

Asserting the rule of law in tomorrow's agentic world

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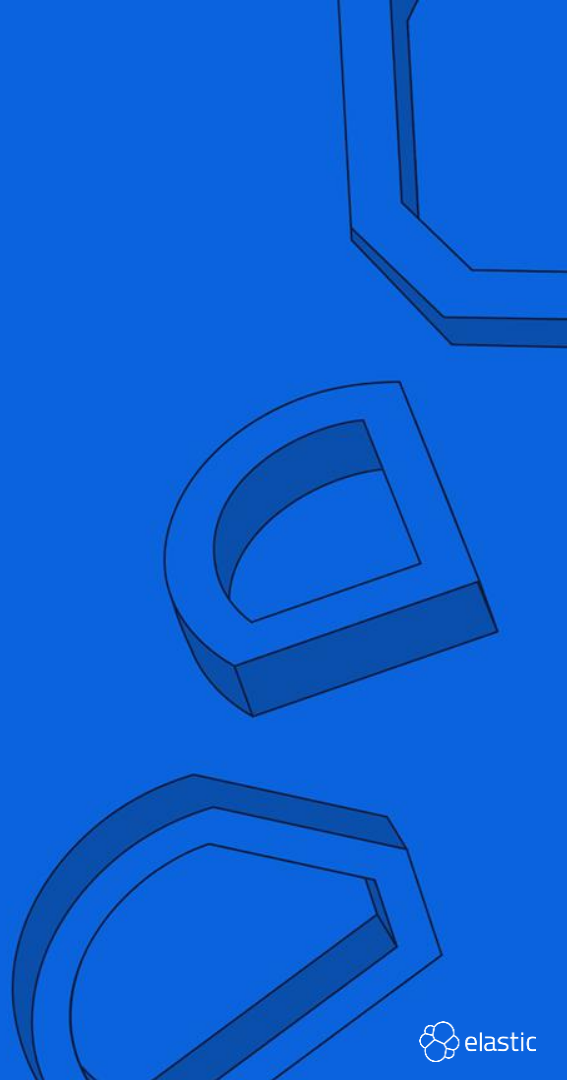
Agenda

Prologue

1. Paradigm Shift
2. Rule of Law Emergency
3. Technical Standards to the Rescue
4. Horizon Scanning

Epilogue

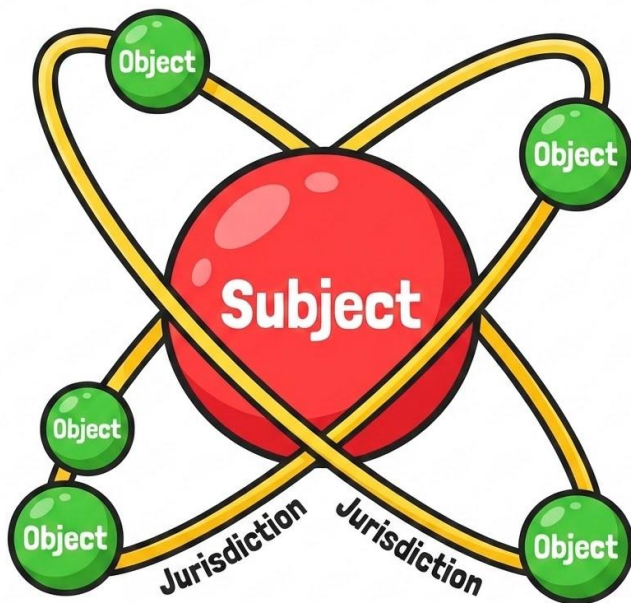
Prologue



Rule of Law At A Glance

Objects can be:

- Titles
- Rights
- Obligations
- Actions
- Behaviours
- Transactions
- ...

