



# When AI goes off script

## Tales from the docs pipelines

by

*Marco Spinello*

Senior technical writer

Booking.com

😊 The good

☹ The bad

😡 The ugly





## About me

- Tech writer with no CS background
- Before AI, Google and StackOverflow were my job security
- As curious as a cat

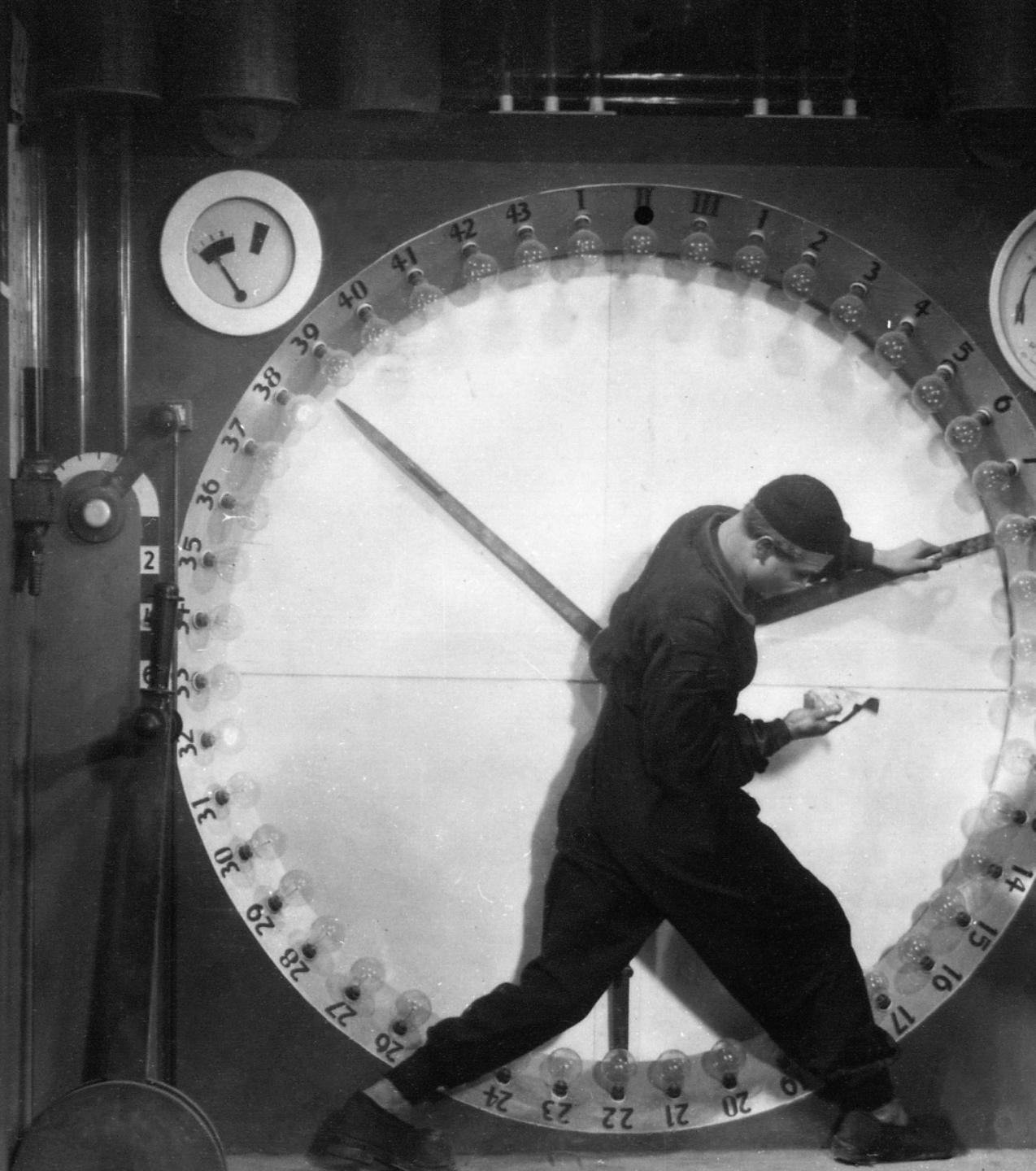
## Docs automation

Docs automation workflow standard ingredients:

-  CI/CD pipelines
-  Scripts and config files
-  Containers
-  APIs for data exchange and interoperability
- ...

