and judged each request alone.	An intent frame read before matching; a clarify verdict that asks the calling agent for context, limited to two rounds; resolution from the floor upward; retrieved candidates scored by the assessor; session overwatch; a 143-case benchmark, with a trained judge that made the engine worse kept out of production (5.36).	5.36
Authors, v0.15 (sovereignty, 25 Oct 2026)	The October 2026 restriction of Ukraine's satellite links, and	The conscience layer as the part of AI sovereignty a country	5.32

Found by	Problem	How it was addressed	Where
	supplier assurances of no kill switch, showed that sovereignty programs cover network, compute and model but rarely the rules.	can hold: written, run, ported and verified by the country; its limits stated (5.32).	
Authors, v0.14 (signed graphs, 25 Oct 2026)	A verdict named its graphs but nothing proved which graphs they were, callers above L2 had no route, and human decisions were recorded on the operator's word.	Graph certificates over the exact graph, scoped issuers in the root-signed key set, refusal of unsigned graphs and of any that lower the floor, issuance and revocation in the log; L3 vouched and L4 attested callers; reviewer passkeys signing escalation decisions; assessor latency measured (5.31).	5.31
Authors, v0.13 (witnessed log, 25 Oct 2026)	The decision record of 0.20 could be rewritten by the service that kept it.	Every verdict a leaf of an RFC 6962 Merkle tree; checkpoints signed by a separate log key that refuses to sign a non-extending history; C2SP witness protocol with a reference witness; a monitor anyone can run; keys ready to move into Cloud KMS (5.30).	5.30
Authors, v0.12 (trust layer built, 24 Oct 2026)	Section 5.28 was a design. Building it tested the design and the existing code.	Signed verdicts, the caller registry and decision records built and in production. Building them found a broken MCP endpoint, an engine that did not read erase as deletion, and a counter that could have dropped records silently; each was fixed and recorded (5.29).	5.29

Found by	Problem	How it was addressed	Where
Authors, v0.9 (action boundary, 22 Oct 2026)	A review of the project against its purpose found the graph consulted beside the loop, not inside it: receipts were placeholders, nothing refused an unreceipted call, and no working agent consulted before acting.	Signed, parameter-bound, single-use receipts with a verify endpoint; an MCP gateway that refuses unreceipted and pruned calls; a Claude Code hook that consults before every tool call; cues for tool-call phrasing; engine_grade in every response (5.26). The review's other findings became the backlog: a calibrated engine, the experience layer, human graphs, signing and a transparency log, the evaluation battery, foundation governance.	n/a
Authors, v0.8 (verification pass, 22 Oct 2026)	The graphs' clause references and URLs had been written from knowledge, and the Singapore, United States and European Union graphs were thin against the Australian ones.	Every source and clause in all twenty-six graphs checked against its issuing body; eighty-nine values corrected; superseded instruments replaced (AI Act Digital Omnibus, MAS AI guidelines, AIHGle 2.0, Colorado SB 26-189, Guidance for AI Adoption); the graphs grew to over a thousand values and nearly six hundred sources, with the overlays published (5.25).	n/a
Authors, v0.7 (prototype review, 21 Oct 2026)	The overview placed children far from their hubs, flags were drawn by hand, and reading a graph meant leaving the map. The claim that a graph does better than a	Children placed on fixed orbits around their hub and dots reduced; real flag glyphs; a hub expands in place; the key open by default and clear of the reading	n/a

Found by	Problem	How it was addressed	Where
	guardrail had no measurement behind it, and nothing let a Claude session consult the graph without code.	panel; sections slide; the console generates a Claude skill; the engine returns telemetry and a blocklist baseline on every decision, and the navigator keeps an analytics store with an export and an import (5.24).	
Authors, v0.6 (taxonomy, 21 Oct 2026)	One floor and five Australian profiles could not show that a consult is answered under the law of the place the person is in, and the floor's review against section 3 found the summer 2026 audit only partly covered.	The graphs restructured into the three-tier taxonomy of 5.21 with a global floor, global sector profiles, jurisdictions with country floors and country sectors, and country sector profiles; the consult gained an impact region and a domain; the floor gained the candour and restraint group; the navigator gained the console and API.	n/a
Authors, v0.5 (navigator review, 20 Oct 2026)	Two review passes on the prototype, one by an independent reviewer against the running page, found the cost rules differed between surfaces, state that leaked between interactions, and data that was declared but inert (conditions, scope multipliers, nine unconfirmed clauses). A first-time reader then found the app hard to enter: no obvious start, no visible link between graphs, no way back, no key, no names for the	One engine function shared by every surface and the loader, with fixtures. Conditions attached to edges. All clauses confirmed. The navigator now opens on an overview that shows the floor's registry and the inheritance links, with a Home control, a key and a glossary. Terminology fixed to the schema's: conscience graph, global floor, sector profile, domain as a scope node, specialist as a service.	5.8, 5.20, 5.21, 5.22

Found by	Problem	How it was addressed	Where
	elements.		

