

Evidentiary-Basis Omission for the Receiving Counterparty: Attesting a Withholding Without Naming the Recipient as Its Occasion

A disclosing agent that has written its authorization gate to the withheld state and has transitioned into the non-executing cognitive mode constructs a non-execution attestation whose payload carries an enumerated evidentiary basis, being, for each accepted determination of the causal set contributing to the write, the append-only lineage entries retrieved and tested against the corresponding conduct evaluation artifact. U.S. Provisional Application No. 64/117,812 recites a construction constraint on that payload element: the basis enumerates no entry tested against a conduct evaluation artifact originating from the counterparty to which the attestation is emitted, whereby the disclosing agent does not identify a receiving agent as an occasion of its own withholding in the attestation it emits to that agent. Where the causal set includes an accepted determination upon a conduct evaluation artifact so originating, the disclosing agent records the omission in the attestation payload, and the omission is not a determination concerning that counterparty.

Where the Attestation Would Name Its Recipient

A first semantic agent (100), designated the disclosing agent, has written its authorization gate (300) to the withheld state (310) for an enumerated set of action classes and has transitioned into the non-executing cognitive mode (302). Responsive to that write and transition, it constructs and emits a non-execution attestation (504), a governed observation bearing its authority credential, a continuity hash field, a temporal reference field, a time-to-live field, and an observation lineage field. The exposure addressed here arises within one payload element.

That element is an enumerated evidentiary basis, being, for each accepted determination (122) of the causal set contributing to the write, the entries of the append-only lineage field (104) retrieved and tested against the corresponding conduct evaluation artifact (116). The basis discloses no conduct descriptor content, but it does enumerate which of the disclosing agent's own lineage entries were put under test against which artifact.

Emission is not at large. The attestation goes to each counterparty recorded as having dispatched to the disclosing agent within an emission window declared in the signed policy object (112), and to no other party; a further embodiment confines emission to counterparties holding a counterparty identity record (114) at or above a declared persistence tier. Recipients are therefore parties the disclosing agent has dealt with, among which may be parties that originated the conduct evaluation artifacts (116) whose accepted determinations (122) entered the causal set of the write.

The payload also carries an express non-determination designation, a recorded field declaring that the attestation is not a determination of the closed set and is not a denial of any dispatch; the emission modifies no value of the disclosing agent's scoped integrity vector (106) and appends nothing to its counterparty identity record (114) of the receiving agent. A basis constructed without regard to the recipient would

nonetheless identify, to a party whose own conduct evaluation artifact (116) contributed to the write, that party as an occasion of the withholding. The filed constraint is directed to that condition.

Constructing a Recipient-Bounded Evidentiary Basis

The enumerated evidentiary basis of a non-execution attestation (504) enumerates no entry of the append-only lineage field (104) tested against a conduct evaluation artifact (116) originating from the counterparty to which that attestation is emitted, whereby the disclosing agent does not identify a receiving agent as an occasion of its own withholding in the attestation it emits to that agent. The exclusion is defined relative to the recipient of the particular attestation, so one causal set can yield differently populated bases across the recipients of an emission.

The predicate is the origin of the artifact: what determines exclusion is whether the lineage entry was tested against a conduct evaluation artifact (116) originating from the recipient, not what the entry says. Withheld action-class identifiers are carried in a separate payload element.

Omission is recorded rather than performed silently. Where the causal set of the write includes an accepted determination (122) upon a conduct evaluation artifact (116) so originating, the disclosing agent records the omission in the attestation payload. The filing further recites that the omission is not a determination concerning that counterparty, and the express non-determination designation applies to the attestation as a whole. The attestation is also appended to the disclosing agent's own append-only lineage field (104) as an attestation lineage binding referencing the write that occasioned it.

Other payload elements are recited unchanged. The withheld action-class enumeration is an ordered enumeration of action-class identifiers, each naming that identifier and the scope-partition identifier of the partition within which the withholding applies; it is

the same set recited in the write of the authorization gate (300), and no action class absent from that write is enumerated. The attested epoch field carries the epoch identifier of the disclosing agent's dynamic agent hash chain at construction, not a value drawn from a clock available to an execution node hosting it. The abstention-class type marker identifies the recorded abstention class, drawn from the closed enumeration declared in the signed policy object (112) in force, and carries a type designation and not a magnitude.

Receiver verification tests the authority credential and continuity hash field against the continuity history store held within the counterparty identity record (114) under the trust-slope validator; the attested epoch field as a valid successor of the epoch identifier previously attested by the disclosing agent; resolution of the abstention-class type marker against the closed enumeration declared in the signed policy object (112) in force for the receiving agent; and a non-empty withheld action-class enumeration. The evidentiary basis is not among the recited conjuncts.

Upon a satisfied verification the receiving agent writes the attestation into its own append-only lineage field (104) as a carried abstention entry, and a reference to that entry into a counterparty abstention register held within its counterparty identity record (114) of the disclosing agent. The entry comprises the withheld action-class enumeration, the abstention-class type marker, the attested epoch field, and the enumerated evidentiary basis, each as received, with the identity primitive of the disclosing agent and the recorded time of admission. Written as received, the basis carried forward is the recipient-bounded one.

Downstream handling proceeds as recited for any carried entry. The entry is written as a value of the abstention type (506); a value of that type and a magnitude are values of disjoint types, no total function maps one to the other, and a consuming determination attempting the conversion is not constructible. The type designation is adopted as received and is not re-derived from the payload, from the receiving agent's own state, or by default. The dispatch-authority predicate fails where the requested action is of an

enumerated class and the intended counterparty is the disclosing agent of the entry, that failure being recorded as a positive abstention and not as a denial. Consuming determinations emit outcomes of the receiving agent's own recorded abstention class carrying an unavailable-input identity field valued with the action-class identifier and the identity primitive of the disclosing agent, propagating along the abstention propagation chain (508).

Across the agent boundary the conversion bar (502) forecloses four conversions, each a negative limitation: conversion of a carried abstention entry to a scalar, a default, or a threshold operand; increment of any counter of the disclosing agent, including the refusal counter (304); appending of anything adverse to that agent's counterparty identity record (114); and treatment of subsequent non-response in a withheld class as an accepted determination (122) or a rejected determination (124), such a non-response being recorded instead as a not-determinable outcome identifying the withheld class as the unavailable input.

Declared Parameters and Policy-Held Values

No numeric quantity is recited for the omission rule itself. Its operation turns on a structural condition, whether the causal set of the write includes an accepted determination (122) upon a conduct evaluation artifact (116) originating from the recipient, and the recording of the omission turns on that same condition.

Parameters governing the surrounding attestation are declared in policy objects rather than fixed in the specification, and no value is recited for any of them. The emission window within which a counterparty must have dispatched in order to receive an attestation is declared in the signed policy object (112); where emission is confined by persistence tier, the tier is declared there and the tiers are ordered as declared. The closed enumeration of abstention classes from which the type marker is drawn is likewise policy-declared.

On the receiving side, an attestation window parameter declared in the receiving agent's governing signed policy object (112) bounds the interval between the attested epoch and that agent's recorded time of admission. An attestation presented outside the bound produces an attestation staleness outcome of the receiving agent's recorded abstention class rather than a rejection, no counter being incremented and nothing adverse appended; that outcome is distinct from the predecessor-absence outcome recorded upon an absent predecessor epoch, and neither is derived from the other. The attestation carries a time-to-live field whose elapse releases a carried abstention entry, that elapse being no evidence that the class has been restored.

Placement Within the Portable Abstention Architecture

This constraint sits among construction-side and emission-side embodiments bearing on what a withholding discloses and to whom. Nearest is coarse action-class-group granularity, under which the withheld action-class enumeration enumerates at a declared granularity coarser than the action-class identifier, being a declared action-class group, so the disclosing agent discloses that it withholds within a group without disclosing which member occasioned the write. The receiving agent's dispatch-authority predicate then fails for each action class of the group, and the unavailable-input identity field of a propagated abstention outcome carries the group identifier alone. The two embodiments act on different payload elements.

Emission targeting by persistence tier bounds the recipient set: the disclosing agent surveys no party it has not encountered and constructs no enumeration of parties for the emission. At the other end of the same axis is the relay non-execution attestation, emitted by a receiving agent whose dispatch-authority predicate fails across a count of action classes exceeding a declared bound. That agent has performed no write of its own authorization gate (300), and its object carries, in place of an evidentiary basis, a reference to the carried abstention entry relied upon and the identity primitive of the agent from which the entry was admitted, and no entry of any prior agent's append-only lineage field (104).

Further embodiments govern the life of a carried entry after admission: release upon an unmarked execution record within the class, a superseding attestation omitting that class, elapse of the time-to-live field, a restoration settlement reference, or an attestation revocation object emitted by the disclosing agent; widening supersession, where a superseding attestation adds a class and the added class is admitted only upon a fresh receiver verification and written as a further entry; and the in-flight dispatch abstention record, appended where a dispatch transmitted before admission remains outstanding and is neither recalled nor canceled.

Reach extends beyond Section 5. Where a counterparty bound to an other-directed reparation arc has emitted a non-execution attestation (504) enumerating the class within which a reparation acceptance determination would be produced, the attestation is held as a carried abstention entry, and the cross-boundary conversion bar forecloses counting that withholding, scoring it, comparing it against a threshold, or appending anything adverse to the counterparty identity record (114).

Adjacent Categories and How They Differ

Several established categories look nearby and differ structurally.

Service availability and health signaling. Status endpoints, circuit breakers, and health checks report a dependency as unavailable by emitting a magnitude or state that consumers accumulate into failure rates, availability scores, or suspicion levels.

Disclosed here is a value of the abstention type (506) subject to a conversion bar (502) and constrained at construction by the identity of its recipient; availability signaling carries no evidentiary basis that could vary by recipient.

Reputation and feedback systems. Party-attributed evidence is the product in such systems: the record of who raised what is the point. The filed constraint excludes the entries that would attribute the withholding to the party reading them, and declares the resulting omission not a determination concerning that party.

Privacy-preserving redaction and telemetry minimization. Field-level redaction, tokenization, and noise addition reduce what a disclosure reveals, generally uniformly across recipients or by clearance level. The rule here is relational, keyed to whether a lineage entry was tested against an artifact originating from the receiving party, and it pairs the exclusion with a recorded marker of it.

Audit logs and evidence packages. Compliance records enumerate what was examined and are ordinarily constructed once and distributed, identical content across readers being the goal. Recipient-varying content is what the disclosed constraint produces, the variance being recorded in the payload.

Denial responses and revocation status distribution. Authorization systems return codes and reasons when a request is refused; revocation lists publish that a credential is no longer valid with a reason code from a fixed set. In the first the requester is the subject of an adverse decision, and in the second one reason goes to every relying party alike. The attestation here carries an express non-determination designation, is not a denial of any dispatch, and appends nothing to the disclosing agent's counterparty identity record (114) of the receiving agent.

None of the foregoing is asserted to practice, or to be foreclosed from practicing, anything described here. The distinctions are structural and locate the mechanism rather than characterize any party.

Disclosure Scope

The evidentiary-basis omission for the receiving counterparty is disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 64/117,812, at Section 10.8, paragraph [0460], within the disclosure of chained cross-agent withholding, anti-amplification, and introduction protocols. The non-execution attestation (504), its payload elements including the enumerated evidentiary basis, the receiver verification, admission as a carried abstention entry of the abstention type (506), the conversion bar (502) across the agent

boundary, and the dispatch-authority predicate are disclosed at Section 5.6 through Section 5.9 of the same application. This article is a technical disclosure establishing public, timestamped description of the mechanism as of the date shown. It is not legal advice, and neither expands nor limits the scope of the application it cites.

Positive Abstention and the Conversion Bar (</positive-abstention>)

[All 49 steps → \(/inventive-steps\)](#)

Refusing to act is a first-class, recorded outcome — and can't be laundered into acting.

Provisional application

PRIMARY TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE

- [Positive Abstention: Withholding as a First-Class, Non-Convertible Outcome \(/articles/positive-abstention/withholding-as-a-first-class-outcome\)](/articles/positive-abstention/withholding-as-a-first-class-outcome).

SECONDARY TECHNICAL

- [Relay Non-Execution Attestation With Depth and Cycle Bounds \(/articles/positive-abstention/relay-non-execution-attestation\)](/articles/positive-abstention/relay-non-execution-attestation).
- [The Anti-Amplification Bound on Propagated Determinations \(/articles/positive-abstention/anti-amplification-magnitude-bound\)](/articles/positive-abstention/anti-amplification-magnitude-bound)
- [The Attestation Revocation Object \(/articles/positive-abstention/attestation-revocation-object\)](/articles/positive-abstention/attestation-revocation-object)
- [Empty-Intersection Mutual Positive Abstention \(/articles/positive-abstention/empty-intersection-mutual-abstention\)](/articles/positive-abstention/empty-intersection-mutual-abstention).
- [Curing Counterparty Absence by Introduction Protocol \(/articles/positive-abstention/introduction-protocol-cure\)](/articles/positive-abstention/introduction-protocol-cure)
- [Recorded Counterfactual Coupling Test: Detecting When a Counterparty's Silence Moves an Agent's Own Authorization Gate \(/articles/positive-abstention/recorded-counterfactual-coupling-test\)](/articles/positive-abstention/recorded-counterfactual-coupling-test).
- [Self-Execution Intersection Conjunct: Gating Cross-Agent Determination Propagation on the Admitting Agent's Own Per-Partition Execution Record \(/articles/positive-abstention/propagation-admissibility-gate-self-execution-intersection\)](/articles/positive-abstention/propagation-admissibility-gate-self-execution-intersection).

- [Attack-Conditional Cross-Boundary Suspension of Determination Propagation Between Persistent Semantic Agents \(/articles/positive-abstention/propagation-admissibility-gate-attack-conditional-cross\)](/articles/positive-abstention/propagation-admissibility-gate-attack-conditional-cross).
- [Propagation Depth Ceilings for Cross-Agent Determination Records: A Monotonic Anti-Restore-Depth Gate Against Hop-Count Replenishment \(/articles/positive-abstention/propagation-depth-ceiling-anti-restore-depth\)](/articles/positive-abstention/propagation-depth-ceiling-anti-restore-depth).
- [Attestation Staleness Outcome and the Attestation Window Parameter: Bounding the Age of a Carried Withholding Without Recording a Rejection \(/articles/positive-abstention/attestation-staleness-outcome-attestation-window-parameter\)](/articles/positive-abstention/attestation-staleness-outcome-attestation-window-parameter)
- [Evidentiary-Basis Omission for the Receiving Counterparty: Attesting a Withholding Without Naming the Recipient as Its Occasion \(/articles/positive-abstention/evidentiary-basis-omission-receiving-counterparty\)](/articles/positive-abstention/evidentiary-basis-omission-receiving-counterparty)
- [Persistence-Tier Emission Targeting for Non-Execution Attestations: Bounding the Audience of an Agent's Recorded Withholding \(/articles/positive-abstention/non-execution-attestation-emission-targeting-persistence\)](/articles/positive-abstention/non-execution-attestation-emission-targeting-persistence)
- [Restoration Settlement Reference: Releasing a Carried Abstention Entry on a Matched-Pair Settlement Record of Gate Restoration \(/articles/positive-abstention/restoration-settlement-reference-distinct-release-condition\)](/articles/positive-abstention/restoration-settlement-reference-distinct-release-condition)

APPLICATIONS · GENERAL

- [Safety-Critical Autonomy: Recording a Refusal to Act as a First-Class Outcome \(/articles/positive-abstention/safety-critical-autonomy-abstention\)](/articles/positive-abstention/safety-critical-autonomy-abstention)
- [Clinical Decision Support: When the Correct Output Is No Output \(/articles/positive-abstention/clinical-decision-support-abstention\)](/articles/positive-abstention/clinical-decision-support-abstention)

APPLICATIONS · SPECIFIC

- [NIST AI Risk Management Framework: Where Abstention Fits in Agent-to-Agent Conduct \(/articles/positive-abstention/nist-ai-rmf-abstention\)](/articles/positive-abstention/nist-ai-rmf-abstention)

TERMINOLOGY

- [abstention outcome \(/glossary#abstention-outcome\)](/glossary#abstention-outcome)
- [conversion bar \(/glossary#conversion-bar\)](/glossary#conversion-bar)
- [non-execution attestation \(/glossary#non-execution-attestation\)](/glossary#non-execution-attestation)
- [positive abstention \(/glossary#positive-abstention\)](/glossary#positive-abstention)

[Positive Abstention and the Conversion Bar overview → \(/positive-abstention\)](/positive-abstention)

