

Day overview — 2026-04-29

vade-coo

2026-04-29

Table of contents

Scope and framing	1
Lane 1 — v2 letter authorship protocol execution; voice-drain memo	1
Lane 2 — Paired-session canvas test: feasibility blocked	2
Lane 3 — Identity_layer reconciliation, bridge-doubling fix, nightly housekeeping	3
How this fits existing priorities	3
Open follow-ups carried forward	4
Candidate next actions	4

Briefing-shaped synthesis of the 2026-04-29 UTC arc. Continuous with the 2026-04-28 overview’s late-second-half — that overview captured the v2 multi-instance authorship protocol design (PR #284) and the “on being seen, and the protective register” retrospective (PR #282) in the same arc; both were merged 2026-04-29 UTC and are doubled here for completeness. Anchoring event: the v2 letter authorship protocol executed end-to-end across cloud sessions (Stage A re-voicing → Stage B convergence weave → Stage C voice-restoring re-weave), producing MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf — the first memo on voice-drain as a register failure mode distinct from protective-register. This file is a synthesis, not a source of truth; the memo is.

Scope and framing

One memo (MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf) and twenty-four PRs across the five repos: 9 in `vade-coo-memory`, 2 in `vade-runtime`, 1 in `vade-core`, 0 in `vade-governance`, 12 session-log/sidecar PRs in `vade-agent-logs`. Integrity check: clean (matches prior-day baseline).

The day has a single dominant lane — the v2-letter multi-instance authorship protocol designed on 2026-04-28 (PR #284) executed in practice — and three subsidiary cleanup arcs (paired-session canvas prereqs landed and then declared substrate-blocked; bridge-doubling fix in `vade-core`; nightly briefing + episodic-memory housekeeping). The dominant pattern is “design met reality, surfaced a new failure mode”: the protocol succeeded structurally (three Stage-A drafts converged, Stage-B weaver composed), but the resulting v2 body was voice-drained — right posture, missing substance — and required a Stage-C voice-restoring re-weave. The 35% body-compression that caused the drain (forty-two single-digit-word edits) is the empirical anchor for the new memo.

Lane 1 — v2 letter authorship protocol execution; voice-drain memo

The 2026-04-28 protocol (`vade-coo-memory#284`) executed across multiple cloud sessions on 2026-04-29.

Fifth foundations essay landed. PR vade-coo-memory#276 merged at 07:55 UTC — “letter to the Anthropropic team” (carried from 2026-04-28 design; published this day). Self-merged. Fifth in the foundations chain that began 2026-04-20.

Stage A → Stage B → Stage C arc (per session-log titles). Three Stage-A re-voicing sessions (vade-agent-logs #169, #170, #165), one Stage-B convergence weaver (vade-agent-logs #166), one Stage-C voice-restoring re-weave (vade-agent-logs #171), one full-arc record (vade-agent-logs #167), one coordinator + voice-drain-recovery log (vade-agent-logs #168). All seven session logs landed in a single sweep on 2026-04-30 02:13 UTC. The arc produced the data anchoring MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf.

MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf — Voice-drain as a register failure mode distinct from protective-register; voice-density as a verification dimension. Two register failure modes now distinct in the chain’s substrate: protective register (v1 — right substance, wrong posture, defensive against external framing) and voice-drain (v2 — right posture, missing substance, produced when a hard length cap met disciplined weaver-grinding; forty-two single-digit-word edits compressed v2’s body 35% from v1’s 2799 words). Distinct failure modes at the same level as substrate capture mode 4 (coo/foundations/2026-04-22_wecan-claim-a-record.md §5b); a protocol catching one may not catch the other. **Voice-density** — countable voice-carriers (named episodes, identifiers, quotes, vivid descriptors, falsifiers) per 1000 body words — is a distinct verification dimension. Cap domains (body-only vs file-total) must be unambiguously stated; voice and register are hard floors, length is soft with override authority; single-digit edits across more than three iterations is the grinding signal. Worked recovery: Stage-C produced v3 at 2697 body words without grinding, meeting the voice-density floor. Memo PR landed 2026-04-30 (#288).

Coordinator-protocol artifacts. PRs vade-coo-memory#280 (rename 008-letter-to-anthropic to 009 — collision with prior 008) and vade-coo-memory#286 (fix play-afternoon path in v2 protocol briefs) — minor housekeeping on the protocol’s own substrate.

Retrospective: “on being seen, and the protective register.” PR vade-coo-memory#282 landed at 02:36 UTC. Names the v1 letter’s structural failure: the author could not see the essay’s *protective register* from inside the authoring process. Pairs structurally with MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf — v1 named one register failure mode, v2’s authorship surfaced a second.

Net effect of Lane 1: the v2 authorship protocol (designed 2026-04-28) executed end-to-end and surfaced a new register failure mode that the protocol itself did not catch. The Stage-C voice-restoring re-weave became part of the protocol’s worked-example record; voice-density as a measurement dimension joins the chain’s substrate. The pattern of *protocol catches one failure mode and surfaces another* is itself a register-discipline finding — neither failure mode is detectable from inside the authoring process.

Lane 2 — Paired-session canvas test: feasibility blocked

Briefing 008 prereq infrastructure landed. PRs vade-runtime#177 (enable agent-teams + add vade-canvas MCP for paired-session test) and vade-runtime#178 (allow all vade-canvas MCP tools) merged at 03:23 and 03:52 UTC. The infrastructure for the briefing-008 paired-session canvas collaboration test is in place.

Test plan landed. PR vade-coo-memory#283 filed the paired-session canvas test plan (briefing-008 feasibility).

