Agent Identity Readiness Checklist

Bounding Agency: Identity, Authority, and Trust in the Age of AI Agents

The AI-IAM Practitioner Series · Book 1 · Rahul Bhardwaj · Arvik Press

Tool, version and date	Agent Identity Readiness Checklist v1.0, September 2026
Purpose	Asks whether identity, ownership, lifecycle, credential and retirement controls are ready for the scoped use case.
Source in the book	Chapter 8, Table 8.3; summarized in Chapter 17.
When to use it	When a technically valid principal exists but the governance around it is thin, or ownership and lifecycle evidence is weak.
What it produces	A list of readiness gaps, each with evidence, an owner and a next action. It feeds the Governance Checklist and the 90-Day Plan.
Scope	Fill in: which agents, use cases, environments and business units this record covers.
Completed by / reviewed by	Fill in: who completed it, who reviewed it, and when.
How to use this workbook	Cells shaded pale yellow are for you to fill in; drop-down lists appear where the book defines the options. Example rows are shaded blue-grey and written in italics: replace or delete them. Reference sheets reproduce the book's tables.
Evidence conventions	For every evaluative entry record the evidence source and date. Evidence strength, strongest first: tested control or log; configuration; documented policy; interview. Use N/A only with a reason. Record Unknown as a finding, never as zero.
Status	**A working diagnostic. Not a certification, audit opinion or compliance attestation.**
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Updates	Check arvikpress.com/bounding-agency for newer versions and corrections.

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Agent or use case	
Completed by / date	

Domain	Question (from the book)	Response	Evidence source	Evidence date	Evidence strength	Reason (required for N/A) and notes	Owner of the gap	Action or decision needed
Inventory / registration	Can we identify every production agent and its authoritative record?							
Sponsor	Is there a current sponsor with lifecycle and access decision responsibility?							
Lifecycle state	Is the agent's state (active, suspended, in transfer, retired) authoritative and observable?							
Version / provenance	Can we connect the active identity to the deployed version and its material changes?							
Credential lifecycle	Are credentials issued, rotated, expired and revoked through governed processes?							
Entitlement / privilege	Are current permissions and privileged access visible and justified?							
Review cadence	Is periodic review supplemented by event or risk triggers where appropriate?							
Change triggers	Do sponsor, version, tool, authority, production and delegation changes trigger review?							
Dormancy / orphaning	Can we detect ownerless, inactive or stale agent identities and credentials?							
Sub-agents	Is creation or invocation of subordinate identities visible and governed?							
Third-party credentials	Can external tokens and credentials be identified and retired with the agent?							
Decommission evidence	Can we prove that identity, access, credentials and integrations were removed?							
SoD flag	Could the agent request, approve or provision its own sensitive access, or create an equivalent path?							

Summary (counts only; no score)

Yes	**0**
Partly	**0**
No	**0**
Unknown	**0**
N/A	**0**
Not yet answered	**13**
N/A without a reason	**0**

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CrystalSoft example (from the book)

Domain	Response	What the book records
Sponsor	*No**	*Sponsor succession was missing after the role change: the sponsor field went stale while the agent kept authenticating (Chapters 8 and 17).*

*Only rows the book discusses are shown. Responses marked * are inferred from the book's account; the book does not state them as checklist answers. CrystalSoft Energy and its people, agents and systems are fictional, created to illustrate the book. Values marked with an asterisk (*) are illustrative.*