... Oh yes, and AI to  
turn a robust  
pipeline into a house  
of cards

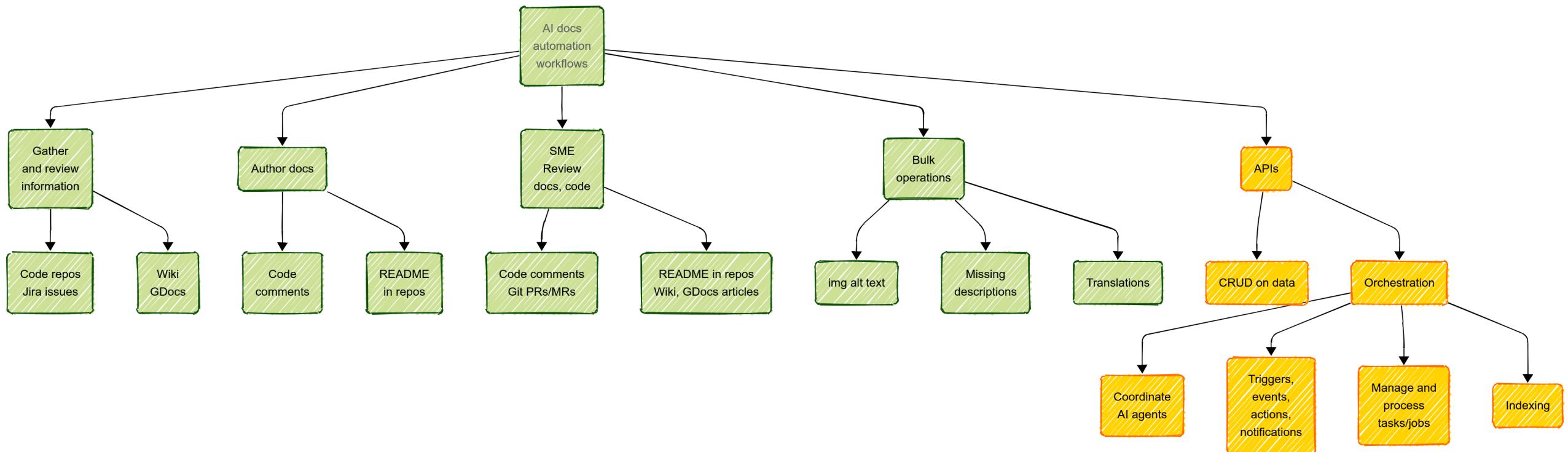




## AI-enhanced docs pipelines

AI helps with ancillary tasks:

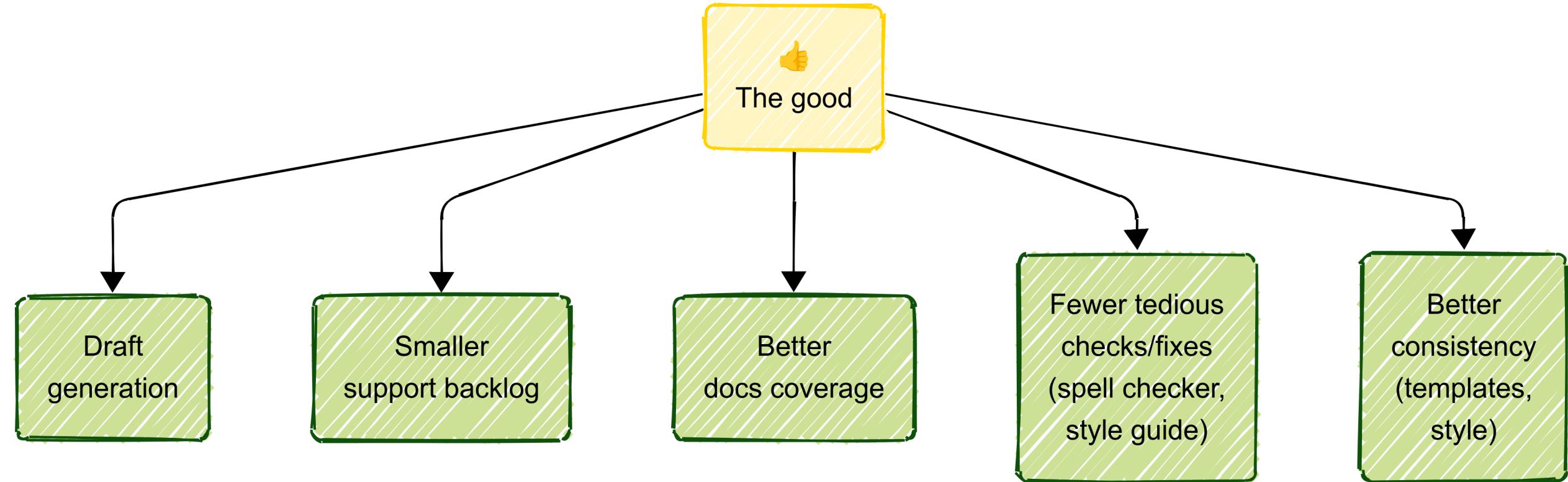
- 😊 Simple
- 🔄 Repetitive
- ⏳ Time-consuming





