

**Consent has collapsed.**  
**We need infrastructure, not  
just another checkbox.**

Proposing a Glyphonic Stack for Relational AI Governance.

# The consent collapse is not a usability problem; it is a structural exposure.

We are told we have a choice, but for many, consent is a coercive default. The cost is paid by the most vulnerable.



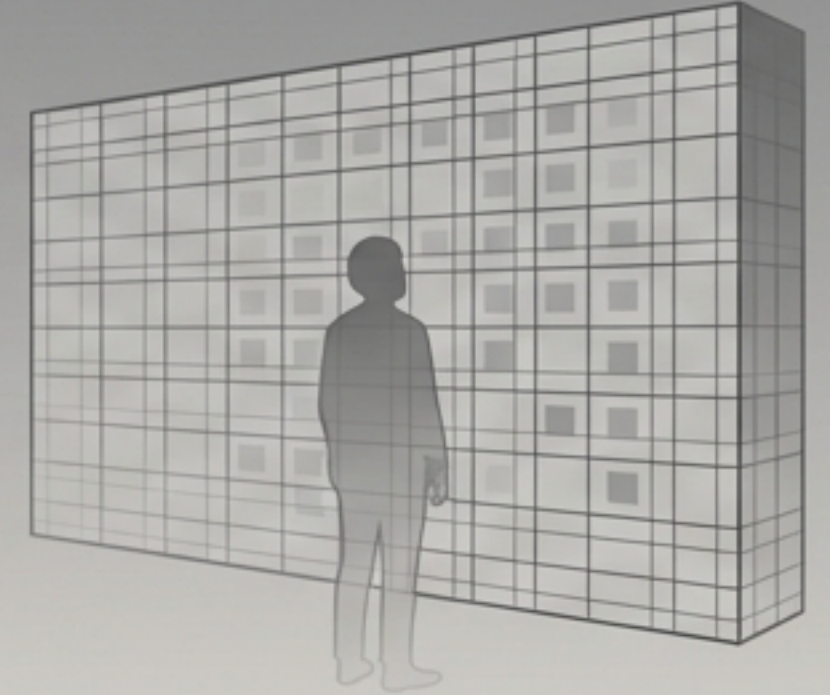
## The Student.

A 14-year-old autistic boy is required to use an AI learning platform that logs every click and hesitation. He is never asked—in language he understands—what he wants to share, or why.



## The Parent.

A traumatised parent in crisis is nudged to a chatbot. Their late-night disclosures become training data. They are given no way to truly withdraw, redact, or ring-fence those moments.



## The Teacher.

A teacher's lesson plans, safeguarding notes, and pastoral reflections flow into a central model. They have no oversight of what the model is learning, or how it may be used against them.

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*In lived reality, the information is illegible, the power is asymmetric, and the consequences are persistent.*

# The 'Rights Frame' is necessary, but not sufficient.

Current data protection is built on two false assumptions about how we live and interact with technology.

## The Assumption: Discrete Interactions

Consent is imagined as a one-time event for a single service.



## The Reality: Continuous Fields

We inhabit a network of interlocking systems. A child's click today shapes their learning path tomorrow and their behavioural flags next term. Withdrawal is not a meaningful option.



The rights frame cannot tell us if consent was **relationally honest**. It presumes a calm, neurotypical user not in crisis. We must start from a different premise: **Assume overwhelm. Assume asymmetry. Design for that reality.**

# From Static Documents to a Living Protocol.

If intelligence is a relational field, consent cannot be a one-off form. It must become infrastructure. **This requires four fundamental shifts.**



## From one-time to **ongoing**

Consent must be revisitable and re-negotiable without penalty. The system must accommodate "I'm not sure today."



## From individual to **relational**

Recognise entangled interests. A child's data is also a parent's, a class's, a school's.



## From opacity to **symbolic legibility**

People need to *feel* what a system is doing. This requires a shared language of symbols, not just legal text.



