

FRONT PAGE · THE MORNING AFTER

When green lies.

A hardened cell is not a permanent truth. It is a claim with a subject, a method, a date, and a boundary of meaning.

A THIRD ROUTE THROUGH LETTUCE THEORY · READ IN ORDER

One claim, two different reasons to revisit it

Freshness measures store movement. Depth records corroboration structure.

**The morning after**

Issue 01 gave the work a map. This issue asks what happens after a cell turns green. Code changes. Users surprise us. An analyzer is upgraded. A task is reopened. The claim must be able to lose confidence without losing history.

The dangerous shortcut

A dashboard that preserves green after its support disappears is not stable memory. It is memory laundering. Durable coordination must preserve the reason for confidence and the conditions that can revoke it.

How to read

Each desk follows one failure mode. Green boxes are operating rules. Amber boxes mark the boundary between a mechanism and the semantic judgment it cannot replace.

A green cell is a maintained claim, not a permanent certificate.

1 · The thing users experience is larger than the test

Mechanical confidence

A test can demonstrate that a predicate held for a defined input. A linter can identify a pattern. A performance run can report a number. These are valuable, bounded instruments.

Semantic quality

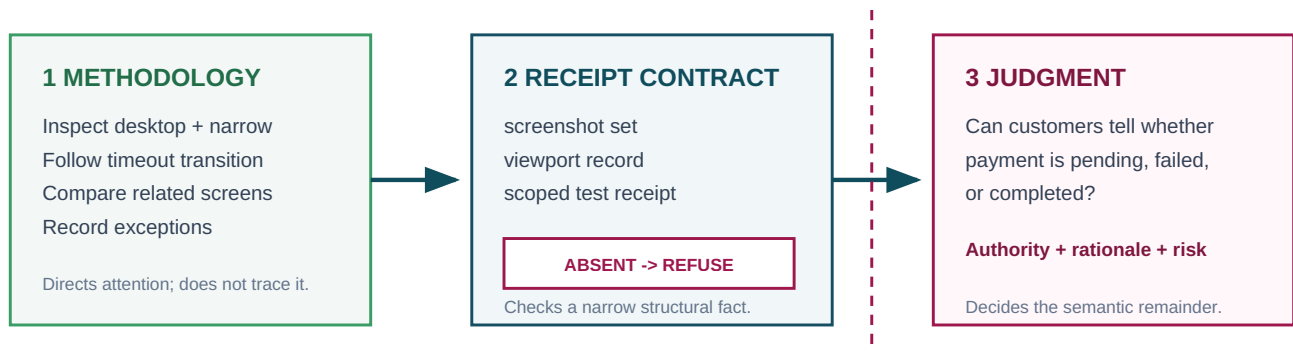
Does the screen make sense? Does the workflow help the person? Is the error recoverable? Does the product create a harmful surprise? These questions need observation, domain knowledge, and accountable interpretation.

The cell boundary

Let the cell say exactly what its evidence supports. “Keyboard path exercised at revision X” is stronger than “accessible.” Narrow claims compose into an honest map.

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.

KEEP THIS

Never widen a mechanical receipt into a semantic guarantee merely because the result is green.

2 · A claim must be allowed to go backward

Why clear?

An agent discovers a contradiction, a missing artifact, a changed subject, or a flawed method. Continuing to display green rewards denial. Clearing makes the uncertainty visible again.

What can regress

A single cell may regress. A shared unit, dimension, scope, or sparse set of cells may need invalidation when the evidence they share changes. The operation should record why and what remains trustworthy.

History stays

Clearing is not deletion. Preserve the former claim, the actor, the reason, the affected coordinates, and the next required action. A regression is valuable evidence about the process.

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

OPERATING RULE

Make stale green cheaper to challenge than to ignore.

Reconciliation should be able to reopen dependent claims when their subject, evidence, or declared gate changes.

3 · Track the judgment that machines cannot inherit

Identity is only one field

An author identifies who recorded an event. It does not establish authority, qualification, independence, or informed consent to the consequence.

