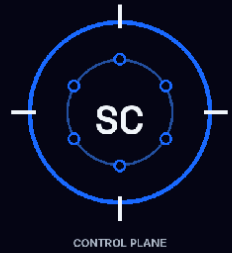


SESSION CUSTODY

EXPLAINER SERIES



PRINCIPLE EXPLAINER

Delegate: Preventing Scale from Becoming a Bypass Path

Bounded inheritance for autonomous handoffs and child sessions.

GOVERN • CONTROL • ENFORCE



GOVERN THE SESSION, NOT THE REQUEST.

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EXPLAINER 10 | APRIL 30, 2026 | DELEGATE

Delegate: Preventing Scale from Becoming a Bypass Path

Bounded inheritance for autonomous handoffs and child sessions.

Why Delegation Matters

Delegation is one of the reasons autonomous work can scale. A parent agent can assign specialized analysis, workflow, or tool activity to a child agent or another execution environment. The value comes from local specialization and parallel execution.

The risk appears when the child receives an instruction but not the authority boundary that made the instruction legitimate. Tool access can travel without approval scope. A temporary exception can be treated as permanent. Child work can continue after the parent has been narrowed, revoked, or quarantined.

Delegation is not only task routing. It is the controlled movement of institutional authority from a parent session into bounded downstream work.

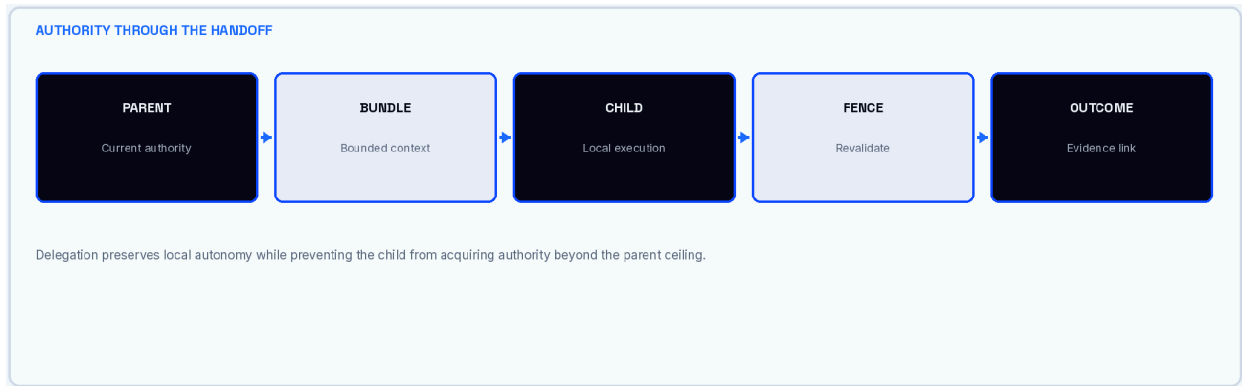


Figure 1. A downstream constraint bundle carries bounded authority, and an action fence rejects stale or mismatched authority before covered consequence.

The Downstream Constraint Bundle

A delegated task should not begin as if it were institutionally independent. The downstream constraint bundle carries the minimum authority-bearing context needed for the child to act locally while remaining bounded by the parent session.

Downstream element	Purpose
Child objective	Defines the delegated unit of work as a bounded continuation of the parent purpose.
Authority ceiling	Prevents the child from gaining broader institutional reach than the parent can delegate.
Policy binding	Connects the child decision to the current effective-policy object and material lineage.

Downstream element	Purpose
Budget and continuation limits	Carries the economic conditions that can narrow, throttle, escalate, or stop child work.
Exception scope	Preserves action, target, amount, duration, and conditions without converting an exception into general permission.
Lineage and revocation reference	Keeps parentage reconstructible and allows changed upstream authority to reach active descendants.
Action digest and expiry	Binds the authorization to the covered proposed action and its validity interval.

The Child Can Be Different Without Becoming Broader

The child may use a different model, tool, runtime, region, or workflow. Those local differences do not create additional institutional authority. The effective child ceiling remains no broader than the intersection of the parent ceiling, delegated objective, current policy, applicable exception, current containment state, and supported enforcement coverage.

This preserves useful autonomy. The child does not need to return to the parent for every reasoning step. It can perform local work within the bundle. The control requirement reappears at covered consequential boundaries, where the child or mandatory enforcement component validates the current binding before action.

Action Fencing Prevents Stale Continuation

A revocation notice alone is not enough if the child can continue using an older favorable instruction. The action fence compares the child's presented authority binding with current authoritative state. A policy-fingerprint mismatch, advanced revocation epoch, expired authorization, action mismatch, or invalid signature causes the earlier result to be rejected for the covered action.

The controlling policy then determines the restrictive response: refresh, narrow, hold, escalate, deny, quarantine, or terminate. The response applies to the affected path and action class; it need not halt unrelated work.

Delegation With Accountability

The session evidence links the parent objective, delegated child objective, authority ceiling, policy binding, exception scope, revocation state, child proposal, decision, enforcement, attempt, and outcome. Reviewers can therefore determine not only that child work occurred, but how authority traveled and whether it remained current.

Delegate preserves the productivity of specialization while preventing downstream work from becoming an ungoverned extension of the parent task.

OPERATING BOUNDARY

These explainers describe the Session Custody product and category at a conceptual and operational level. Coverage depends on supported sources, configured mappings, authenticated integrations, and declared enforcement paths. The architecture does not assume a universal policy language, permanent authorization, human approval for every action, or replacement of the systems that own native enterprise facts and outcomes.