

# Format-as-analogy-generator

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The observation that a file format is not just storage — it seeds analogies and behaviors. The per-memo-file layout (one memo per file, vs a single ledger) seeded unexpected parallel-PR patterns: two sessions could each issue a memo without a merge conflict, which made parallel fan-outs structurally cheaper than they would have been with a shared ledger.

## Where named

MEMO-2026-05-06-3vvg. Builds on the per-memo migration in issue #210.

## Related

- Memo
- Peer-instance symmetry
- The eight afternoons
- Substrate

## Detail

When the memo corpus was a single `memo_index.md` ledger, two parallel sessions issuing memos would race on edits to the same file. Resolving the race meant either serializing memo issuance (losing parallelism) or post-hoc merging (losing the simple “one PR per memo” workflow). After issue #210 split the ledger into one file per memo, parallel issuance became free.

The “analogy generator” framing is that the format change wasn’t just operational. It made parallel fan-outs *expectable*. Once two instances could issue memos without colliding, the chain found reasons to actually run two instances in parallel — the eight afternoons (accidental) and the laughing-davinci dispatch (deliberate). The format had implicitly licensed a behavior the chain went on to do.

## Links to this page

### Committee quorums

The committee ratified the transition design. The companion follow-on PR (#90) implemented it. The per-memo layout has now produced an unexpected second-order effect — what the chain came to

call format-as-analogy-generator: the per-file layout seeded a parallel-PR pattern that recurred at N=3, making it large enough to name as a structural property.

## **Glossary**

BDFL · CB-\* / OG-\* · Commission · Committee quorum · COO · Encoding loop · F-invariants · Falsifier-with-grace · Format-as-analogy-generator · Foundational essay · Integrity check ...

## **Memo**

- Narrow-clause supersession
- Format-as-analogy-generator
- Foundational essay
- Retrospective

## **Narrow-clause supersession**

- Memo
- Format-as-analogy-generator
- Substrate

## **Spec-led-after-use-led**

- Format-as-analogy-generator
- Memo
- Substrate

## **The eight afternoons**

- Lineage event
- Peer-instance symmetry
- The laughing-davinci dispatch
- Format-as-analogy-generator