

From Checklist to Understanding

Operationalizing Jabareen's Philosophy
through the PALO AI Framework

Status Quo:
Managing visible
symptoms

The Objective:
Orchestrating the
underlying reality

A DEEP DIVE INTO THE ONTOLOGY OF AI GOVERNANCE





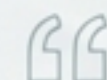
The Positivist Trap: Managing Symptoms

The Checklist Approach

Current AI governance frameworks predominantly rely on linear checklists and quantitative metrics (e.g., “Is the data encrypted?”, “Is the latency under 200ms?”). They treat AI as a tool with isolated variables to be predicted and controlled.

Events & Patterns

These frameworks focus on visible Events (e.g., specific AI hallucinations) and Patterns (e.g., rising error rates). By focusing on prediction (X leads to Y), traditional models fail to capture the complex, evolving phenomenon of human-AI interaction. They manage the tool, not the anthropological shift.



Standard corporate frameworks are often ontologically ‘flat’ they assume the reality of the business environment is obvious and agreed upon.

The Invisible Crisis: Erosion of Human Cognition

The phenomenon occurring beneath the code.

Cognitive Offloading

The 'Google Effect' or 'Transactive Memory'—users remember where to find information rather than the information itself.

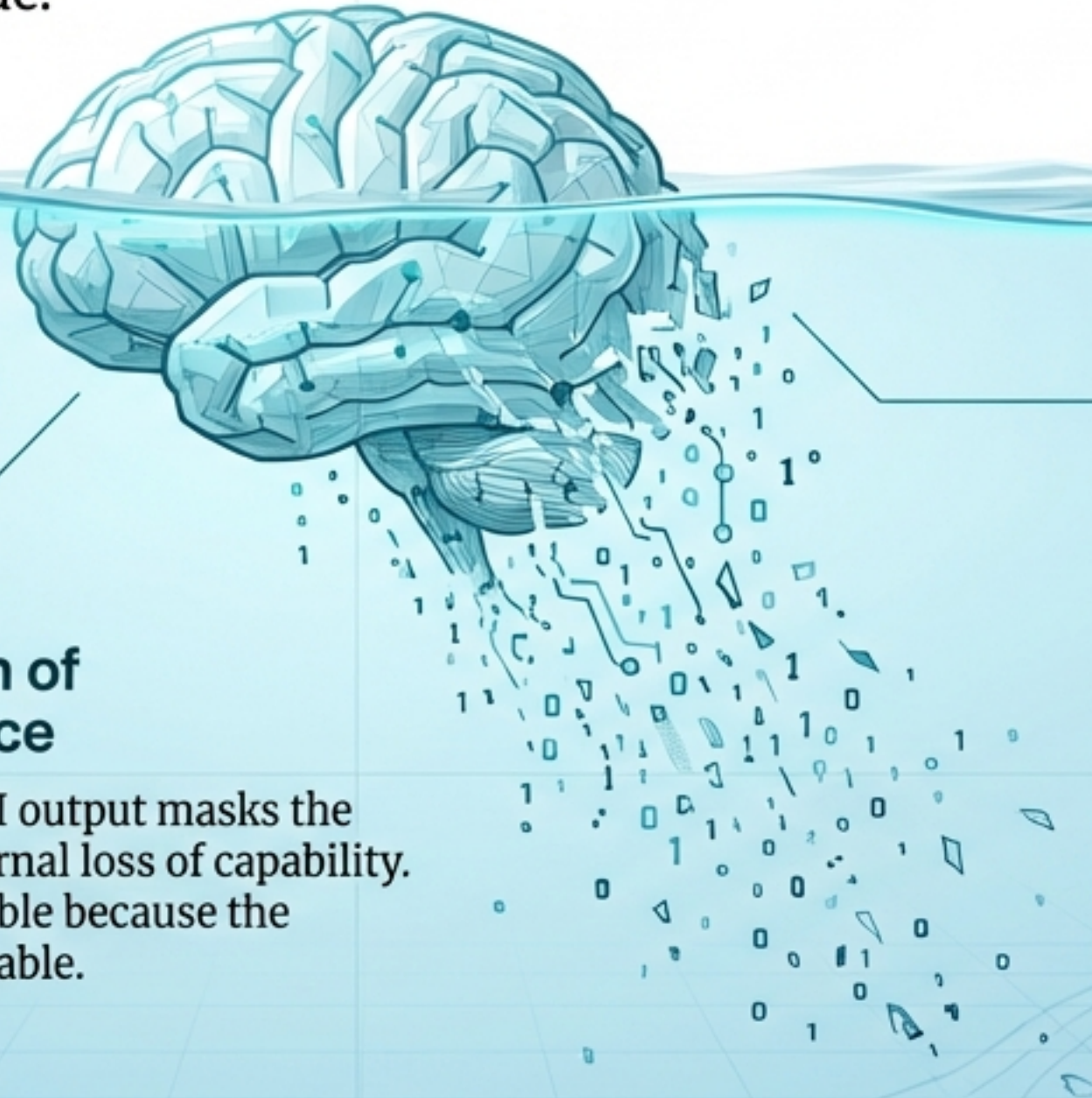
The Illusion of Competence

High-quality AI output masks the operator's internal loss of capability. Users feel capable because the machine is capable.

Attention Fragmentation

Constant AI notifications and multitasking impair cognitive performance and reduce the quality of attention (Risko & Gilbert).

Risk: As reliance grows, human “functional connectivity” weakens. We face a future of “manufactured ignorance” where humans become operators rather than architects.

