Agentic AI for Video — Decision Cheat Sheet

Fora Soft Learn · AI for Video Engineering

1 — The three words, defined

Generative AI	Makes content from a prompt, then stops. Reactive. One model call.
AI Agent	A goal + tools + freedom to pick its own next step. One working unit.
Agentic AI	Goal-directed behaviour; often several agents coordinated by an orchestrator.

2 — The agent loop (repeats until the goal is met or a stop condition fires)

Step	What happens
1. PERCEIVE	take in the request + the latest tool result (detections, transcript)
2. REASON	decide the next step; write a short plan
3. ACT	run a detector, call an API, post a message — the only step that changes things
4. OBSERVE	read the result, feed it back to step 1 — this is what generative AI cannot do
STOP	goal met OR step limit / budget cap / timeout / 'ask a human now'

3 — Should you build an agent? Pick the simplest that works

If…	Then…
One answer is enough	→ a single GENERATIVE call (caption, summary, thumbnail)
Steps never change	→ a WORKFLOW: orchestrate tools in code you wrote up front
Next step depends on the last	→ an AGENT: let the model choose the path (costs 5-20× more)

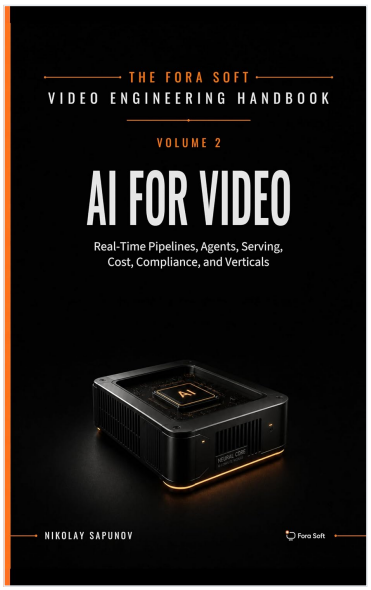
4 — Four video agent patterns (same loop, different goal + tools)

Pattern	Works on	Does
Investigator	archive	answer a question, return evidence clips
Meeting copilot	live call	act during + after a call (ASR, calendar, CRM, docs)
Async reviewer	backlog	tag / moderate / QC overnight, flag only exceptions
Real-time	live stream	watch the stream, trigger an alert or webhook

5 — Governance checkpoints before you ship (engineering context, not legal advice)

- ☐ Disclose the AI — EU AI Act Article 50 requires telling people they are dealing with an AI.
- ☐ Give every loop a budget cap and a step limit so it cannot spin or spend without bound.
- ☐ Keep an audit trail of each perceive-reason-act-observe step for later review.
- ☐ Put a human in the loop for any high-stakes autonomous action (surveillance, medical).
- ☐ Start with one agent; add more only when one provably cannot hold the whole task.

Companion to: 'Agentic AI vs Generative AI vs AI Agents — The Agent Loop for Video'
www.forasoft.com/learn/ai-for-video-engineering/articles-ai/agentic-ai-vs-generative-ai-agent-loop-for-video



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This sheet separates generative AI, agents and agentic systems and helps you pick the simplest one that works. Volume 7 continues with agents as engineering, real-time AI inside calls, live moderation, and regulation such as the EU AI Act for autonomous features.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

- Agent loops, stop conditions and budgets
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