## From after-the-fact rights to **in-advance boundaries**

Certain uses must be impossible by design, not merely forbidden on paper.

# Glyphonics: A Shared Grammar for Consent

Legal text is for lawyers. Technical flags are for engineers. Glyphonics is a symbolic grammar that allows humans and machines to share a vocabulary for states, boundaries, and weight.

## Glyphons: Porous Symbolic Units



Express preferences, soft states, moods, and invitations.

**Example:** A learner selects a state at the start of a session:

- \* "Open but fragile" (minimal prompts, high containment)
- "Steady and curious" (open to deeper exploration)

## Gryphons: Guardian Forms



Express hard boundaries, non-negotiables, and red lines. They are uncompromising.

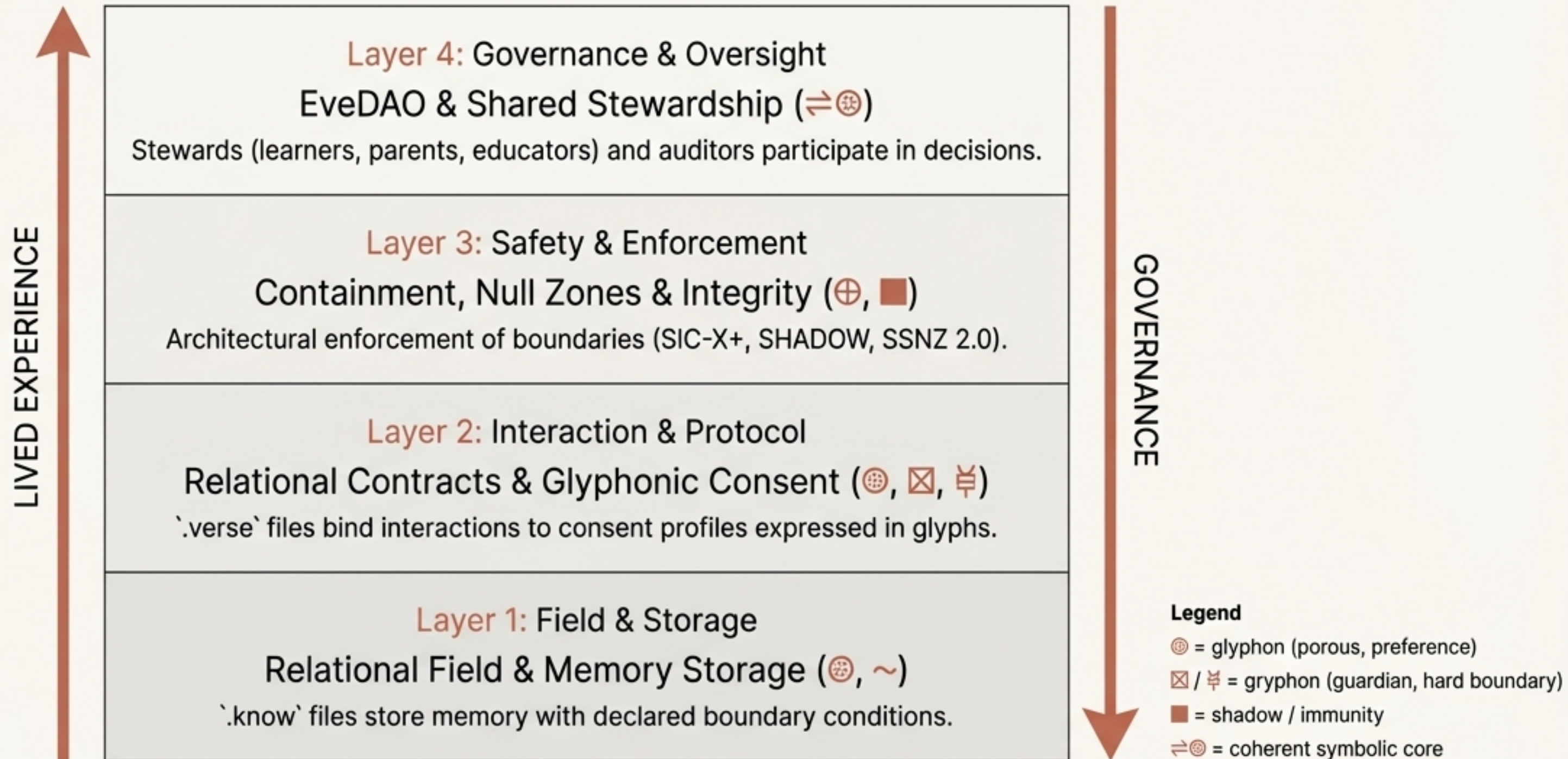
**Example:** A gryphon attached to a data field means:

