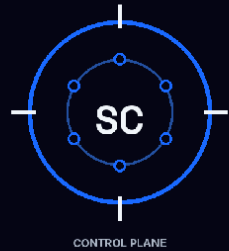


SESSION CUSTODY

EXPLAINER SERIES



PRINCIPLE EXPLAINER

Control: Keeping Autonomous Work Aligned as Context Changes

Continuous session alignment as business and authority state change.

GOVERN • CONTROL • ENFORCE



GOVERN THE SESSION, NOT THE REQUEST.

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EXPLAINER 08 | APRIL 30, 2026 | CONTROL

Control: Keeping Autonomous Work Aligned as Context Changes

Continuous session alignment as business and authority state change.

Control Means Continuous Alignment

Control is often mistaken for static restriction. In autonomous enterprise workflows, control is the continuing alignment of the next action with the current objective and authority state. The issue is not only whether the session began with a permitted task. The issue is whether the proposed action remains admissible after the work and its surrounding conditions have changed.

Approvals expire. Policies are superseded. Risk and trust signals change. Budgets move. Exceptions narrow. Parent sessions are restricted. Enforcement adapters can lose required posture. Human operators respond to these changes because they understand that business context is a live condition of the work. A control plane makes the relevant parts of that context machine-maintained and decision-grade.

A prior allow is not a permanent credential. It is valid only in relation to the policy and session state against which it was issued.

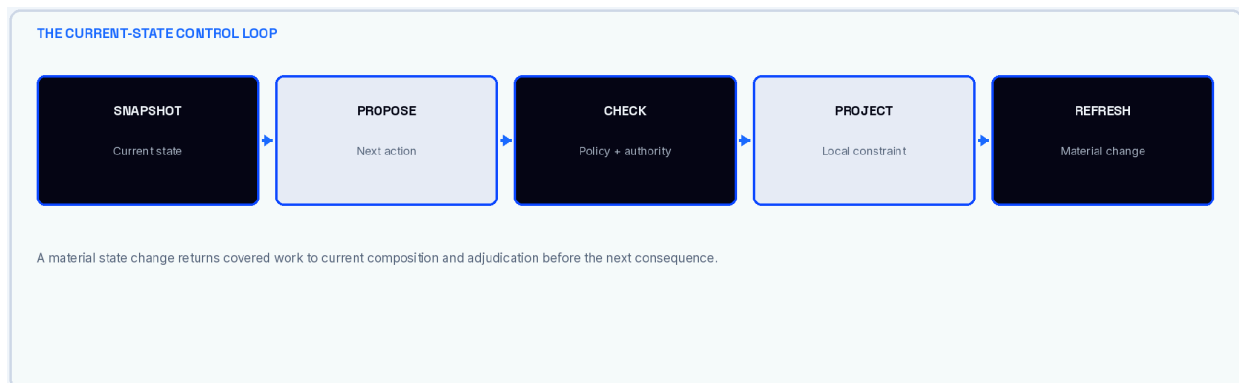


Figure 1. Control preserves alignment by binding each covered decision to current policy and session state.

The Current Session Snapshot

For a covered proposed action, the control plane uses a current session snapshot rather than replaying the entire history. The snapshot identifies the objective, governed agent and owner state, effective-policy reference, approvals and exceptions, delegation lineage, revocation state, economic context, runtime enforcement posture, and evidence continuity needed for the decision.

Policy content and material policy lineage are bound through the effective-policy fingerprint. Other current conditions are versioned in the session snapshot and adjudication-state binding. The distinction matters: a changed economic or runtime signal can require re-evaluation without being treated as a change to policy content itself.

Contextual Drift and the Control Response

Contextual drift occurs when the work remains technically active after its institutional basis has changed. A procurement agent may continue preparing a packet after approval scope narrows. A remediation agent may continue a child diagnostic after the parent path is restricted. The individual operations can look ordinary while the session as a whole has moved outside current authority.

Material change	Why it matters	Representative control response
Policy superseded	The earlier effective-policy binding may no longer be current.	Refresh maintained policy state and re-adjudicate the proposed action.
Approval or exception changed	Scope, duration, amount, target, or conditions may no longer cover the action.	Narrow, hold, escalate, or deny according to the controlling policy.
Revocation state advanced	Earlier downstream authority can no longer be treated as current.	Reject stale bindings at the action fence and require current authority.
Economic boundary reached	Retries, fan-out, or spend can alter continuation rights.	Throttle, narrow, escalate, or stop the affected spend-bearing work.
Enforcement posture lost	Preventive control cannot be claimed on a bypassable or unavailable path.	Use the restrictive behavior defined for the action class and coverage level.

Control Without Reverting to Manual Gates

Continuous control is not a human approval requirement for every action. Manual gates force people to reconstruct context at each checkpoint. The control-plane model preserves current state so low-risk or expressly authorized work can continue under policy, while material uncertainty or changed authority produces the response defined for the affected action class.

That response need not stop the whole enterprise. It may refresh, narrow, hold, escalate, throttle, deny, quarantine, or terminate the affected path. The governing rule is that missing, stale, conflicting, unmapped, or unverifiable critical state cannot expand authority.

Control asks repeatedly: does the next covered action still belong to this objective, under this current authority, with this enforcement posture and economic boundary?

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.