Agent Authority & Delegation Assessment

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 Authority & Delegation Assessment v1.0, September 2026
Purpose	Follows authority hop by hop: who passes what to whom, how it is narrowed, what carries it, what revokes it and what evidence survives.
Source in the book	Chapter 7 (Table 7.1, worked example); per-hop fields in Chapter 17, Table 17.3.
When to use it	For agents that act for users, invoke other agents or cross trust boundaries; not for every assistant.
What it produces	One row per hop, grouped by chain. Its value is in the questions it leaves open: it should expose an unresolved revocation dependency, not force a green answer.
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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Examples	Hops row 2 is the CrystalSoft example from Table 7.1. CrystalSoft Energy and its people, agents and systems are fictional, created to illustrate the book. Values marked with an asterisk (*) are illustrative.

Chain / use case	Hop #	Delegator and delegate	Purpose or task	Actor and subject	Initial and delegated scope	Narrowing	Redelegation	Credential and expiry	Revocation path	Provenance retained	Cross-domain boundary	Approvals and outcome	Evidence source and date	Open questions
Priya's duplicate-charge task	*2*	*Billing Resolution Agent → Payments Agent*	*Correct this customer's $184.20 duplicate charge*	*Payments Agent / Priya, with the Billing Resolution Agent as prior actor*	*Initial: standing permission to request credits up to $500. Delegated: post one credit, this customer, up to $184.20, this task*	*Amount, customer, count and time narrowed from the standing permission*	*Not allowed beyond the billing platform call**	*Exchanged task token; ten minutes**	*Payments Agent introspects each request; the platform token is revoked separately**	*Subject, actors, task ID, amount, decision, timestamps*	*Yes, at the billing platform API*	*None at $184.20; a human approver above $500. Outcome: credit posted; recorded against the task*	*Book example (Table 7.1)*	*Does upstream revocation reach the credential at the billing platform? (It does not cascade: Chapter 7.)*

Table 17.3 — Agent Authority & Delegation Assessment (v1.0): Per-Hop Fields

Field	What to record
Delegator and delegate	Who passes authority to whom at this hop
Purpose or task	The task the authority serves
Actor and subject	Who acts; on whose behalf
Initial and delegated scope	The authority available, and what is passed on
Narrowing	How the authority is attenuated at this hop
Redelegation	Whether it is allowed and, if policy defines one, the permitted limit
Credential and expiry	What credential carries the authority, and for how long
Revocation path	What revokes it, and whether upstream revocation reaches it
Provenance retained	What evidence of the chain survives this hop
Cross-domain boundary	Whether the hop leaves the organization’s control
Approvals and outcome	Required approvals; what actually happened