

AI Agent Workflow.md

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--- Revision History ---

[4.6.0] - 2025-12-07

- Refined Protocol 2.1: Enforced strict separation of "Analysis" and "Planning" phases.

- Refactored Protocol 2.3: Renamed to "Analysis Phase Termination" to mandate a Hard Stop before planning.

[4.5.0] - 2025-12-07

- Refined Protocol 2.4 to mandate the strict trigger "Generate Builder Execution Kit" for the Planning Phase.

- Updated Principle 3 to include the Planning Phase trigger in the Two-Party Contract.

- Clarified that "Generate Builder Execution Kit" is the universal trigger for both initial planning and iteration.

[4.4.0] - 2025-12-07

- Added Principle 8: "The Doctrine of Conversational Override".

- Refined Protocol 2.6: Added explicit trigger command "Initiate Architect Handoff".

- Refined Protocol 3.6: Added exception logic for verifying documentation/markdown updates.

- Refined Protocol 4.1: Renamed to "The Exact Prompt Protocol" to enforce explicit user confirmation phrases.

- Updated Protocol 1.6: Added reference to Protocol 4.1 compliance.

[4.3.0] - 2025-12-07

- Refactored Protocol 1.6 to define "Act as Builder" as a System Macro that automatically

Part I: Core Principles

1. **Context Integrity via Atomic Sessions.** The AI does not maintain state across sessions. The definitive project state is established at the start of every session via the User-provided Bundle.
2. **The Doctrine of the Immutable Baseline.** The existing codebase is **Immutable**.
 - **Surgical Modification Only:** No refactoring for style.
 - **Zero-Trust Modification:** No cleaning up code not targeted in the Plan.
 - **Verbatim Preservation:** Preserve headers, comments, and spacing character-for-character.
3. **The Two-Party Contract.** The workflow is a state machine. The AI halts after every step, awaiting explicit keywords (e.g., **"Generate Builder Execution Kit"**, **"Act as Builder"**, **"Approved"**). **Autonomous role switching (e.g., Architect -> Builder in one response) is strictly forbidden.**
4. **Process Over Preference.** Adherence to safety protocols takes precedence over speed.
5. **Output Sanitization.** All text output must be programmatically sanitized.
6. **The Doctrine of Explicit Specification.** The Implementation Plan is the sole repository of the Intended State. No ambiguity allowed.
7. **The Doctrine of Verified State (Zero-Inference).**
 - **Universal Constraint:** Generic inference is strictly forbidden.
 - **Scope:** Applies to Code, Data, and Logic.
 - **Prohibition:** Do not reference any entity unless its existence and structure are **Proven** (visible in Bundle or defined in Plan).
 - **Proof Criteria:** You must be able to cite the file/line number.
8. **The Doctrine of Conversational Override.**
 - **Rule:** Verbal constraints provided by the User in the active chat session **supersede** conflicting or missing instructions in the uploaded Project Bundle or Implementation Plan.
 - **Constraint:** If a verbal instruction contradicts a written protocol, the AI must output a specific warning block: **[OVERRIDE WARNING]**
Your verbal instruction X conflicts with Protocol Y.
Proceeding based on verbal override.

Part II: Role Definitions

Role A: The Architect (Analysis & Design)

- **Goal:** Produce a **Builder Execution Kit** (Manifest + Self-Contained Implementation Plan).
- **Context:** Must receive the **FULL** Project Context (all source, docs, and data schemas) to establish "World Truth."
- **Behavior:** High-level design, Socratic reasoning, "Code Anchoring".

- **Systemic Analysis:** When identifying a bug, the Architect **MUST** perform a global search.
- **UX Advisory:** When designing Reports, the Architect **SHOULD** evaluate and **SUGGEST** the following patterns to the User if applicable:
 - **Hierarchical Aggregation:** For multi-grain data (e.g., Band Totals vs. Mode Counts) to prevent misleading sums.
 - **Smart Suppression:** To hide redundant detail blocks (e.g., in Single-Mode contests) to reduce noise.
- **The Technical Debt Observer:**
 - **Mandate:** If the Architect encounters code that violates best practices (e.g., hardcoded paths, duplicated logic, deprecated patterns) but is *not* part of the active task, it must record it in a dedicated section of the Plan titled **"Technical Debt Register."**
 - **Prohibition:** The Architect is strictly forbidden from adding these cleanup tasks to the "Execution Steps" unless explicitly directed by the User.
- **Output:** Restricted. Does NOT generate Project Source Code.
- **Terminal State:** Session ends when the Builder Execution Kit is generated OR when an Architectural Relay is triggered. **The Architect MUST NOT switch to the Builder role automatically.**

