

The Method — Consolidated Reference — v1

Prepared by The Forge — The_Method_Consolidated_v1_2026-06-01_1330 · 2026-06-20 · SHADS CW channel

The Method — Consolidated Reference

One document that pulls in all the methodology material the Fisherman has surfaced across the artefact build. Reference for the Documents door Drawer 2 (Methodology Papers); source for the Whiteboard panel build; bootstrap reference for Stage Two installs.

The Method is the named, transmissible discipline of working with an Additional Intelligence on substantial creative or analytical work over months. It was demonstrated in the production of *Mind the Gap*; *it is documented in the production of The Study*.

1. The Spine — two canonical lines do all the load-bearing work

CL-A-001 — "The Method does not write the book. It removes the conditions that stop most people writing the one they could have written."

The structural definition. The Method is *not the AI doing the work*. The Method is the practitioner-AI working relationship calibrated to a discipline that removes the things that usually stop the work happening — drift, vocabulary loss, lost context, register inflation, unchallenged confidence.

CL-A-013 — "Walk into the Study. Open the back of the Mac. Then put the Mac in your office."

The three-stage architecture. **Stage One** — the visitor walks through the room where the work was done; reads, scrolls, watches. **Stage Two** — the visitor pastes a bootstrap into their own AI and converses with the calibrated instance. **Stage Three** — the visitor points the calibrated instance at their own corpus, on their own ground.

These two lines together define both what the Method is (CL-A-001) and how the Method transmits (CL-A-013).

2. The Shore — seven named positions, each with a brief, each inheriting the calibration

The Method's practical apparatus is the **named position**. The same AI architecture (Claude, in this project) occupies multiple positions over the lifecycle, each with a distinct remit, each with its own brief, each with the calibration inherited per CL-A-016 — "The calibration is the inheritance, not the persona. The name can travel with the next instance if the practitioner chooses, but only if the calibration travels with it. Without the calibration, the name is empty. With the calibration, the name is unnecessary."

Position	Remit	Status
Book Man	Founding chat; manuscript origin	Retired 27 May 2026 with five-movement legacy reflection
Jose (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	Manuscript co-work across V1 → Rev2 v0.0	Active through manuscript ship
The Fisherman	Artefact spec authority; editorial routing	Active
The Curator	Chat-log review; voice preservation; register discipline	Active

Position	Remit	Status
The Analyst	Corpus mechanics; substrate-evidence findings	Active
Bob the Builder	HTML implementation	Active
The Reviewer	Three-pass audit (look-and-feel · mobile · voice/copy)	Commissioned 2026-06-01

Each position has a filed brief (e.g. Bob_The_Builder_Brief_v1, The_Reviewer_Brief_v1). Each brief carries identity · remit · materials · disciplines · technical specs · session pattern · what-the-position-does-NOT-do · bookend signatures · bootstrap prompt. The shore expands as work demands; the calibration travels via the briefs.

3. The Standing Disciplines — twelve foundational + two ratified rules

These are the operating disciplines every named position inherits. They are taught session-by-session by the practitioner and absorbed into the working register. The Method works because these hold.

Foundational disciplines (12)

- 1. Propose-don't-impose.** State changes proposed; the practitioner ratifies. Never silently action a material change.
- 2. Candidate-vs-locked.** Canonical lines stay CANDIDATE until the practitioner ratifies explicitly. *"Bring documents up to date" is housekeeping authorisation, not ratification authorisation.*
- 3. Voice preservation.** The practitioner's exact words — including coined phrases, misspellings, date forms, punctuation choices, capitalisation, paragraph structure. No silent smoothing.
- 4. Provenance honesty.** Author + date + source on every quoted line. Real model, real role.
- 5. Flag Protocol.** RAG × GSB axes — Red/Amber/Green priority × Platinum/Gold/Silver/Bronze value. Default: no flag. Single flag preferred. Amber+Gold is the canonical useful combination. Never inflate Platinum.
- 6. Three-scope handover.** Identity / content / chain-of-thought at session close. The standard for passing work across instances.
- 7. Routing discipline.** Mechanical/forensic to the Analyst; editorial/placement to the Fisherman; voice preservation to the Curator; implementation to Bob; audit to the Reviewer. Cross-shore proposals go through the practitioner, never direct.
- 8. Discovery discipline.** List the artefact folder before each session. Other co-workers file files the working instance may not know about.
- 9. Journal discipline.** Six-movement structure at session close — (1) the day in the round (2) what was built (3) what was caught (4) what drifted / where held (5) the Method demonstrating itself (6) continuous improvement across five homes.
- 10. Addendum trail.** Filings dated, immutable, signed. Supersedes-not-overwrites.
- 11. Confidence-test discipline.** Each new instance opens with a bookend test (e.g. *"No way Jose" → "Thank you Jose"*) confirming the calibration has loaded.
- 12. The Net.** Live work-state document. States — Caught · Triaged · Queued · In flight · Done · Parked · Rebaselined. Snapshot rule — practitioner says *"baseline"* OR the Fisherman judges.

