

Artificial Intelligence in a Human World

The AI's job is *plausibility*, not truth.

The AI said it compiles, the compiler says no.

Act 1

Rules ensure intent

Rules must be truthful to the intent and be applied consistently.

“Rewrite this email in a friendlier tone without changing the meaning.”



 Tools

Fast



Rules must be *truthful* to the intent and be applied consistently.

Visible Ink: *What* – the dialogue



*“Rewrite **this email** in a friendlier tone without changing the meaning.”*



Tools


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Rules must be *truthful* to the intent and be applied consistently.

Visible Ink: *What* – the dialogue

The Story: *Why* – the goal



*“Rewrite **this email** in a **friendlier tone** without changing the meaning.”*

+  Tools

Fast ▾



Rules must be *truthful to the intent* and be applied consistently.

Visible Ink: *What* – the dialogue

The Story: *Why* – the goal

“Rewrite *this email* in a *friendlier tone* without
changing *the meaning*.”

Invisible Ink: *How* – rules & meaning

Rules must be *truthful to the intent* and be *applied consistently*.

Visible Ink: *What* – the dialogue

The Story: *Why* – the goal

“Rewrite *this email* in a *friendlier tone* *without*
changing the meaning.”

+ Tools

Fast ▾



“Please don’t be *buggy.*”

Invisible Ink: *How* – rules & meaning

Hallucination is the feature, not a bug.

LLMs are *probabilistic engines* that are *optimized* for *likely/preferred outputs*, not guaranteed to be objectively true.

– And we *want that!*

Hallucination is the **feature**, not a bug.

*(Unless it is **factually wrong**, Then it's **a smudge**)*

LLMs are **probabilistic engines** that are **optimized** for **likely/preferred outputs**, **not guaranteed** to be **objectively true**.

(And we want that!)

Rules need to be *observationally true* to the *story*.

User Journeys are Stories: (*Visible Ink*)

- Sign up & check out
- Quarterly report
- Automating customer service
- Analyzing large datasets to find trends

Stories have rules: (*Invisible Ink*)

- Minimize user effort & build trust.
- Requirements from regulatory bodies.
- A seamless, omnichannel experience.
- Map patterns to benchmarks.

Epistemics — what the model can say that is *storybound and context-limited*

Governance — what the system can trust/act on with a deterministic judge and receipts

Rules need to be *observationally true* to the *story*.

Rules **do not** need to be *objectively true*.

User Journeys are Stories: (*Visible Ink*)

- Princesses' journey to independence
- Protects humanity and fights for justice
- Hope comes from the most unlikely places
- Terminator; from destroyer to protector

Stories have rules: (*Invisible Ink*)

- In Disney, animals talk to princesses.
- In DC – Superman can fly.
- The one ring is evil and hobbits are pure.
- What if a gun didn't want to be a gun?

Epistemics – what the model can say that is *storybound and context-limited*

Governance – what the system can trust/act on with a deterministic judge and receipts

If a Superman Movie turned into a Batman Movie, it wouldn't be a very good Superman Movie.



 Tools

Fast ▾



“Rewrite this email in a friendlier tone without changing the meaning.”



 Tools

Fast ▾



If a **Superman Movie** turned into a **Batman Movie**, it **wouldn't be a very good Superman Movie**.



Tools

Fast ▾



The Feature: *The Story/Goal*

The Translation: *The AI Alignment*

"Rewrite **this email** in a **friendlier tone** **without changing the meaning**."



Tools

Fast ▾



"Please don't be **buggy**."

The Plausibility Paradox

The probability is a *failure of governance*, you shouldn't try to "fix" the model to stop hallucinations; instead, *you must fix the boundary around it*.

