

A pause is not a defect. Ask who *designed* it.

Every buyer's checklist doing the rounds this year grades agents on one axis: does it keep going without being re-prompted. That reads a designed halt and a capability gap as the same failure. **They are opposites.**



THREE QUESTIONS BEFORE SIGNATURE		
01	02	03
Where does it stop? Name the decision , not the system.	Who holds that stop? A named person , not a committee.	What backs them? A budget line and an escalation path.

The audit trail tells you what happened.
It does not tell you who could have said no.

Source: Gartner, 25 June 2025 — over 40% of agentic AI projects forecast to be cancelled by end-2027; roughly 130 of thousands of self-described agentic vendors judged real. A prediction from mid-2025, not a 2026 finding, and the vendor denominator is undisclosed. Treat the 130 as directional.

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