

THE FIX LOOP

Research Team Brief — What We Are, How We Work, and How to Produce Evidence■First Content

Purpose: Give researchers a single, practical reference for producing weekly Micro■Autopsies and Full■Scale Editions that meet our evidence bar, fit our voice, and deliver reusable assets to readers.

Snapshot

- **Audience:** Founders, PMs, engineers, and ops leaders shipping AI agents, RAG apps, and automation in production.
- **Formats:** 5× Micro■Autopsies (500–700 words) + 1× Full■Scale Edition/week.
- **Method: FAILSAFE** — Failure • Assumptions • Inputs • Loops • Safeguards • A/B Experiments • Fixes • Evidence.
- **Promise:** One fix per read. Reproducible, operator■grade guidance.
- **Output:** Each week ships a print■ready checklist and a drop■in JSON/YAML config or script.

“Every failure is data. Every fix is knowledge. Every safeguard is wisdom.”

1) Our Content Model

The Fix Loop publishes operator■grade guidance. We reverse■engineer failures that matter to builders, prove the root causes with evidence, and deliver a concrete fix plus a reusable asset. The **Micro■Autopsy** is a fast postmortem; the **Full■Scale Edition** stitches five Micros into a weekly playbook.

Micro■Autopsy (500–700 words)

- Hook — the failure and its cost (1–2 lines).
- Failure Snapshot (60–100 words) — what the user saw.
- Root Cause via FAILSAFE (90–130 words) — 2–3 bullets.
- Fix (200–280 words) — 3–7 numbered steps; precise.
- Checklist/Asset (40–120 words) — one■pager or code/prompt.
- Metric to Watch — name + target.
- CTA — points to Friday's Full■Scale Edition.

Full■Scale Edition (1,400–2,000 words)

- Lead story — why this failure recurs; cost of not fixing.
- Five micro digests (150–200 words each) with cross■links.
- Deep playbook — diagrams, commands, prompts, and tests.
- Big Asset — a versioned PDF checklist + JSON/YAML config or script.
- Case study — optional, redacted if needed; show deltas vs baseline.
- CTAs — primary (download), secondary (reply/subscribe).

2) The FAILSAFE Method

F — Failure	Pinpoint the module/service/line that failed. Describe the symptom precisely.
A — Assumptions	State the implicit assumptions that were violated (e.g., 'this input will always be valid JSON').
I — Inputs	List the exact inputs/requests/files that triggered the issue and their properties.
L — Loops	Describe cascades and feedback loops (retry storms, timeouts, queuing effects).
S — Safeguards	Identify missing guardrails (rate limits, policies, circuit breakers, validation).
A — A/B Experiment	Design a small test to validate the proposed fix; define success metrics.
F — Fixes	Apply the minimal, reversible fix first; show config/code diffs.
E — Evidence	Provide logs, metrics, traces, and before→after numbers that prove resolution.

Why it works: FAILSAFE forces specificity, measurable outcomes, and reversible steps. It also bakes in observability so regressions are caught before users are.

3) Research Standards (Evidence Bar)

- Replicate or observe the failure. Provide minimal, deterministic repro steps (commands/env).
- Save evidence to ``/content/evidence/``: logs, screenshots, prompts, configs, diffs.
- Cite ≥ 2 primary sources per Micro (official docs/repos/specs/papers) + ≥ 1 internal artifact (your repro output).
- Run at least one experiment to validate the fix. Record before→after numbers and how they were measured.
- Note assumptions and limitations. Clearly mark any non-replicable observations.
- Prefer primary sources; date all claims. Avoid vendor hype without corroboration.

Source Ladder (highest to lowest trust)

- 1 Official docs/specs/RFCs
- 2 Maintainer blogs/repos/releases
- 3 Peer-reviewed papers or reputable publishers
- 4 Credible industry posts with data
- 5 Forums/QA threads (only with corroboration)

4) Weekly Cadence & Roles

We ship five Micros and one FullScale Edition every week on a fixed IST schedule.

- Mon: Theme packet, assign briefs; publish Micro01 (16:00).
- Tue: Micro02 (16:00).
- Wed: Micro03 (11:00).
- Thu: Micro04 (11:00) and Micro05 (17:00).
- Fri: Compile and publish FullScale Edition (17:00); crosspost 18:30.

