



FORMAL RECORD 5

Ghost Authority Lemma

Lemma C

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v2.3 removes the legacy working label 'E-H-S Nucleus,' replaces with standardized terminology, and removes an informal implementation note from FR5 that contained undefined terms. No proofs, definitions, or logical content are changed.

Dependencies

- **Three Primitives** (Structural Governance)
- Primitive 2: Permission ≠ Decision
- Primitive 3: Declared Authority

Statement

If a protocol is treated as the source of a decision, rather than as an input to a human decision, then authority is exercised without declaration. This constitutes Ghost Authority.

Definitions

- Protocol:** A set of rules, procedures, or constraints intended to guide action, lacking agency.
Decision: The selection of an action among alternatives where consequences attach.
Authority: The legitimate capacity to decide, held by a human actor with an explicit mandate.
Ghost Authority: Apparent authority exercised without a declared human decision-maker.

Proof (Structural)

1. Protocols lack agency and cannot bear responsibility.
2. Decisions entail responsibility and therefore require agency.
3. Treating a protocol as the source of a decision displaces agency from a human actor.
4. Displaced agency results in authority being exercised without declaration.
5. Therefore, Ghost Authority is present.

QED



Corollary — Ownership Test

At the point where consequences attach, if no human explicitly declares “I decide this,” the decision lacks legitimate authority.

Informative (Non-Normative) Application

Lemma C is a diagnostic tool for identifying structural failures in governance. Any execution path where an action is permitted ($g = 1$) without an explicit declaration of purpose, authority, and constraints ($\delta = 0$) satisfies the conditions for Ghost Authority under the Ownership Test.

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