

# **THE PROPAGATION THINKING WORKBOOK**

*The Diagnostic Companion to Propagation Architecture*

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*This is the diagnostic companion to Propagation Architecture. It puts five instruments to work on your organization: the Compensation Ratio, the Propagation Triad, Control DNA, the Minimalist Ring, and the Coherent Build specification. Each module explains the instrument before it asks you to apply it.*

# How to Use This Workbook

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This is not a workbook for taking notes on what you read. It is a workbook for finding out what is actually happening inside your organization.

Each module maps to one instrument from the Propagation framework. Work through them in order. The diagnosis in Module 1 determines what the rest of the workbook will ask of you.

Answer in specifics. A vague answer produces a vague architecture. Name the system. Name the boundary. Name the person who currently holds the knowledge that the architecture should hold instead.

There is no scoring key that tells you whether your organization is good or bad. There is only an accurate picture of where value moves and where it stops.



## Worksheet 1.2: Calculate Your Compensation Ratio

**Value steps:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Compensation steps:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CR =** \_\_\_\_\_

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### REFLECTION

*What does the highest-friction compensation step in this trace tell you about where the architecture is missing?*

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*If you removed this compensation step tomorrow without fixing the underlying architecture, what would break?*

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*Who in your organization currently absorbs this compensation cost using judgment and expertise that appears in no budget and no review?*

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**MODULE 2**

# The Propagation Triad: What Must Travel With Every Object

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## Framework Recap

Every operational object carries three things across every boundary it crosses, or it does not: meaning, state, and governing context. When any one of these fails to travel, the next person or system has to reconstruct it. That reconstruction is compensation.

## Worksheet 2.1: Audit the Triad

For the object you traced in Module 1, test whether each element of the triad survives its first boundary crossing.

Element	Travels intact? (Y/N)	What gets reconstructed if not	Who reconstructs it

## Worksheet 2.2: Name the Boundary

Boundaries are where objects are handed from one system, team, or function to another. List every boundary your traced object crosses.

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## REFLECTION

*At which boundary does the most reconstruction happen?*

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*Was that boundary designed, or did it emerge because two systems were built independently and never reconciled?*

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### MODULE 3

## Control DNA: Locating Your Enforcement Gates

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### Framework Recap

Control DNA is the governing logic embedded in the object itself: the rules that travel with it so that compliance and quality are enforced at the boundary, not reconstructed after the fact. An enforcement gate is a point where the architecture checks a condition before allowing the object to proceed.

### Worksheet 3.1: Map Your Enforcement Gates

Gate location	Condition checked	Enforced by architecture or by a person	What happens on failure

### Worksheet 3.2: The Extend, Do Not Overwrite Test

For each system your object touches, does that system extend the object's existing record, or does it overwrite it with a new, disconnected version?

System	Extends or overwrites	Evidence lost on overwrite

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**REFLECTION**

*Which enforcement gate currently depends on one person remembering to check something?*

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*What would it take to move that check into the architecture itself?*

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## MODULE 4

# The Minimalist Ring: Locating Your Stage

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### Framework Recap

The Minimalist Ring has five stages: Perception, Connection, Coherence, Automation, Self-Adaptive Intelligence. Organizations pass through them in order. Skipping a stage does not skip the cost. It defers it.

### Worksheet 4.1: Stage Self-Assessment

Score each statement from 1 (not true) to 5 (fully true).

*Stage 1, Perception: We have mapped the architecture we actually run, not the one we believe we designed.*

**Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Stage 2, Connection: Operational objects carry their meaning across every system boundary they cross.*

**Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Stage 3, Coherence: Every process, metric, and role is aligned to the same strategic intent, without conflicting local incentives.*

**Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Stage 4, Automation: Repetitive execution and enforcement run without a person, and people are doing design and judgment work instead.*

**Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Stage 5, Self-Adaptive Intelligence: The system detects and corrects operational drift before a person notices it.*

**Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Worksheet 4.2: Find Your Bottleneck Stage

Your organization's stage is your lowest score, not your highest.

**Lowest-scoring stage:** \_\_\_\_\_

*What is currently happening instead of what that stage requires:*

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**REFLECTION**

*Organizations often try to automate before they achieve coherence. Where in your organization has automation been applied to a process that was never actually aligned?*

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## MODULE 5

# **The Coherent Architecture: Designing the Build**

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### **Framework Recap**

A specification written before the build forces the question every build skips: what data, what fields, what gates, what evidence, before a single system is touched. The specification is the architecture. The build is the implementation of a decision that has already been made.

### **Worksheet 5.1: The 60-Minute Specification**

**Object name:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Fields it must carry:*

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*Enforcement gates it must pass:*

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*Evidence it must generate at each gate:*

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*Systems it must remain coherent across:*

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**REFLECTION**

*What did writing this specification reveal that a normal project kickoff would have skipped?*

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## MODULE 6

# The Propagation Scorecard

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Bring the results of the previous five modules together in one place.

Instrument	Your result	What it tells you

**This workbook does not conclude with a recommendation. It concludes with a picture.**

What you do with the picture is architecture. What you do without one is compensation.