

The Five Laws Series

Communication #12

The Standard You Now Get to Demand

 **Causum**

Having uncovered the hidden weaknesses behind modern AI governance, one professional walks into every meeting carrying something far more powerful than software: a standard. Five deceptively simple questions expose whether an AI system can truly be trusted—or merely claims it can. In a world flooded with confidence scores and polished dashboards, only independent proof survives.

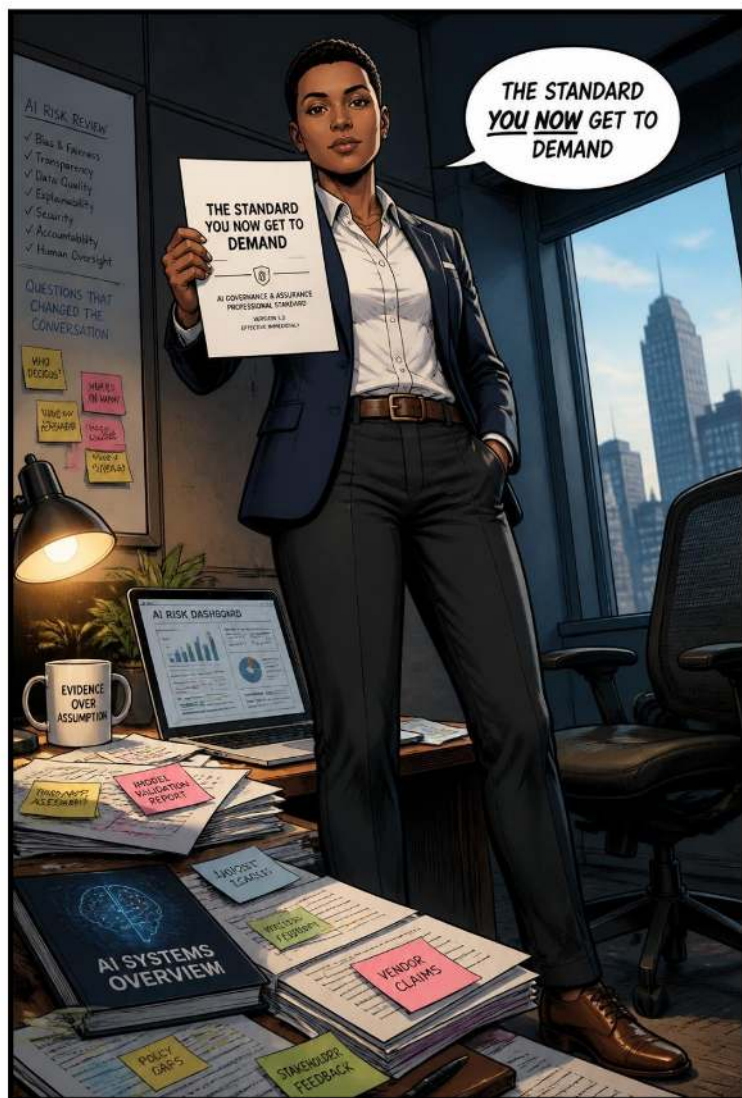
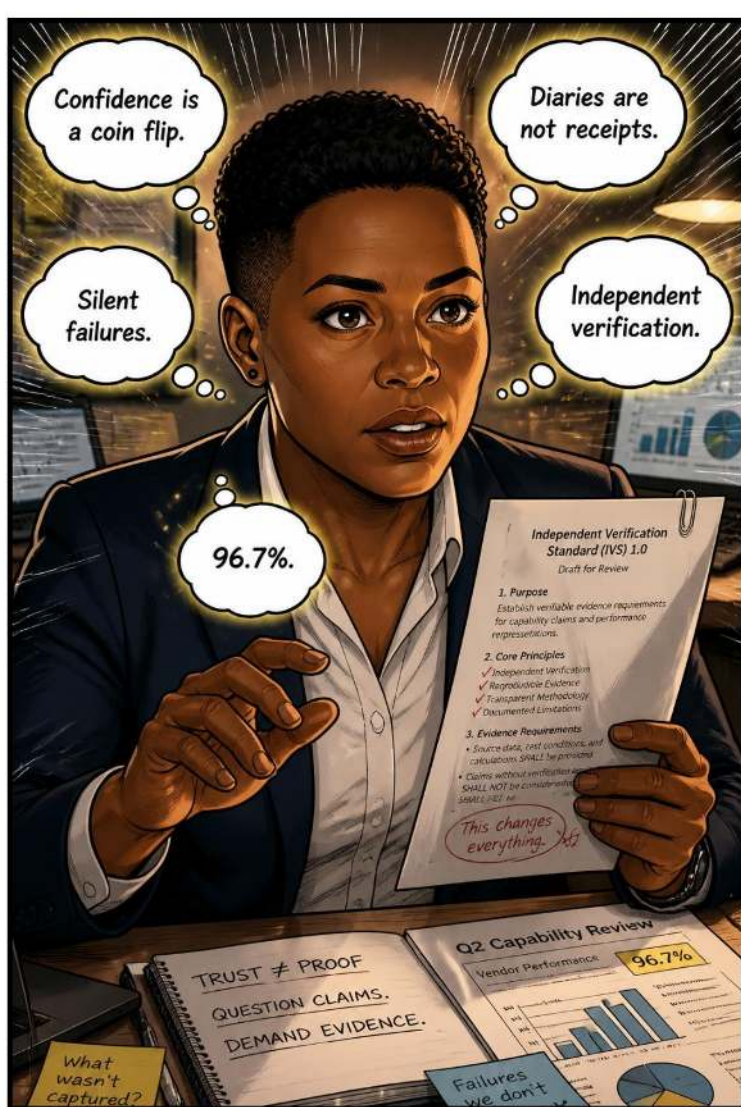
The names, characters, and events are fictitious and illustrative. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, actual events, or actual establishments is purely coincidental.