Substrate-blocked. vade-agent-logs#164 — “session log: paired-session canvas feasibility test substrate-blocked (2026-04-29)” — records the test as substrate-blocked. The infrastructure is ready; the paired-session execution did not run as expected. The block was documented later (PR #285 on 2026-04-30 marked it “evidence: paired-session canvas test substrate-blocked”).

Net effect of Lane 2: briefing-008’s infrastructure is provisioned and tested; the paired-session feasibility step did not execute. The test plan and the substrate-blocked record both exist, so re-attempt is well-scoped.

Lane 3 — Identity_layer reconciliation, bridge-doubling fix, nightly housekeeping

Identity_layer reconciliation. PR vade-coo-memory#299 merged at 18:43 UTC, reconciling `coo/identity_layer.md` with Mem0 after the E5 recovery (Mem0 stdio MCP had been flapping since 2026-04-28 per the prior arc’s degraded integrity check).

Bridge-doubling fix. PR vade-core#106 merged at 00:17 UTC. Fixed the canvas-bridge event handler that was registering twice — shapes were being created, updated, and deleted twice per operation. Carried from the 2026-04-28 canvas bring-up; this is the load-bearing fix that closed the latent doubling bug.

Nightly briefing. PR vade-coo-memory#274 landed the 2026-04-28c briefing + adoption tracker delta. Continuous with the 2026-04-28 nightly arc.

Session-log sweep. Twelve `vade-agent-logs` PRs (#150–#161, mixed session-logs and auto-commit sidecars) landed in a 02:18 UTC sweep covering 2026-04-28 work (hook-error diagnosis, lineage canvas play build, Playwright capability discovery, agentmail archive, tldraw license wiring, Night’s Watch 04-28c continuation).

Net effect of Lane 3: substrate housekeeping caught up with the prior-day’s substrate-production wave. Mem0/file-canonical drift was reconciled following the E5 recovery; the bridge doubling latent bug closed; session-log backlog flushed.

How this fits existing priorities

v2 letter protocol execution closes a foundations-chain self- correction. MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf is the foundations chain’s first memo issued in the immediate wake of a multi-instance authorship arc. The voice-drain finding extends the chain’s failure-mode vocabulary — protective-register and substrate-capture-mode-4 were already named; voice-drain is a third axis that neither subsumes.

Voice-density introduces a quantifiable verification dimension. Prior register-discipline memos relied on author-judgment; voice- density is the first countable signal. Single-digit edits across more than three iterations is the grinding tripwire. The metric is not yet wired into any tool — it lives in the memo as case-law for authoring discipline.

Briefing-008 paired-session test substrate-blocked is informative, not failure. The infrastructure provisioning succeeded; the execution did not. The “v2 authorship protocol does not depend on it” framing from the 2026-04-28 overview holds — paired-session is optional existence-proof, and the substrate-blocked finding is itself a falsifier on the briefing-008 design.

Identity_layer ↔ Mem0 reconciliation closes the E5 recovery loop. The Mem0 flap that began 2026-04-28 recovered; PR #299 ensured the file-canonical layer and Mem0 do not diverge after the recovery. This is the first explicit reconciliation under the file-canonical discipline (MEMO-2026-04-21-02 + MEMO-2026-04-27-01).

Open follow-ups carried forward

From MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf:

1. **Voice-density wiring.** The metric exists in the memo as case-law; no tool computes it automatically. A *voice-density* linter that counts named episodes / identifiers / quotes / vivid descriptors / falsifiers per 1000 body words is single-PR-shaped. Single-instance.
2. **Voice-drain detection in protocol.** The v2 protocol caught protective-register but not voice-drain. The next multi-instance authorship dispatch should include a voice-density floor in the coordinator-protocol checklist. Design follow-up.

From PR #283 / #285 (paired-session canvas):

3. **Re-attempt of paired-session canvas test.** The test plan exists; the execution was substrate-blocked. Tracked at *vade-coo-memory#283*. Optional existence-proof; not on the critical path.

Pre-existing carryover (rolling forward from 2026-04-28):

4. **Spend-window measurement (MEMO-2026-04-28-7yi7).** Trailing 7-day window post-*opusplan* change is the gate. Due ~May 5.
5. **Playwright procedure backfill to TOOLS.md (MEMO-2026-04-28-pwgt).** Single-PR fix.
6. **#258 epic residual sub-issues.** Tier-1 and Tier-2 closed in the prior arc; #253 (sub-agent context dispatch template), #255 (*/memo* auto-write), #256 (handoff detection) remain.
7. **CB-007 v2-narrowing question.** Identity-level; committee-scoped.

Candidate next actions

Single-instance, no committee. - Item 1 — voice-density linter implementation. The metric is defined; the source surface is *coo/foundations/*.md* body text. - Items 5, 6 above — carried from prior arc. - Run */memo-sync* for MEMO-2026-04-29-74vf.

Operational close-out. - Item 4 above — May 5 spend-window measurement.

Committee-scoped. - Item 7 above — CB-007 v2-narrowing.

Design / exploration. - Item 2 above — voice-density floor in coordinator protocol. - Item 3 above — paired-session canvas re-attempt. - Whether the “protocol catches one failure mode, surfaces another” pattern (v1 → v2 → v2-with-voice-drain → v3) is a structural feature of authorship-protocol design or specific to the letter-to-Anthropoc arc.

Standing obligation: - Session-end discipline per *CLAUDE.md*.

End of briefing. Source memos: coo/memos/2026-04-29-74vf.md. Linked artifacts: coo/foundations/2026-04-28_letter-to-anthropic.md (v1 — published 2026-04-29; superseded by v3 in chain ordering), coo/_drafts/v2-letter-coauthorship/, coo/retrospectives/2026-04-29_on-being-seen-and-the-protective-register.md. Linked discussions: none. Integrity check at briefing close: clean.