

TWELVE PRIMITIVES IN FOUR BUCKETS

Runtime Compliance Primitives

Run the twelve primitives against one deployed agent. The output is a punch list, not a maturity score: tick what the system produces today, and write down what it cannot.

BRING One deployed agent and one named customer-hour to test it against

Registries - what is running

Tick only if the system produces this continuously, not if a person could reconstruct it later.

- Agent registry - each agent's identity, owner, purpose, version, deployment context and whether it is still switched on

- Tool registry - for every tool: what it connects to, data classes touched, permitted operations, failure modes, owner

- Versioning record - model build, prompt hash, policy version, tool version and retrieval corpus in play

Authority and policy - what it was allowed to do

These say what authority existed at the moment the agent acted.

- Permission and mandate registry - each grant's scope, subject, expiry, approver, revocation path and kill switch

- Purpose and policy record - declared purpose, live policy version, data-minimisation envelope and forbidden-action tags per action class

- Risk-tiering record - each action class graded by stakes, reversibility, observability and how many people it can affect

Runtime records - what it actually did

The recording itself, and the bucket most teams underbuild.

- Real-time data-flow inventory - every read, write, export, store and onward recipient, flagging personal data and cross-border transfers

- Action ledger - per action: timestamp, trace ID, initiator, tool called, inputs and outputs, policy check, result and corrective follow-up

- Human approval log - what each approver saw, who they were, accept, reject or override, the reason and how long they took

- Evaluation records - pre-deployment and continuous test suites, their versions, failure classes probed, regression history and release gate

Reversal and audit - can it be undone and proven

Forgetting without evidence is only not-looking.

- Rollback, revocation and memory-forgetting record - reversal receipts, revoked permissions, deletion events, downstream stores updated and the verification probe run afterwards

- Audit-ready trace store - one joined, queryable store linking the registries, tool calls, approvals, versions, data flows, evaluations and incidents into a single account

The missing primitive

If a regulator's email arrives next Wednesday, which primitive can your system not produce by Friday for one named customer, one named hour and one named agent? Name the gap, the person who owns the repair, and the evidence that would prove the repair worked.

Companion worksheet to **Essay 19 · Compliance Is Not a PDF**, in the series **Architecting the AI Coworker**. · Dr Peter McCann Strain · Fill this in against one real agent, action class or vendor. © 2026 Peter McCann Strain.

Series Companion + all 22 worksheets: **Release_v12/Series_Companion.pdf**