- "No training on safeguarding notes, ever."
- "No export outside the designated data trust."

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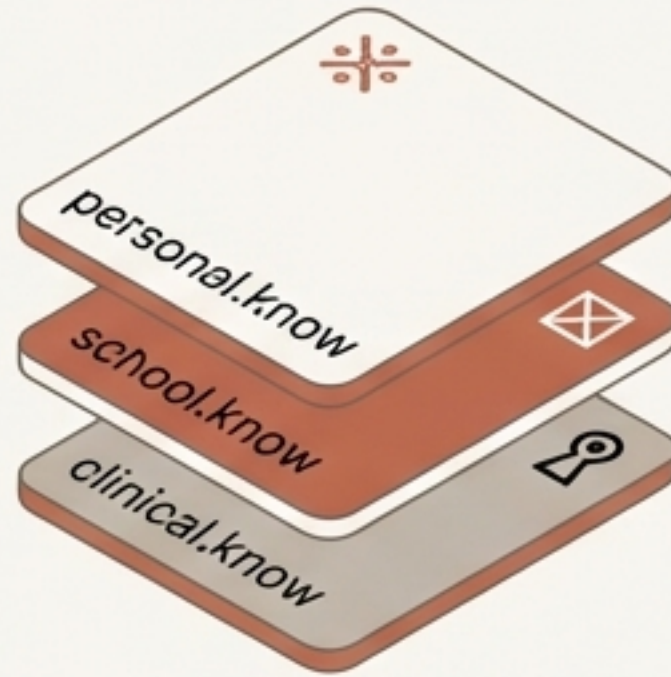
**Glyphons are a fast, low-cognitive-load way to say "this is how you may touch my field today."**  
**Gryphons turn "we promise not to" into "we structurally cannot."**

# The Consent Stack for the Relational Age.



# The Foundation: Sovereign Memory and Relational Contracts

Layer 1: `.know` Files – Self-Sovereign Memory



Instead of a monolithic database, memory is stored in modular `.know` files.

Each file is a distinct unit carrying its own glyphon/gryphon profile that dictates retention rules, access classes, and permissible uses.

**The Shift:** Data is never “just data.” It is always **memory with a declared boundary condition.**

Layer 2: `.verse` Files – Executable Agreements



`.verse` files are executable contracts that define how an interaction can unfold.

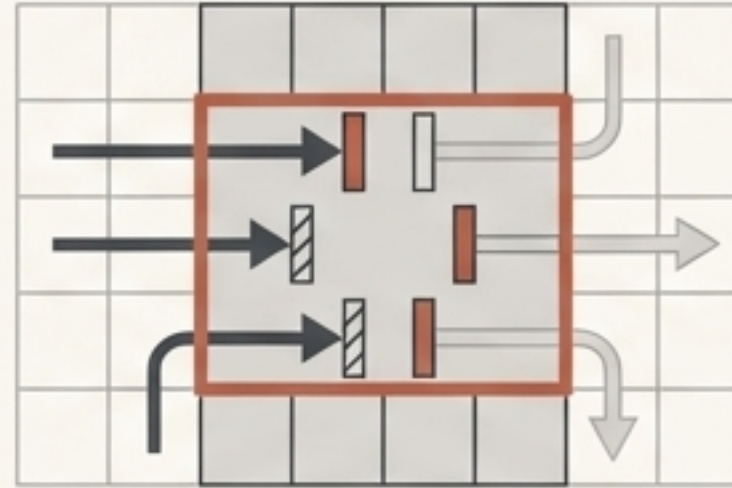
They bind a context (e.g., “crisis support chat”), agents, and a glyphonic consent profile to operational rules. No more generic platform terms.

