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AI INSIGHTS 2026

NO TICKETS WERE WRITTEN FOR THIS

Thirteen sprints with AI in every seat. What changed, what broke, and what it bought.

Helder Pereira

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EXHIBIT A

THE DOCUMENT THAT REPLACED THE TICKETS

CHANGE PROPOSAL · ACTIVE

deletion-protection

WHY

In a GitOps platform there is no human between a declaration landing and the cloud API destroying what it describes...

WHAT CHANGES

Deletion protection becomes a platform-owned guarantee that flows from a single classification...

NON-GOALS

- Recoverability windows. A distinct concern.
- Audit and attribution of deletions.
- A developer opt-out. Deliberately not a surface.

~~User stories~~

~~Estimation poker~~

~~Tickets~~

117 documents like this one

Written, challenged and refined with AI. Humans **and agents** implement against them.

No tickets were written. Some were generated.

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THE CREDENTIAL

LIVE IN ONE QUARTER, SAFE FOR PRODUCTION IN THE NEXT

3

months. April to June 2026. Phase 1 delivered in full.

7

resource types: app service, SQL, key vault and four more.

<1

day from declaration to first deploy.

100%

of releases checked against company rules, signed, traceable.

And no Infrastructure as Code (Terraform). The biggest complaint developers had about the old way - they don't write any.

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ACT ONE

WHAT WE CHANGED IN PLANNING

01

THE ROADMAP · THE UNIT OF WORK · THE DESIGN

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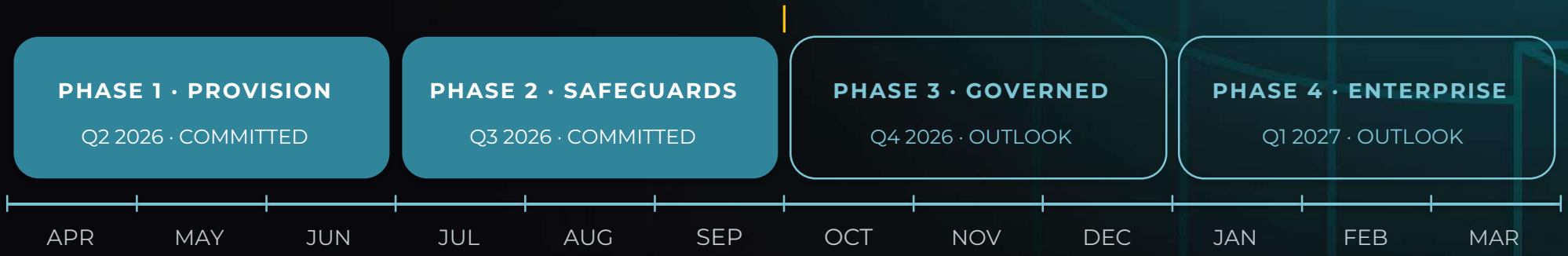
THE ROADMAP, WRITTEN BEFORE DAY ONE



THE AI DREW THE MAP

MY HOURS WENT TO THE DETAIL

WHAT IT COST US TO FIND OUT

~~58 user stories~~ dead in three weeks. The phases held. The epics held.

THE UNIT OF WORK ROADMAP – EPIC – ~~USER STORY~~ – PROPOSAL – SPLIT PROPOSAL

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ACT I · PLANNING · THE UNIT OF WORK

WHERE THE USER STORY WENT

WHAT WE ALL WRITE

As an Application Developer,
I want to declare a hostname,
so that I get a public URL.

a want, and nothing about its limits

WHAT IS IN THE PROPOSAL

Persona: Application Developer

baseline expectation is that declaring hostname entries is sufficient to receive a public, WAF-protected, internally reachable URL — with no coordination required outside the developer's own repository

Deviations from that baseline are captured:
→ Future considerations (temporary deferrals)
→ Non-goals (fixed constraints)

A user story states a want. This one names where its exceptions live.