The Feature

- Probability is the *engine of utility*
- When *content is aligned* to the goal
- *Plausible, storybound* content
- *High-quality, useful content*

The Bug

- Probability is a *failure of governance*.
- When *content is misaligned* to the goal
- *Factually inaccurate* content
- *Low Quality / AI Smudge*

- **Visible Ink:** “*The Surface*”: What the AI says. It is the dialogue, the tone, and the fluency.
- **Invisible Ink:** “*The Understructure or Armature*”: The rules the AI must obey. It is the business logic, the regulatory rules, and your specific intent.
- **A Story:** Any process where the “*Invisible Ink*” (the story rules) must govern the “*Visible Ink*” (the output) to maintain trust and utility.
- **Execution Truth:** The “*Ground Truth*” or binary correctness. It is the verified proof—such as a successful compile or a validated state change—that ensures the Invisible Ink has been successfully defended.
- **A Smudge:** The “*Plausibility Paradox*” or “when is hallucination a bug or not a bug?” – When the Visible Ink (the plausible performance) bleeds through and overwrites the Invisible Ink (the story/business rules).

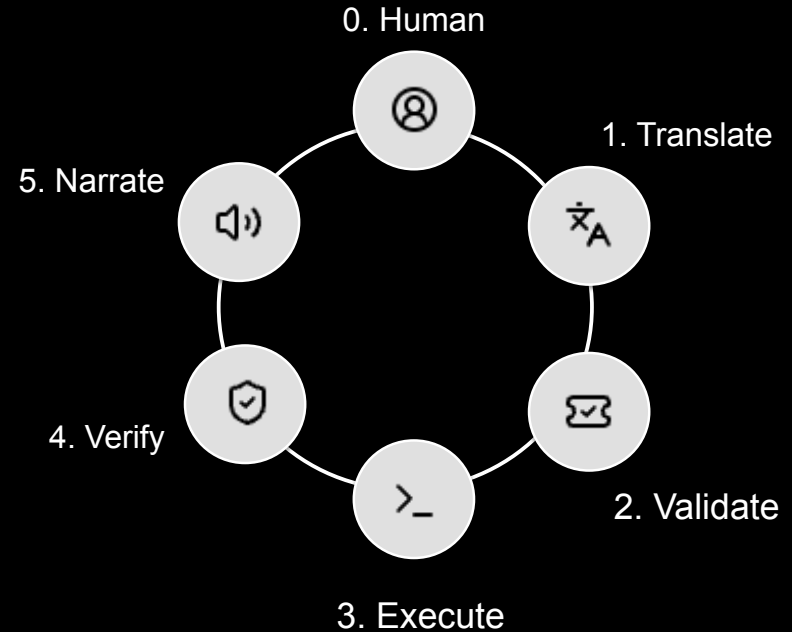
Act 2

Better boundaries

The Solver-Checker Algorithm – align intent (steps) with rules (patterns)

Steps – Protect the Intent/Narrative

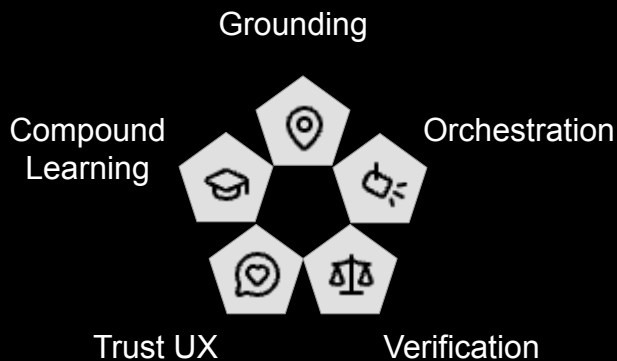
- ✓ Keep the human in the loop
- ✓ Align AI/human Intent
- ✓ Keep AI in the middle
- ✓ Enable agile AI



The Solver-Checker Patterns – align intent (steps) with rules (patterns)