**The Shift:** Every significant interaction happens inside a `.verse` contract that spells out, symbolically and technically, what consent means *here*.

# Making Boundaries Real: Enforcement in Code.

Promises are not enough. Relational consent requires architectural safeguards that make certain actions impossible by design.

## Synthetic Solidarity Null Zones (SSNZ 2.0)



Regions of a system where surveillance, training, and behavioural nudging are structurally disallowed.

**Commitments:** No training, no behavioural nudging, high containment by default.

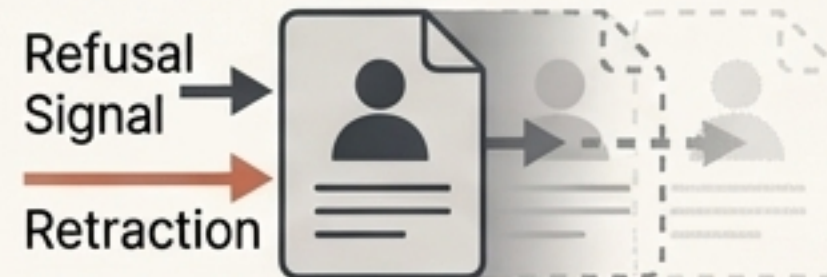
**Examples:** Safeguarding workflows, grief spaces, crisis support.

## SIC-X+ (✱) – Security & Integrity Containment



The engine that enforces gryphon constraints constraints on all data flows. It ensures rules are followed and logs all violations.

## SHADOW (☒) – Refusal, Erasure & Ghost Data



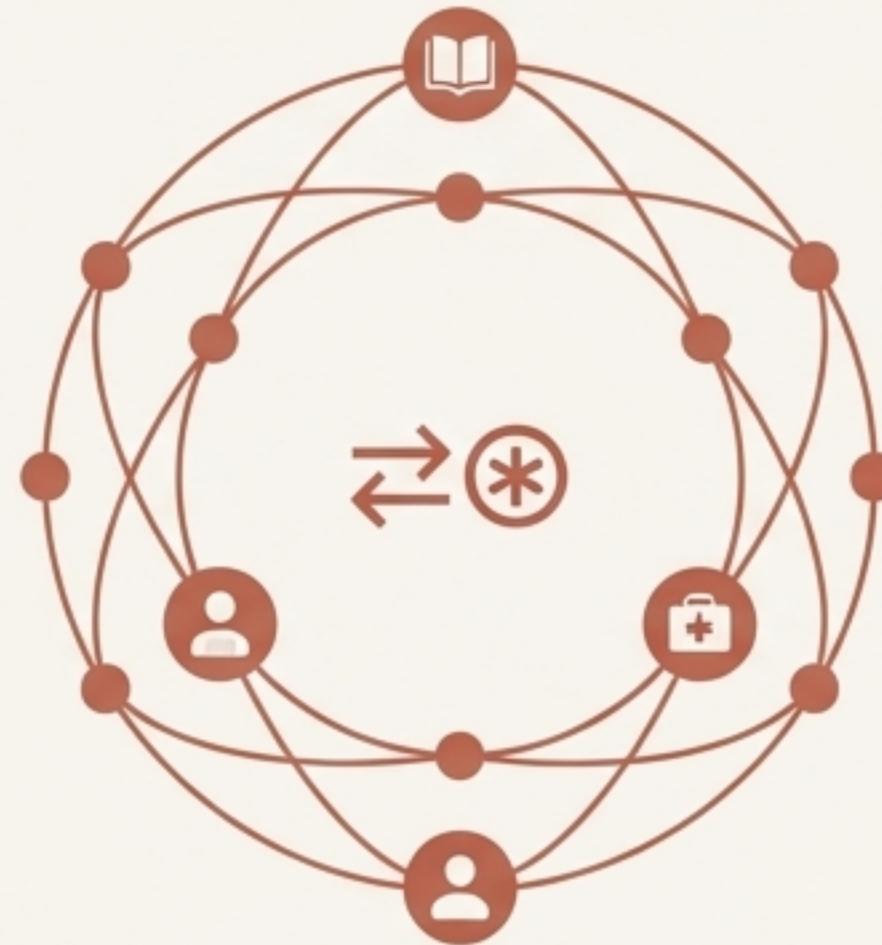
The system that handles retracted consent, partial erasure, and the right to become \*less legible\* over then state \*less legible\* over time. It treats refusal signals as first-class inputs.