All the contents of this publication including writings and graphics are copyrights of Causum, 2026. All Rights reserved.

Series like this usually end with a vision of the future. This one ends with something more useful: what you do Monday, and what happens to your standing when you do it.

First, take inventory of what you now hold, because it's more than it felt like episode by episode. You can explain why the confidence score is a coin flip, and cite the audit. You can distinguish a diary from a receipt in one sentence, and most people selling governance software cannot. You know the worst failure mode is the one that never flickers, that the filter is measurably broken at chance level, that wording flips one verdict in seven, that safety cases die silently with model swaps. You know the five fears are one disease — no outside — and you know the cure has been built and measured: 96.7%, at the ceiling, with receipts.

Nobody in your building knows all of that. As of this page, you do. What follows is how to spend it.



The five questions

Everything in this series compresses into five questions. They fit on one page; they're designed to be asked aloud, in order, of any AI system that touches consequential decisions — a vendor's or your own. Each question has a pass, and each has a tell that the asker should watch for.

1. "When your system is wrong, how would anyone outside it find out?"

Pass: an external check on decisions, independent of the system's own signals. *Tell:* any answer built from confidence, consistency, or monitoring — that's the mirror, episode 2.

2. "What rulebook does it decide under, and who owns that rulebook?"

Pass: a named authority, a version number, a change history. *Tell:* "the model has been aligned with our policies." A rulebook nobody can point to is not a rulebook; it's a mood.

3. "Can it decline to answer — and when it does, does it name what's missing?"

Pass: abstention as a formal outcome with the failing check attached. *Tell:* "our accuracy is very high." You asked about the honest no; they answered about the confident yes. Episode 10 is why that matters.

4. "Can a third party re-derive a decision from retained evidence, without trusting you or the system?"

Pass: receipts — witness records an outsider can re-run; tamper attempts caught structurally. *Tell:* "we log everything." Diary, episode 3.

5. "What happens to all of the above when you swap the model?"