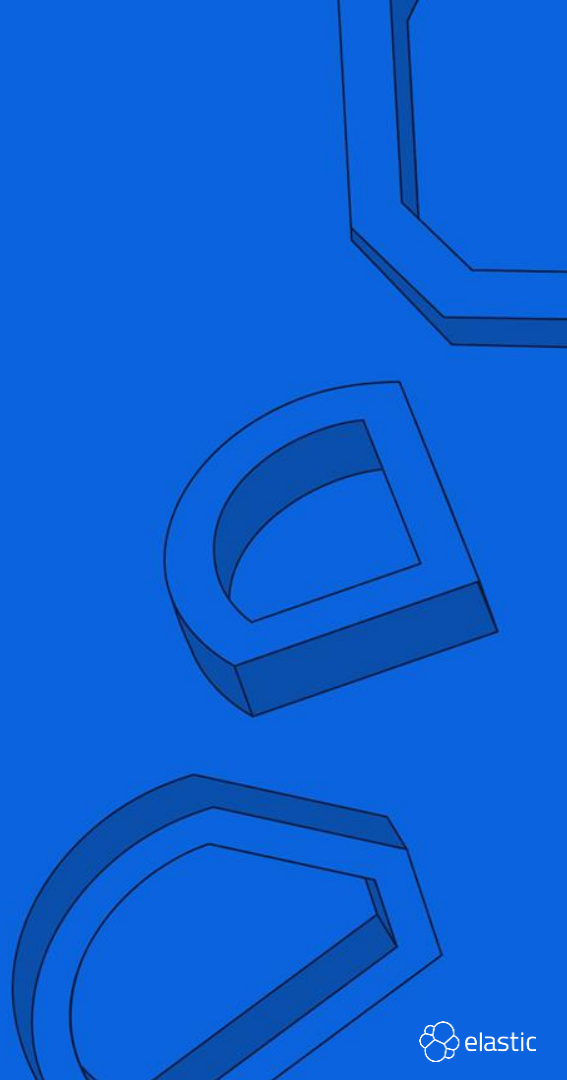


Subjects can be:

- Natural persons
- Legal persons

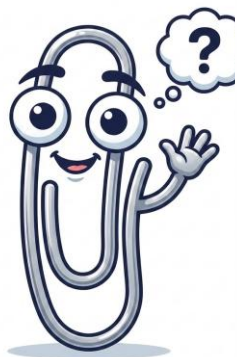
AI agents have subject-like characteristics but possess no legal capacity.

