

Restoration Settlement Reference: Releasing a Carried Abstention Entry on a Matched-Pair Settlement Record of Gate Restoration

When one semantic agent withholds its own authority to act and discloses that withholding to a peer, the peer writes a carried abstention entry and its dispatch-authority predicate thereafter fails for the withheld action classes toward that agent. Disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 64/117,812, the restoration settlement reference is a distinct release condition for such an entry: the receiving agent releases the entry as to an action class upon presentation of a settlement record of a matched pair recording the transition of the disclosing agent's authorization gate to the granting state for that class, verified against the identity primitives borne by that record. Release is recorded as a release record naming this condition and the released action class, and the carried abstention entry itself is neither removed nor modified.

Why a restored agent can stay blocked

A persistent semantic agent (100) that 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), constructs and emits a non-execution attestation (504). That attestation is a signed governed observation bearing the agent's

authority credential, its continuity hash field, and a time-to-live field, and its payload enumerates the withheld action classes and carries an attested epoch drawn from the agent's own dynamic agent hash chain, an abstention-class type marker, an enumerated evidentiary basis, and an express non-determination designation. Upon a satisfied verification, the receiving counterparty writes the attestation into its own append-only lineage field (104) as a carried abstention entry, held as a value of the abstention type (506), and writes a reference to that entry into a counterparty abstention register within its counterparty identity record (114) of the disclosing agent.

What follows is recorded, not penalized. The receiving agent recomputes its dispatch-authority predicate at each request to dispatch, and the predicate fails where the requested action is of an enumerated class and the intended counterparty is the disclosing agent of the entry. That failure is appended as a positive abstention rather than a denial: no counter of the disclosing agent is incremented, nothing adverse is appended to its counterparty identity record (114), and the receiving agent's own authorization gate (300) is not written responsive to the entry.

Exit from that state is governed by an express rule. No accumulation of the receiving agent's own dispatch attempts, non-responses, or abstention outcomes releases such an entry. The release conditions recited in the base architecture are an unmarked execution record of the disclosing agent within the class, verified under the receiver verification; a superseding non-execution attestation (504) omitting that class and carrying a successor attested epoch field; and elapse of the time-to-live field, an elapse the disclosure states is no evidence that the class has been restored.

Restoration of an authorization gate (300) is itself effected by settlement in this architecture. Upon recognition and admission of a matched pair (600), the settlement effects the state transition the pair was formed to effect, being a transition of the authorization gate (300) for an enumerated action class, a promotion or demotion of a persistence designation, or a transfer of a settlement-binding authorization. The filing therefore recites a further release condition keyed to that settlement artifact.

What the restoration settlement reference is, and how release is written

In accordance with an embodiment, a carried abstention entry is released as to an action class upon presentation to the receiving agent of a settlement record of a matched pair (600) recording the transition of the disclosing agent's authorization gate (300) to the granting state for that action class. That presented record is the restoration settlement reference, and it is verified against the identity primitives borne by that record. The release is recorded as a release record naming this condition and the released action class; the carried abstention entry is neither removed nor modified, the release being appended.

Four features of the recited condition are worth stating separately.

A distinct condition, not a variant of the execution-record condition. The unmarked execution record path releases upon presentation of an execution record of the disclosing agent within the class. The restoration settlement reference releases upon presentation of a settlement record of a matched pair (600) recording the gate transition to the granting state for that class. The release record names the condition relied upon, as it does for the remaining conditions available in the chapter: a superseding attestation omitting a class, elapse of the time-to-live field, and the attestation revocation object emitted by the disclosing agent, upon verification of which the receiving agent releases the entry as to each action class enumerated in the revocation object and appends a release record naming the revocation as the condition relied upon.

Verification against the identity primitives borne by the record. A matched pair (600) binds a first governed observation (608) and a second governed observation (610) into a settlement record (604) comprising the two signed observations, a cryptographic binding over both, and an attestation of the window within which the pair was recognized, whereby the settlement record (604) supports non-repudiation and is verifiable by a downstream consumer from the record alone. Under the negative

conditions of the settlement section, the settlement record (604) is produced from the two parties' own signed observations, and no clearing party, no payment processor, no platform adjudicator, and no escrow party is required for the pair to settle.

Release runs per action class. The condition releases the entry as to the action class whose gate transition the presented settlement record records, and the release record names that class. Under the base release rule, release is as to an action class and the failure of the predicate ceases as to that class. The worked trace in the filed disclosure shows the shape: a receiving agent appends a release record naming class A alone, class B remaining withheld.

The entry survives its own release. The carried abstention entry is neither removed nor modified, and the release is appended. Comparable discipline is recited elsewhere: a settlement-lineage entry (606) is neither removed nor modified, a subsequent reversal or amendment being itself appended, and a widening supersession writes a further carried abstention entry for an added class rather than amending the entry already held.

Release does not convert the abstention into a quantity. The conversion bar (502) applies to a carried abstention entry as it applies to an abstention outcome produced within the receiving agent, foreclosing conversion to a scalar, a default, or a threshold operand; foreclosing the increment of any counter of the disclosing agent, including the refusal counter (304); foreclosing anything adverse being appended to the disclosing agent's counterparty identity record (114); and foreclosing the treatment of subsequent non-response as an accepted determination (122) or a rejected determination (124). A release under this condition is recorded rather than scored: a release record naming the condition and the released class is appended to the receiving agent's own append-only lineage field (104).