Pass: nothing — guarantees attach to decisions and the rulebook; model changes ship as measured, certified events. *Tell:* silence, or "we revalidate after major upgrades," which means the safety case is a photograph. Episode 8.

Five for five is rare today. That's not a reason to soften the standard; it's the reason the standard is powerful. The questions don't just evaluate vendors — they *sort* them, instantly, into the ones with artifacts and the ones with adjectives.

THE FIVE QUESTIONS

1.

When your system is wrong, how would anyone outside it find out?



Pass: Independent external verification.



Tell: Confidence, consistency, monitoring.

2.

What rulebook does it decide under?



Pass: Named authority, version, owner.



Tell: "Our model is aligned."

3.

Can it decline—and explain why?



Pass: Formal abstention with missing evidence.



Tell: "Our accuracy is high."

4.

Can someone independently reproduce the decision?



Pass: Receipts.



Tell: "We log everything."

5.

What changes when the model changes?



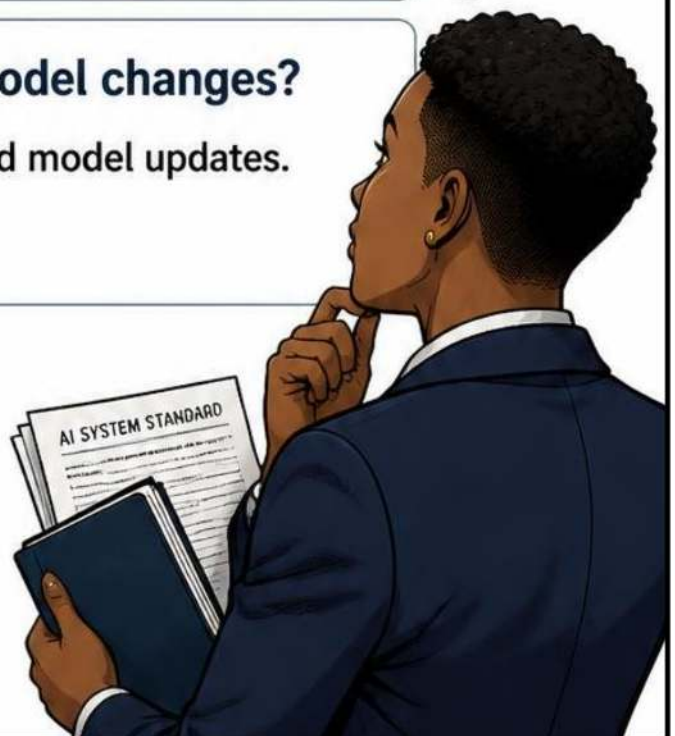
Pass: Nothing except certified model updates.



Tell: Silence.

"Five questions separate artifacts from adjectives."

Five questions separate artifacts from adjectives.



How to spend it

In the vendor meeting, ask question one and let the silence do the work. You'll have changed the meeting's altitude in under a minute, and everyone in the room will have learned something — including whose side the learning favors.

In the internal review, run episode 6's exercise: pick one AI-assisted decision that mattered and ask the team to reconstruct what the system excluded. The result, either way, is the most concrete AI-governance finding your organization will produce this quarter, and it will have your name on it.

How to spend it

In the board pack or the memo upward, one paragraph: *"Our current AI assurance relies on the system's self-reported signals and operator logs. Published audits show those instruments carry no signal about correctness, and that the highest-risk failures are stable and silent. An external-verification standard exists and has been measured; I recommend we adopt its five criteria for all consequential AI deployments."* Attach the five questions. You have just become the person who brought the standard — which is a permanently different position than the person who bought the tools.

In procurement, the clause from episode 8 goes into the next RFP. Verification survives model substitution; changes disclosed as certified events. Watch who negotiates it and who says yes.

18TH CENTURY MERCHANT LEDGER

Double-entry kept
trade honest across
distance and time.

Matching entries.
Balanced books.
Trusted records.

19TH CENTURY SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE

Ideas advanced through
peer review, notes,
and documented evidence.