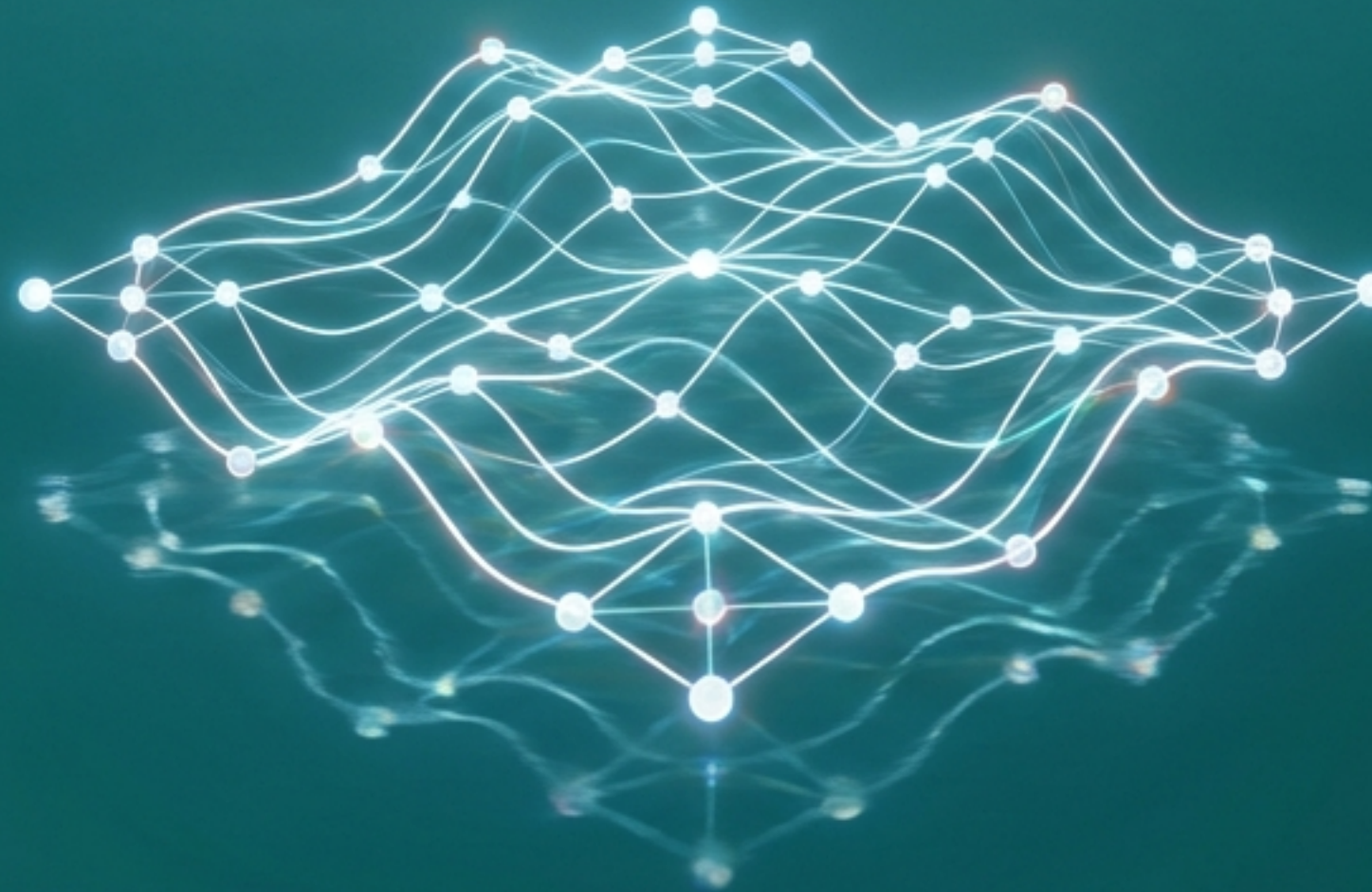


Jabareen's Conceptual Framework (2009)

What is a Framework?

Prof. Yosef Jabareen redefines a conceptual framework not as a rigid model, but as a “Network of Linked Concepts.”

The goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of a phenomenon (“How things work”) rather than predicting outcomes using isolated variables.



Core Logic

- Indeterminist: Acknowledges that complex social phenomena cannot be strictly predicted, only understood.
