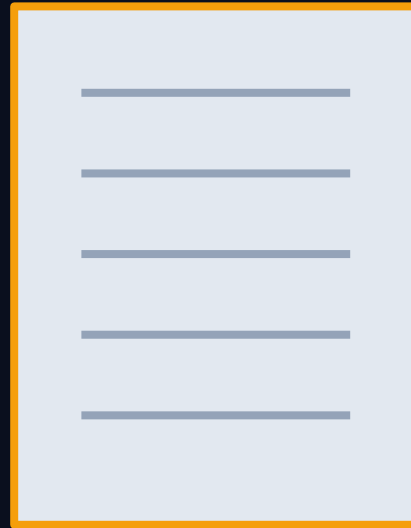


A GREEN PIPELINE ISN'T PROOF OF COMPLIANCE

It's proof of execution. Those are different claims.

A DOCUMENT IS NOT A STANDARD



A standard = intended state + a mechanism proving it's still true.
Remove the mechanism, and what's left is a description of the past.

THREE LAYERS. MOST TEAMS BUILD ONE.

01 STANDARD

02 ENFORCEMENT

03 EVIDENCE

STANDARD: DEFINES INTENDED STATE

01 STANDARD

02 ENFORCEMENT

03 EVIDENCE

A naming convention. A network topology. A baseline config.
The layer every org builds — because it produces a deliverable.

ENFORCEMENT: MAINTAINS INTENDED STATE

01 STANDARD

02 ENFORCEMENT

03 EVIDENCE

A policy engine. An admission controller. A CI gate.

Keeps the standard true going forward — or it's only true the day it was written.



EVIDENCE: PROVES IT'S STILL TRUE

01 STANDARD

02 ENFORCEMENT

03 EVIDENCE

ASSUMPTION

Not "the pipeline ran." A portable record tying execution back to the standard — and the authorization that approved it.
Almost nobody builds this layer.



LOSE LAYER 2 → DRIFT.

LOSE LAYER 3 → DOCUMENTATION DEBT.

NO ENFORCEMENT

→ DRIFT

Loud. A scan catches it, eventually. Someone notices notices sooner or later.

NO EVIDENCE

→ DOC DEBT

Silent. Nothing changes day to day — until someone someone needs proof and finds none.



THIS ISN'T ABSTRACT



Terraform standards nobody checks



K8s admission policy never deployed



Baselines validated once, never again



Golden images hand-patched since rollout

**DOCUMENTATION DEBT ISN'T
A MISSING DOCUMENT.
IT'S ONE NOBODY CAN TRUST.**

Follow [The Architect](#) for more