

MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE & IaC

The Authority Layer Isn't Coming. It's Being Claimed.

What actually lets an infrastructure platform own agentic operations



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X *“Will AI manage infrastructure?”*

✓ **Which system already owns the primitives
an authority layer requires?**

That's a structural question, not a capability question.

8 Primitives.

Most Platforms Own Half.

State	OWNS
Policy	OWNS
Workflow	OWNS
Approvals	EMERGING
Context	EMERGING
Cross-System Coordination	EMERGING
AI-Assisted Execution	EMERGING
Operational Authority	EMERGING

HCP Terraform Isn't the Argument. It's the Evidence.

ALREADY OWNS

state, policy, workflow

EXTENDING INTO

approvals, context, cross-system coordination

A platform doesn't rebuild an authority layer from zero when it already owns four of eight rows.

Swap the Vendor. The Argument Doesn't Move.

HCP Terraform

Spacelift

env0

Pulumi Cloud

Whichever already owns state and policy wins the position — not whichever has the best AI demo.

The moment this needs a pricing example to hold up, it's stopped being an architecture argument.

WHAT WOULD DISPROVE THIS?

01

State Gets Commoditized

If state storage and locking become a fully interchangeable utility — the way object storage did — owning it stops being a structural advantage.



WHAT WOULD DISPROVE THIS?

02

Policy Becomes Portable

A real OPA-everywhere trajectory decouples enforcement authority from whoever runs the plan — not just shared policy syntax across clouds.



WHAT WOULD DISPROVE THIS?

03

Approvals Get Externalized

If ServiceNow, Jira, or a dedicated approval layer reclaims the approval chain from the IaC platform, the whole right column gets rewritten.



WHAT WOULD DISPROVE THIS?

04

Agent Orchestration Splits Off

If the winning agent-coordination platform sits above Terraform — calling it as one tool among many — the authority layer forms somewhere else.



Vendor Selection Just Became a Governance Decision.

- 1 Does policy enforcement live inside the execution pipeline, or bolt on separately?
- 2 Does the platform retain context across runs — or start blind every time?
- 3 When an agent initiates change, does the existing approval chain apply automatically?

The winner won't be
the best model.

**It'll be whoever already
owns the primitives.**

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