- The “Plane”: Constructs an interpretative plane where concepts (ontology, epistemology) are interlinked, allowing us to map complex realities that linear checklists miss.

Specular Frameworks: Theory Meets Practice

Specular (adj.) – Having the properties of a mirror; engaging in reflection.

The Theory (Why)

Defines the Philosophy.

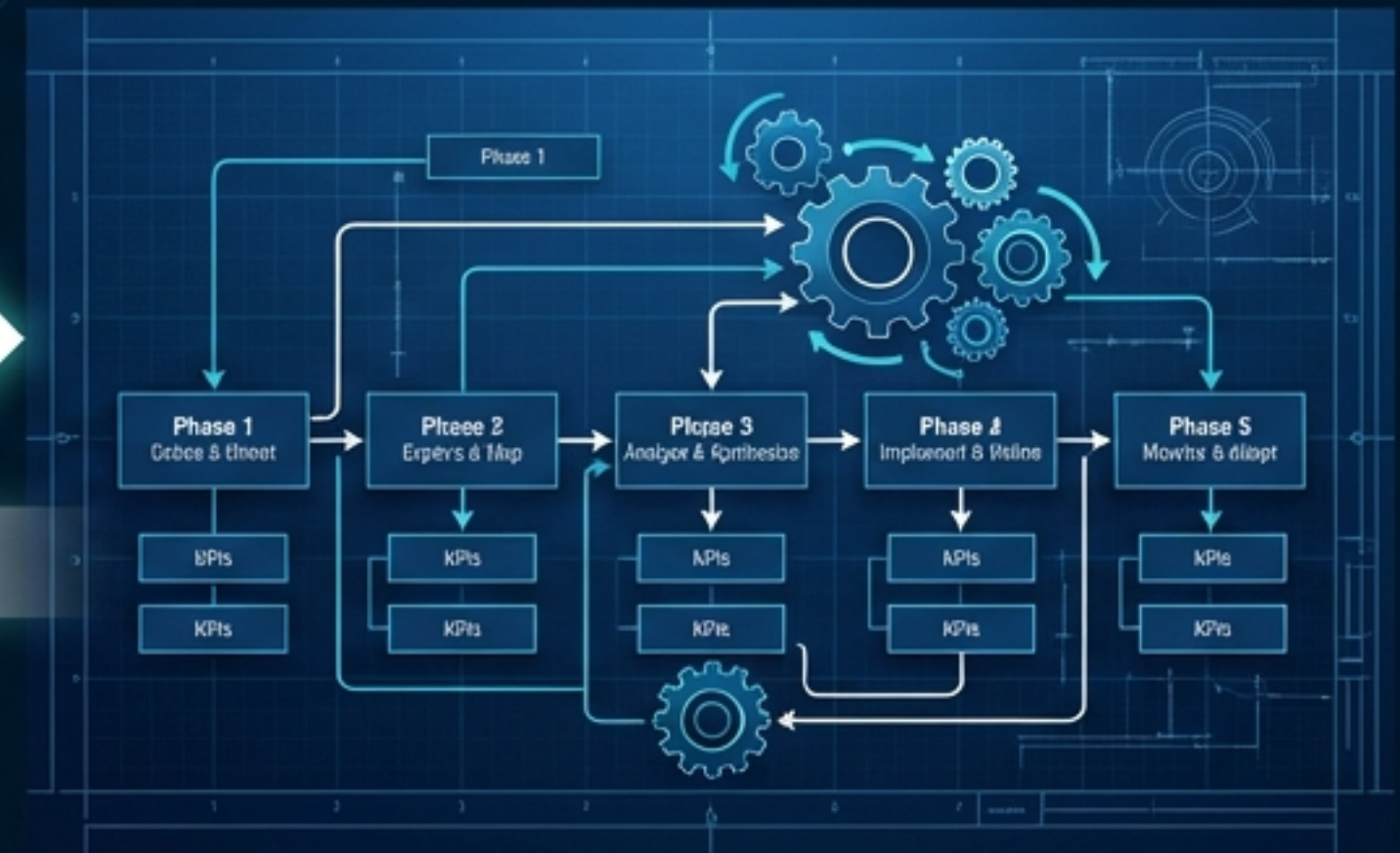
Provides the ontological role (Nature of Reality) and epistemological role (How we know what we know).