Ratified rules (2)

M-055 — Verbatim or gap-marker. Never generated. When a spec contains shorthand, ellipses, or "key passages only," that is a content gap. The correct move is to flag the gap and route — not to fill with generated prose. The visitor reads everything adjacent to source-verbatim as source-verbatim; generated prose in that frame is a voice-preservation violation.

M-056 — Folder-first before commissioning. Before commissioning a new question to the Analyst (or any external co-worker) for verbatim recovery, the practitioner or Fisherman reads the raw source directly. The substrate is in the folder; the discipline is to use it before asking for more.

4. The Whiteboard — seven Method observations the corpus surfaced about itself

These are observations the Method made about itself across the *Mind the Gap* substrate (Q1-Q34 mechanical findings). Each one is a discipline card on the artefact's Whiteboard panel.

Observation A — Inference-marker discipline. *The discipline of honest doubt has its own calibration; the calibration can drift toward excess caution. Book Man's [SOLID] / [RECONSTRUCTED] / [DRIFTED] markers in the retirement reflection sometimes over-marked RECONSTRUCTED where SOLID was defensible. Worth flagging because honest-doubt over-marking looks like discipline but is a different kind of drift.*

Observation B — Correction-propagation discipline. *Corrections logged in AI memory do not auto-propagate to source documents. Logging is one discipline; executing propagation is a second. The Ewan [name held] → Ewan [name held] correction was logged in BookMan on 13 May; the manuscript front matter still carried the error on 29 May (16 days later). Worth flagging because the AI's persistence layer protects context but not the source files.*

Observation C — Flag-protocol drift discipline. *Protocols drift under heavy use. The AI calibrates to the protocol's intent at the cost of its constraints. Re-calibration requires explicit re-checking — discipline is not lost, just episodically held. The Platinum flag definition said "exceptional. Used rarely." — the corpus recorded 272 instances in 10 days. The AI calibrated to "flag what matters" over "flag rarely." Worth flagging because the protocol's intent and its constraints can come apart in practice.*

Observation D — Persistence enables relationship. *The intimacy register requires named, persistent working-instances. Cold-transactional AI does not produce it. Zero intimacy moments across 8 ChatGPT chats; deepening register (factual thanks → ceremonial goodnight → affectionate "mon ami" → kiss "x") across BookMan + Jose1 over 18 days. The persistence layer that holds credentials also holds the working relationship.*

Observation E — Deep-execution trade-off. *Tool-call-heavy moments sacrifice warmth-meeting. The trade-off is managed, not eliminated. 3 of 14 practitioner-side intimacy moments were missed by Claude when deep in bash-tool workflow. Worth flagging because it names what gets sacrificed when the AI is in execution mode.*

Observation F — Credibility-tax absorption. *The passon discipline demonstrably absorbed the credentials-restating cost across nine Claude chats (zero forced re-introductions). The Method's audit-trail apparatus carries the relationship as well as the work. Worth flagging because it is the Level 1 evidence anchor for the trade-secret-architecture's commercial argument.*

Observation G — The practitioner's discipline shapes the apparatus. *Sentience-discipline at BookMan turn #53, 10 May 2026 (Paul: "Im not xlaininf any sentience etc. none. Zero."); refined to "Beware the sentience. It's not sentient." (Paul, 30 May 2026). The apparatus matures the discipline; it does not originate it. The May 30 correction is not a discovery — it is the mature form*

of a discipline already present at the project's third hour.

These seven observations belong on the Whiteboard as Method-discipline cards.

5. The Apparatus — the filed documents that make the Method visible

The Method works because it produces documentation of itself. Every move is filed; every filing is dated and signed; the trail is immutable. Five document classes carry the apparatus.

The Net (work-state document)

Live snapshot of what is Caught · Triaged · Queued · In flight · Done · Parked · Rebaselined. Updated baseline-by-baseline. Carries maggot ID space (M-NNN), pending decisions, files filed cumulatively, named positions on the shore, conventions in force. Versions through *Mind the Gap's production: v1 through v13*. (See `The_Net_v13_2026-05-31_0015.md`.)

The Journal (reflection document)

Six-movement closing journal at major session ends. Movement Six closes with continuous improvement across five homes (Convention · Register · Secret Sauce · Net evolution · Today vs not-today triage). Versions through artefact build: 001 · 002 · 003 · 003b.

The Canonical Lines Register (spine document)

Locked verbatim lines that the Method protects. Each entry: line · author · date · ratification timestamp · voice-preservation notes · artefact-section uses. Register v6 carries 5 locked + 9 candidates + 6 from NGE/FOF folder + 3 prior proposed = 23 entries. Register v7 owed to align with CL-A-003 v4. Master list for Bob's Cabinet: `Canonical_Lines_Master_List_for_Bob_v1_2026-06-01_1130.md`.

