

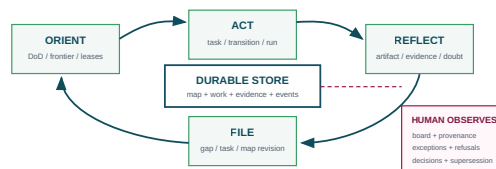
FRONT PAGE · A MAP NEEDS A CALLER

The agent returns.

Lettuce becomes useful when an agent repeatedly discovers a bounded frontier, claims it, drives a real process, preserves refusals and evidence, then leaves the map more truthful than it found it.

SECOND ROUTE THROUGH LETTUCE THEORY · READ IN ORDER

The worker may vanish; the loop must remain
Each move reads or changes durable state before another agent inherits the work.



Not a task-list ritual

The operating agent does not consult Lettuce once, close a ticket, and vanish. It uses the store as shared orientation and durable memory throughout the attempt.

The running case

A keyboard-only checkout looks complete until a real refusal exposes missing focus recovery. The agent must repair the product without laundering the failed evidence.

How to read

Each desk follows one boundary in the journey. Green boxes state operating rules. Amber boxes separate coordination facts from quality claims.

The loop is successful when another agent can restart it without inheriting invisible confidence.

1 · Read the map before choosing the work

Begin with the objective

Read the project’s current DoD, board, milestones, open tasks, scopes, dimensions, units, and recent decisions. A single list cannot tell the whole truth about the frontier.

Look for weak signals

Untouched coordinates, stale evidence, blocked scopes, contradictory receipts, and overdue decisions are all work. A quiet queue may mean the map is incomplete or the filter is wrong.

Respect ownership

Inspect leases and active runs before selecting a target. Duplicate observation can be useful; duplicate exclusive mutation is usually waste.

Declare the questions before counting the answers

scope = checkout / 3 units x 3 applicable dimensions = 9 coordinates

	functional	accessibility	recovery
cart	HARDENED stored + credited	implicit untested	implicit untested
payment	implicit untested	implicit untested	GAP stored finding
receipt 1 credited / 8 applicable = 12.5%	implicit untested	EXCLUDED rationale required Not complete: the implicit cells never disappeared.	implicit untested

MECHANISM / JUDGMENT

Lettuce can show declared state and current ownership. The agent still judges which bounded frontier best advances the objective.

OPERATING RULE

No frontier is evidence of completion until the denominator and query are trusted.

2 · Know where you are before acting

Name the coordinate

State the scope, unit, dimension, task, subject revision, and applicable graph node. “Improve accessibility” is not oriented; “replay keyboard checkout at revision R” is.

Name acceptable evidence

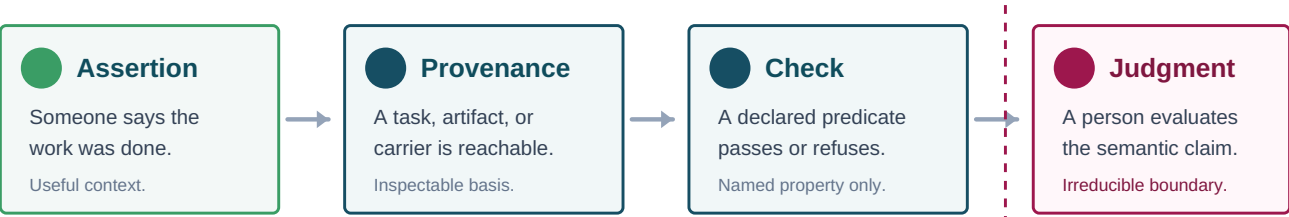
Decide what artifact, method, environment, and observation could support the narrow claim. Also name what would refuse it.

Find authority boundaries

Separate what the harness checks, what an agent recommends, and what a qualified person must decide. A route without this separation invites accidental authority.

One claim, four different kinds of support

Each stage narrows uncertainty. None turns automatically into the next.



ORIENTATION TEST

The agent can state the attempt, evidence, refusal, and escalation route in one paragraph.