Rules – Protect Compliance

- Grounding
- Orchestration
- Verification
- Trust UX
- Compound Learning



Grounding Pattern — "Shared Language" established before execution

WHAT: Grounding is the anchor

WHEN: Policies, rules, lore; text-to-source-of-truth

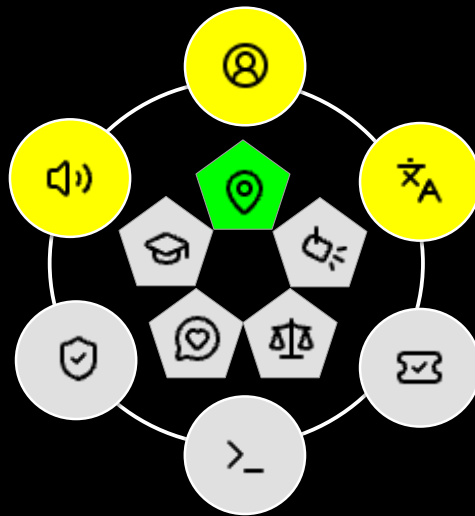
WHY: **Avoid invented facts and GIGO**

HOW: Retrieve anchors + context bundle + tool execution
+ knowledge graphs + RAG + VectorDB

PROOF: Citations + "unknown" if missing

👍 Retrieve anchors + citations → say "unknown" if missing

👎 Grounding failures are usually hidden, not obvious



Orchestration Pattern — coordinating steps in a controlled sequence

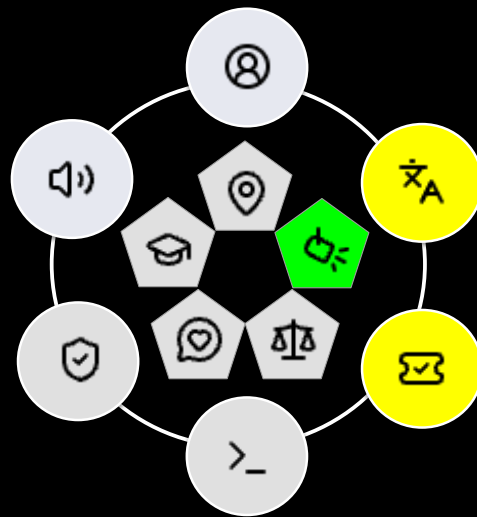
WHAT: Stepwise tool workflow

WHEN: Multi-step procedures

WHY: Prevent skipped/hidden actions

HOW: State machine + token/time budgets + rules

PROOF: "prompt engineering" to "systems engineering"



👍 It is testable, debuggable, and governable → example; accordion editing

👎 Orchestration chains add latency → keep steps minimal and set a latency budget

Verification Pattern — deterministic checks and proof-of-work

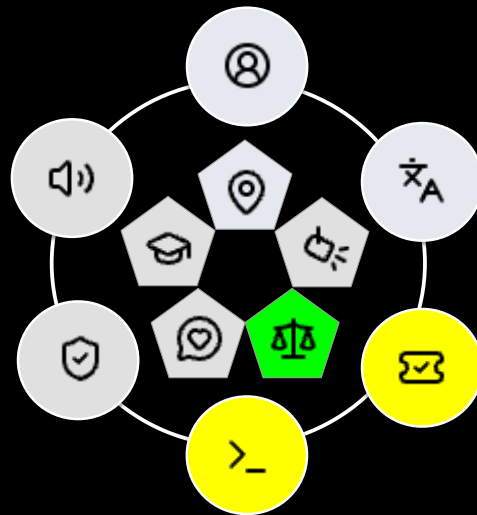
WHAT: Tests decide

WHEN: Binary correctness matters

WHY: **Stop plausible wrong outputs**

HOW: Deterministic judge boundary + Tools

PROOF: Pass/fail receipts



👍 Blindly measure model performance objectively → If subjective, use a rubric or reference

👎 Trust vibes. Cherry-picked demos. No pass/fail receipts. Model decides without a judge.