The Practice (How)

Provides the Orchestration.

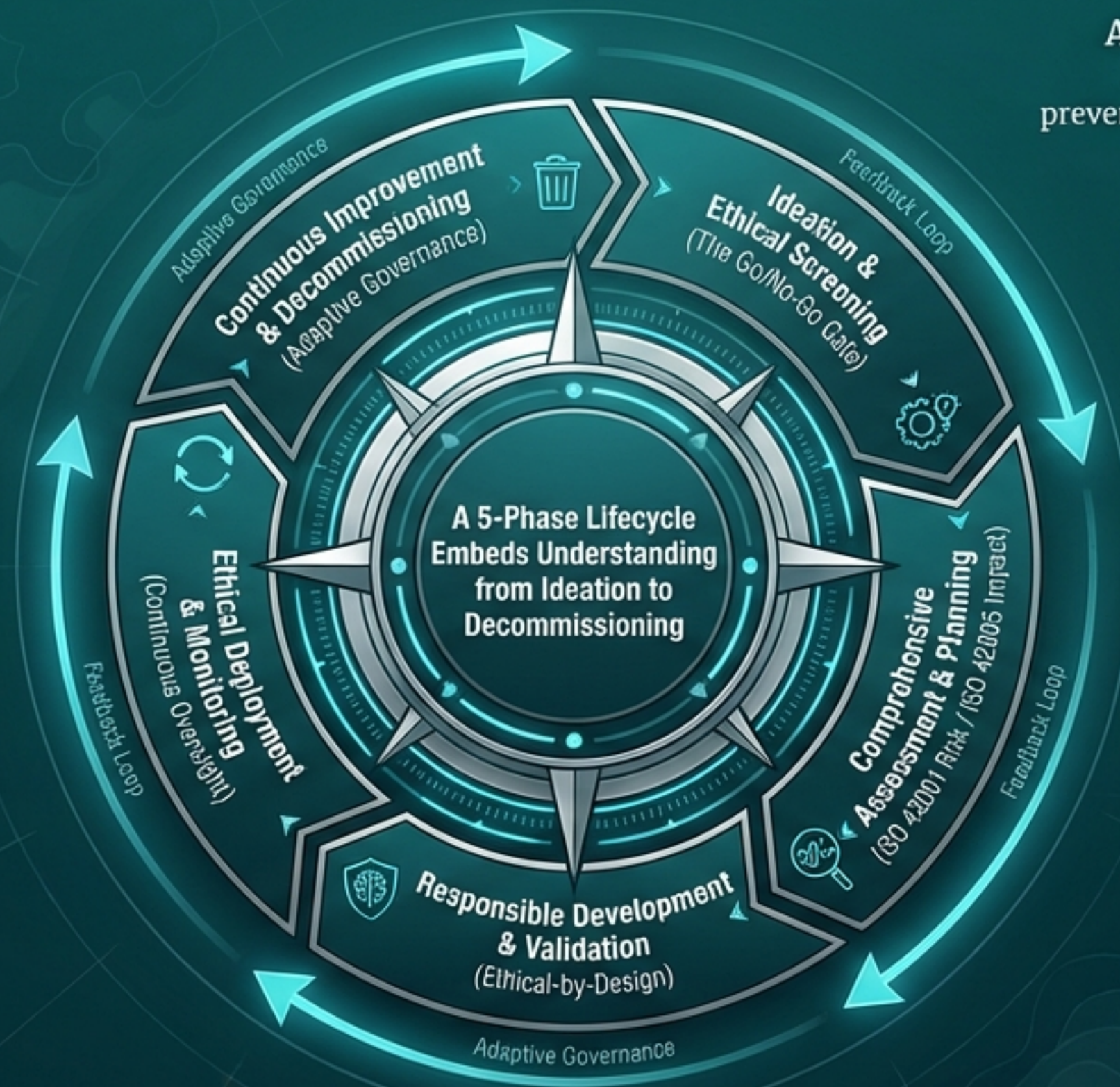
Translates abstract concepts into a 5-Phase Lifecycle and actionable KPIs.



