**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**.

**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.

**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

**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.

**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**.

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

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?