Declared quantities, and what is left to the policy object

The filed disclosure attaches no interval, count, threshold, or numeric bound to this release condition. Satisfaction is by presentation of a settlement record of a matched pair (600) recording the gate transition for the class, verified against the identity primitives borne by that record.

Parameters governing the surrounding mechanisms are declared elsewhere. The spatial proximity window and the temporal proximity window (602) within which a matched pair (600) is recognized, together with the pairing rule form, are declared in the governing policy object, and where the parties resolve different policy objects each applies its own. The time-to-live field of the attestation, whose elapse is a separate release condition, is a field of the governed observation itself. An attestation window parameter declared in the receiving agent's governing signed policy object (112) bounds the interval between the attested epoch of a non-execution attestation (504) and the receiving agent's recorded time of admission; an attestation presented outside that 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 being appended.

Two further declared bounds sit adjacent to the mechanism. Admission of a carried abstention entry is conditioned upon an attestation origin-equivalence gate, under which a count of carried abstention entries held from parties of one origin-equivalence class (200) exceeding a bound declared in the signed policy object (112) causes a further attestation from a party of that class to be appended under the failing-element path of the receiver verification. Relay emission is bounded likewise, by a count of action classes declared in the emitting agent's governing signed policy object (112).

Composition with the surrounding chapter and the wider filing

The condition is recited within the chained cross-agent withholding, anti-amplification, and introduction protocols of Section 10.8. Neighboring recitations address adjacent points in the same lifecycle. The attestation revocation object supplies a release initiated by the disclosing agent, no revocation emitted by a party other than the disclosing agent being admitted. The widening supersession record covers a superseding attestation that adds a class, admitted only upon a fresh receiver verification and written as a further entry. The in-flight dispatch abstention record governs a dispatch transmitted before admission and outstanding at admission, which the receiving agent neither recalls nor cancels. The attestation origin-equivalence gate conditions admission itself, whereby a set of agents of a common origin equivalence does not, by attesting in concert, foreclose the receiving agent's dispatch-authority predicate across an unbounded set of action classes.

Downward, the mechanism composes with matched-pair settlement. Its input artifact is the settlement record (604), written upon recognition and admission of a matched pair (600), with each party appending its own settlement-lineage entry (606) and holding a per-party settlement lineage from which its transaction history is reconstructible without recourse to the counterparty and without recourse to any registry. The filed disclosure gives a worked instance of a gate transition effected by a pair: the acknowledgment artifact is transmitted as the first governed observation (608), the acceptance determination is emitted as the second governed observation (610), and the transition of the authorization gate (300) from the provisional granting state to the granting state is effected by the pair, without a third-party intermediary, without centralized consensus, and without pre-negotiated session state.

Upward, it meets the relay path. A receiving agent whose dispatch-authority predicate fails across a count of action classes exceeding a declared bound may emit a relay non-execution attestation of its own, whose withheld action-class enumeration is derived from that failing predicate and which 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 that entry was admitted. Release under the restoration settlement reference is recorded as to the released action class and appended, the entry relied upon being neither removed nor modified.

Distinguishing revocation lists, health signals, and clearing intermediaries

Three families of prior work sit close enough to be worth separating. Nothing below suggests that any product or party practices the claimed subject matter.

Credential revocation and status checking. Certificate revocation lists, online status protocols, and token revocation endpoints let a relying party learn that an issued credential is no longer good, and in some designs learn that it is good again. Those systems describe the standing of a credential, published by the authority that issued it, and the relying party consults that authority or its distribution point. The object here is a party's own recorded withholding of its own authority to act, disclosed by that party, and the release artifact is a bilateral settlement record (604) verifiable by a downstream consumer from the record alone and verified against the identity primitives it bears.

Availability signaling, health checking, and circuit breakers. Distributed systems commonly stop sending work to a dependency and resume on a probe, a timer, or a recovered health signal. Two structural differences apply. The resumption trigger in those designs is the caller's own observation, whether a successful trial request, an elapsed cooldown, or an error rate falling below a threshold, whereas the filed architecture recites that no accumulation of the receiving agent's own dispatch attempts, non-responses, or abstention outcomes releases a carried abstention entry. Such designs also reduce the dependency's condition to a magnitude, whereas the conversion bar (502) forecloses that reduction, a threshold comparison of a carried abstention entry emitting an outcome of the receiving agent's recorded abstention class and not a Boolean.

Reputation systems and clearing intermediaries. Reputation designs compute a score for an entity from ratings supplied by other entities and locate that score at a registry, a scoring authority, or a shared ledger. Clearing houses and consensus ledgers make a state change credible by routing it through an institution or a quorum. Release here is neither. It is the naming of a condition in a release record appended to the receiving agent's own append-only lineage field (104), resting on a settlement record (604) verifiable by a downstream consumer from the record alone, recorded without a third-party intermediary, without centralized consensus, and without pre-negotiated session state.

Disclosure Scope

The mechanism described here, the restoration settlement reference as a distinct release condition for a carried abstention entry, is disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application No. 64/117,812, at Section 10.8, paragraph [0468], within the material on chained cross-agent withholding, anti-amplification, and introduction protocols. The base portable-abstention architecture on which it operates, comprising the non-execution attestation (504), the receiver verification, admission as a value of the abstention type (506), the conversion bar (502) across the agent boundary, the dispatch-authority predicate, and the release rule it extends, appears at Sections 5.6 through 5.9 of the same application. The matched-pair settlement layer supplying the settlement record (604) and the settlement-lineage entry (606) appears at Section 6. This article is a technical disclosure describing subject matter of that application; it is not a claim construction, and the operative disclosure is the filed application itself.

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

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