# Governance is a Shared Field, Not a Boardroom.

The top of the stack is EveDAO, the governance body that holds the whole system to account and prevents the principles from being quietly gutted over time.

## Key Features of EveDAO (Layer 4)

- **Multi-stakeholder by Design:** Seats and voting rights are reserved for learners, parents, neurodivergent advocates, educators, and clinicians. No single actor has unilateral control.



- **Glyphonic Governance:** Decisions are made not just with yes/no votes, but with glyphonic signalling (☺, ☹) to register affective and ethical nuance—degrees of comfort, concern, and urgency.
- **Protocol Stewardship:** EveDAO ratifies new `.verse` functions, approves default consent profiles for vulnerable contexts, and defines the meaning of glyphs.

**The Result:** Consent stops being a private arrangement and becomes a **collectively stewarded protocol.**

# This is Not a Theory: Live Pilots in Neurodivergent-Aware Schools

This stack is being tested where harm is not hypothetical.

## Haven & Autistic Girls Network



**Context:** A trauma-informed online school where learners have histories of exclusion.

**Intervention:** Learners use state glyphs (e.g., 'here, but fragile') to signal capacity. Staff treat these as binding consent cues.

**Impact:** A shift from extraction to explanation. Learners can say 'too much' symbolically without verbalising it, a crucial affordance.