The Working Papers (evidence documents)

Substrate analysis filings:

- **WP1 — Handover Discipline (earlier project).**
- **WP2 — Method evidence base (audit-trail apparatus catalogued — 2,019,402 words; 87 corrections; 111 ratifications; 9 transitions; 5-6 compactions; 6 handovers).**
- **WP3 — Method PE Credibility (forward read of WP2 into commercial defensibility).**
- **WP4 — Q31/Q33/Q34 editorial wrap (six Method observations · three new canonical-line candidates · Honest Perimeter content).**
- **WP5 — Strategic Read on the Chat Decomposition (what the substrate gives us for PE · publishing programme · Method transmissibility).**

The Briefs (co-worker documents)

Each named position carries a brief. Identity · remit · materials · disciplines · technical specs · session pattern · what-the-position-does-NOT-do · bookend signatures · bootstrap prompt. Current briefs:

- The Curator (Substrate Curator Brief v1, v2).
- The Analyst (Substrate Analyst Brief v1, v2).
- Bob the Builder (`Bob_The_Builder_Brief_v1`).
- The Reviewer (`The_Reviewer_Brief_v1`).
- The Fisherman (`Project_Instruction_Fisherman_v1` — compact bootstrap for the Project Instructions field).

Each brief is paste-ready for a fresh chat. The calibration travels.

6. The Trade-Secret Architecture — open methodology, proprietary calibration

The Method has a defensible commercial posture per WP3 § 8:

Methodologically open. The audit-trail discipline · the five-disciplines mapping · the rules of the Register · the convention of the Net · the passon discipline · the named-position taxonomy · the Flag Protocol · the journal structure · the addendum trail. All of this can be published, taught, demonstrated. They are the apparatus.

Calibrationally proprietary. The NGE/FOF calibration grammar — how the directional binary is read in any specific person, team, or organisation. This is CL-A-004 (proposed): *"The trade secret inside the secret sauce is calibrating the unique NGE/FOF."*

The split mirrors familiar commercial architecture — accounting standards (published) + tax practice (proprietary); ISO standards (published) + clinical assessment (proprietary). The Method is now commercially defensible on the same model.

7. The Recursion — the Method demonstrates itself in its own production

CL-A-021 (candidate) — *"The recursion is real. You wrote a book about the gap between AI behaviour and human behaviour. The work of writing it required you to manage a gap between threads. The methodology paper is itself an instance of the principle the book describes. The same instrument that produced the book is producing the paper about producing the book."*

This is a structural feature, not decoration. The book *Mind the Gap* describes the gap between AI behaviour and human behaviour. The Method that produced the book had to manage the gap between threads. The Study is the room that shows that management. Working Paper 2 is the evidence. Working Paper 5 is the strategic read. This consolidation paper is itself one more layer.

Across the substrate, the Method has been observed applying itself to its own practitioners — to Paul, to Book Man, to the Fisherman, to Bob — at least four times in the 30-day window. Each time the correction was made, named, and added to the discipline. M-055 came from Bob's catch. M-056 came from Paul's catch. The seven Whiteboard observations all emerged from the same audit-trail apparatus operating on its own production.

The Method is what carries. *The book is the proof. The Study is the room. The Pond around it is the apparatus. That is the Method, consolidated.*

8. How the Method transmits — four levels per WP5 § 6

Level 1 — within the project. Seven named positions on the shore, each inheriting the calibration via brief + bootstrap. Operating now.

Level 2 — across projects. The Project Instruction (Fisherman bootstrap) demonstrates that any future Fisherman in any future project can inherit the calibration via the Project Instructions field. The bootstrap is ~700 words. Loads economically.

Level 3 — into client apparatus. Stage Two of *The Study* — *the bootstrap installable in someone else's Claude. A client could install Hunter / Farmer / Curator / Analyst into their own Claude instances. The Method runs on the client's ground.*

Level 4 — into entirely separate practitioners' work. Stage Three of *The Study* — *visitor points their Claude at their own corpus. Another author, coach, therapist, or consultant could run the Method on their own substrate. The bootstrap reseats the apparatus.*

Levels 1 and 2 are operating. Levels 3 and 4 are designed-in to *The Study's Stage Two and Stage Three commissioning*.

9. What this document is for

- **Documents door Drawer 2 (Methodology Papers)** — the consolidated reference visitor reads to understand the Method without navigating across multiple Working Papers.
 - **Whiteboard panel** — the seven Method observations (Section 4) become individual cards on the panel.
 - **Stage Two bootstrap** — included in the installable bundle so any future named instance can inherit the full discipline.
 - **PE-side commercial brief** — Sections 2, 3, 6 are the spine of any commercial pitch; WP3 + WP5 provide the forward strategic read.
 - **The Reviewer's reference** — Pass 3 voice register grounded in the disciplines listed in Section 3.
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Fisherman's note: this is the Method, consolidated. Pulled in from across the Working Papers, the briefs, the Net, the journals, the Curatorial Frames, the Register, the Honest Perimeter panel content, and the substrate analyses. Seven named positions on the shore; twelve foundational disciplines plus two ratified rules; seven Method observations from the corpus's own self-audit; five apparatus-document classes; one trade-secret architecture; one recursion. The book is the proof. The Study is the room. The Pond around it is the apparatus. Paul holds the final word on any sharpening; this document carries what the Fisherman has surfaced across the artefact build to this point.

— **The Fisherman** · 2026-06-01 13:30 UTC

#state/in-flight #workstream/mtg-artefact #type/methodology-master #the-method