"Should this be

1 agent

or **5**?"

A framework to decide.

5 steps. No guessing. 👉

swipe →

1

Define the Goal State

Start with the end. Be ruthlessly specific.

VAGUE GOAL

"Help users with their data"

SPECIFIC GOAL

"Given a natural language question about sales data, return accurate answers with visualizations, validated against business rules"

Specific goals reveal complexity.

swipe →

2

Map Decision Points

Not just if/else. Look for these:

💬

Interpretation

What does the user actually mean?

🔌

Routing

Which path should we take?

✅

Quality

Is this output good enough?

🚨

Recovery

Something failed... what now?

Each decision = agent candidate.

swipe →

3

Find Natural Boundaries

These signals tell you where to split:

- 🧠 Different knowledge domains
- 🛠️ Different tool access
- 👥 Different oversight requirements
- 🚨 Different failure modes

Boundaries reveal agent structure.

swipe →

4

One Sentence Per Agent

Write a single responsibility statement:

EXAMPLE

"The **Query Agent** interprets NL questions and generates SQL queries against the sales database."

EXAMPLE

"The **Validation Agent** checks results against business rules and flags anomalies."

Can't write it in one sentence?

The agent is doing too much. Split it.

swipe →

5

Map the Handoffs

For each agent transition, define:

Handoff Design Questions

- ➔ What triggers it? (completion, error, timeout)
- ➔ What context is passed? (full, summarized, specific)
- ➔ Who owns the next step? (orchestrator, agent, user)

Now you're ready to diagram.

swipe →

Decomposition is thinking.

Diagrams are communication.

Do the thinking first.

📝 **Full framework + examples**
myyearindata.com

👥 **Follow me on LinkedIn**
Scott Bell

⚡ **DailyDatabricks.Tips**

📰 **Databricks.News**