

# Mirror, Mirror

The Reflection Pattern in Agentic AI

Product Radio: An Agentic AI Series

# Traditional AI workflows ship outputs in a single pass.

This is the established model: a linear process from prompt to result. While fast, it offers no opportunity for self-correction or improvement before delivery.



# **Agentic products can do better.**

They can introduce a step that is fundamentally human-like in its intelligence.

# **Pause.**



# **Reflect.**



# **Revise.**



This is the essence of the Reflection Pattern.



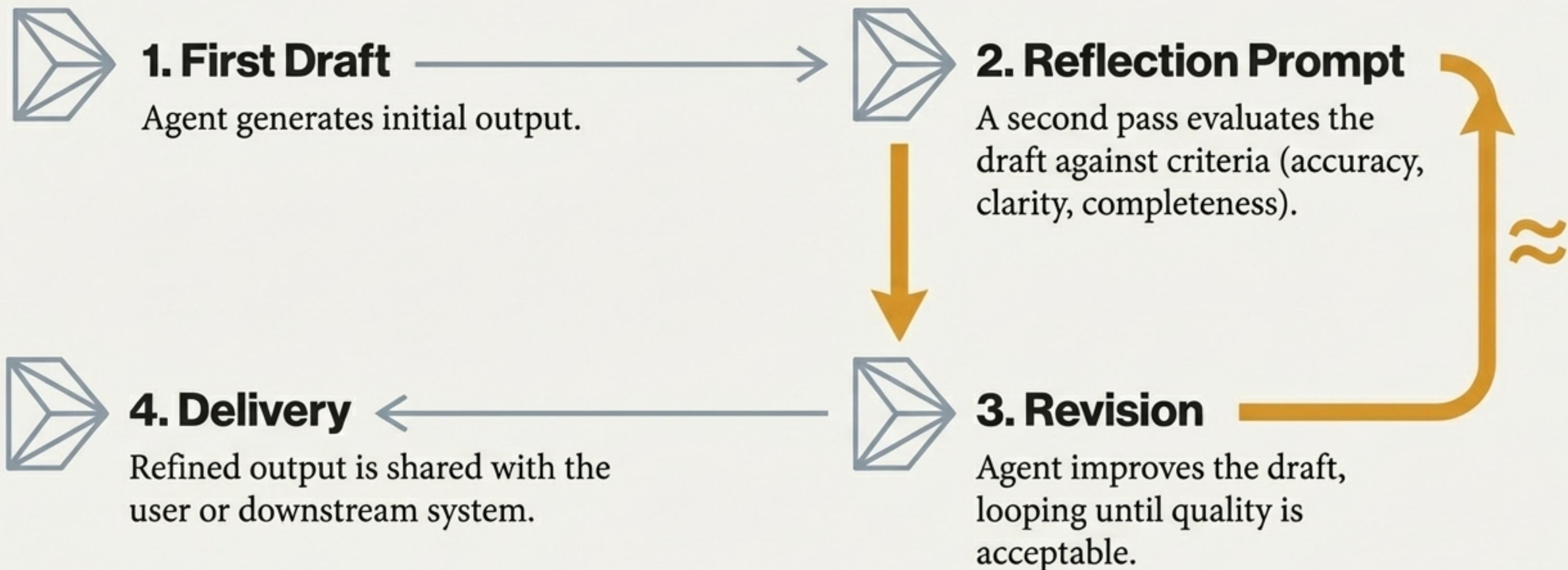
**Reflection is the design pattern where an agent pauses, reviews, and revises its own output.**

Just like humans edit drafts, agents can self-check and improve in real time before delivering the final result.

“Pause and reflect before acting, giving yourself space to evaluate options and avoiding impulsive choices.”