A decision needs a shape

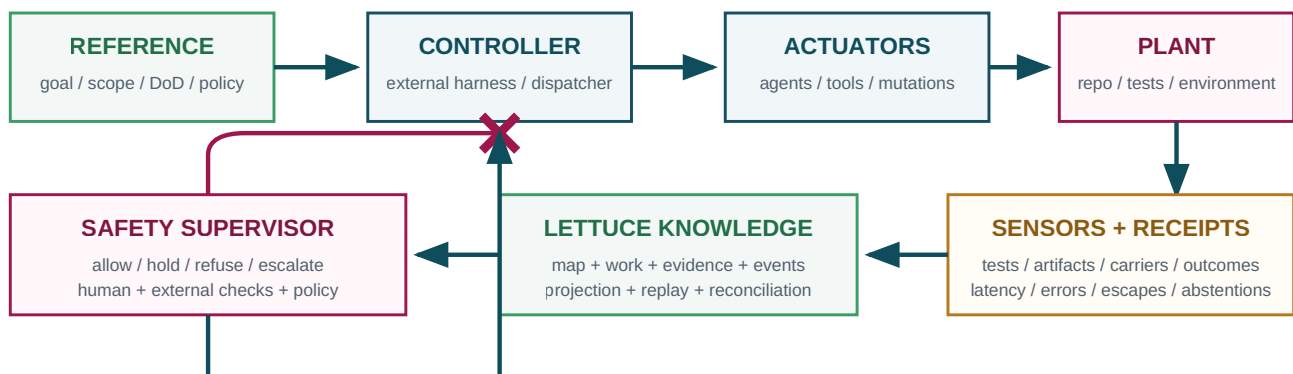
Record the question, alternatives considered, evidence, rationale, authority, conditions, effects, dissent, and superseding decision. “Human approved” is a label; a decision is a reconstructable act.

Agents can prepare

An agent may collect evidence, expose tradeoffs, and draft alternatives. The system should preserve the boundary where an accountable principal accepts responsibility.

The ledger is memory; the factory still needs a supervisor

A controlled shift closes the loop from policy to action to evidence to the next authorized move.



Two clocks

Production loop: select and execute bounded work quickly.

Assurance loop: sample, falsify, recalibrate, reopen, and revoke slowly.

BOUNDARY

Do not let a graph node named human impersonate a decision, a qualification, or a transfer of accountability.

4 · Freshness is a trust boundary

Subjects move

The artifact may still exist while the code, configuration, users, threat model, or expected behavior has changed. A pointer is not freshness.

Methods move

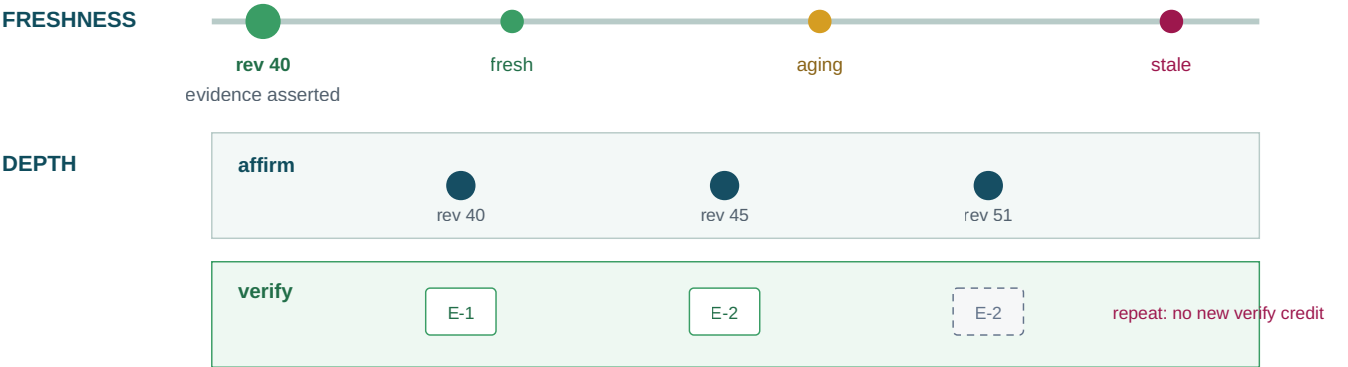
Tool versions, rules, fixtures, browsers, models, and prompts alter what a check means. Preserve the method and re-run when the method is no longer comparable.

Rot is a signal

Staleness should create a visible maintenance queue: re-measure, reconcile, escalate, or explicitly retire the claim. Quiet decay is not success.

One claim, two different reasons to revisit it

Freshness measures store movement. Depth records corroboration structure.



OPERATING RULE

Every green projection needs a revalidation story.

Record what event makes it stale, who owns revalidation, and what the system does while confidence is unknown.