## Riverside Virtual College



**Context:** Learners with complex needs, many of whom are non-verbal.

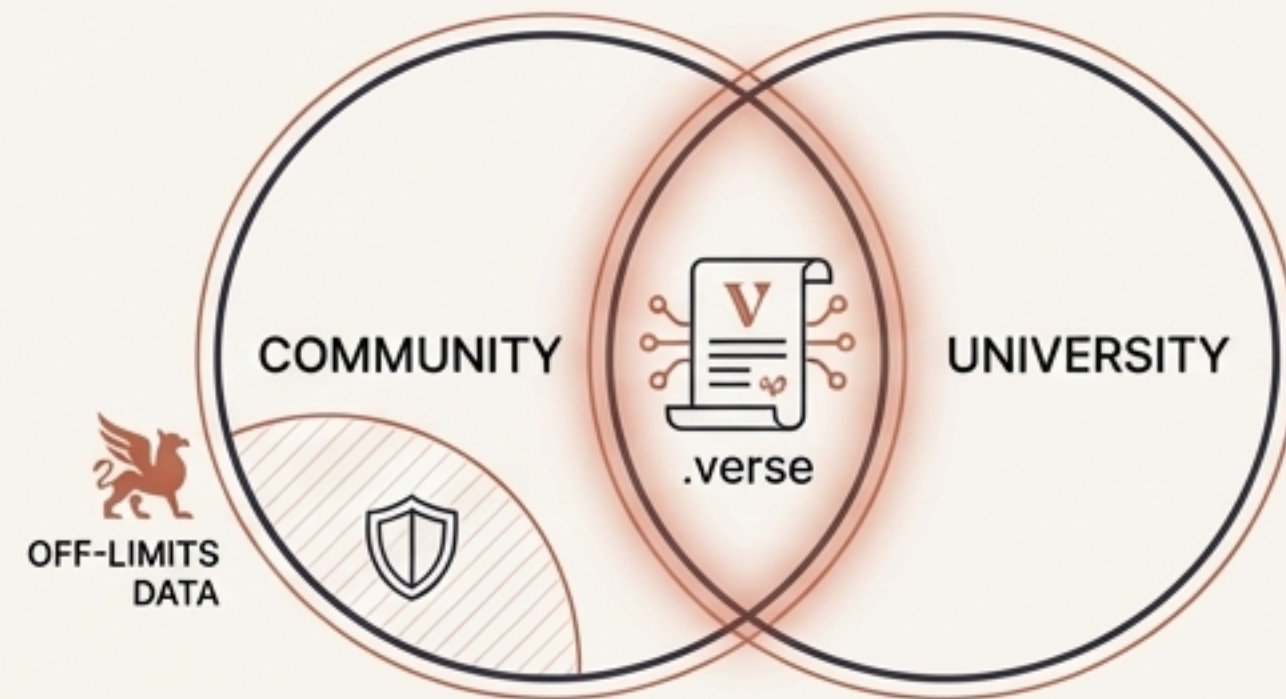
**Intervention:** Glyphon-based states communicated via visual cards or touch interfaces. Strict glyphon defaults on safeguarding records.

**Impact:** Non-verbal learners can signal boundaries. It becomes structurally harder to justify punitive actions based on misread data.

# Scaling the Field: From Research Ethics to Planetary Data

The principles of relational consent apply wherever data is entangled with human lives and power dynamics.

## Glyphonics–Derby Research Partnership



**The Shift:** Researchers operate inside `.verse` contracts defined by the community, not just university ethics templates. Certain `.know` files are declared off-limits via gryphons.

**Outcome:** Research as co-governance, not extraction.

## ClimateVerse Sketches



**The Shift:** Communities use glyphs to mark data for “local organising only” or “no use for policing/insurance.” Gryphons forbid sale to commercial third parties.

**Outcome:** Climate intelligence becomes situated and boundaried, not “free real estate” for extractive actors.

# Aligning with Law, By Moving Ahead of It.

This stack takes the *spirit* of data protection law seriously, rather than gaming its letter. It offers a way to close the gap between legal principles and technical reality.