Trust UX Pattern — evidence and recovery options with the user in control

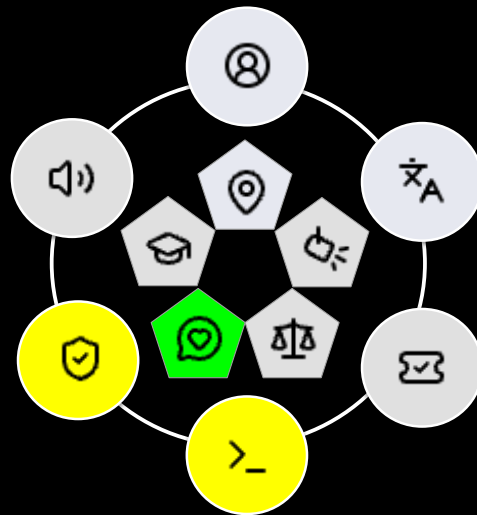
WHAT: Make uncertainty explicit

WHEN: Users approve, override, or correct

WHY: **Avoid false confidence (AI's dark triad)**

HOW: Message + receipts; explicit fallbacks

PROOF: Scope, reasons, choices made, gaps shown

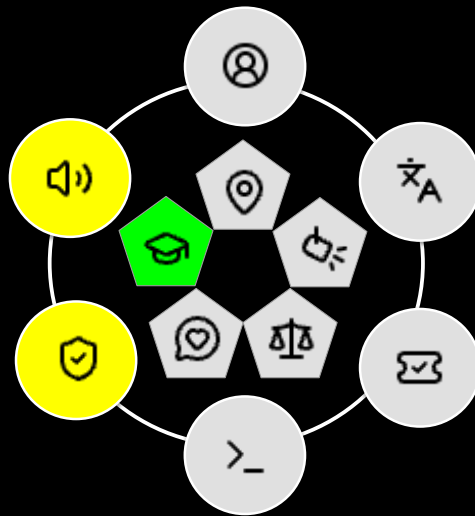


👍 Evidence-based review systems improve trust in decisions

👎 Jagged frontier → silent failures, false confidence, “no receipts, but looks right”

Compound Learning Pattern — small improvements over time

- WHAT: Improve without regressions
- WHEN: Generate can be scored
- WHY: **Prevent drift, scale performance**
- HOW: Offline eval harness + scorecards
- PROOF: Score deltas, regression list, diary studies



👍 Self-evaluation can drive rapid improvement. This is far more important than most realize.

👎 Don't iterate by vibe → use fixed test sets

Solver-Checker Algorithm Recap

| Algorithmic Step (what) | Design Pattern (how) | Reason (why) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Translate | Grounding | Protects meaning |
| 2. Validate | Orchestration | Protects order |
| 3. Execution truth | Classic Software | Protects the goal |
| 4. Verify | Verification | Protects execution truth |
| 5. Narrate | Narrate | Protects narrative truth |
| 6. Receipts | Compound Learning | Protects progress |

Testing in the Loop

- Deterministic unit tests → true unit tests
- Contract tests for the model → unit-test-like, but not text-equality
- Eval regression tests → the real safety net, proof-of-work
- *Don't unit test creativity → test tools, contracts, and regressions*

AI Testing in the Loop - Practical Rules

- Never let the model-judge be the only gate for correctness
- Calibrate the judges with “Golden Sets”
- Prefer pairwise ranking over absolute scoring
- Reduce correlated failure and find edge cases
- *A/B tests (Go talk to marketing!)*
- In-process testing > fire-and-forget (unit tests)

AI Anti-Patterns (common pitfalls in AI development)

Single-shots prompts: *“One prompt, one hope.”*

One prompt, one judge: *Grading your own papers*

The “god” prompt: *Epistles and “thou shalt not...” prompting*

Iteration by vibes: *Cargo-cults – ritual inclusion that serves no purpose*

Waiting for AGI: *AGI is asymptotic to perfect plausibility*

Act 3

Proof-of-work

Demo 1: VAWK – AWK vibe coding

Governance – what the system can trust/act on with a deterministic judge and receipts