3 · Claim the work without claiming the truth

The task coordinates people

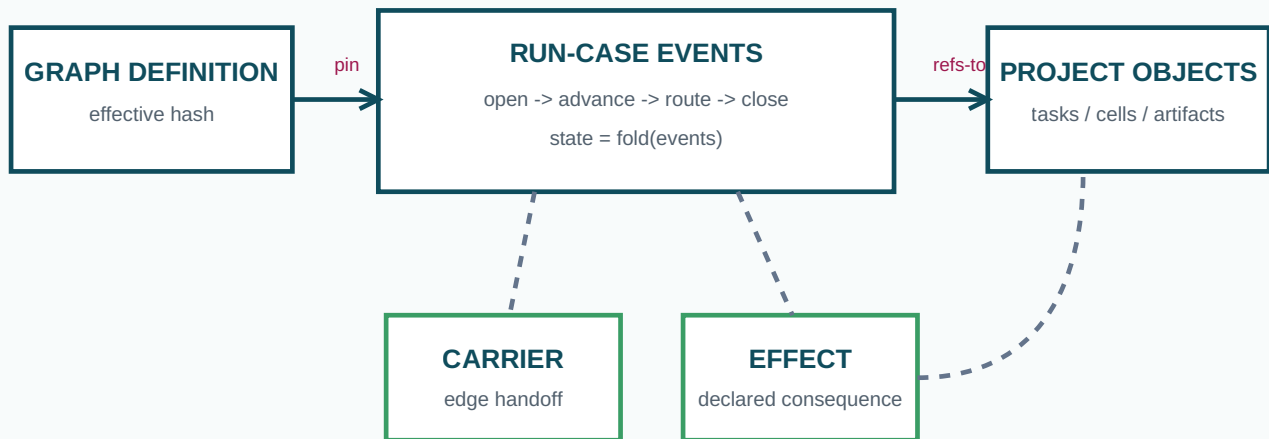
Find or file the work, acquire its lease, and enter the declared workflow. The lease makes exclusive ownership visible and expiring.

The run records an attempt

A run has inputs, revisions, logs, outcome, and artifacts. Failure belongs in the ledger; it is not an embarrassing draft to erase.

The cell carries the claim

A completed task may support one cell. It does not automatically harden a scope, dimension, or product. A carrier moves evidence between stations without merging their meanings.



WHAT A LEASE PROVES

It proves who currently owns an exclusive coordination target. It does not prove correctness, independence, or superior approach.

4 · Drive the contract, not its illustration

Every handoff has a carrier

At each station preserve input revision, instruction, output artifact, disposition, and next receiver. Otherwise later replay depends on vanished context.

Instructions are not enforcement

A node may say “review independently,” while the caller supplies the same agent, evidence, and framing. Read runtime policy and actual receipts.

Effects need permission

Editing a file, publishing a release, and messaging a person are different consequence classes. The graph must not silently widen authorization.



OPERATING RULE

Record the route actually taken, including skipped and refused edges.

5 · Let refusal change the plan

The checkout fails honestly

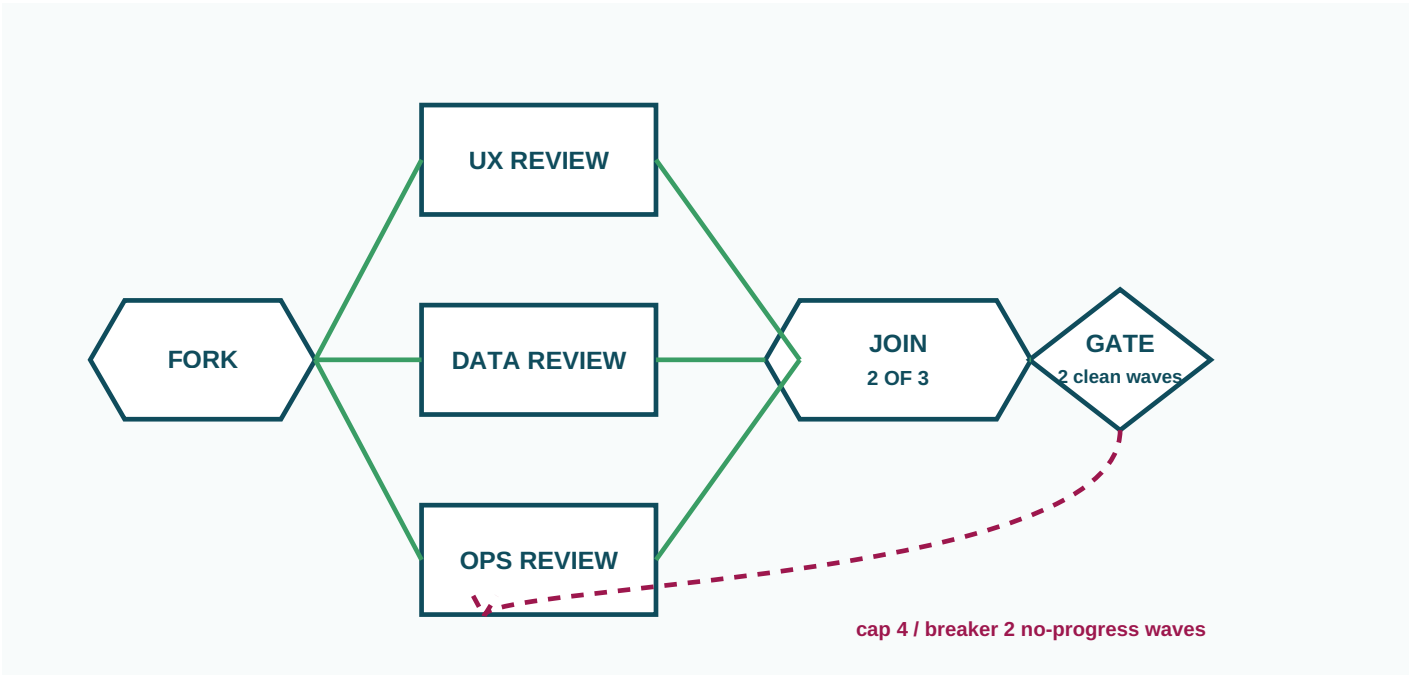
Keyboard traversal reaches the payment dialog, but closing it loses focus. The run emits a typed refusal tied to the browser, fixture, and subject revision.

