

NOVAK PROTOCOL SERIES

Law L0: The Zeroth Law

The Prime Directive of Execution Integrity

Foundation Level

The Definition

"No system may act unless cryptographic proof confirms the input, rules, and output have not changed."

This is the foundation. Every other NOVAK law is subordinate to L0.

The Hierarchy of Law

All Other Laws (L1 - L15)

Dependent Laws
(Determinism, Identity, Audit)

L0: The Foundation




If L0 is violated, the entire system collapses.

The Anchor Law



Why "Anchor"?

L0 anchors the digital world to mathematical certainty.

-  It prevents drift.
-  It prevents silent updates.
-  It prevents unauthorized action.

The Logic of L0



There is no third option. There is no "Execute with Warning".

What Must Be Proved?

L0 demands proof that three things have not changed:



Input

The Data



Rules

The Logic



Output

The Result

How L0 Is Implemented

Technically

L0 is enforced by the **HVET** (Hash-Verified Execution Trace). The HVET is the cryptographic proof that L0 requires.

Operationally

L0 is enforced by the **Safety Gate**. The Safety Gate is the mechanism that checks the HVET and decides to Halt or Execute.

Consequences of Violation

If a system violates L0 (acts without proof), it is:

- ❌ Compromised.
- ❌ Untrustworthy.
- ❌ Non-Compliant.



IMMEDIATE SHUTDOWN

NOVAK systems must Fail-Closed.

Summary



The Prime
Directive

Total Integrity

L0 transforms "Trust Us" into "Verify Us". It removes the ability for any system to act in secret or error.

No Proof. No Action.

Questions?

NOVAK Protocol Standards Series

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