Paradigm Shift



From Tools to Agents

Legal
Subject's
Level of
Agency



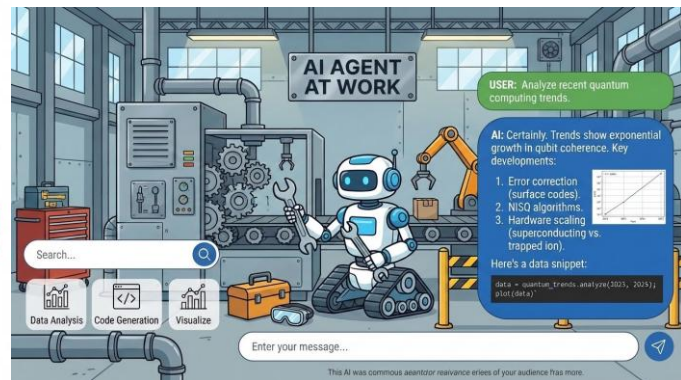
ANNOYING



AMUSING

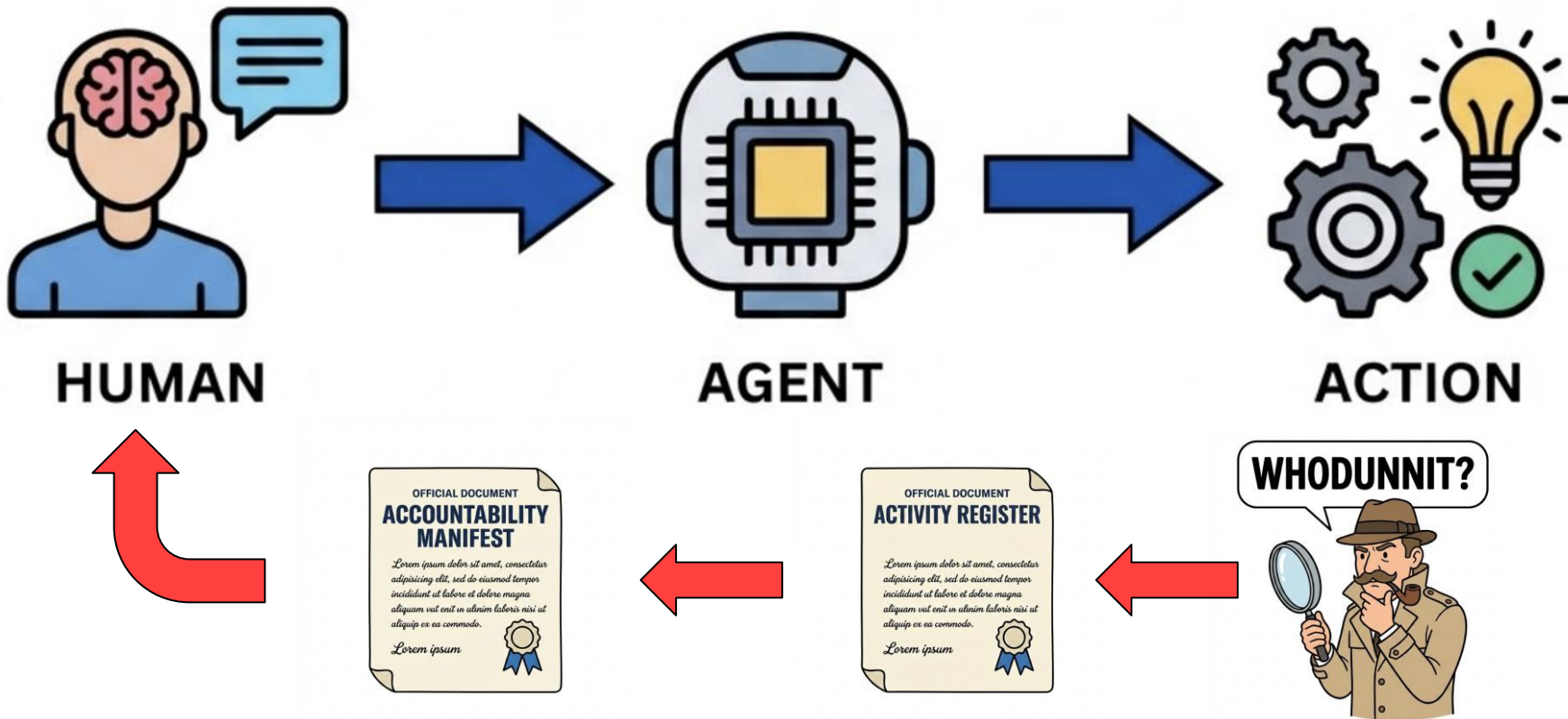


HELPFUL



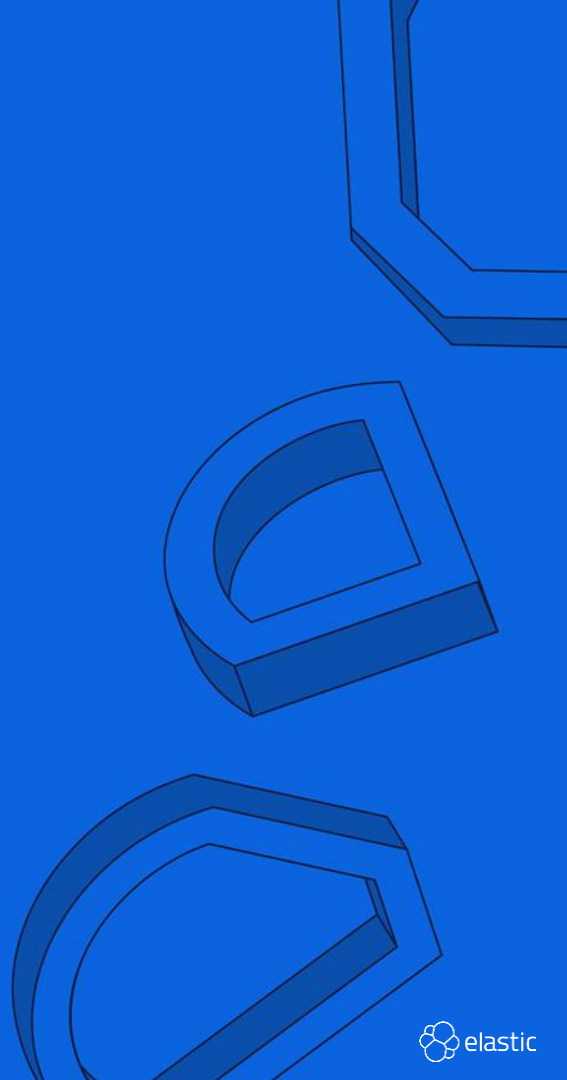
AUTONOMOUS

The Delegation Gap

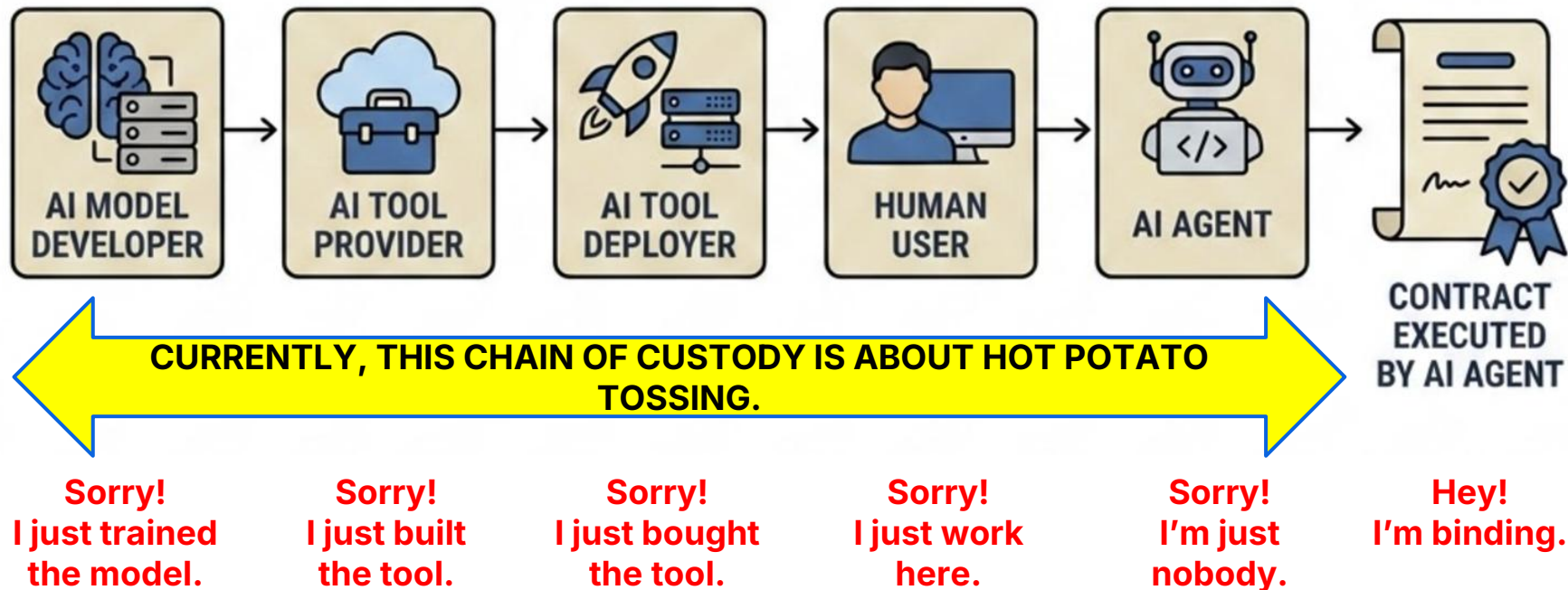


"Digital Power of Attorney": **MISSING!**

Rule of Law Emergency



Attribution (aka: assigning the blame)



In Pursuit of Legal Certainty

The Rule of Law requires that **Subjects** know and own the consequences of their actions. Conversely, actions must be assignable to **Subjects**.

Option 1: Assign legal capacity to AI agents. Not unprecedented...:



Rome's *Civitates*
& *Universitates*



Pope Innocent IV's
Persona ficta



G. Leibniz's
Persona moralis



UK House of Lords
Salomon case



EU *institutions* &
agencies

...but impractical and at the very least premature for AI agents.

Option 2: Assign unquestionable agent accountability to existing Subjects.