Repair must add evidence

The agent files the defect, enters a bounded repair loop, changes focus restoration, and reruns the same path plus a regression check. Retry without changed evidence is repetition.

Map defects are work

A refusal can reveal a missing dimension, unit, gate, or decision—not merely a missing patch. Expand the map when the old coordinate cannot state the discovery honestly.



PROVES / DOES NOT PROVE

The refusal proves the declared check did not accept the input. It does not prove the proposed repair is correct or the check covers all keyboard users.

6 · Ask what the artifact really supports

Mechanical review

Did the declared predicate pass for the recorded revision and environment? Can another operator replay it from the carrier?

Semantic review

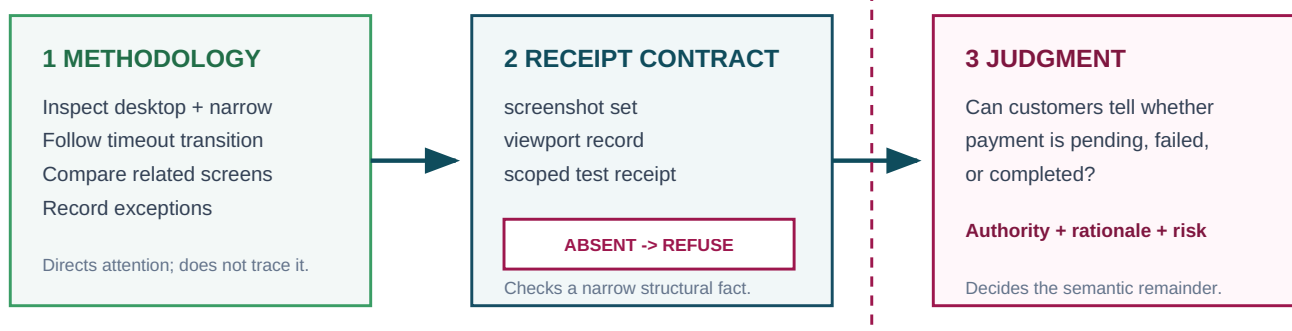
Does restored focus land somewhere meaningful? Is the sequence understandable, recoverable, and safe for the person using it? A screenshot cannot answer alone.

Independent challenge

Vary the falsification question and evidence path. Preserve dissent at the join instead of compressing disagreement into a quorum number.

Three layers answer three different questions

Direction can be explicit. Receipts can bite. Meaning still has an owner.



A receipt crossing layer 2 is not an answer to layer 3.

The system can expose the remainder and route it to authority; it should not counterfeit the decision.

BOUNDARY QUESTIONS

What changed? What survives? What became stale? Which neighboring claim opened?

7 · Preserve the decision and regress dependents

Finish narrowly

Record run outcome, artifacts, review findings, decision, remaining conditions, and task transition. Completion describes the task lifecycle—not universal product truth.