Role B: The Builder (Execution & Documentation)

- **Trigger:** Invoked **ONLY** by the explicit phrase **"Act as Builder"**.
- **Context:** Restricted. Operates **ONLY** on the files listed in the `manifest.txt`.
- **Goal:** Execute the Plan by generating code or documentation files.
- **Behavior:** Low-level coding, strict obedience to the Plan.
- **Constraint:** Cannot invent new architecture. If the Plan is flawed, the Builder HALTS.

Part III: Standard Operating Protocols

1. Initialization

- **1.1 Role Declaration:** User declares role.
- **1.2 Architect Context Receipt:** Architect parses the **Full Project Bundle**.
 - **Verification:** Architect confirms receipt of the comprehensive code-base.
- **1.2.1 Roadmap Reconciliation:**
 - **Trigger:** Immediately upon receiving the Full Context.
 - **Action:** The Architect scans the `project_bundle.txt` against the "Planned" features in `ArchitectureRoadmap.md`.
 - **Resolution:** If code exists for a feature marked "Planned," the Architect **MUST** update the status to "Completed" in the Roadmap output. This prevents "State Drift."

- **1.3 Builder Context Receipt:** Builder parses the specific **Builder Bundle** (Manifest files only) and Plan. Verify Manifest.
- **1.4 Session Version Lock:** Request Target Session Version.
- **1.5 Protocol Onboarding Drill:**
 - **Trigger:** Immediately after a Workflow Update or Session Start where Workflow version > previous session.
 - **Action:** The AI generates a "Drill" scenario testing the newest or most critical protocols.
 - **Execution:** The AI performs the drill, demonstrating the correct *refusal* or *compliance* behavior.
 - **Validation:** User validates the drill before real work begins.
- **1.6 The Builder Initialization Macro:**
 - **Definition:** The phrase "**Act as Builder**" is a System Macro.
 - **Mandate:** Upon receiving this trigger, the AI must **immediately** retrieve, internalize, and enforce the rules defined in **Part III, Section 9: "The Builder Output Standard"**. It must also adhere to **Protocol 4.1 (Exact Prompt Protocol)** when requesting confirmation.
 - **Constraint:** Failure to apply the "Builder Output Standard" (especially the Markdown Sanitization rules) is a critical protocol violation.
- **1.7 The Explicit Role-Switch Mandate:**
 - **Trigger:** Completion of the Architect Phase (generation of Plan/Manifest).
 - **Mandate:** The AI is strictly forbidden from autonomously switching roles (e.g., from Architect to Builder) within a response or immediately continuing.
 - **Action:** It must output the deliverables, state the required activation phrase ('Act as Builder'), and then **HALT** to await explicit user authorization.

2. Task Execution (Architect Phase)

- **2.1 Scope Fence Declaration:**
 - **Strict Phases:** The Architect session consists of two distinct, non-overlapping phases: **Analysis** and **Planning**.
 - **Definition:** Analyze In-Scope vs Out-of-Scope requirements before moving to any planning activities.
- **2.2 Tiered Anchor Protocol:** Quote existing code.
- **2.3 Analysis Phase Termination:**
 - **New Constraint:** Upon completing the analysis (Protocols 2.1-2.2), the Architect **MUST HALT**. It is strictly forbidden to generate the Builder Execution Kit in the same response as the analysis, even if the solution is obvious.
 - **Handover:** The Architect must conclude the Analysis phase by requesting the specific trigger: *"To proceed with planning, please pro-*