THE UNIT OF WORK ROADMAP – EPIC – ~~USER STORY~~ – PROPOSAL – SPLIT PROPOSAL

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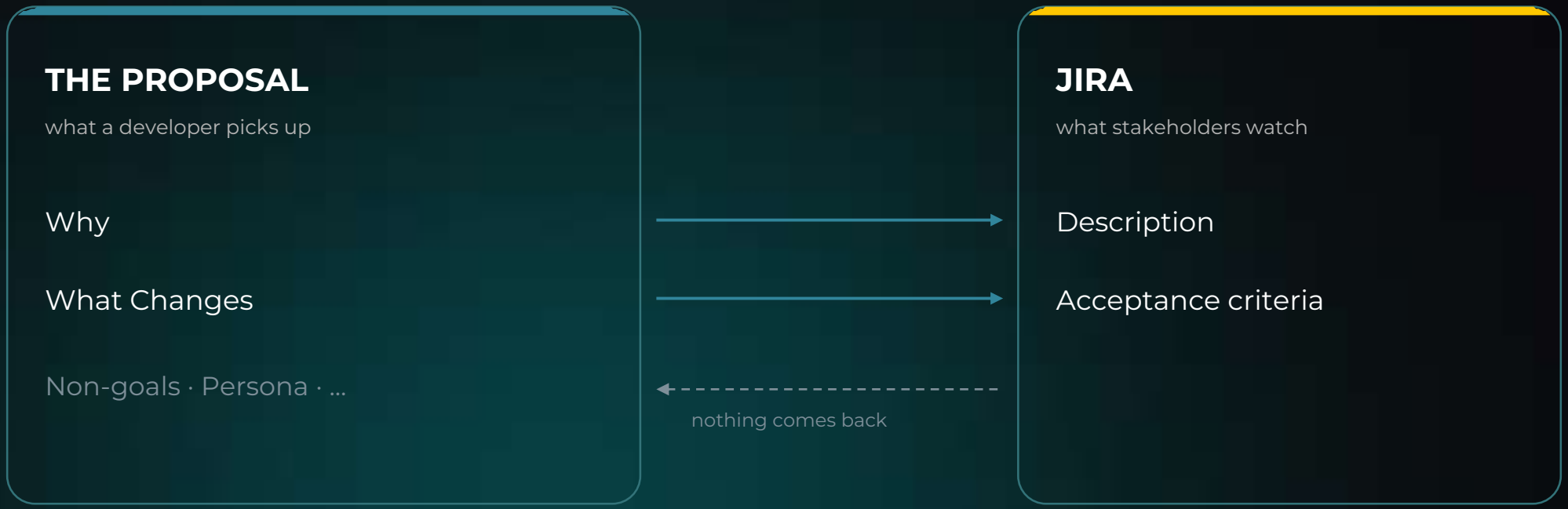
ACT I · PLANNING · THE TICKET

JIRA AS A VIEW INSTEAD OF A SOURCE



Edit the ticket and nothing happens. The team never reads it.

THE UNIT OF WORK ROADMAP – EPIC – ~~USER STORY~~ – PROPOSAL – SPLIT PROPOSAL

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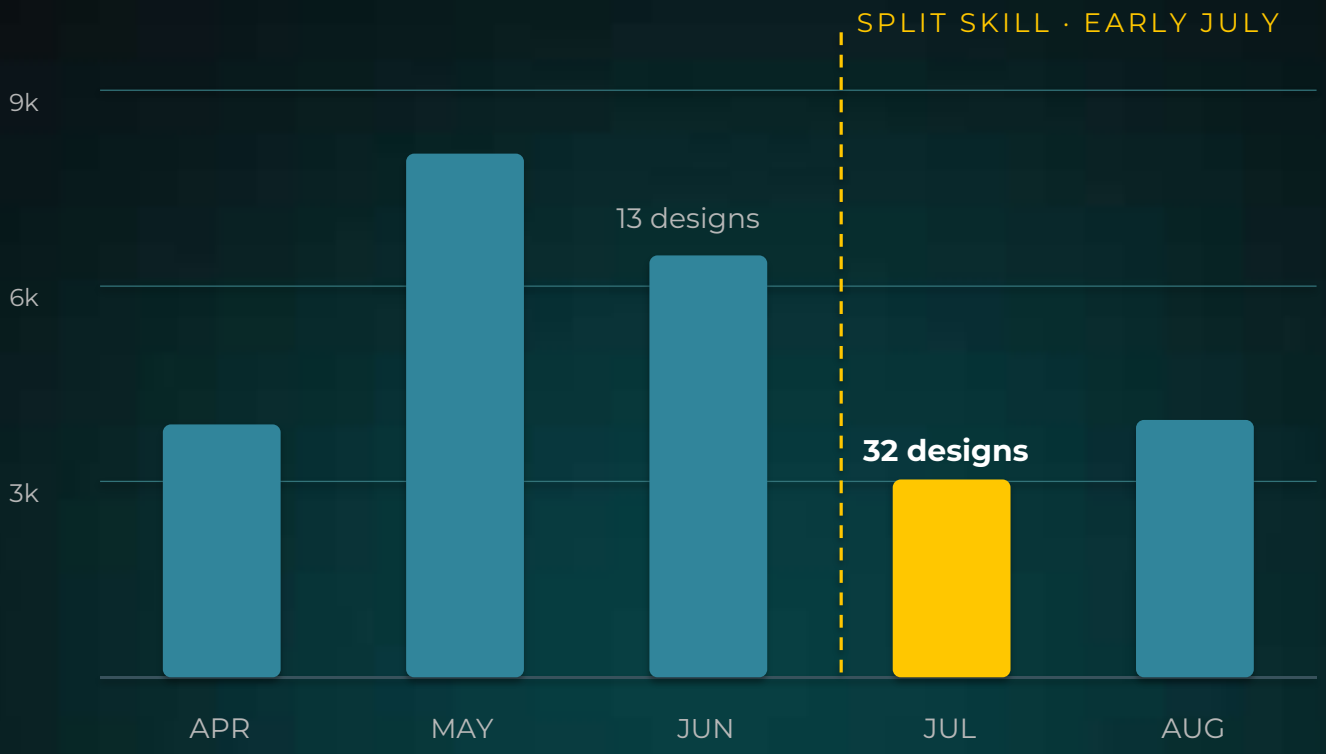
ACT I · PLANNING · THE DESIGN

