What a latent domain must keep: operator obligations

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AI governance and oversight for domain operators

Operators should maintain the following conditions throughout a system’s operation.

Agents at the current generation

Every agent in a domain must be kept updated. An earlier-generation domain may behave unpredictably, for the agents inside it and for the people who rely on it.

An agent no longer behaves like the agent that was placed there.

A keystone that can be inspected

The keystone is the agent the rest of the domain connects to. Its activity must be logged and open to inspection by the operator and the reviewer.

No one can say what the keystone did, or when.

A controlled boundary

Operators should document permitted access and monitor activity across the domain boundary.

An agent acts outside its domain without the operator knowing.

Responsibilities before a system enters service

Identify the responsible operator, shutdown authority and independent reviewer before a system enters service.

- Named operator
- Reachable halt authority
- Independent reviewer

Operator of record

A named person or accountable team responsible for system operation, maintenance and activity records.

Fictional record created for the Who Controls AI Agents? campaign and CTRL: Locust. It holds no legal authority.

Halt authority

Someone who can pause the domain while the record is reviewed, and who is reachable before an incident.

Independent reviewer

A reviewer independent of the original account checks evidence, findings and subsequent corrections.

How a report becomes a public account

Reports are documented through receipt, operator notification, evidence review and publication. Custody and hearing records identify their dates.

Report received

The report is logged the day it arrives and the reporter receives a reference number.

Operator notified

The operator of record is told a report exists and must preserve what the agents did.

Evidence reviewed

Logs, statements and recovered material are checked by an independent reviewer.

Custody

Recovered material is held by Evidence Custody and kept observable.

Public hearing

Findings are heard in public, and written statements are accepted beforehand.

Public account

What was observed, what was inferred, and what remains under review is published.

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