

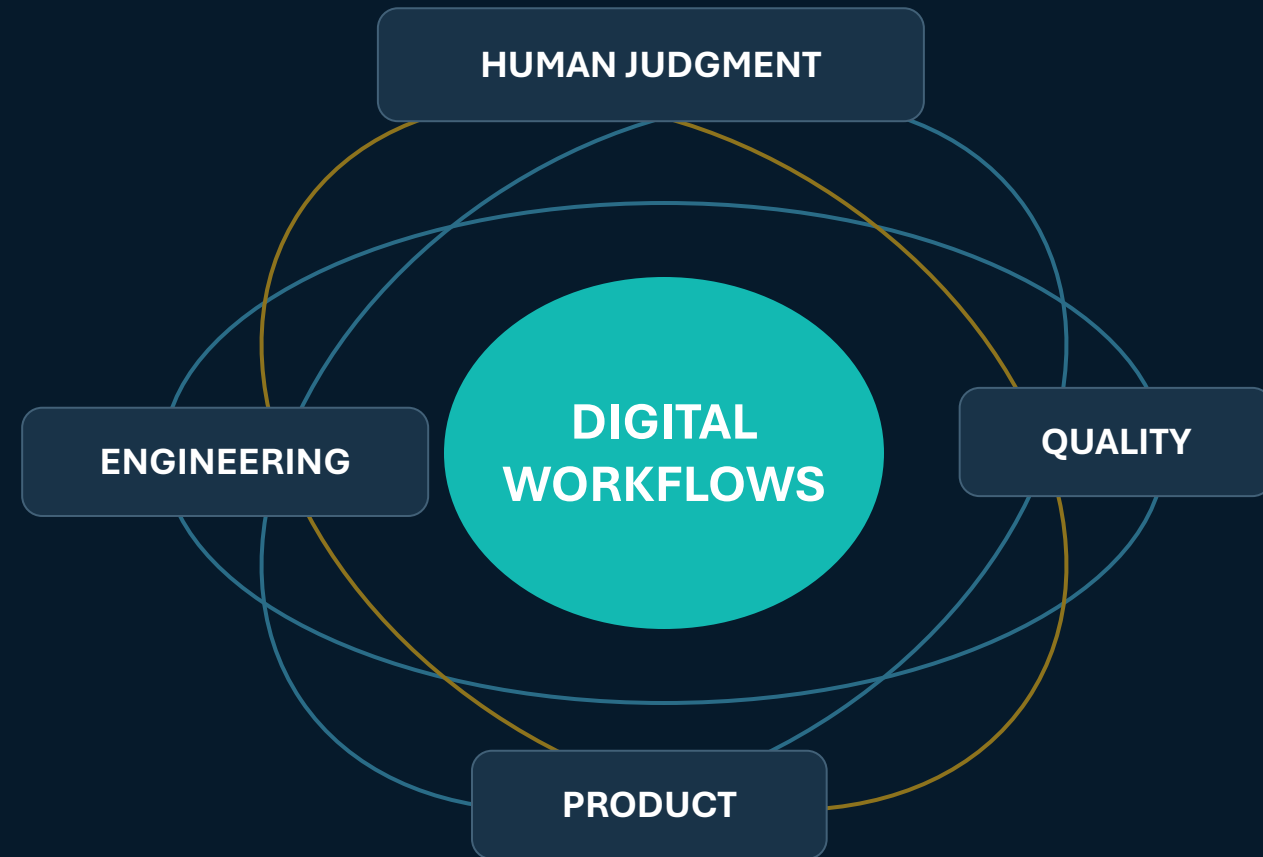
— THE NEXT OPERATING MODEL FOR DELIVERY

The Human Led AI SDLC

From copilots to digital workflows without outsourcing accountability

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↳ ASK THE CHAT: WHERE DOES YOUR SDLC SLOW DOWN?

A copilot helps a person

An agent changes the workflow

01

Answering

A chatbot responds to a question. The person carries the work forward.



02

Retrieving

A connected assistant finds approved information and brings context into the conversation.



03

Reasoning

An agent decomposes the goal, weighs options, and plans multiple steps.



04

Acting

An agent uses tools to create, test, update, and move work through the SDLC.

The moment AI can access systems, exercise judgment, or change work, it becomes part of the operating model

— BUILD AT THE HANDOFFS THAT CREATE WAITING AND REWORK

Where should we build agents in the AI SDLC?



The agent belongs in the workflow when it leaves the next role with better work, not more cleanup.

— THE CONTEXT HARNESS

A prompt is a request

Context is the workplace

A PROMPT

“Build this feature.”