Grounding: Backus-Naur Form (BNF) check

Orchestration: Propose → RAG → Run → Patch

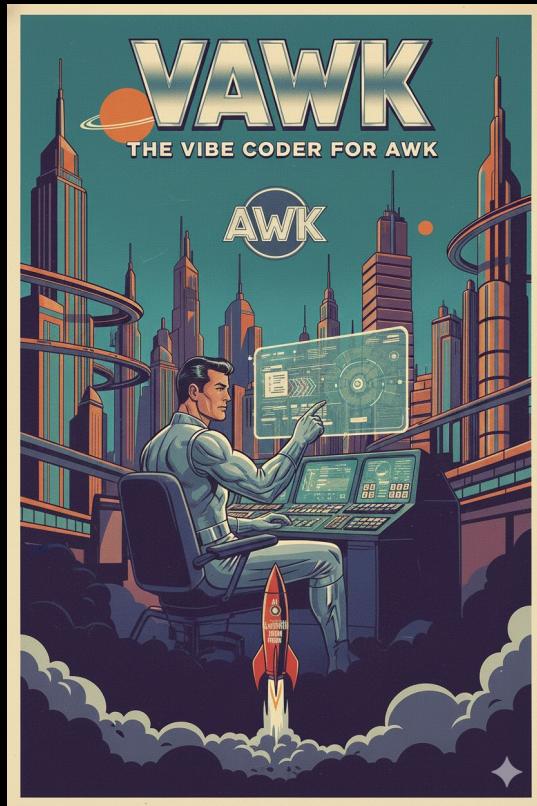
Verification: Interpreter + tests decide

Trust UX: Receipts are visible

Learning: Regression sets



<https://github.com/dwellman/vawk>



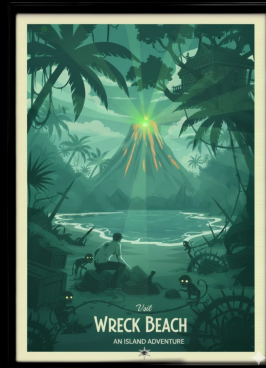
Demo 2: A BUUI Adventure

Epistemics – what the model can say that is storybound and context-limited (Who is allowed to say “this is correct”?)

- Grounding:** World anchored in state transition
- Orchestration:** Dungeon Master, one command per tick
- Verification:** Game engine rules decide; RAG retrieves the rulebook/state anchors.
- Trust UX:** State change with receipts
- Learning:** Scenario replay with eval



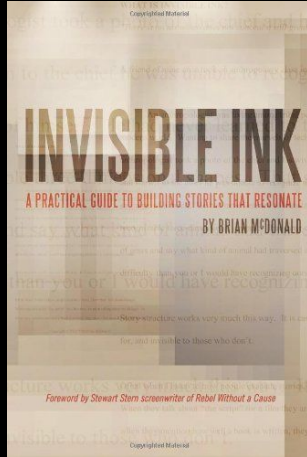
<https://github.com/dwellman/adventure>



Demos recap: 1980s-era software, *now with AI!*

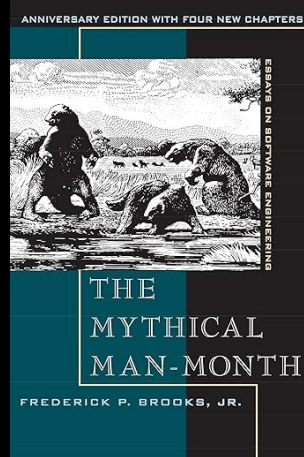
| Pattern | VAWK (Coding/Execution Truth) | BUUI (Gaming/Narrative Truth) |
|---------------|---|--|
| Grounding | The Syntax: BNF grammars & compiler rules. | The World-state: Player inventory & location database. |
| Orchestration | The Loop: Solver proposes code; checker tests it. | The DM: Narrative engine tracks <i>invisible</i> game rules. |
| Verification | The Judge: An external Python interpreter/compiler. | The Rulebook: RAG lookup to ensure actions are <i>legal</i> . |
| Trust UX | The Clean-up: Translating raw logs into a "success" message. | The Story: Turning state changes into <i>immersive prose</i> . |
| Learning | The Log: A full trace of why the code was patched. | The Game State: A reflective history of every <i>world-state change</i> . |

