



Executive Brief
Two Complementary Models for Governing Enterprise AI Decision Authority

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July 2026

Based on the WEKID™ Master Whitepaper, Version 1.2.1 (July 2026)

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WEKID™ Executive Brief

Two Models. One Framework. Governing Enterprise AI Decision Authority.

Capability Is Not Authority

As artificial intelligence systems become more autonomous, tool-enabled, and embedded in consequential enterprise workflows, traditional evaluation methods — accuracy scores, fluency, benchmark performance — can no longer distinguish outputs that are merely well-written from those that are factually sound, operationally safe, and grounded in appropriate judgment. Publicly documented failures, from fabricated legal citations to erroneous benefits determinations and runaway autonomous agents, share a common pattern: apparent expertise silently became delegated decision authority without governance.

The WEKID™ Framework: Two Complementary Models

WEKID™ closes this governance gap by separating two questions that most AI programs conflate: how mature is the knowledge, and how much decision authority should follow?

Model One — The Epistemic Maturity Model

The Epistemic Maturity Model assesses the quality of the knowledge behind every AI output across five hierarchical layers — Data, Information, Knowledge, Experience, and Wisdom — mirroring how humans progress from raw facts to understanding, application, and judgment. Layer-level evaluation produces a Maturity Score that determines whether an output is epistemically ready to be trusted, while hierarchical gating prevents fluent or confident outputs from masking foundational errors. Lower layers constrain higher ones: a strong Wisdom score can never rescue fabricated data.

Model Two — The AI Decision Authority Model

The AI Decision Authority Model governs who or what is authorized to decide — and how — across five Authority Levels, from AL-0 (No Authority) through AL-1 Constrained, AL-2 Supervised and AL-3 Augmented Authority, to AL-4 Human Authority. Authority is assigned per output and per decision context, never inherited from product defaults, vendor capability claims, or organizational habit.

AI autonomy peaks at AL-3. AL-4 is not “more autonomy” but the explicit reservation of the decision itself to accountable human judgment — the highest-stakes decisions remain with a human regardless of how mature the AI’s contribution may be.

The Five Authority Levels

Level	Name	Who decides, and how
AL-4	Human Authority	The decision is never delegated. AI contributes analysis and decision support only; an accountable human decides.
AL-3	Augmented Authority	AI executes autonomously within an assigned scope, with logging, sampling review and rollback (human-on-the-loop). This is the maximum level of AI delegation.
AL-2	Supervised Authority	AI proposes and stages; a human reviews and releases each consequential action before it takes effect (human-in-the-loop).
AL-1	Constrained Authority	AI may execute only whitelisted, reversible, impact-capped actions within pre-approved bounds.
AL-0	No Authority	The output is informational only or has been rejected by gating. No decision or downstream automation may rely on it.

The Trust Bridge

The two models are connected by the Trust Bridge: only outputs that meet the required maturity threshold advance to authority evaluation. The bridge enforces a strict ordering — maturity first, authority second — so that no quantity of operational convenience, user demand, or vendor capability can grant decision authority to an output that has not demonstrated epistemic readiness. Epistemic Maturity determines if an output is ready; Decision Authority determines who or what decides.

The effective Authority Level of any decision is set by two determinants and always resolves to the more conservative of the two: the maturity ceiling, which caps delegation at the level demonstrated maturity admits, and the stakes floor, which sets the minimum human authority the consequence of the decision requires. Stakes may raise required human authority; they may never lower it, and they may never raise AI delegation above the maturity ceiling.