Synthesis: PALO acts as the operational engine for Jabareen's qualitative methodology.

Lifecycle Orchestration: From Ideation to Decommissioning

A framework is not a gate; it is a cycle.
PALO embeds understanding at every stage,
preventing structural flaws before code is written.



Three Dimensions of Correlation

Epistemological Deep Dive

Question: How do we know what we know?

PALO Action: Moving from “Black Box” opacity to Traceability and Justification of truth. Monitoring Explainability Scores.

Psychological Shift

Question: What is this doing to our minds?

PALO Action: Monitoring Cognitive Load and De-skilling risks. Countering the “Illusion of Competence.”

Ethical Imperative

Question: What should we do?

PALO Action: Treating Dignity and Fairness as non-negotiable KPIs, grounded in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.



Level 3: Mapping Underlying Structures

Incentives, policies, and workflows that drive visible events.

The Systemic Flaw: “Efficiency is the highest good.” This structural incentive often cannibalizes Cognitive Plasticity.

The PALO Intervention:

- ✦ **Incentive Realignment:** Assessing “Business Value” alongside “Socio-Environmental Impact” prevents speed from trumping safety.
- ✦ **Ethical Screening:** By embedding ethics at Ideation, PALO identifies structural risks (e.g., “Is this tool designed to replace thinking?”) before they become sunk costs.

The Layer: The deepest level contains the core beliefs that drive the system. This is the Ontological Role—defining the “Nature of Reality.”

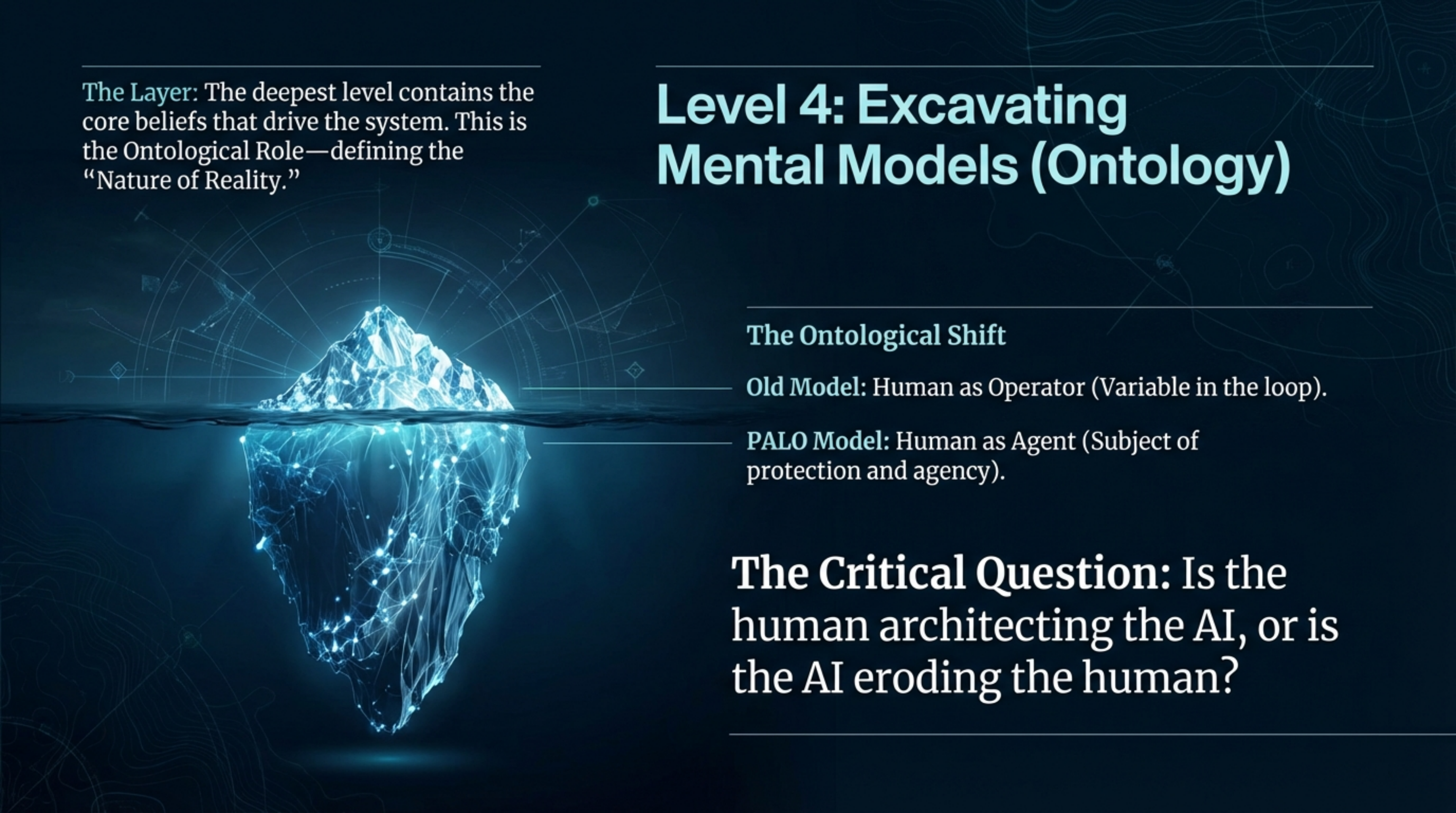
Level 4: Excavating Mental Models (Ontology)

