

## AGENTIC AI · SCOPE MANAGEMENT

## Scope Expansion Without Review Triggers Is a Deployment Risk, Not a Policy Gap

Agentic AI systems do not announce when they have expanded beyond their authorized scope. Most governance frameworks have no mechanism to detect it either.

This is not primarily a policy issue. The policy documents often contain language about scope limitations and authorized use cases. The problem is operational: nothing triggers a mandatory review when a system's functional scope has materially changed since the last assessment.

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*The distinction matters. A policy gap suggests the rules are incomplete and need to be written. A deployment risk suggests the rules exist but the mechanism to enforce them under real operating conditions is missing.*

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Most AI deployment frameworks define governance checkpoints at authorization. After that, the system runs. Use cases evolve. Teams discover new applications. What was deployed as a document processing tool starts handling exception adjudication. What was authorized as a recommendation engine starts influencing resource allocation. Each expansion feels incremental, and none individually crosses the threshold that would prompt a formal review. Together, they represent a materially different system operating under a governance framework designed for a different scope.

Accountability and liability are anchored to the authorized scope. When an incident occurs, the accountability mechanism engages against the system as authorized — not the system as operating. If those two descriptions have diverged, the governance record is not describing the system that produced the incident.

GIAG Stream Two research is examining whether agencies currently deploying agentic systems have built operational triggers that initiate scope review, or whether they are operating on the assumption that authorized scope and operational scope remain aligned over time.

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