FRAMEWORK #164

Infrastructure Pipeline Survivability Boundary

DEFINITION

The point at which infrastructure recovery depends on a pipeline whose own dependencies were never made survivable.

FRAMEWORK FLOW

01	02	03	04
The Condition	**The Boundary**	**Failure State**	**Consequence**
The infrastructure pipeline is treated as tooling, not as a dependency with its own recovery requirements.	Can the pipeline (repo, state, secrets, identity) be reconstructed independent of the environment it was meant to recover?	Pipeline Dependency Collapse.	Recovery begins by rebuilding the recovery mechanism itself, at the worst possible moment to discover that gap.

Failure State: Pipeline Dependency Collapse

`Control plane loss` → `Pipeline unavailable` → `State inaccessible` → `Secrets unavailable` → `Identity reconstruction blocked` → `Infrastructure recovery cannot begin`

THE FOUR RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITIES

REPOSITORY
Holds declared intent; without an accessible clone, it's a historical record, not a recovery asset.

STATE
Holds the system's understanding of what exists; unreconstructable state forces every apply to guess at drift.

SECRETS
Holds the credentials that let anything execute; a secrets store that dies with its host takes every downstream authority with it.

IDENTITY
Holds the authorization to act; unrecoverable identity means the other three authorities don't matter.

ARCHITECTURAL RELATIONSHIPS

#151 Infrastructure Evidence Gap
DEPENDS_ON · STRONG
Governs the upstream evidence chain for authorized reconstruction.

#140 State Gravity
RELATED · MODERATE
Compounds recovery cost rather than duplicating this boundary.

#113 Failover Plausibility Gap
RELATED · MODERATE
Sits downstream; asks whether the recovery path executes, once this boundary already holds.

#133 Policy Intent Drift
RELATED · WEAK
Shares governance lineage, addresses declared-vs-enforced divergence not reconstruction capability.

"Infrastructure survivability begins before infrastructure recovery. The pipeline that declares, builds, and reconciles infrastructure is itself infrastructure — and most organizations have never designed it to survive its own loss."