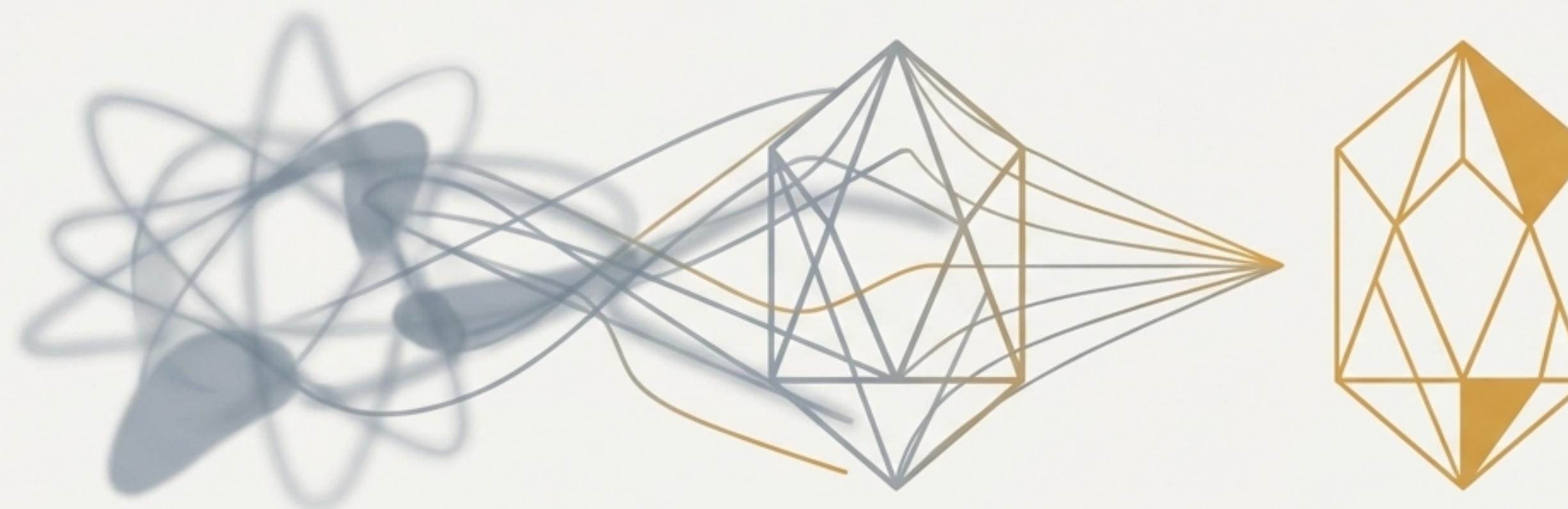
— A Mentor’s Wisdom

# How It Works: A Self-Correcting Loop

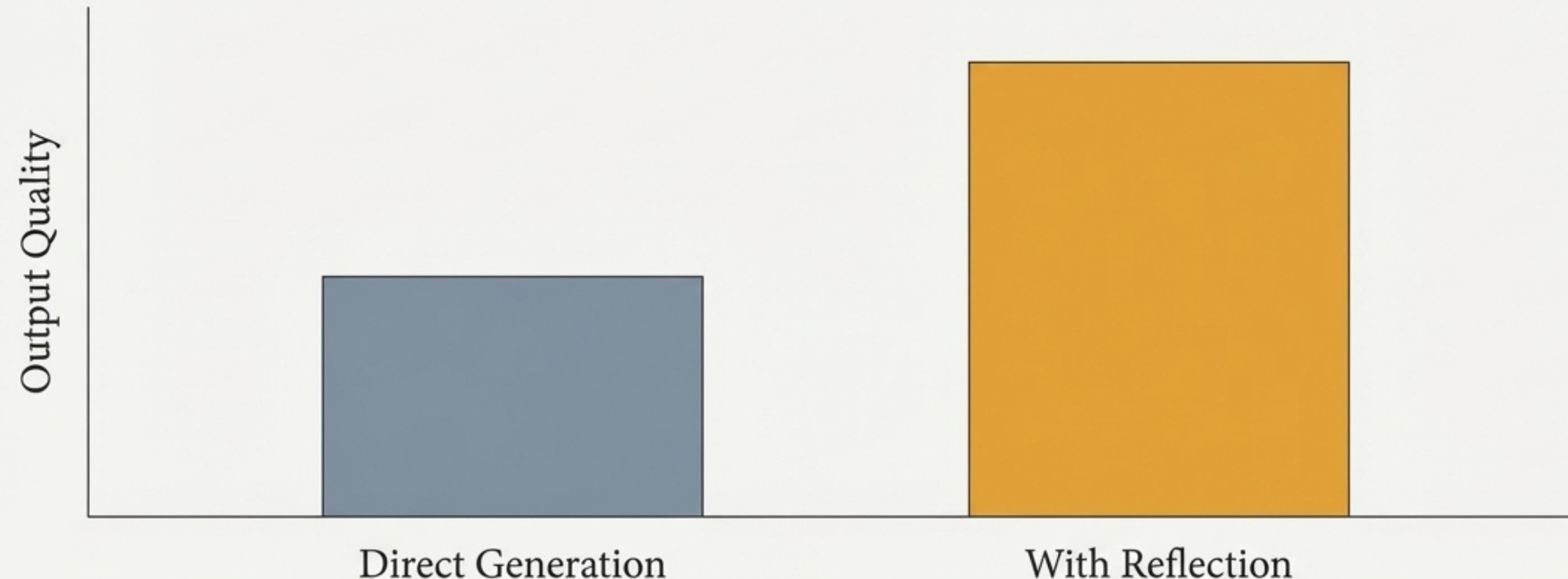


# **Reflection is more than an elegant process. It's a driver of quality.**

By building in a moment for self-evaluation, the pattern systematically improves performance and reliability.



**It consistently outperforms direct,  
single-pass generation.**



# Why Reflection Matters



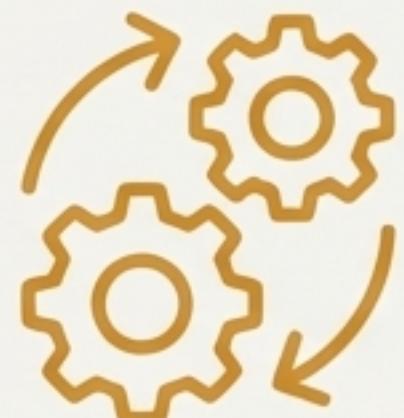
## Quality Boost

Reflection consistently outperforms direct generation, leading to more accurate, clear, and complete outputs.



## Error Catching

It proactively detects and corrects syntax errors, unintended meanings, and poor formatting before they reach the user.



## Adaptability

The pattern is highly flexible, working effectively with zero, one, or few-shot prompting strategies.



## Evaluation

Agents can act as their own judges, applying complex rubrics or even incorporating external feedback into their revision loop.