RACI (Research Focus)

Deliverable	Responsible (R)	Accountable (A)	Consulted (C)	Informed (I)
MicroAutopsy	External Researcher / Writer	Head of Research	Tech Reviewer	Design/Ops
FullScale Edition	Writer + Head of Research	Head of Research	Tech Reviewer	Design/Ops
Big Asset	Design/Ops	Head of Research	Tech Reviewer + Writer	

5) Submission Workflow (Git first; Docs fallback)

- Create a branch: `content/`
- Files live in `/content/week-XX/` → `micro-01.md ... micro-05.md`, `anchor.md`, and `asset/`
- Evidence goes to `/content/evidence/` (logs, screenshots, diffs).
- Open a PR using the template; link sources; tick the checklist.
- Fallback: Google Doc + zipped `/evidence` (we migrate to Markdown).

Frontmatter (YAML, all posts)

```
---
slug:
title: ""
thesis: "one-sentence take"
word_target: 600
metric_to_watch: "name and target"
asset_path: "asset/"
cta: ""
sources:
- ""
- ""
---
```

6) Templates (copy-paste)

MicroAutopsy Brief

```
Title:
Thesis (1 sentence):
Who hurts & why:
Repro steps (min env):
Root cause (FAILSAFE):
Fix (3-7 steps):
Asset (+filename):
Metric to watch:
CTA:
Sources (≥2):
```

MicroAutopsy Draft Skeleton

```
#

## Failure Snapshot
...
## Root Cause (FAILSAFE)
- Failure:
- Assumptions:
- Inputs:
- Loops:
- Safeguards:
- Experiments:
## Fix
1.
2.
3.
## Checklist / Asset
- [ ] ...
## Metric to Watch
- target
## CTA
...
```

FullScale Edition Skeleton

```
#
Lead story (why this fails; cost)
## Week's Micro Threads
1)
...
5)
## Deep Playbook
(diagrams + commands/prompts/tests)
## Big Asset (v1.0)
(link + changelog)
## Case Study
()
```

```
## References
- ...
## CTA
Primary, Secondary
```


7) Diagrams & Assets (Friday)

Diagram Standards

- One diagram per Micro; 3–5 diagrams in the Full■Scale Edition.
- Types: sequence, flowchart, architecture, annotated screenshot, swimlane.
- Export SVG + 1600px PNG; include alt text & caption.
- Store under `/content/week-XX/asset/diagrams/`.

Asset Standards

- Types: checklist one■pager (PDF), JSON/YAML config, script/template, worksheet.
- Naming: `-asset-vMAJOR.MINOR.ext` (start v1.0).
- Bundle a README with scope, assumptions, and quick start.
- QA: open on Mac/Win; print■ready PDF; lint configs.

8) Metrics & Retro

- Weekly targets: OR \geq 40%, CTR \geq 5%, asset downloads \geq 150 (Week 1), replies \geq 20.
- Per■post: pass@source (RAG), invalid_json_rate (tools), error rate, latency (P95/P99), cost/request.
- Operational: incidents avoided, deployments blocked by eval gate, MTTR improvements.
- Retro (Sun): wins/misses, insights, one experiment to run next week.

9) Onboarding & SLAs

- Read this brief; sign NDA and SOW (if external).
- 30–45■minute onboarding call; repo access; style kit and diagram library.
- Paid test micro (topic assigned) → review → go/no■go.
- Week■1 assignments under supervision; graduate to full cadence.

Comms & SLAs

- #content■ops Slack channel; same■day responses during IST business hours.
- Review SLA: first pass within 24h of PR; consolidated edits within 24h of author updates.
- Emergency production issues: tag HoR + DO; response within 2h.

10) Glossary (quick)

- **MicroAutopsy** — A 500–700 word postmortem with one diagram and a mini asset.
- **FullScale Edition** — Weekly anchor that stitches five Micros into a playbook and ships a Big Asset.
- **FAILSAFE** — Our method: Failure, Assumptions, Inputs, Loops, Safeguards, A/B Experiments, Fixes, Evidence.
- **pass@source** — Whether an answer cites the correct source segment (target ≥ 0.85).
- **Eval gate** — CI step that blocks deploys if evaluation metrics regress.

FAQ (for researchers)

Do I need to reproduce every failure?

Prefer reproduction. If not possible, clearly mark as observational and compensate with multiple corroborating sources.

How many sources do I need?

At least two primary sources per Micro, plus one internal artifact. The anchor needs five or more external sources.

What if my results conflict with prior art?

Document differences (data, version, environment). Run an A/B to verify. Explain discrepancies in the Root Cause.

Can I use AI writing tools?

Yes, but you are responsible for accuracy and originality. Save your prompts/configs to the evidence folder if relevant.

How do we handle sensitive data?

Redact identifiers; avoid exposing private keys or internal endpoints. Follow the Risk & Compliance checklist.

Risk & Compliance Checklist

- No sensitive or private data in screenshots/logs.
- All claims have a date and a primary source.
- Vendor trademarks used fairly; logos only where allowed.
- Safety framing when relevant (guardrails, disclaimers).