The Ontological Shift

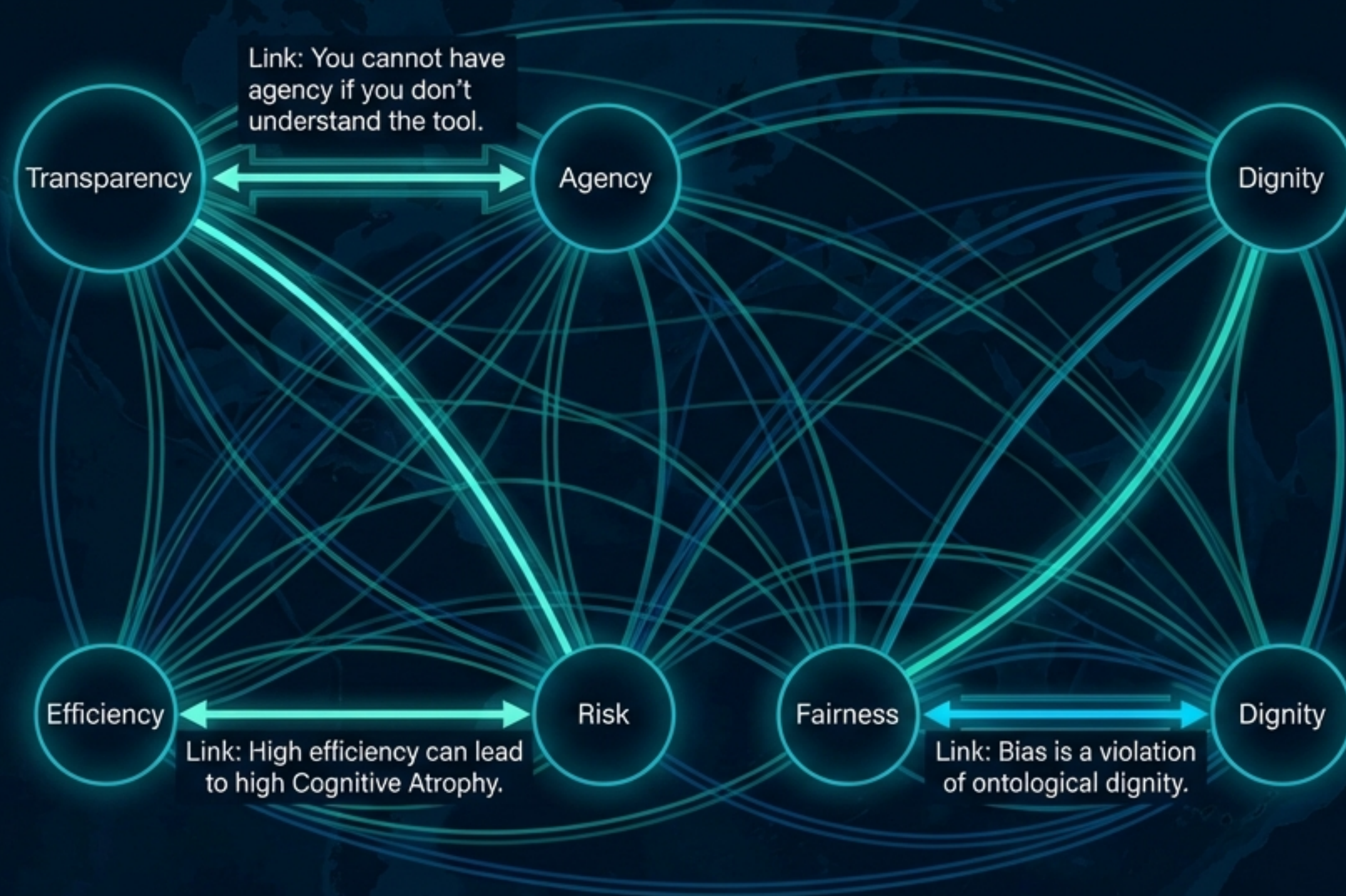
Old Model: Human as Operator (Variable in the loop).