# Reflection isn't just a model trick. It's a design principle for intelligent products.

MODEL TRICK



DESIGN PRINCIPLE

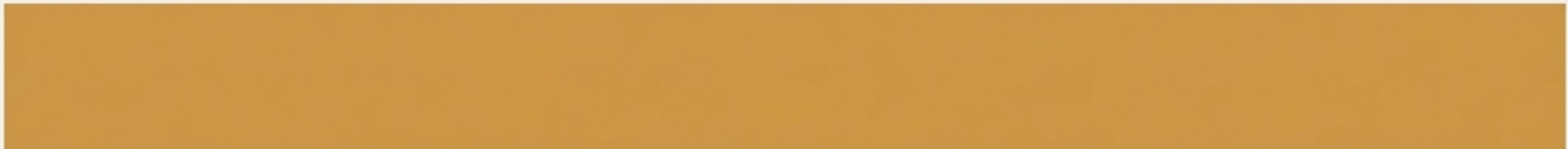


By embedding reflection, you give agents the fundamental ability to pause, self-check, and improve before acting. This moves from simply executing tasks to demonstrating judgment.

# **This principle builds a foundation for trustworthy AI.**

The direct outcomes of implementing the Reflection Pattern are:

- Fewer errors shipped to users
- Higher trust in AI-powered features
- A foundation for scalable, autonomous decision-making



**In a world of fast  
outputs, reflection is  
your product's edge.**

# Continue the Exploration

This is part of an ongoing series on building agentic AI.



Previous

From Workflows to Agents:  
Introduction to Agentic AI

Next

Toolbelt Thinking—how agents  
select, combine, and invent tools  
to solve problems dynamically

Sourced from Product Radio by Maharshi Adiraju.