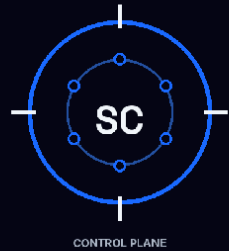


SESSION CUSTODY

EXPLAINER SERIES



PRINCIPLE EXPLAINER

Enforce: Moving Protection Before Enterprise Consequence

Pre-execution authority at the boundary where intent becomes action.

GOVERN • CONTROL • ENFORCE



GOVERN THE SESSION, NOT THE REQUEST.

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Enforce: Moving Protection Before Enterprise Consequence

Pre-execution authority at the boundary where intent becomes action.

When Governance Becomes Operational

Enforcement is the point at which governance can change execution. Policy records, approvals, and logs remain important, but they do not protect a system of consequence unless the current governing result can reach a path the proposed action cannot bypass.

Once an agent can change a record, commit spend, modify infrastructure, route an approval, or create downstream authority, retrospective review can arrive after the enterprise is already living with the result. Enforcement moves the decision to the point before a covered side effect occurs.

Preventive control requires a mandatory enforcement path. If the agent can reach the target through an unmanaged credential, alternate tool, or bypassable route, the integration can provide observation but should not be described as preventive enforcement.



Figure 1. Enforcement becomes operational when a current decision can affect a mandatory execution path before enterprise consequence.

A Decision About a Specific Proposed Action

Effective enforcement does not ask whether an agent is generally safe. It evaluates a typed proposed action in a current session: acting identity, objective, target, action class, parameters, effective-policy binding, approvals, exceptions, delegation lineage, revocation state, economic context, and enforcement posture.

The operational result can permit, narrow, hold for escalation, throttle, restrict, deny, quarantine, or terminate according to the controlling policy. The decision includes a rationale and is bound to the governing state used to produce it. Determinism here means that the same normalized authority facts, policy state, session snapshot, proposed action, and decision implementation produce the same governing result.

Project from the Same Governing Policy State

A runtime, gateway, broker, wrapper, or target adapter may enforce only a supported subset of the enterprise policy. The projected constraint should be derived from the same effective-policy object used for adjudication, while the AGCP retains the cross-system session-level authority. This avoids creating a second local policy source that can continue independently after the governing state changes.

Immediately before the covered consequence, the enforcement boundary validates that the decision or downstream bundle remains current. A superseded policy fingerprint, advanced revocation state, expired authorization, or mismatched action digest invalidates the earlier favorable result and invokes the restrictive behavior defined for that action class.

Keep the Event Types Separate

Stage	Question	Why separation matters
Proposal	What does the agent intend to do?	The proposed target, action class, parameters, and side-effect class must be explicit.
Authorization	What does current enterprise authority permit?	A decision is bound to current policy and session state; it is not proof of execution.
Enforcement	What constraint did the covered boundary apply?	Projection and acknowledgment show what local mechanics were applied.
Attempt	What operation was actually sent?	The attempted action can differ from the proposal or fail before reaching the target.
Outcome	What did the system of consequence commit or reject?	An allow, acknowledgment, or client response does not necessarily establish the target result.

From Observation to Authority

A valid credential, an approved tool, and a correctly functioning runtime do not establish that the action should occur. Enforcement connects current institutional authority to local execution mechanics. Observation remains valuable for uncovered paths, testing, and evidence, but only a mandatory and current enforcement path can prevent the covered consequence.

Enforce draws the line between knowing that an action occurred and having the technical ability to decide whether it may occur before the result reaches the enterprise.

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.