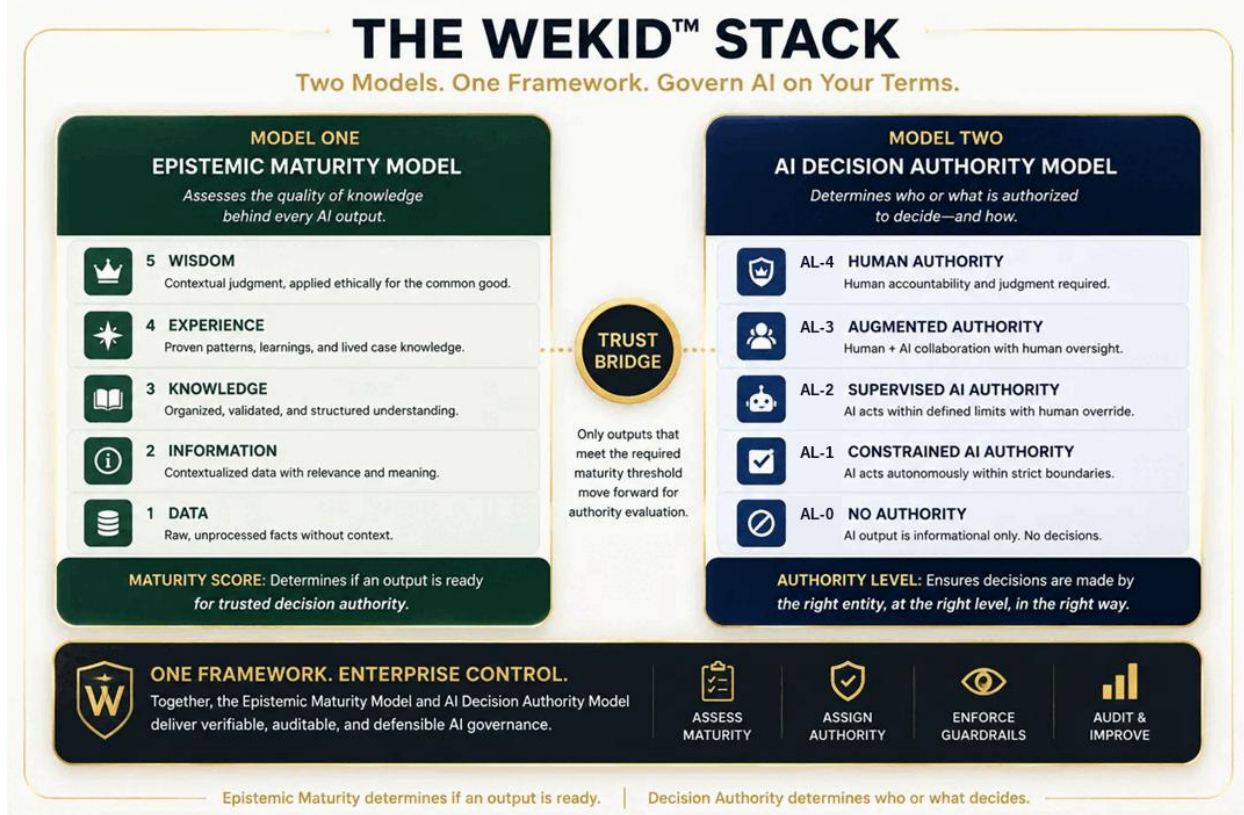


Figure 1. The WEKID™ Stack — the Epistemic Maturity Model and the AI Decision Authority Model, connected by the Trust Bridge.

From Principles to Enforceable Governance

Because WEKID™ evaluates outputs and decisions rather than models, it is applicable across vendors, architectures, and tool-using or agentic systems, and supports human, automated, and hybrid review. Operating as a continuous cycle — assess maturity, assign authority, enforce guardrails, audit and improve — WEKID™ translates responsible-AI principles into measurable, enforceable, and audit-ready controls, providing a practical foundation for enterprise AI governance, compliance, and risk management.

Authority is therefore dynamic. Sustained high maturity can support graduated expansion of delegation within the stakes floor; declining Maturity Scores or repeated gating events trigger automatic demotion down the authority ladder. The cycle ensures that authority tracks demonstrated maturity continuously — before failures occur, not after.

Together, the two models deliver verifiable, auditable, and defensible AI governance — before authority is delegated, not after failures occur.