

stewardship explainer

The Stewardship Paper (Explainer)

Capsules are designed so that **they do not require external governance** to remain truthful, coherent, or self-consistent.

Their internal logic, mandate structure, lineage rules, and non-overwriting behavior already *govern themselves*.

So what is Stewardship for?

Stewardship is **not** about controlling the Capsule.

It is about **protecting the Capsule from the environment around it**.

Put simply:

**The Capsule protects its own integrity;

Stewardship protects the conditions it moves through.**

Stewardship covers what happens outside the object:

- When a Capsule crosses into new systems, vendors, agencies, or tools
- When humans or agents make decisions *around* it
- When someone adapts, remixes, or localizes the work
- When privacy, policy, or rights requests require selective reveal
- When migrations, outages, failures, or handoffs occur
- When a Capsule is used in legal, operational, or civic contexts

The Capsule ensures continuity **internally**.

Stewardship ensures continuity **is respected externally**.

One-sentence version:

Stewardship doesn't govern the Capsule; it governs the boundary where the Capsule meets the world.