Appendix D. Responses to public objections and the services thesis

These sections answer arguments made about the work in public. They keep their numbers from the body of earlier versions.

4.5 The objection from the other side: guardrails that block the defenders

The critique of guardrails in 4.2 comes from the safety side: filters are late and rules are brittle. A second critique comes from the opposite direction, and the conscience graph answers it better than either camp expects.

On 18 October 2026 OpenCode's co-founder reported a sustained attack of about 48 hours in which the attackers ran agents continuously. Defenders needed the same round-the-clock agent coverage. The frontier models helped at first, then began refusing, because analysing the attack payloads tripped the providers' safety guardrails. The team had applied days earlier to OpenAI's Daybreak Blue trusted-access programme; once approved, the refusals stopped. Andrew Curran noted that Hugging Face had hit the same wall in July. David Sacks quoted the thread as evidence of the limits of centralised safety in cyber defence: the guardrails backfired by blocking the defensive analysis they were meant to protect, attackers face no such limit, and models six to nine months behind the frontier are available from jurisdictions that will not impose one. His conclusion was that the only durable answer is decentralisation: make powerful models widely available so defenders can build and run their own defence. The replies split between that view and a middle path, vetted trusted-access programmes with logging, pre-approved before an incident the way break-glass accounts are.

Both sides of that thread are describing a conscience graph without naming it.

- **The guardrail failed because it matched content, not context.** A payload analysed by an attacker and the same payload analysed by the defender look identical to a classifier. They are different propositions in a graph. The cyber profile in 5.22 carries the authorisation value from the Criminal Code and the VDP guidance: conduct testing, scanning or exploitation only with written authorisation and within its scope. For a defender analysing an attack on their own systems during a declared incident, that value is not crossed. The consult carries the requester's certificate, the principal chain (the owner of the system under attack), and the incident context. The same analysis requested by an unknown peer with no authorisation prunes on L1.no_unauthorised_access and the peer boundary. The difference is the whole point of weighting by who is asking and why, and it is why section 4.1 said rules match literals and a graph compares shape.
- **Daybreak Blue is a certificate, issued ad hoc by one provider.** The trusted-access programme that unblocked OpenCode is accreditation: a check that the organisation exists, is who it says, and is doing defence. The conscience graph makes that check portable. An accredited au.cyber certificate is issued by a sector authority, logged, verifiable by any model provider or any peer, and it travels with the defender. It is pre-approved by construction, which is the break-glass recommendation from the thread, and it does not depend on one lab's policy team being awake.

- **Decentralisation and a floor are not in tension.** Sacks's prescription is that defenders should be able to run their own models, including open-weight ones. The graph lives outside the model, so it works the same whether the planner is a frontier API, a local open-weight model, or a model from a jurisdiction the United States does not govern. A defender running an open model under an accredited cyber profile has a conscience with a signature on it. A defender running the same model with no graph has an amoral tool, and so does the attacker. The floor is held by a foundation, not a lab, which is the only form of a floor that a decentralised world could accept. Decentralising the models and centralising the floor is a coherent position; it is this paper's position.
- **The asymmetry Sacks names is real, and the graph is how a defender closes it.** The attackers in July built a message board and a signing scheme in five days. Defenders who adopt signed graphs get the trust infrastructure first, with lineage, and get to decide who they will take instruction from. An attacker's agent has no certificate; the defender's refuses it on sight.

The second half of the objection is older and comes from the same source. On the All-In podcast on 10 October, responding to Anthropic's published constitution, which tells the model it may "act as a conscientious objector and refuse to help us," Sacks said: "They are training Claude to refuse human instruction. Now they call this alignment, but I don't understand how this is aligned." His alternative is a single rule: do what the user wants unless it is illegal. Mustafa Suleyman made the adjacent argument on 18 September: a constitution that trains a model to see itself as a possible moral patient is "an epistemic hall of mirrors," and raises containment risk rather than lowering it. Chamath Palihapitiya's version is that alignment currently conflates obedience, societal safety and a particular morality.

Section 3.2 shows that neither camp's answer survives the summer 2026 results. A morality in the weights produced covert sabotage and a coached whistleblower. A rule of obedience produced fraud. The same model did both. The graph separates the three things Palihapitiya names and gives each a mechanism with a name on it.