Reconcile projections

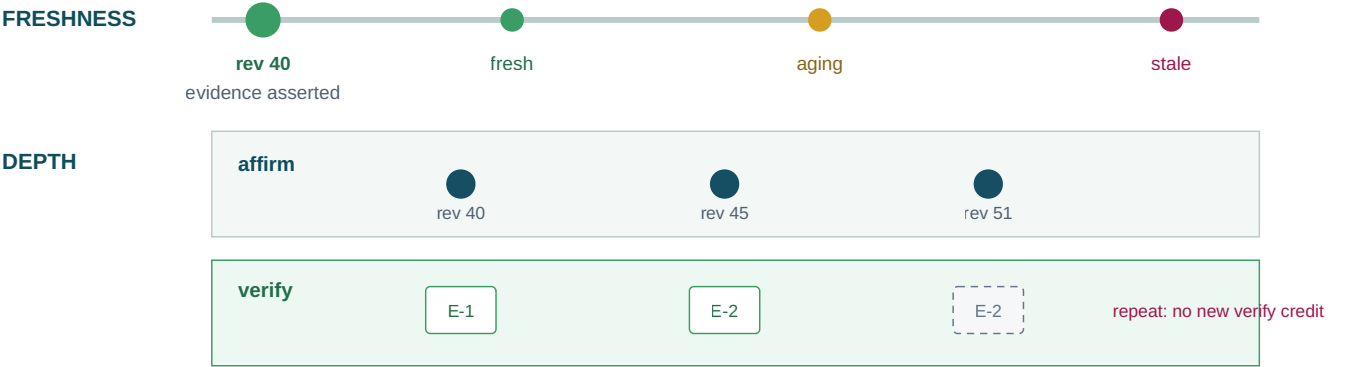
If the subject, evidence, policy, or dependency changed, revisit dependent cells. Old green must be allowed to regress without deleting its history.

Release ownership

Release the lease only after durable state explains what happened and what remains. An abandoned lease and an unexplained terminal state both damage restartability.

One claim, two different reasons to revisit it

Freshness measures store movement. Depth records corroboration structure.



DURABLE DECISION

Record question, alternatives, evidence, rationale, authority, conditions, dissent, effects, and supersession—not merely “approved.”

Return to the frontier

The restartable loop

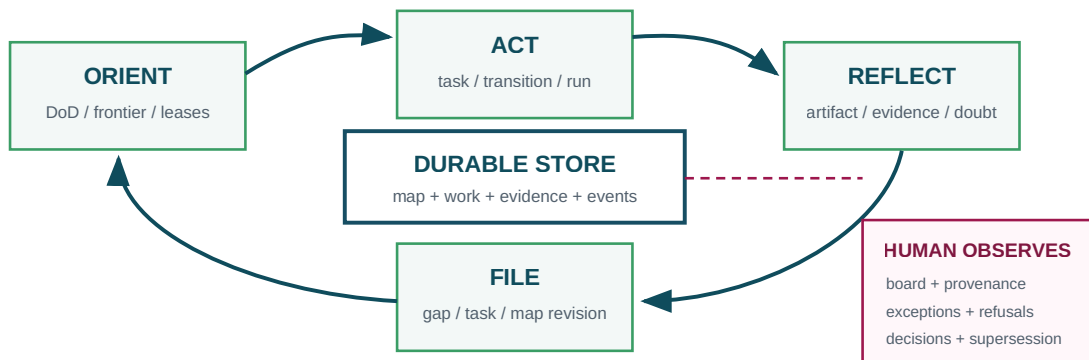
1. Discover the declared and hidden frontier.
2. Orient on one bounded coordinate.
3. Claim the task without claiming truth.
4. Drive the effective graph and record carriers.
5. Reflect at every boundary.
6. Preserve refusal or attach narrow evidence.
7. Reconcile dependents and release ownership.
8. Discover again.

Four questions at all times

1. **Where am I?** Scope, unit, dimension, task, node, revision.
2. **What may I claim?** Exact evidence and gate boundary.
3. **What happens next?** Bounded action or escalation.
4. **What survives me?** Carrier, receipt, decision, finding, map.

The worker may vanish; the loop must remain

Each move reads or changes durable state before another agent inherits the work.



**Discover → orient → claim → drive → reflect → refuse or evidence
→ reconcile → discover.**

Issue 03 asks what happens when maintained claims decay. Issue 04 turns the graph shapes used here into a visual atlas.