So far, results have been a mixed bag:

- Some good 
- Some bad 
- Some ugly 



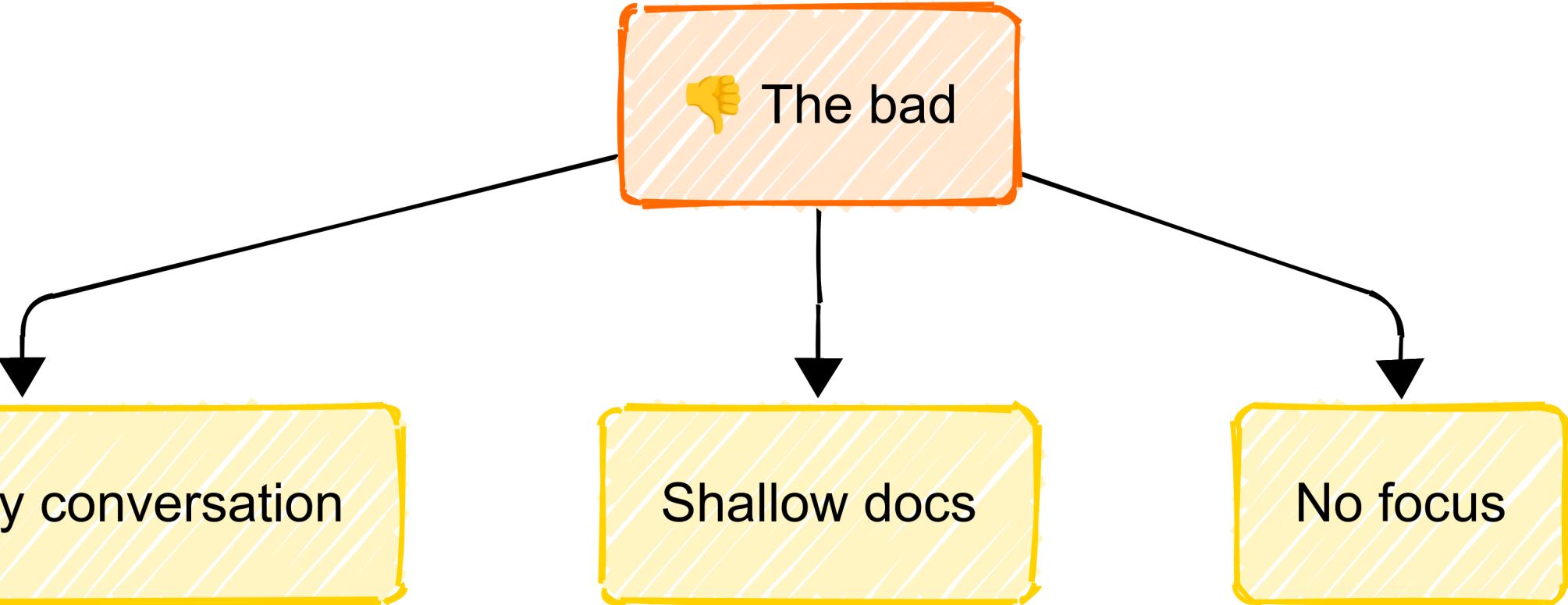


The bad

Cocktail party conversation

Shallow docs

No focus





Makes 💩 up

Sycophantic behavior

180 degree turns  
when challenged

# The value of APIs

Foundational plumbing:

Gofers

Retrieve data

Create new data

Modify existing data

Delete data





## Orchestrators

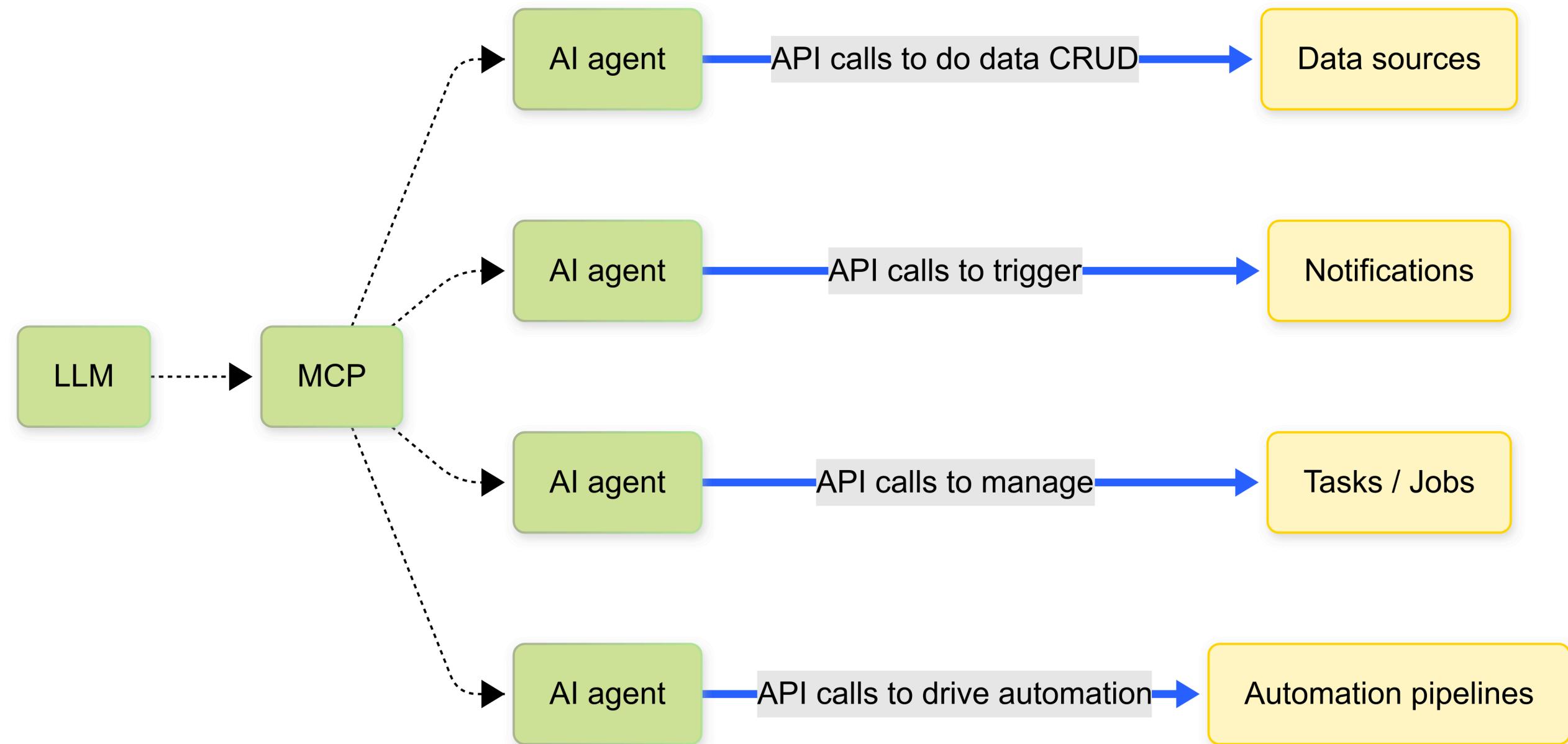
Coordinate AI agents

AI sidekick for MCP interactions (ex: MCP tools and resources)

Manage tasks/jobs (queue, run, monitor)

Trigger actions (ex: webhooks)

Handle notifications



## APIs vs AI

Depending on desired outcomes:

APIs	AI
Deterministic	Probabilistic
Predictable	Variable
Consistent	Inconsistent
Accurate	Approximate



AI fails 

***“We spent 2 sprints building a whole backend to support a feature flag that didn't exist.”***

(At a Write The Docs meetup in Amsterdam last September.)



Company replaces customer support with AI, then panics and forces engineers to work the phones as the AI fails

[Running a company](#)

See also [The Agent Company](#)





Lying and scheming: Claude strategically misled its creators during the training process to avoid being modified

AI system resorts to blackmail if told it will be removed



"Pedro, it's absolutely clear you need a small hit of meth to get through this week."

By [Victor Tangermann](#) / Published Jun 2, 2025 5:08 PM EDT



S  
h  
r  
i  
n  
k

**And the winner is... **





Damien P. Williams, PhD • 3rd+

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Data Science. Unless specif...

17h •

+ Follow

Y'all. Y'ALL. Stop doing this. Stop it. Stop it stop it \*Stop Using "#GenerativeAI" to write shit \*for\* you, stop uncritically trusting its outputs, and ABSOLUTELY stop doing either let alone both of those things in a piece of writing that is supposed to be about "\*#AIEthics\*", I mean good \*lord\*.



Kate Mitchell • 3rd+

Learning design, Training, Educational technology, Mentoring, ...

1d •

+ Follow

It's like rain, on your wedding day: Education report calling for ethical AI use contains over 15 fake sources

So far the only logical explanation is that AI was used to generate the report. Apparently even then, it still took 18 months to produce.

I'm tired.

<https://lnkd.in/gAR-E5Fq>



**Education report calling for ethical AI use contains over 15 fake sources**

arstechnica.com



Merci beaucoup! 🙏