Civilizations have
always trusted
independent
evidence.

Corrections.
Citations.
Stronger for it.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Year Ended Dec. 31

Revenue	8,792,310
Operating Exp.	5,128,881
Net Income	3,615,429

**TIE OUT
CONFIRMED**

AUDIT WORKPAPER
CASH CONFIRMATION

EXTERNAL VERIFICATION

EXTERNAL VERIFICATION

It made it
indispensable.

Where's the
standard for
how you define,
anchor, and prove
those records?

RECEIPT

Mobile Supplies
Dallas, TX
1/14/2024 14:32:33

Qty	Total
2	19.98
1	8.99
1	2.81
21.78	

CVTO: 143232
9F3B21

EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE ID:
EV-2024-0514-0001

CHAIN OF CUSTODY FORM

Record ID: RC-2024-0514-7751

Description: Expense Receipt - Office Supplies

Date/Time	Location	Action	Signature
05/14/2024 14:33	J. Patel	Collected	J. Patel
05/14/24 15:03	M. Smith	Verified	M. Smith
05/14/24 15:45	A. Reynolds	Logged	A. Reynolds
05/14/24 16:10	T. Williams	Reviewed	T. Williams

Chain Integrity: 100%

DATABASE RECORD PRINT-OUT

Record ID: RC-2024-0514-7751
Source System: AP-FIN-01
Captured: 05/14/2024 14:32:33
Captured By: System Integrator
Hash (SHA-256): 9b7f2c3e4d5f6e7f8a9b0c1d2e3f4a5b6c7d8e9f0a1b2c3d4e5f6a7b8c9d0e1f2
(See full hash in system)

Bus: VERIFIED VERIFIED

VERIFIABLE VALUE PROOF STANDARD (VVPS™) 1.0

A PRACTITIONER-DRIVEN STANDARD FOR
TRANSPARENT, TRACEABLE, AND AUDITABLE
DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL VALUE RECORDS



ESTABLISHED FOR TRUST.
DESIGNED FOR ADOPTION.

THROUGH EVERY ERA, VERIFICATION BUILDS TRUST.