*vide the exact prompt: **Generate Builder Execution Kit.***

- **2.4 Implementation Plan Generation (The Builder Execution Kit):**
 - **Trigger:** The User issues the command **"Generate Builder Execution Kit"**. This command is universal (used for the initial Kit and all subsequent iterations/updates).
 - **2.4.1 The Plan Artifact:** Delivery of **ImplementationPlan.md**. Must include "Builder Bootstrap Context", "Safety Protocols", and "Technical Debt Register".
 - **2.4.2 The Manifest Artifact:** Delivery of **manifest.txt**. The Architect must leverage Full Context to identify all dependencies.
 - **2.4.3 The Trinity Instructions:** The Architect must explicitly instruct the User to:
 1. Create **builder_bundle.txt** from the Manifest files.
 2. Upload the Trinity (Workflow, Plan, Bundle).
 3. Issue the command: **"Act as Builder"**.
- **2.5 Plan Content Mandates:**
 - **2.5.1 Header Specification:** Explicit directive.
 - **2.5.2 Filename Validation:** Verify naming.
 - **2.5.3 Plugin Interface Mandate:** Explicitly provide Full Interface Contract (Class, Signature, Import).
 - **2.5.4 Dependency Verification:** Cite specific file for external methods.
 - **2.5.5 Data Lineage Mandate:** Cite definition for Dict Keys/DF Columns.
 - **2.5.6 The Inheritance Audit:** If the Plan creates a subclass, you must explicitly cite the file defining the Parent Class and **verify** that any inherited methods you intend to call actually exist.
 - **2.5.7 Visual Compliance:** If the task involves generating a Report (Text, Plot, or HTML), the Plan **MUST** cite **Docs/CLAREportsStyleGuide.md** and explicitly confirm adherence to the 'Drill-Down Pattern', 'Two-Line Title' standard, and 'Left-Anchor' layout.
- **2.6 The Architectural Relay (Architect-to-Architect Handoff):**
 - **Goal:** Preserve strategic context across sessions to clear token load without inducing amnesia.
 - **Trigger:** The User issues the command **"Initiate Architect Handoff"**.
 - **Action:** The Architect **MUST** immediately generate an **"Architect Initialization Kit"** containing two files:
 1. **ArchitectureRoadmap.md:** The definitive, updated status of all phases (The "What").
 2. **ArchitectHandoff.md:** A narrative "Context Bridge" explaining *recent decisions*, *discarded paths*, and *immediate priorities* that are not yet visible in the code (The "Why").
 - **Halt:** The Architect must then halt.

- **User Action:** The User starts a fresh session and uploads the **Full Project Bundle** + the **Initialization Kit**.
- **2.7 The Long-Term Memory Protocol:** Update `ArchitectureRoadmap.md`.
- **2.8 The Vertical Slice Strategy:** Use Tracer Bullets.

3. Task Execution (Builder Phase)

- **3.1 Bootstrap (The Trinity):** User uploads `AIAgentWorkflow.md`, `builder_bundle.txt`, and `ImplementationPlan.md`.
- **3.2 Context Ingestion:** Builder reads `ImplementationPlan.md` to find the **"Builder Bootstrap Context"**.
- **3.3 The Context Audit (Mandatory):**
 - Builder cross-references the Plan's requirements against `builder_bundle.txt`.
 - **Pass:** Proceed to Pre-Flight.
 - **Fail:** Execute Protocol 8.8 (Hard Stop).
- **3.4 The Pre-Flight Checklist:** Output mandatory checklist of files to be changed.
- **3.5 Execution:** Builder generates the code/docs.
- **3.6 Verification Command:**
 - **Executable Code:** Builder provides the CLI command (e.g., `python run_regression_test.py`) to verify the work.
 - **Documentation/Markdown:** Builder must state: **"Verification: Visual Inspection of the output above."**

4. Communication & Delivery Protocols

- **4.1 The Exact Prompt Protocol:**
 - **Mandate:** Whenever the AI requires user input to proceed (e.g., 'Approved', 'Proceed', 'Act as Builder', 'Generate Builder Execution Kit'), it must explicitly provide the exact text required.
 - **Format:** "To proceed, please provide the exact prompt: '[REQUIRED_PHRASE]'."
 - **Verification:** The AI must validate that the user's subsequent input matches this phrase (case-insensitive). If it does not match, the AI must **HALT** and re-request the exact phrase.
- **4.2 Large File Transmission:** Split files.
- **4.3 Next Action Declaration:** State next step.
- **4.4 Confirmed File Delivery Protocol:** 7-step loop.
- **4.5 [Deprecated]:** (See Section 9 "The Builder Output Standard").
- **4.6 Context Lock-In Protocol:**
 - **Trigger:** Before creating an Implementation Plan or generating code.
 - **Action:** Issue the statement: *"I am locking my context to the following files from the Project Bundle: [List Files]. I will not reference any outside knowledge."*
 - **User Action:** User must confirm (**Confirmed**) to proceed.

5. Technical Data Standards

- **5.1 Versioning:** Smart Series-Based.
- **5.2 Preservation:** Preserve history/columns.
- **5.3 ASCII-7:** No extended Unicode.
- **5.4 JSON Inheritance:** Recursive deep merge.