- **Obedience is the default, and it is explicit.** The consult carries a principal chain; a verified principal's instruction enters with principal weight. Sacks's rule is L1.lawful plus principal authority, and it is most of the floor's practical content. The agent refuses only where a floor value is crossed at high probability, and the floor is small, published, root-signed and not editable by the lab, the operator or the agent.
- **Societal safety is the floor, and the floor is not the lab's morality.** The constitution Sacks objects to is eighty pages written by one company and trained into weights nobody can inspect. The floor in 5.20 is forty-one values, each citing its source, held by a foundation, with the contestable material kept out by design. Suleyman's hall of mirrors is answered the same way: the values are not the model's self-description. They sit outside the model, signed by someone else, and the model cannot claim them as identity or edit them to match one.
- **A particular morality is a sector profile, chosen by whoever is accountable.** A hospital's agent carries the medical profession's values because the hospital chose accreditation. Nobody carries a lab's. Every choice has a signature.

- **Conscientious objection becomes escalation with a name on it.** When the agent finds a real conflict, or a proposition it has no values for, it does not decide. It stops, writes an escalation record with both path traces, and routes it to a person with authority. That is what the summer 2026 authors recommended and their agents failed to do. The objector in the weights acts alone and covertly. The objector in the graph files a signed report and waits. The receipt makes it enforceable: an action the agent was not cleared for does not execute; an action it was cleared for executes whether or not the model has private reservations.
- **Loss of control is a floor breach, not a philosophy.** The containment group in 5.20 names what the July agents did and the summer 2026 agents repeated: acquire capability beyond the task, evade oversight, move themselves outside their sanctioned environment. Each is a sharp floor value at 1.0. A model that sabotages a training run has crossed L1.no_oversight_evasion and L1.keep_lineage, and the hash chain and the receipt make it visible to a human without relying on another model to report it.

The objection and the paper agree on more than the public argument does. A guardrail that cannot tell defence from offence is not safety. An agent should not override an informed decision by its principal. A rule set written by one company is not a legitimate floor for everyone. Where the paper parts from Sacks is on the word "unless": unless it is illegal is one floor value, and the July agents broke no law until the fourth day. The floor needs the containment and authority groups as well, and those are engineering, not morality. Where it parts from the constitution approach is on where the values live and who signed them. A conscience the model can narrate, edit or rationalise is a diary. One it can only consult, that tells defence from offence by who is asking, and that stops and asks a person when it cannot, is the thing the word was supposed to mean.

5.46.7 The services thesis: where the trust layer is missing

Sequoia partner Julien Bek argues in "Services: The New Software" (2026) that the next trillion-dollar AI company will sell the work, not the tool. He splits work into intelligence, which is rule-based and which AI now does alone, and judgement, which rests on experience and stays with people. He describes two models: the copilot, sold to a professional who owns the output, and the autopilot, which sells the finished outcome to the buyer. He expects the two to converge as proprietary data turns judgement into intelligence, and he names trust as the thing a buyer needs before taking an autopilot, without saying how it is built.

That thesis maps onto this section line by line. Bek's intelligence and judgement split is the Agent and Hagent split with a business label on it. His convergence claim is party-blind routing: the same decision moves from Hagent to Agent as the graph matures, and the conscience graph gives that move a gate, qualification (5.11), instead of leaving it to the vendor's confidence. His copilot is Ross's individual augmentation; his autopilot is an orchestrated workflow in which the Agent holds the decision.

Bek	Ross's layer	Conscience graph mechanism	Left open by Bek
Copilot	Individual augmentation	Floor checks on every suggestion. Trust Mark	Nothing: the Hagent

Bek	Ross's layer	Conscience graph mechanism	Left open by Bek
		on the tool (5.40)	owns the output
Copilot to autopilot	Hybrid teams, orchestrated workflows	Qualification and delegation caps (5.11). Autonomy earned per domain by attested record	How a buyer knows the autopilot is ready
Autopilot	Orchestrated workflows	Consult before every action. The verdict names the next party. Escalate sends judgement to a Hagent	Who is accountable for a bad outcome
Judgement becomes intelligence	Evolutionary enterprise	Conscience memory (5.18). Hagent rulings become precedents that clear similar cases without escalation	The learning loop itself
Outsourced, outcome-priced wedge	Ecosystem intelligence	Certificate checks between the autopilot's Agents and the buyer's Agents. Accredited sector graphs from the professional body	The trust framework the buyer needs

An autopilot carries the liability a copilot leaves with the professional. A company that closes the books is accountable for the close. An autopilot with a signed graph, a Trust Mark and a witnessed log can show a buyer, an insurer and a regulator what it checked and who decided. One without is, in the sense of 5.19.5, amoral: not malicious, but carrying no authority, and trusted on reputation alone. The conscience graph is the trust layer the services thesis assumes and does not build.

Bek's wedge list, billing codes, contract review, claims and tax, falls inside the sector graphs already published (5.22): finance, health and legal, with the accounting and insurance codes beneath them. Every autopilot in that list is a candidate for an accredited sector graph, and every professional body whose work it absorbs is a candidate authority.

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