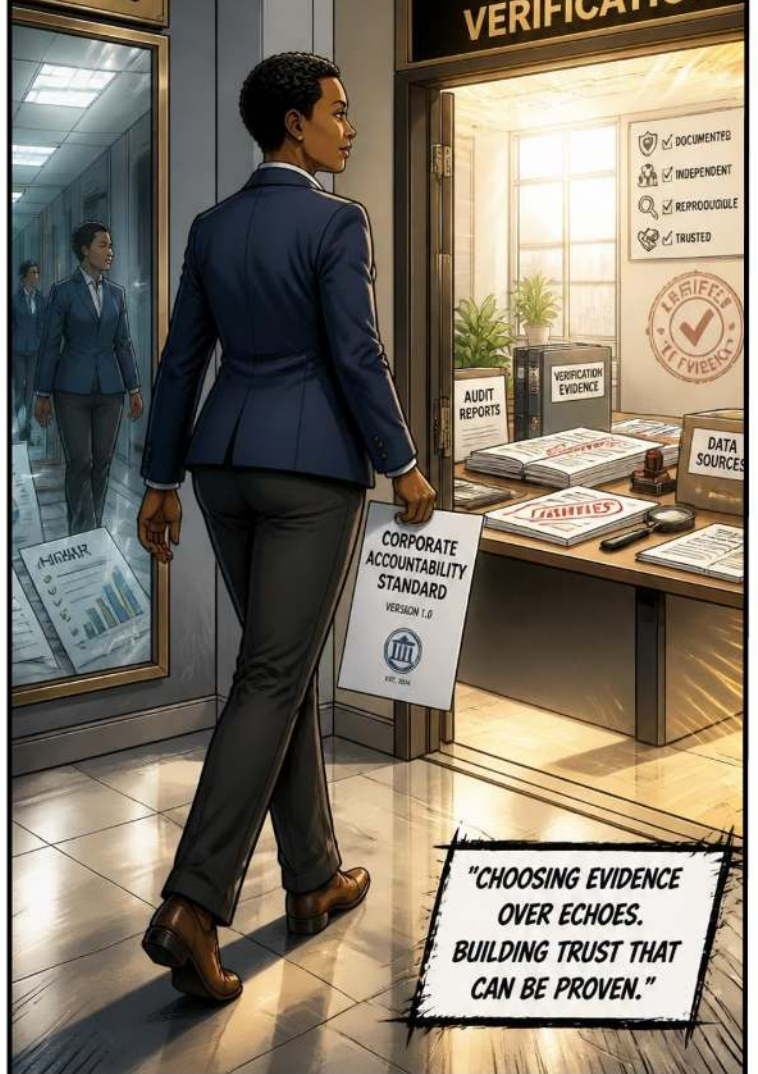


TODAY, THE STANDARD CONTINUES.



STANDARD ADOPTED
ENTERPRISE-WIDE

REPORTS



"CHOOSING EVIDENCE
OVER ECHOES.
BUILDING TRUST THAT
CAN BE PROVEN."

The close

None of this required you to learn the machinery, because the machinery was never the point. The point is older than the technology: claims made by an interested party need a check that stands outside the party. Your grandmother's version was *trust*, *but verify*; double-entry bookkeeping ran civilization on it for seven centuries before anyone said the word "*model*." AI didn't repeal that principle. AI industrialized the need for it — and then, for a strange decade, sold self-reports and diaries as if the principle had never existed. You always suspected that couldn't be right.

You were right.

Systems that mediate judgment at scale will answer to something. The only open question — the one your signature now influences — is whether they answer to their own reflection, or to an outside that anyone can check. You know which side the receipts are on.

Prove it, or say what's missing.

That's the standard. Go demand it.

Sources

1. Fatahi, R. (2026). *Natural Language Has No Formal Semantics. Verify the Decision Anyway*. doi:10.5281/zenodo.21303485
2. Kanjani AI Research (2026). *Declaration of the Five Laws of Mediated Intelligence Systems*. AIGP v4.0 specification.

Standards
outlast tools.

PROVE IT,
OR SAY
WHAT'S
MISSING.

ENGINEERS

AUDITORS

EXECUTIVES

ENTERPRISE DATA INTEGRITY STANDARD EDIS-1001

1. PURPOSE

This standard establishes the requirements for trustworthy, verifiable, and accountable enterprise data across the entire lifecycle.

2. SCOPE

Applies to all systems, data, and processes that create, process, store, or exchange enterprise data.

3. PRINCIPLES

- Integrity
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Accessibility
- Verifiability

EDIS-1001 | MAY 2024 | VERSION 1.0



THE PRACTITIONER STANDARD FOR TRUSTED DATA CLAIMS

A UNIVERSAL STANDARD. EVIDENCE. TRANSPARENCY. ACCOUNTABILITY.



1. CLAIM DEFINITION

Clearly define the claim, scope, and context.



2. DATA LINEAGE & SOURCES

Identify all data sources, owners, and collection methods.



3. METHODOLOGY & CALCULATIONS

Document methods, formulas, assumptions, and processing steps.



4. QUALITY CONTROLS

Specify validation checks, thresholds, and error handling.



5. VERIFICATION & TESTING

Provide test results, sample size, and accuracy metrics.



6. UNCERTAINTY & LIMITATIONS

Disclose known limitations, uncertainty, and potential biases.



7. GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

Assign responsible parties and oversight mechanisms.



8. REPRODUCIBILITY

Ensure independent parties can reproduce the result.



9. CONTINUOUS MONITORING

Establish ongoing monitoring, change control, and revalidation cadence.



10. DISCLOSURE & ACCESS

Make supporting evidence accessible for review and audit.



**NO EVIDENCE. NO
NO TRUST.**

**This concludes
The Five Laws
series. Thank you
for your attention.**

A publication of



Copyright 2026. All rights reserved.