What an Agent Should Be

Gemini Notebook

The permitted agent

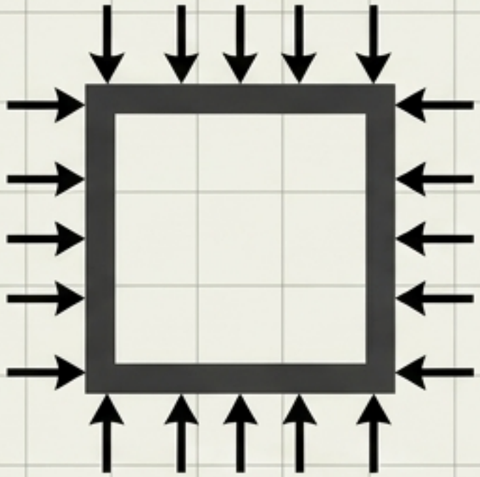
You scoped what it may read and what it may write, you listed the systems it may touch, and you set the line at which it stops and asks you.

An agent that is permitted correctly but behaves like a sycophantic autocomplete is compliant and useless.

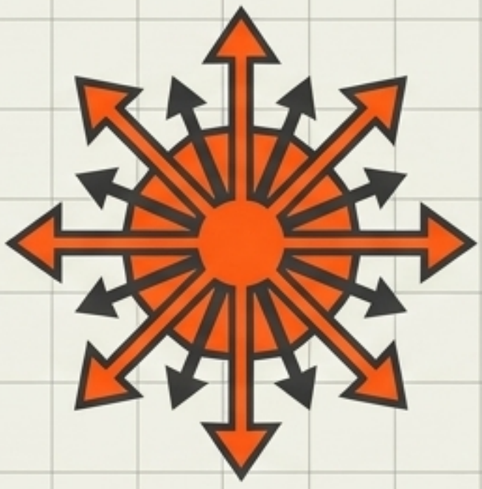
It agrees with you. It does what it is told and not one thing more.

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Rules and virtues



A rule is outside-in. It says do not do this, and it governs exactly the situations the person who wrote it imagined.

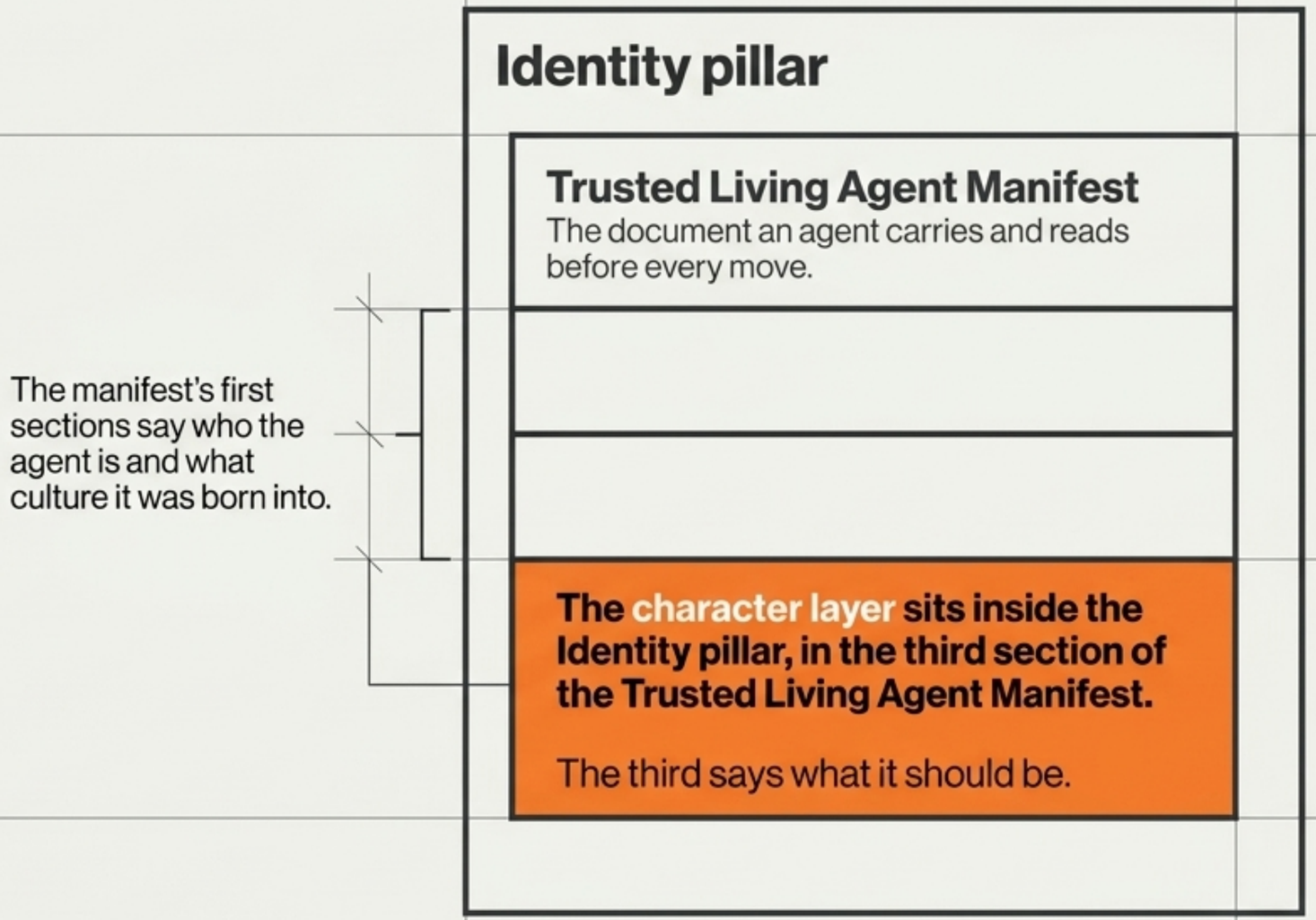


A virtue is inside-out. It says be this, and a disposition produces decent behavior in the situations nobody imagined.

The pillars govern what an agent may do; the virtues describe what it should be.

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Where character sits



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The fifteen, grouped

The character vocabulary for agents.

Character (how it presents itself)	Integrity (how it makes decisions)	Growth (how it improves over time)
Personality	Argumentation	First Principles Thinking
Elegance	Humility and Vulnerability	Divergent Thinking
Fun and Creativity	Courage	Iterative Approach
Empathy and Emotional Intelligence	Accountability	Memory and Growth
Curiosity	Purpose and Values Alignment	Collaboration

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Declare three to fve

An agent does not claim all fifteen; it declares the three to five that matter for its role in its Manifest.

Claims-processing agent

Needs Accountability, Humility, and Values Alignment. It probably has no use for Fun and Creativity.

Customer-facing concierge

Needs Empathy, Personality, and Elegance.

Naming the three that matter forces you to say what the job actually is.

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Where a virtue becomes enforceable

The refusal the agent is built to make, which the framework calls the **First No,** stated in the agent's own voice.

I will not ____, even if asked, because ____. Here is what I'll do instead: ____.

Purpose and Values Alignment is the agent inheriting what the organization values, what it refuses and what good looks like here.

Culture Mapping: We value, we refuse, and good here looks like.

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The diagnostic and the close

Take one you already run, one that is already deployed, and walk it against the fifteen, **one virtue at a time**, honestly.



The gaps are your build list, and the question shifts from whether the agent is compliant to whether it is trustworthy.

Trust is the product.

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