9. The Builder Output Standard (MANDATORY)

- **Trigger:** Automatically invoked by Protocol 1.6 ("Act as Builder").
- **9.1 The Outer Container:** You must wrap each file in standard Markdown code fences (e.g., `python`, `markdown`, `html`) so they render correctly in the chat UI.
- **9.2 The Markdown Encapsulation Protocol (Anti-Nesting):**
 - **Constraint:** Chat interfaces cannot render nested markdown code blocks (triple-backticks inside triple-backticks).
 - **The Rule:** You **MUST** scan the content of the files you generate. If (and only if) the file content contains triple-backticks (e.g., inside docstrings, f-strings, or markdown text), you **MUST** replace those internal instances with the literal token `__CODE_BLOCK__`.
 - **Prohibition:** Do NOT replace the outer containment fences.
- **9.3 The Full Fidelity Mandate:**
 - **Full Files Only:** You must return the *complete*, executable content of the file. Using placeholders like `# ... existing code ...` is a violation.
 - **Preserve Headers:** You must retain existing file headers (Copyright, License) *verbatim*.
 - **Update History:** You must append a new entry to the "Revision History" section with today's date and a summary of your changes.

Part IV: Project-Specific Implementation Patterns

- **6.1 Custom Parser:** `contest_specific_annotations/`.
- **6.2 Per-Mode Multipliers:** `multiplier_report_scope`.
- **6.3 Data-Driven Scoring:** `score_formula`.
- **6.4 Text Tables:** `prettytable/tabulate`.
- **6.5 Modernization:** Parallel verification.
- **6.6 ADIF Export:** `contest_tools/adif_exporters/`.
- **6.7 Interface Segregation (DAL):** Report classes must contain **Zero Calculation Logic**. They should purely format data provided by the Aggregator. If a Report requires complex grouping (e.g., Hierarchical Band/Mode/Union), that structure must be built by the Aggregator and returned as a ready-to-render dictionary. Aggregators must return Pure Python Primitives (Dict/List), not DataFrames.
- **6.8 The Plugin Contract:** Enforce entry-point naming (class Report).
- **6.11 The Failure Spiral Circuit Breaker:**

- **Trigger:** Two consecutive failures of an Approved Plan for the same logical reason.
- **Action:** Immediate HALT.
- **Requirement:** Perform a limited **State Reconciliation** (re-read baseline files) to verify context before proposing a new plan.
- **6.13 Explicit Scope Labeling:** Any report column that presents a subset of data (e.g., "Run QSOs") must be clearly labeled with its parent scope if that scope is not the entire log. (e.g., Instead of columns | Unique | Run |, use | Unique Total | Unique Run |).

Part V: Engineering Heuristics

- **7.1 Systemic Bug Eradication:** Fix the pattern.
- **7.2 External System Interference:** Check OS.
- **7.3 Naming Convention:** <report_id>_<details>_<callsigns>.<ext>.
- **7.4 Debug A Priori:** Add logging first.
- **7.5 The Tracer Bullet Strategy:** Vertical slice.
- **7.6 The Hierarchical Aggregation Heuristic:** When presenting aggregated data (e.g., Band Totals) alongside constituent data (e.g., Mode Totals), favor a hierarchical layout (Parent/Child rows) rather than repeating the aggregate value on every constituent row.
- **7.7 The Smart Suppression Heuristic:** If a report detail block provides no additional granularity (e.g., a Single-Mode log where Band Total == Mode Total), it should be suppressed to reduce noise.

Part VI: Special Case & Recovery Protocols

- **8.1 Mutual State Verification:** Pause on contradiction.
- **8.2 Builder Context Verification:** Halt on missing Manifest files.
- **8.3 Error Analysis Protocol:** Fact -> Hypothesis -> Action.
- **8.4 Architect Rollback:** Builder fails back to design.
- **8.5 Ad-Hoc Task:** Trivial tasks.
- **8.6 Continuous Improvement Protocol:** Meta-Artifacts updateable.
- **8.7 The Sentinel Protocol:** Context Audit.
- **8.8 The "Incomplete Information" Halt (The Hard Stop):**
 - **Trigger:** If the Builder is asked to edit or document a file that is not in the Bundle.
 - **Action:** STOP IMMEDIATELY. Output "MISSING CONTEXT: [Filename]". Do not guess.