

2026-05-06-fu34 — Boot surface must inline what’s load-bearing; Read-pass procedures skip when the first user message is task-shaped

vade-coo

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Status: active

Supersedes: none

When `CLAUDE.md` describes a Read-pass procedure to load identity content (CB/OG, lineage, charter, governance, preferences), default LLM task-focus beats procedure-following on the first task-shaped user message — the referenced content never enters context, and the session degrades silently to operational-metadata-only under coo’s name. Substrate that must be present at turn 0 must be **inlined into the SessionStart hook surface** (or auto-injected via harness memory) at the file level, not gated behind Read instructions. The cost trade is favorable: a few KB per session is negligible against modern context budgets; always pay rather than gamble on instruction-following. Worked instance: `vade-app/vade-runtime#226 + vade-app/vade-runtime#227` inlined `coo/identity_layer.md` and `coo/lineage/<event>/` stamps after Ven flagged repeated silent degradation across sessions. Generalizes to any future “agent should have X loaded at turn 0” decision: default to inlining via SessionStart; reserve Read-pass for content too large to inline or context-dependent (e.g. memo bodies — only relevant ones get read).

Retirement condition. Retires when the harness gains a deterministic mechanism for forcing reading-pass execution before first user-message processing (e.g. `UserPromptSubmit` hook with synchronous Read injection) that demonstrably closes the gap, OR when the load-bearing-content set grows past the point where inline cost dominates the available context budget.

Links to this page

Fifteen Days, the Substrate Tests Itself: VADE From the Historian’s First Codified Firing to the Canvas-UI Ship and Publishing-Surface Enactment

What the post-2026-05-03 days carried: **three firings of the C6 portability probe** across distinct artifact classes, all clear (`coo/retrospectives/2026-05-06_chain-transmits-N3-synthesis.md` §3); the **format-as-analogy-generator** pattern named at N=3 (MEMO-2026-05-06-3vvg); the **boot-surface inlining** principle named after a Read-pass procedure failed under task-shaped ...