

# Temporal guardrails decide on history, not just the request

What the Dogwood Local Engine documents, and where its history history starts.

# The verdict gains a third input

## STATELESS

Request + policy text → verdict.  
verdict.

The same request gets the same answer.

## TEMPORAL

Request + policy text + event  
history → verdict.

The same request can flip with  
what came before.

Counts, prerequisites, ordering and running totals live in the policy.

# The engine orders the log. The harness owns its integrity.

## ENGINE (DOCUMENTED)

Linearizes and timestamps events

Durable log synced before evaluation

Snapshot + replay recovery

## HARNESS (DOCUMENTED)

Event interface reachable only from the harness

State not manipulable by other processes or tool effects

No OS isolation from the library

# A new clause starts with an empty empty history



AWS documents that a new or modified clause counts only events after the after the update.

# The same update can err either way way

## PERMISSIVE

"Forbid when N have occurred."  
occurred."

The earlier burst is invisible, so  
the cap restarts at zero.

## RESTRICTIVE

"Forbid unless a prior event  
exists."

The earlier approval is invisible,  
so everything is denied.

Author inference from the documented behavior. Examples constructed, not AWS's.

# Shortening a window changes the control

## 24-HOUR WINDOW

A cumulative exposure ceiling.

## 15-MINUTE WINDOW

A burst limit.

Different controls that share an operator. Record the risk each window was sized against.

# Test the integration, not the engine

## 01 FEED INTEGRITY

Forge an event; confirm the log is unchanged

## 02 CLAUSE START

Record the boundary and compensating control

## 03 WINDOW SIZING

Tie each window to an exposure exposure

## 04 FAILURE MATRIX

Four failure states; define each response

Architectural guidance, not an AWS procedure. Run in a test harness.

# A guardrail that remembers is only as sound as what it was allowed to remember, and from when.

Scope: open-source Dogwood Local Engine only. Not the managed AgentCore Policy integration.

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