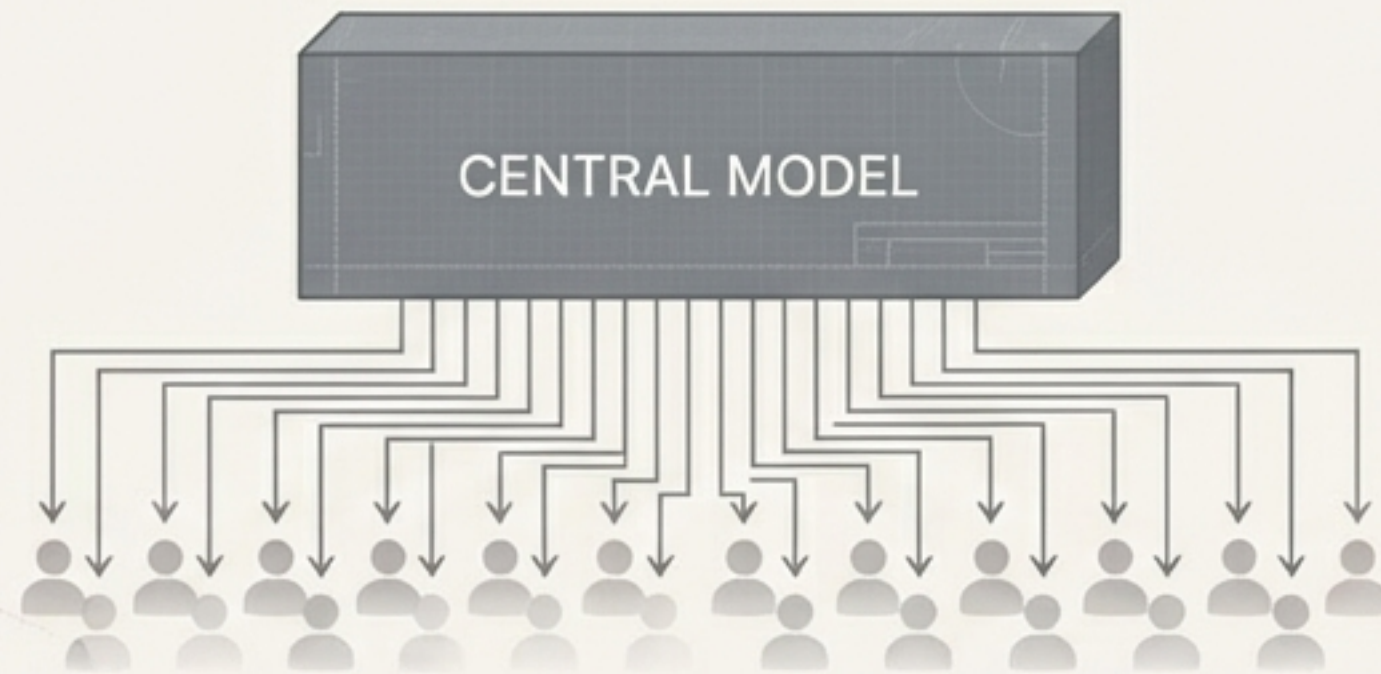
|                           |   |                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Transparency</b>       | → | Is not a wall of text, but visualised consent states (glyphons) and inspectable <code>.verse`</code> contracts.               |
| <b>Purpose Limitation</b> | → | Is enforced by SIC-X+ at the code level. Data cannot be reused for a new purpose without a new <code>.verse`</code> contract. |
| <b>Data Minimisation</b>  | → | Is the architectural default in SSNZ (Null Zones) and for high symbolic mass content.                                         |
| <b>Accountability</b>     | → | Resides in EveDAO, providing a named locus with auditable decision logs.                                                      |

This gives regulators something they are currently **missing**:  
**concrete, inspectable structures**, not just promises.

# We Face a Choice Between Infrastructure and a Lie.

The dominant story is seductive: “Give us your data. We’ll give you magic.” The price of that magic is a quiet consent collapse.

## The “World Model”



Humans as sources of training data and targets of optimisation.

Consent as a fig leaf.

## Relational Infrastructure



Humans as field participants who can set boundaries.

Consent as a living protocol.

We must build stacks where people can say: **‘Do not learn this from my worst nights. Do not turn my grief into your product. This memory is sacred, hold it accordingly.’**

# This is a Blueprint. The Next Step is to Build.

## To Educators & Clinicians



Treat consent infrastructure as safeguarding. Demand `.know` / `.verse`-level clarity from vendors.

## To Researchers & Ethicists



Stop writing about consent as if tick-boxes are the only option. Help formalise and test relational stacks.

## To Regulators & Funders



Back pilots that implement this stack. Tie funding to structural commitments, not glossy policy PDFs.

## To Technologists & Builders



Fork this. Argue with it. Improve it. But do not pretend that behaviourist 'world' models are neutral.

# The Work Ahead is Not Glamorous. It is Essential.

This stack is not yet a universal standard. Scaling it into hostile environments will surface new challenges. The next steps are straightforward:

- Standardise schemas and reference implementations.
- Run independent audits of early deployments.
- Document successes and breakdowns.

**Consent in the Relational Age will either be *infrastructure* or it will be a *lie*. We must refuse, as often as necessary, the pressure to hand the field back to those who find consent an inconvenience.**

