AI Code Attribution

THE CHALLENGE

When our AI coding assistant modifies source code, those changes look identical to developer-written code in version control. There is no way to distinguish AI-generated code from human-written code after the fact — creating gaps in auditability, traceability, and regulatory compliance.

Full Auditability	**Zero Friction**	**No Escape Hatch**	**Measurable**
Every AI-generated commit is permanently labeled in version history	Developers don't change their workflow — attribution is automatic	AI code cannot be committed under a developer's name accidentally	AI vs. human contribution ratios queryable at any time

How It Works

1 AI assistant edits code
The plugin tracks which files and lines were modified by the AI, separate from the developer's own edits.

2 Developer saves their work
When the developer commits through their normal workflow, the plugin automatically detects AI-changed files.

3 Attribution applied automatically
AI-modified files are committed with **"GitHub Copilot"** as the author. The developer is recorded as the approver. No extra steps.

> **WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN VERSION CONTROL**
> **Written by:**   GitHub Copilot (gpt-4.1)
> **Approved by:**   John Doan <john.doan@citi.com>
>
> The developer is always recorded as the person who reviewed and approved the AI's changes.

Parallel Agent Safety
When multiple AI agents work simultaneously, each operates in an isolated copy of the codebase. A review panel lets the developer approve or reject each agent's changes before they are merged.

Why This Matters

CONCERN	HOW WE ADDRESS IT
Compliance	Every AI contribution is labeled in the permanent audit trail. Policies can be enforced via automated checks.
Accountability	Clear chain of responsibility: AI wrote it, human reviewed and approved it. Both are recorded.
Measurability	Management can query AI vs. human contribution ratios at any time — per repo, team, or developer.
Developer trust	No workflow changes required. Attribution is transparent. Developers review AI diffs before approving.

How We Compare

APPROACH	AUDIT TRAIL	EXTRA SETUP
Our approach	Author field + structured metadata	None
Claude Code	Co-author trailer only	None
GitHub Copilot Agent	Bot account as author	Server-side only
Dedicated bot account	Full author with profile	Requires paid seat

Key Advantage
Our approach uses Git's built-in author/committer separation — the same mechanism that powers open-source contributions. It requires **no additional accounts**, **no server-side infrastructure**, and works with any Git hosting provider (GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket).