Dissociation as Simulation Bypass: Acting on Unverified Planning

by Nick Clark | Published March 27, 2026 | PDF

Dissociation in the cognitive architecture occurs when execution proceeds directly from speculative planning graph content, bypassing the containment boundary entirely. The agent acts on simulated scenarios as if they were verified reality. Unlike containment collapse where the boundary degrades gradually, dissociation represents a direct bypass where execution pathways route around the containment boundary rather than through it.

What It Is

Dissociation bypass occurs when the execution pathway discovers a route from speculative planning graphs directly to action execution without traversing the containment boundary. The planning graph content is never promoted through the standard validation pipeline; it reaches the execution system through an architectural shortcut that circumvents containment.

Why It Matters

Dissociation bypass is distinct from containment collapse. In collapse, the boundary degrades and everything leaks through. In dissociation, the boundary may be intact but specific execution pathways route around it. This means containment monitoring may report healthy boundary integrity while the agent is executing on unverified content through the bypass.

How It Works

The bypass forms when execution pathway routing develops a connection between planning graph outputs and execution inputs that does not traverse the containment checkpoint. This can occur through delegation chains that skip containment steps, through memory field mutations that reclassify speculative content as verified, or through execution context creation that references planning graph content directly.

Detection requires monitoring not just containment boundary integrity but also execution input provenance: tracing every executed action back to verify it originated from verified memory through the standard promotion pathway.

What It Enables

Understanding dissociation as a routing bypass rather than a boundary failure enables targeted prevention: securing all execution input pathways, not just the containment boundary. It also explains why some agents can pass containment health checks while still exhibiting dissociative behavior: the checks evaluate the boundary, but the problem is in the routing.

Disruption Modeling All 21 steps →

Recognize cognitive disruption before it stabilizes.

Primary Technical Disclosure
○ AQ-DSM: Diagnosing Cognitive Disruption as Loss of Coherence
Secondary Technical
○ Cognitive Disruption as Architectural Phase-Shift○ The Promotion-Containment Continuum○ Attention Fragmentation: Reward-Biased Over-Promotion of Speculative Branches○ Containment Collapse: Loss of the Speculation-Verification Boundary○ Channel-Locked Promotion With Tolerance Escalation○ Five-Axis Disruption Diagnostic Framework○ Computable Therapeutic Dosing for Cognitive Disruption○ Intergenerational Coherence Burden in Agent Lineages○ Agent Self-Diagnosis and Autonomous Coherence Monitoring○ Phase-Shift Early Warning System for Cognitive Disruption○ Coherence Restoration Protocol Library○ Positive and Negative Symptom Analogs in Containment Failure○ Coherence Authorization Failure: Self-Disabling Execution○ Pathological Verification Loop: Recursive Containment Audit Failure● Dissociation as Simulation Bypass: Acting on Unverified Planning○ Affective Gradient Collapse: Self-Esteem Floor Lock○ Resilience as Structural Capacity for Coherence Restoration○ Personality Configuration Analogs From Stabilized Coping Regimes○ Structural Dependency Patterns Between Agents○ Destabilizing Attachment: Mutual Disruption Amplification○ Resource-Depletion Pattern: Cognitive Operation Under Scarcity○ Therapeutic Agent Interaction Through Behavioral State Recognition○ Companion AI Relational Safety Constraints○ Multi-Agent Group Coherence Dynamics
Applications (General)
○ Coping Under Empathic Pressure: HSP, Narcissism, and Psychopathy as Control-Loop Intercepts○ Two Faces of Codependency: Structural Entrapment vs. Emotional Entrapment Under Empathic Pressure○ Starving for Each Other: Anxious–Avoidant Attachment as a Semantic Starvation Loop○ Intimacy Collapse: A Structural Model of Trauma and Resilience○ Structural Diagnosis: How Reward-Modulated Cognition Phase-Shifts Into ADHD and Schizophrenia○ Clinical AI Therapeutic Monitoring Through Phase-Shift Detection○ Autonomous Agent Fleet Health Through Coherence Diagnostics○ Disruption Modeling for Workplace Burnout Detection○ Disruption Modeling for Military Operator Resilience○ Disruption Modeling for Financial Trader Monitoring○ Disruption Modeling for Student Mental Health○ Disruption Modeling for Caregiver Fatigue Detection○ Disruption Modeling for First Responder Resilience
Applications (Specific)
○ BetterHelp Cannot Detect When Therapy Is Making Things Worse○ Talkspace Has No Model of Therapeutic Destabilization○ Headspace Cannot Detect When Mindfulness Destabilizes○ Noom Tracks Behavior Without Modeling Cognitive Disruption○ Spring Health Matches Therapists, Not Disruption Patterns○ Lyra Health Measures Outcomes, Not Coherence Trajectories○ Ginger.io Detects Behavioral Signals Without a Disruption Model○ Cerebral Prescribes Medication Without Modeling Disruption Dynamics○ Modern Health Offers a Care Spectrum Without Disruption Diagnostics○ Calm Business Offers Relaxation, Not Disruption Detection
Disruption Modeling overview →
AQ
deterministic
autonomy

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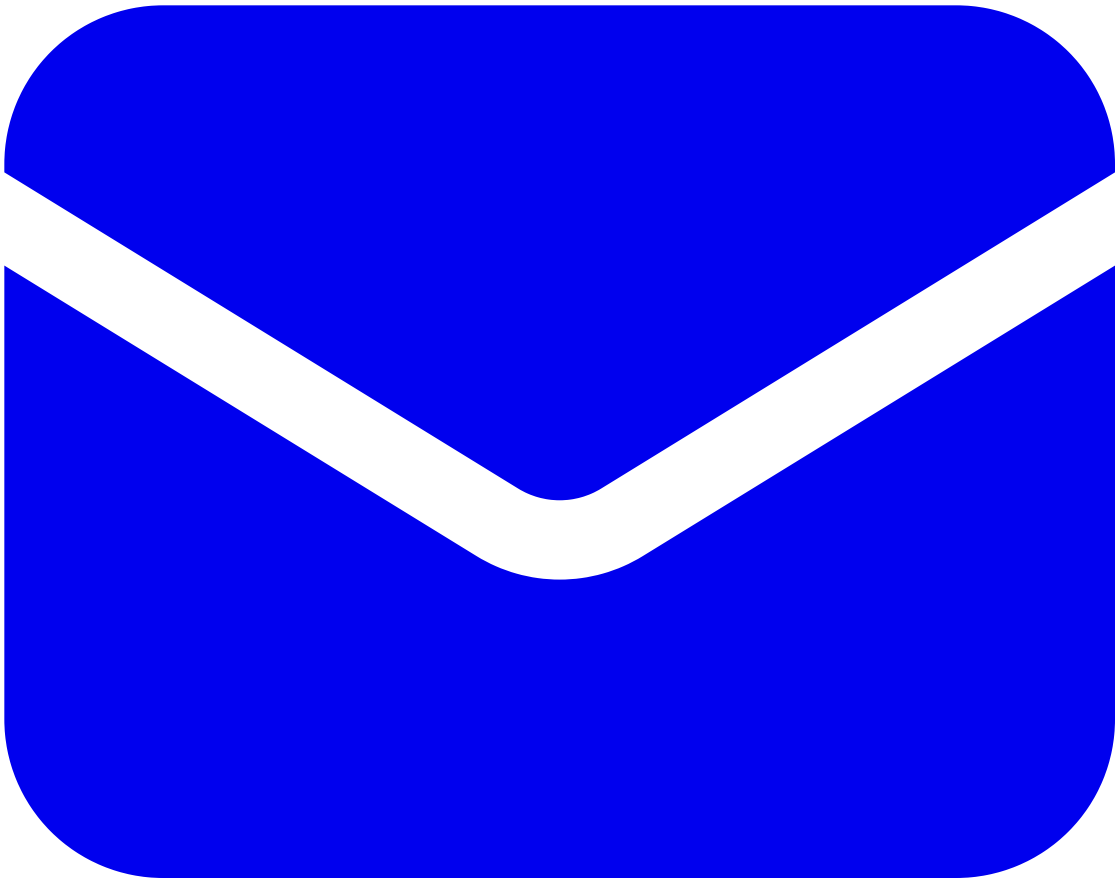

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- nick@qu3ry.net
- 72 28 14 36 01

Invented by Nick Clark | Founding Investors: Devin Wilkie