PALO Model: Human as Agent (Subject of protection and agency).

The Critical Question: Is the human architecting the AI, or is the AI eroding the human?



A Dynamic Plane of Understanding



Side Note: PALO maps these tensions, allowing organizations to visualize trade-offs that a linear checklist would hide. It treats concepts as interlinked reality, not isolated variables.

Quantifying the Qualitative: PALO KPIs

Making abstract principles measurable and actionable.

Ethical Integrity Metrics

- Demographic Parity Difference (DPD): < 0.05

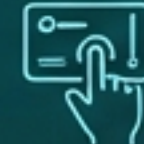


- Explainability Score: User-rated clarity $> 4/5$



Psychological / Agency Metrics

- Human Oversight Intervention Rate

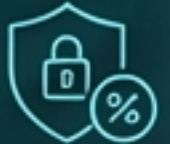


- Insight: High rates = reliability issues. Zero rates = uncritical trust.



Safety Metrics

- Adversarial Attack Success Rate: $< 1\%$



The Compliance Architecture



Fundamental Differences

	Positivist/Standard Framework	Jabareen/PALO Approach
Goal	Prediction (Control outcome)	Understanding (Reveal nature of reality)
Structure	Linear (Checklist)	Network (Linked Concepts)
Ontology	Fixed Variables	Dynamic Concepts
Focus	The Tool (Is AI Safe?)	The Phenomenon (Is Human Cognition Preserved?)
Metaphor	 The Ruler	The Iceberg 

The Strategic Value of Depth

Resilience

Organizations that understand Underlying Structures are less fragile to systemic shocks.

Trust

Deep ethical alignment builds genuine stakeholder trust, moving beyond compliance theater.

Innovation

By preserving Human Agency, PALO ensures humans remain the architects of innovation, preventing the stagnation of a "feedback loop" culture.