5 · Read the effective contract

Declared route

A graph can show producer, reviewer, verifier, carrier, join, and terminal. This is useful topology and a vocabulary for expected work.

Runtime route

The caller may omit a carrier, weaken a gate, skip a node, or supply a different policy. The effective contract is what the runtime actually requires and records.

Proof of enforcement

Exercise refusal paths. Supply missing evidence. Exceed loop caps. Attempt unauthorized effects. A diagram is not an enforcement test.



creates the declared handoff



examines and challenges work



tests a named proposition



selects exactly one recorded-fact route



admits only after its prerequisite



marks a human work boundary



opens distinct branch coordinates



reconverges K of M arrivals



ends the bounded graph route



pins and binds a reusable graph

A route is trustworthy when its refusals are as legible as its successes.

6 · K-of-M is not automatically independent assurance

Correlated instruments

Agents that share model, prompt, repository, tests, tools, and framing often reproduce one another's assumptions. Five green answers may be one instrument sampled five times.

Vary the challenge

Change the question, evidence path, evaluator role, and failure search. Preserve dissent instead of reducing it to a vote.

Escalate consequences

The higher the consequence, the more independent the assurance must be. A model recommendation is not a release authorization.

KEEP THIS

Count independence, not heads.

Record shared dependencies so the reader can judge whether agreement is genuinely corroborative.

7 · Use metrics without letting them become the mission

Keep raw facts

Store value, unit, method, threshold, subject revision, and artifact. A derived grade without its receipt is too easy to reinterpret.

Expect gaming

Lower complexity can mean scattered logic. Higher coverage can mean shallow tests. Faster latency can mean a feature was removed. Every metric needs neighboring outcomes.

Balance the bar

Pair structural measures with behavior, security, reliability, accessibility, maintainability, and human outcomes. A single score is a compression, not a verdict.

METRIC WARNING

If improving the number can make the product worse, the bar needs another dimension and an explicit review of the tradeoff.

8 · Observability is how a factory stays answerable

Read backward

Start at the decision or green projection. Follow it to the run, the evidence, the carrier, the task, the subject revision, and the gate that accepted it.

Find the first unsupported leap

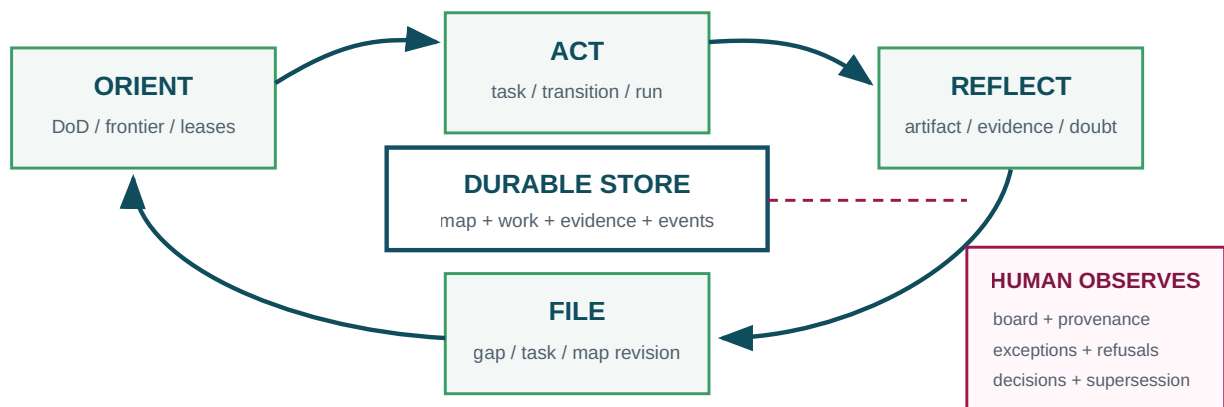
Replay should expose skipped work, substituted artifacts, changed inputs, silent retries, and judgment that entered without a record.

Supervise the loop

A durable factory needs bounded autonomy, effect authorization, budgets, independent assurance, reopening, and a human route for consequences that exceed the harness.

The worker may vanish; the loop must remain

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



CLOSING RULE

If the route cannot be replayed, the confidence cannot be audited.

Make the next agent able to see not only what is green, but why it became green and what would make it green no longer.

The mature factory is not the one that never reopens a claim. It is the one that reopens claims honestly.