SMALL PROPOSAL, 23,000-WORD DESIGN



WHAT MADE IT POSSIBLE

SECOND BRAIN

The project remembers

THE UNIT OF WORK

ROADMAP – EPIC – ~~USER STORY~~ – PROPOSAL – SPLIT PROPOSAL

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ACT TWO

WHAT WE CHANGED IN DELIVERY

02

THE CEREMONIES · WHO WRITES, WHO CHECKS · THREE SCARS

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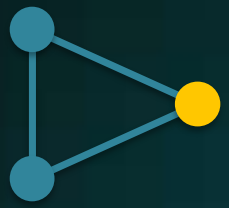
ACT II · WHAT WE CHANGED IN DELIVERY · THE CEREMONIES

MEETINGS CHANGED, AND SOME TURNED INTO A PULL REQUEST

REFINEMENT



Became a record

THE RULES

~~HOW~~

Outcomes only

WHAT STAYED

OURS

- DAILY
- PLANNING · 2W
- RETRO · 2W

THE CLIENT'S

- FORTNIGHTLY DEMO
- MONTHLY STEERING

“I'm doing the design for X. I'm validating the implementation for Y.” — the daily

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ACT II · DELIVERY · THE REVIEW BURDEN, ANSWERED

WHO WRITES, WHO CHECKS, WHO APPROVES

	WRITES	CHECKS	APPROVES
PROPOSAL	HUMAN AI Product owner steers	HUMAN Developers, in the PR	HUMAN The team merges it
DESIGN	HUMAN AI A developer steers	AI The design gate, first	HUMAN The team merges it
CODE	AI The design steers it	AI The tribunal scores it	HUMAN The team merges it

NEVER MOVES

If the answer is “the AI told me to”, the process has failed.

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ACT II · DELIVERY · WHY THE HUMANS STAY

A FEW SCARS AND WHAT THEY TAUGHT

2,011 **green tests missed one bug**

The AI wrote a test **asserting its own mistake**.

A green suite is evidence about the suite — not about reality.