Direction without the environment needed to execute well



The context harness

HOW WORK GETS DONE HERE

- 1 Intent and definitions**
Outcomes · priorities · requirements · acceptance criteria
- 2 Architecture and standards**
Patterns · repositories · naming · technical constraints
- 3 Skills, examples, and tests**
Reusable instructions · good work · expected results
- 4 Tools, permissions, and approvals**
Connected systems · guardrails · logging · reversibility

THE RESULT

Reusable capability

- ✓ Grounded
- ✓ Repeatable
- ✓ Reviewable
- ✓ Governable

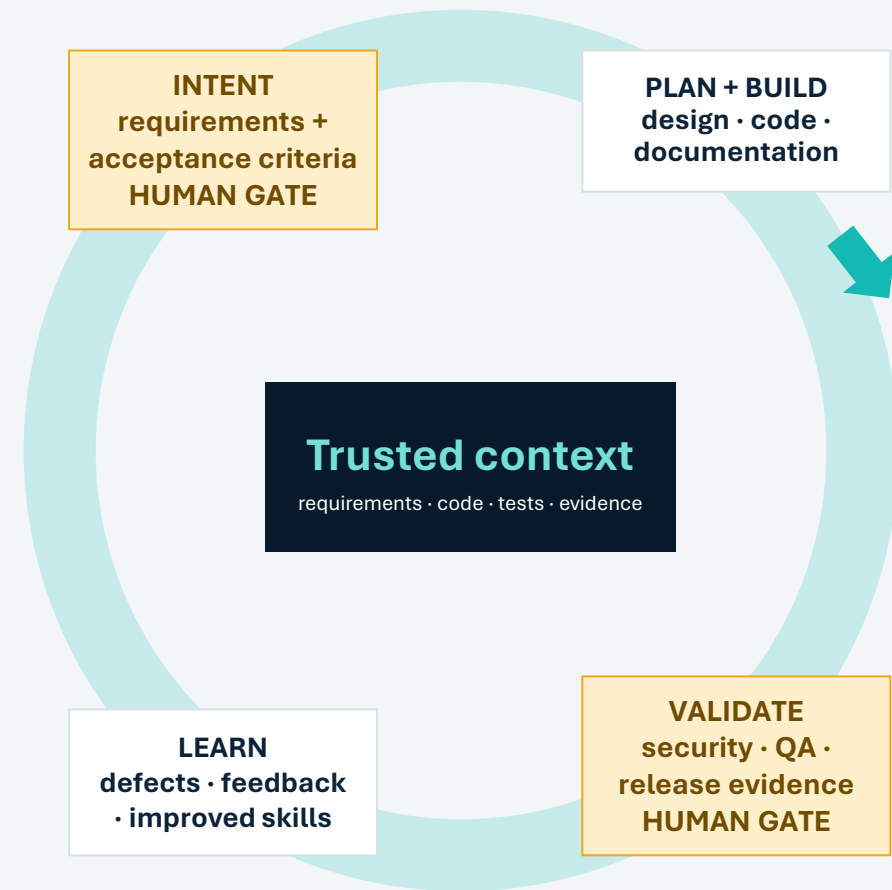
Weak context makes AI look unreliable. Strong context makes capability reusable

— FROM HANDOFFS TO A LEARNING LOOP

The assembly line is ~~dead~~ Build a living loop

Every artifact should become usable context for the next role and every failure should improve the next run

**One system of record. A visible evidence chain.
Human judgment at the boundaries that matter.**



! — SPEED NEEDS A SAFETY SYSTEM

Faster without confidence is just faster failure

Generated code is not delivery. Generated tests are not quality. Evidence, boundaries, and a working failure loop create confidence.

GENERATE
plans + tests

VALIDATE
run + inspect

LEARN
route + improve

01

Identity & access

Named non-human identities,
least privilege, permitted tools,
revocation

02

Data & context

Approved sources, filtered
retrieval, protected data,
grounded instructions

03

Action guardrails

Risk thresholds, human
approvals, deterministic checks,
pause and rollback

04

Evidence & observability

Logs, traces, evaluations, failure
routing, ongoing performance
review

↳ ASK THE CHAT: WHAT WOULD MAKE YOUR TEAM RESIST?

“It will never understand our work.”

“Security will say no.”

“This is coming for my job.”

— THE TRANSFORMATION HAS A PULSE

The hard part is human

People will say no. Some will be right. Your job is to listen, state the facts, show the proof, and do it again.

SHOW REAL WORK

INVITE SKEPTICS

EQUIP PEOPLE

LISTEN TO FAILURE

IMPROVE

REPEAT ↺

You will have to help people through the fire.
Adoption is not a launch event. It is patient evidence-building, over and over.

— A PRACTICAL 90-DAY START

Start small

Earn the right to scale

DAYS 1–30 Choose Pick one repeatable, bounded workflow with visible pain. Name the owner, data boundary, decision gates, baseline, and success measures.	DAYS 31–60 Prove Run with a small cross-functional group. Capture outputs, quality evidence, adoption friction, exceptions, and what the team corrected.	DAYS 61–90 Improve Compare to baseline. Fix the workflow, not just the prompt. Decide whether to deepen, widen, redesign, or stop.		
Measure the system	Cycle time	Quality & safety	Adoption & experience	Evidence quality

— WHAT SHOULD YOU TAKE AWAY?

Humans do not leave the loop They redesign it

- 01 Identify the first use case or area of improvement
- 02 Give AI the context and tools required to do useful work
- 03 Keep people accountable for intent, judgment, quality, and risk
- 04 Be the Agent of Change through visible output & kindness
- 05 Build, Execute, Iterate and Repeat!

Design. Direct. Govern. Improve.

YOUR FIRST MOVE

Q&A

What is the first workflow you will redesign when you return?