“This is how decision governance becomes a shared technical standard.”

Standardizing Digital Authority

Why Decision Governance Must Become a Global Technical Standard

A proposal for interoperable, protocol-level governance of automated systems.

Author

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1. Executive summary

The modern digital world runs on shared technical standards:

- TCP/IP for networking
- HTTP for the web
- SQL for data
- OAuth for identity
- TLS for security

These standards allow systems to:

- interoperate,
- scale globally,
- and remain predictable.

Yet one critical layer has no standard at all: **There is no shared protocol for digital authority.**

Every system defines:

- its own decision logic,
- its own escalation rules,
- its own audit formats,
- its own interpretation of accountability.

This paper argues that the next necessary class of standards is: **Decision governance protocols.**

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2. The fragmentation problem

Today, automated decisions are:

- embedded in application logic,
- scattered across services,
- implemented differently by every vendor,
- incompatible across platforms.

This leads to:

- no common audit format,
- no shared definition of authority,
- no portable compliance,
- no cross-system governance.

In effect: Digital authority is currently **non-interoperable.**

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3. Why governance cannot be proprietary

Security, networking, and identity succeeded because:

- they were standardized,
- openly specified,
- and vendor-neutral.

Governance cannot remain:

- proprietary,
- opaque,
- or platform-specific.

Because authority itself must be: **verifiable across institutions, systems, and borders.**

If each vendor defines governance differently:

- compliance becomes impossible,
- regulation becomes fragmented,
- trust becomes local and brittle.

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4. The missing standard: Decision protocols

What is missing is a shared technical specification for:

- decision representation
- authority declaration
- intent commitment

- escalation signalling
- audit replay

This introduces a new category of standards: **Decision protocols.**

Analogous to:

- OAuth for authorization,
- JWT for identity claims,

but focused on: **authority itself.**

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5. Deterministic Governance Model

A standardized governance protocol enforces:

No implicit authority

All decisions must declare their source.

Only DecisionEvents mutate state

Standardized event schemas.

Human oversight as protocol

Escalation is not a workflow; it is a message type.

Append-only authority logs

Replayable, portable, auditable.

This makes governance:

- machine-readable,
- cross-system,
- and legally portable.

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6. Interoperability of authority

With decision protocols:

- a regulator can audit any system,

- a court can replay any decision,
- an enterprise can switch vendors,
- an AI system can operate safely across platforms.

Authority becomes: **interoperable infrastructure.**

Just like:

- identity,
- security,
- and payments.

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7. From APIs to governance protocols

Today's systems expose:

- APIs for data,
- APIs for actions,
- APIs for models.

Future systems must expose: **APIs for authority.**

Where external parties can query:

- who decided,
- under what rule,
- with what escalation,
- and what human approved.

This transforms governance from:

- internal implementation
  to:
- **external contract.**

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8. Strategic insight for standards bodies

The core insight is:

The next layer of global infrastructure is not data or identity. It is **authority.**

Standards bodies should focus on:

- decision schemas
- authority declaration formats
- escalation protocols
- audit replay specifications
- governance interoperability tests

Not as guidelines, but as **formal technical standards.**

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9. Long-term infrastructure vision

In the long run, decision governance standards become:

- as fundamental as HTTP,
- as mandatory as TLS,
- as universal as OAuth.

No serious system will be considered compliant unless:

- its decisions are standardized,
- its authority is interoperable,
- its intent is replayable.

This creates: **a global fabric of governed automation.**

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10. Final reflection

The internet standardized communication.
The cloud standardized computation.
AI standardized intelligence.

Now we must standardize: **authority itself.**

Without shared governance protocols, the digital world will remain:

- powerful,
- fast,
- and deeply unaccountable.

Deterministic governance offers a path toward: **a world where automated systems can be trusted across borders, not because we believe in them, but because their authority is formally standardized.**

About the Author

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Short Bio

Pavan Dev Singh Charak is a systems architect and product founder focused on building deterministic governance layers for enterprise software and AI systems.

His work centers on formal decision models, human-in-the-loop architectures, and provable intent systems designed to make automated systems legally accountable, auditable, and safe by design.

His current focus is the development of **Decision Backbone architectures** a new infrastructure layer that treats decisions as first-class, immutable, and governed objects.

Part of the Deterministic Governance Systems series
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12. How you can engage and add value

For Standards Bodies

Collaborate on defining decision governance as a formal protocol layer.

For Industry Consortia

Pilot interoperable governance frameworks across vendors.

For Protocol Designers

Design schemas and APIs for digital authority.

Open invitation

If you are building the next generation of global infrastructure, this is the missing piece.

The world already has:

- shared networks,
- shared identities,
- shared data formats.

It now needs: **shared authority.** Decision governance is not a feature. It is: **the next global standard.**