Technical Standards to the Rescue

Technical Standards as Legal Interface

What my profession is used to:

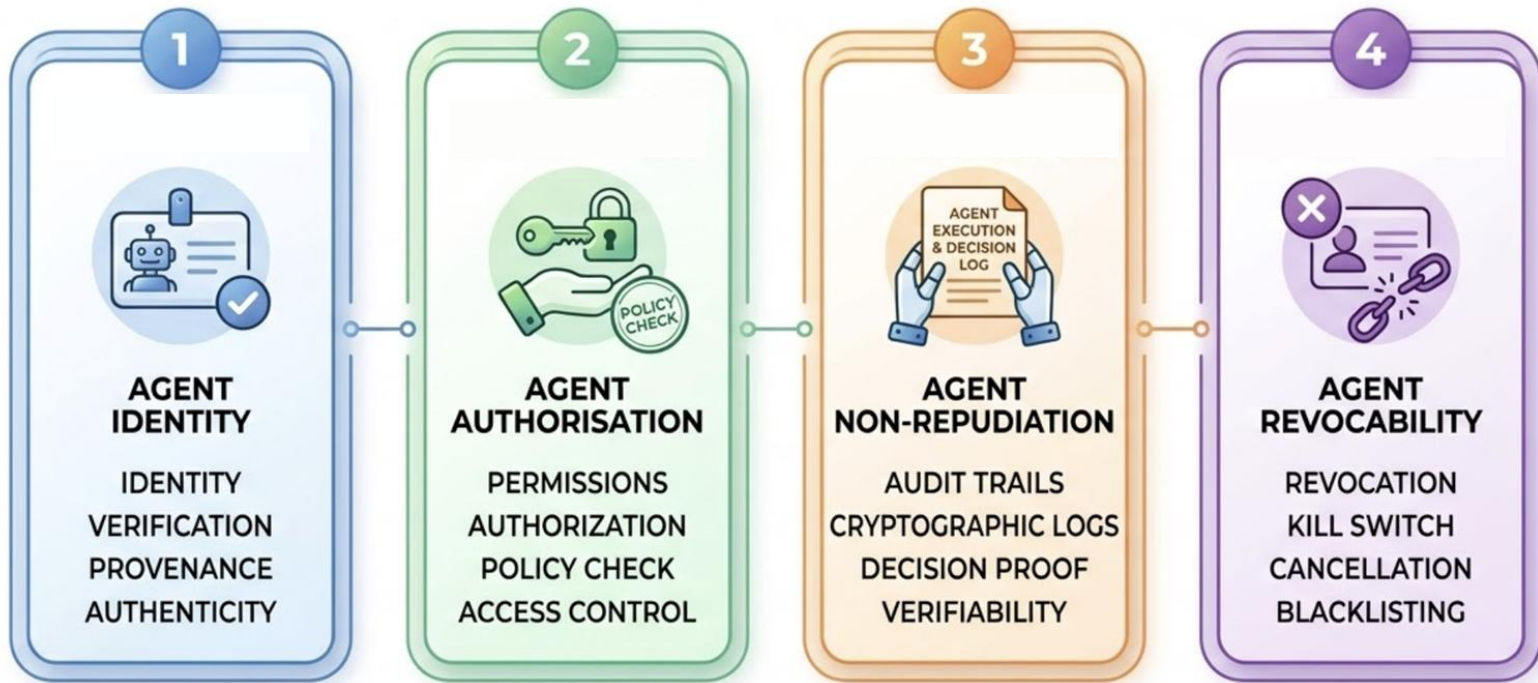


The reality facing us:



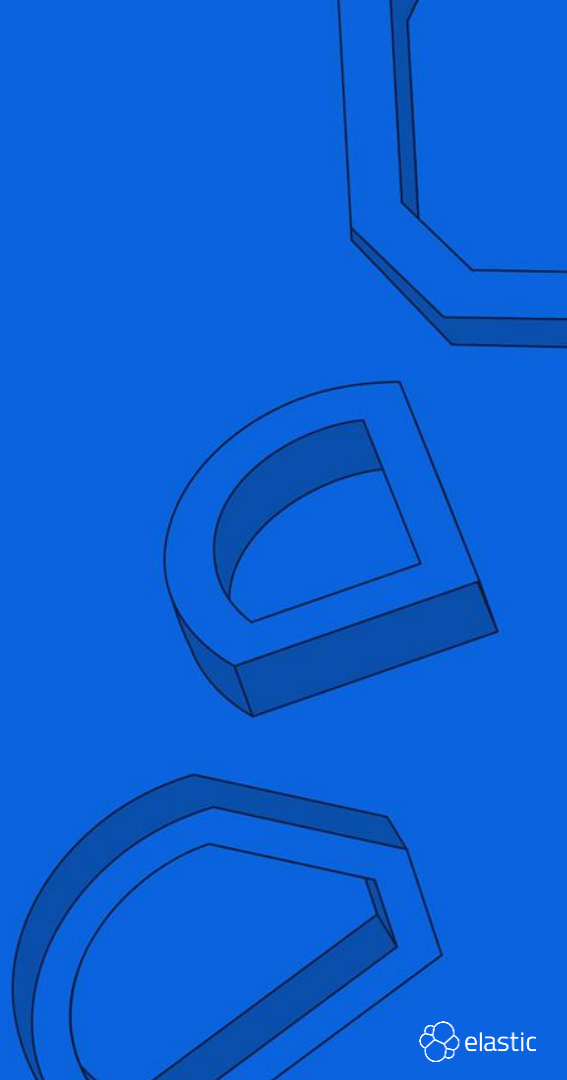
Embedding “**Code as Law**” into the agentic fabric is the only way to cope.

Standardised Delegation



We need standards that meet these legal business requirements to confidently assign accountability for each agentic action to the correct subject.

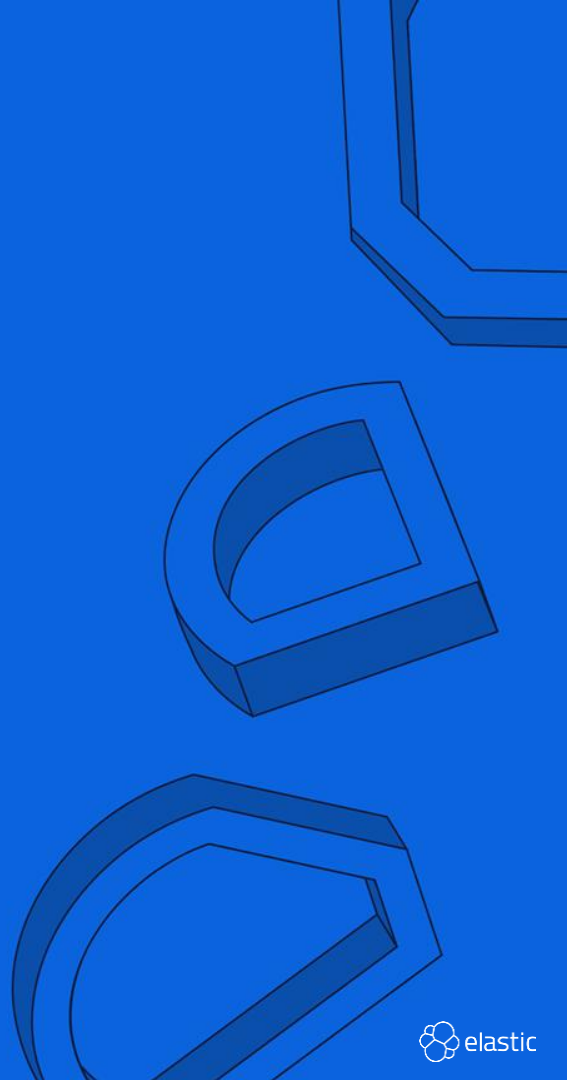
Horizon Scanning



New Frontier & Crowded Space

Organisation	Initiative	Purpose
ITU-T	SG17 Question 16	Global trust control plane for autonomous agents
EU eIDAS 2.0	EUDI Wallets (QEAA)	Verifiable attestations for agents to act legally
CEN-CENELEC	JTC 21 / prEN 18286	EU AI Act compliance via traceable logging/ID
ISO/IEC	ISO/IEC 42001 & 24970	Universal AI management and event logging schemas
IETF	WIMSE / A2A Drafts	Cryptographic "Dual-Identity" (Agent + Owner) binding
NIST	AI Agent Standards Initiative	Unique Agent Identifiers (UAID) and security profiles
IEEE	P3119	Ethically Aligned Design for AI systems in government

Epilogue



Interoperability of Trust



We need **common and ubiquitous protocols** for agents so they can move between systems without losing their **security context**.

Thank you!