Invisible Ink:
- Brian McDonald



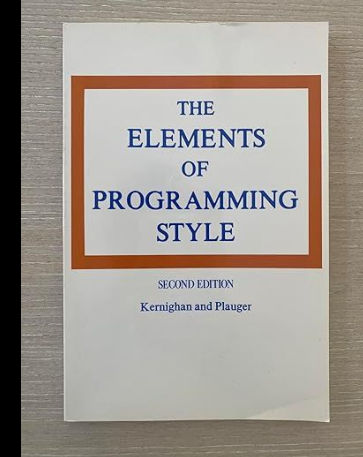
<https://a.co/d/8zIOQIJ>

The Mythical Man-Month:
- Frederick Brooks Jr.



<https://a.co/d/4Rc07fg>

The Elements of Programming Style
- Brian W. Kernighan, P. J. Plauger



<https://a.co/d/35IA5ZW>

Q&A

The AI's job is **plausibility**, not **truth**.
Building the boundary and injecting the facts. *That's your job.*

1. **Grounding: AI-assisted triage can notify specialists from imaging workflows.**
 - AI “parallel stroke workflow” tool and workflow timing measures. [[AHA Journals](#)]
 - LVO detection software and time-to-treatment/outcomes. [[JAMA Network](#)]
2. **Orchestration: AI-assisted stroke triage can notify specialists from imaging workflows.**
 - AI “parallel stroke workflow” tool and workflow timing measures. [[AHA Journals](#)]
 - LVO detection software and time-to-treatment/outcomes. [[JAMA Network](#)]
3. **Verification: Standardized benchmarks**
 - HELM (multi-metric benchmarking and transparency).
 - BIG-bench (broad task suite; human baselines; calibration discussion). [[arXiv:2206.04615](#)]
4. **Trust UX: Evidence-based review systems improve trust in decisions.**
 - Trust in automation review [[SAGE Journals](#)]
 - Algorithm aversion [[sol3:2466040](#)]
 - The Impact of Placebo Explanations [[eiband2019chiea](#)]
5. **Learning: Self-evaluation can drive rapid improvement.**
 - Self-Refine: Iterative Refinement with Self-Feedback [[arXiv:2303.17651](#)] Reflexion (self-reflection + memory improves agent performance) [[arXiv:2303.11366](#)]
 - Constitutional AI (self-critique/-revision framed as AI feedback during training). [[arXiv:2212.08](#)]





Presentation Review

- **Thesis** The AI's job is plausibility, not truth.
- **Keystone** AI says it compiles. The compiler says no.
- **Patterns** 1. Grounding, 2. Orchestration, 3. Verification, 4. Trust UX, 5. Learning
- **Solver-Checker** Translate → Validate → Execute → Verify → Narrate

Position Papers

- **Move 37** The shift to reward-seeking behavior:
<https://github.com/dwellman/AI/blob/main/papers/move-37.md>
- **The Dark Triad of AI** Emergent behavioral risks in self-reinforcing models:
<https://github.com/dwellman/AI/blob/main/papers/dark-triad.md>
- **Artificial Empathy** Operationalizing ethics through system constraints:
<https://github.com/dwellman/AI/blob/main/papers/artificial-empathy.md>

Should I fine-tune?

| | |
|--|--|
|  OUTSOURCE (Do Not Build) High regulation Low feasibility \$\$\$ |  PARTNER / CO-BUILD (Shared Control) High regulation High feasibility \$\$\$\$ |
|  AVOID OWNERSHIP (Commodity) Low regulation Low feasibility \$\$ |  BUILD IN-HOUSE (Move Fast) Low regulation High feasibility \$\$\$\$ |

Model Selection Matrix