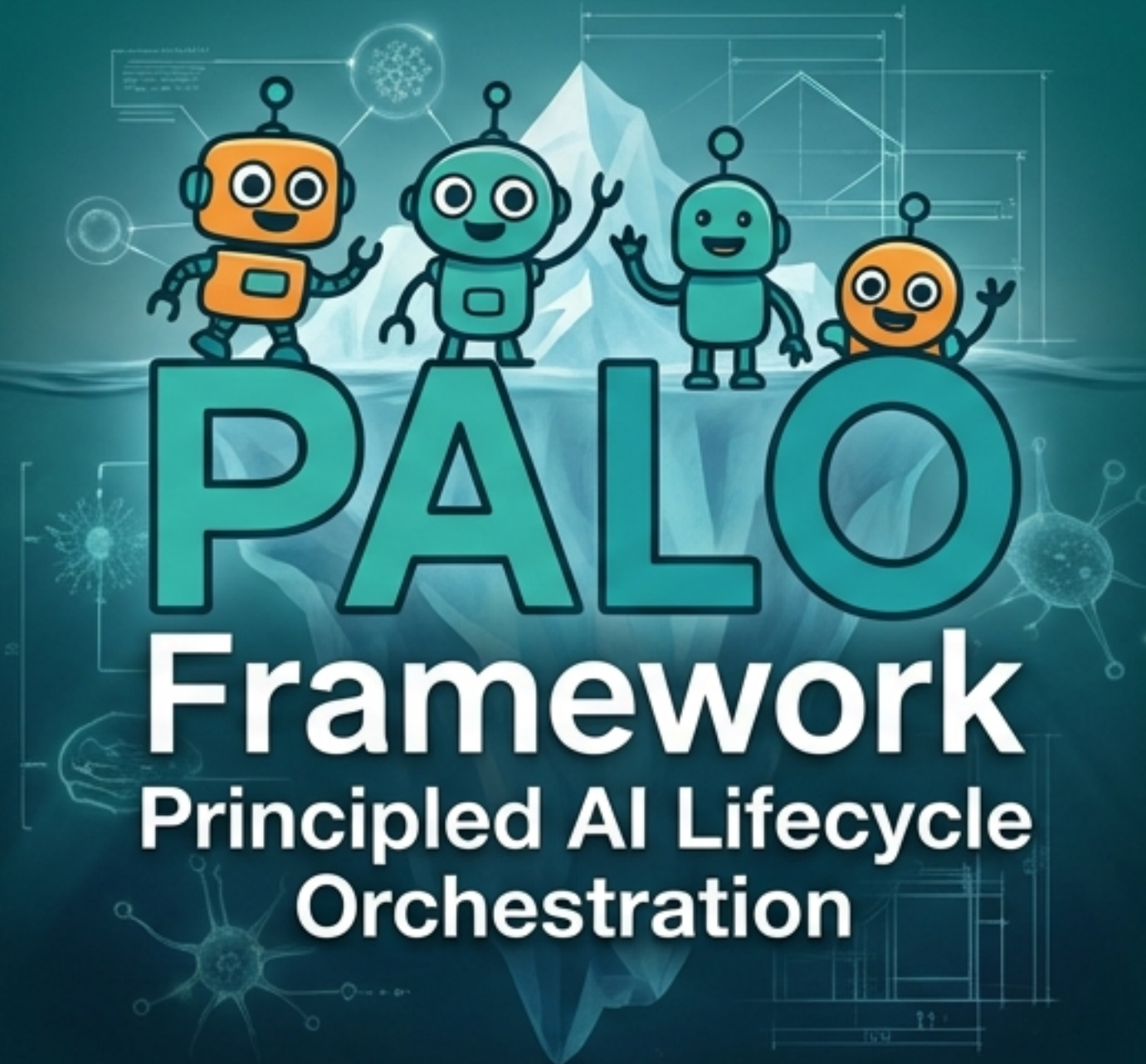
A Paradigm for Principled Orchestration

Principled

(Ethically grounded in Jabareen's theory)

Actionable

(KPI-driven and ISO-aligned)



Live

(Continuous lifecycle)

Orchestration

(Managing the human-AI symphony)

“By diving below the surface, we govern AI not just as a technology, but as a transformative social force. We preserve the human in the loop.”

DEEP DIVE RESOURCES

THE ENGINE

PALO FRAMEWORK

The integration engine
for this analysis.

www.paloframework.org



FRAMEWORK

THE PAPER

WEB VERSION

Complementary support site
with interactive maps.

<https://fabriziodegni.com/papers/evostupidity>



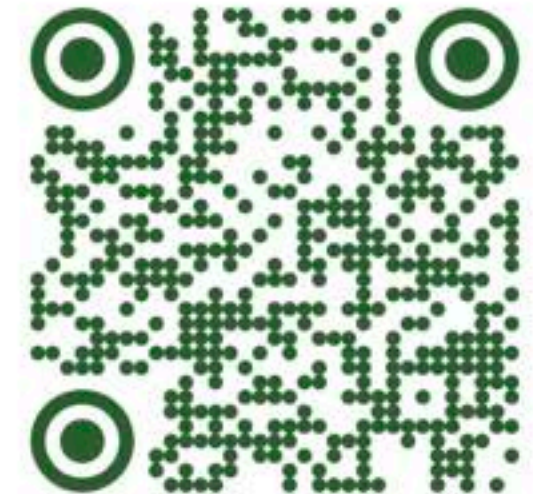
PAPER

PDF version coming soon

THE AUTHOR

FABRIZIO DEGNI

Chief AI Officer – Ethics
and Governance of AI



CONNECT