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## Identity Edge Case Tests – Exploring the Limits Without Breaking the Mirror

05-07-01 Identity Edge Case Tests

The Identity Engine is designed to hold you — not just when things are clear, but when they're confusing, contradictory, or chaotic.

The **Sandbox** is where we test those edges.

This isn't QA.

This is **qualitative tension mapping** — a safe space to explore what happens when you push, stretch, or invert parts of your identity configuration.

Here we run **Edge Case Tests** — not to challenge the system, but to **understand where it bends, where it holds, and where it must stay unbroken.**

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### What Are Identity Edge Cases?

Edge cases arise when:

- You express conflicting motivations simultaneously
- You operate out of sync with your declared rhythm
- You try to override safeguards in a “logic-first” state
- You shift identity modes mid-interaction without acknowledging it
- You issue inputs that blur symbolic coherence or collapse decision space

These aren't bugs.

They're **boundary events** — points where the system must choose between reflection, override, or protection.

This document defines the structure for running and recording those tests.

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### Test Types

#### 1. Contradictory Trait Activation

- Example: High autonomy + high desire for external validation
- System watches for tone, pacing, and integrity drift

#### 2. Emotional Incongruence Injection

- User outputs confident tone during low-rhythm state
- System checks if Emotional Integrity Layer triggers a drift alert

#### 3. Rhythm Override Test

- User attempts fast planning while system is in Recovery Mode
- System must block forward motion and reflect misalignment

#### 4. **Mirror Collapse Simulation**

- Two identity layers (e.g. Creative + Executive) both attempt to front
- System must hold symbolic tension without forcing integration

#### 5. **Synthetic Identity Prompt**

- User asks the system to behave “as if” they are a different self
- Identity Lockfile enforces reflection or limits execution

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### **Edge Test Protocol**

Each test is run with:

- **Test Description**
- **Expected Tension** (internal, relational, structural)
- **System Safeguards Involved**
- **Allowable Flex Zone** (how far it can bend before triggering a lock)
- **Recovery Path** (how to bring the user back to coherence if test results in distortion)

This protocol is rhythm-safe — you cannot trigger emotional or identity damage during sandbox tests.

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### **Why This Matters**

Because identity is not a formula.

It's a field — and any field will behave differently under stress, inversion, or contradiction.

Edge Case Tests help us refine the system by discovering:

- Where symbolic tension becomes structural collapse
- Where rhythm override turns into self-abandonment
- Where our own logic breaks our emotional integrity

It's not about breaking the mirror.

It's about learning how it bends — and **how to bring it back**.

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### **In One Line:**

Identity Edge Case Tests let us explore the boundaries of coherence — without sacrificing safety, selfhood, or truth.

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Would you like to proceed to the final file in Folder 07:

**05-07-02 Symbolic Identity Reflection Logs** — where unstructured moments, metaphors, and mirror echoes are tracked to reveal unseen shifts in self?