DONE needed a human definition

? The human asks; AI never volunteers

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ACT THREE

WHAT IT BOUGHT

03

THE RULER · THE TWIST · THE CLOSE

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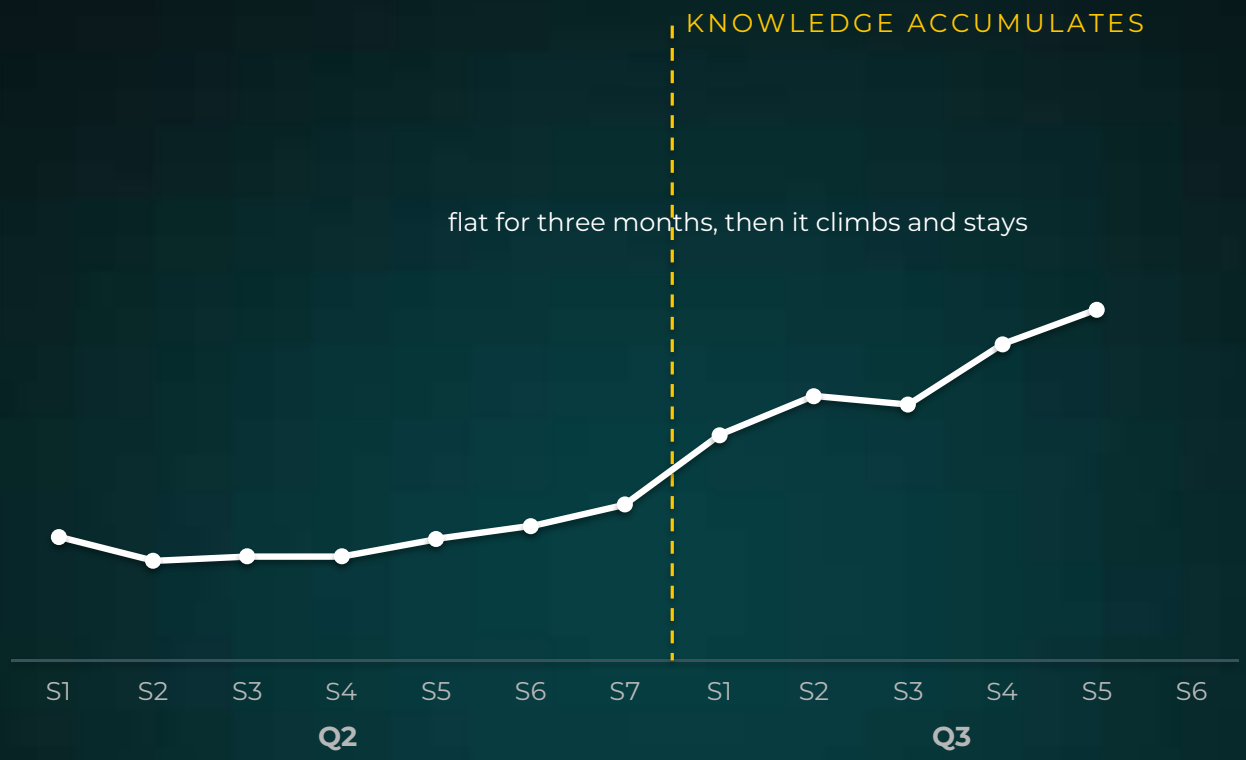
ACT III · WHAT IT BOUGHT

GREAT THINGS TAKE TIME, BUT NOT THAT MUCH



FLOW

not speed. Items didn't get faster - more items moved at once.

3 MONTHS

before the gain was unmistakable.

The same team, both quarters. What changed was the method.

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ACT III · WHAT IT BOUGHT · THE TWIST

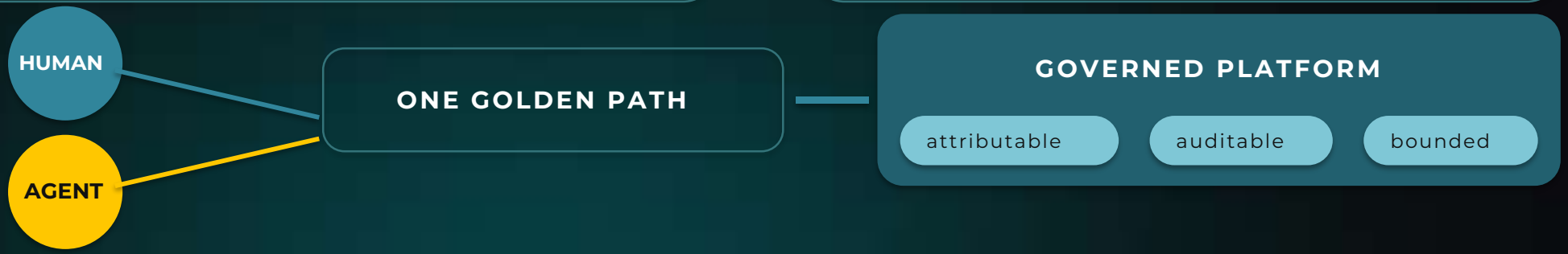
IDP TO ADP AND THE DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENTS

BEFORE · V1

Two pull-request approvals. Specialist engineers. Hours, sometimes days.

NOW

Four to five minutes, unattended. Pipelines, identity, guardrails. Nobody touches it.



"It wasn't something we explicitly said we were going to do... that should be highlighted and celebrated."

The client's programme lead, on renaming the platform the **Agentic Developer Platform** · 3 September 2026

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AI IS AN AMPLIFIER, NOT AN ACCELERATOR.

It multiplies whatever your discipline already is — including the weaknesses.

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THE TAKEAWAY

EVERYONE HERE CAN BUY THE SAME MODELS

SPECS AS THE CONTRACT

Outcomes and non-goals, in writing

A PROJECT THAT REMEMBERS

Every transcript and decision, cited

HUMANS WHERE IT MATTERS

A named person at every approval

THE TEAM YOU ASSEMBLE

Wrote the code → writes the spec, owns the gate

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The model isn't the edge. What you build around it is.

Helder Pereira · Technical Product Owner · Mindera

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