



**Executive Brief**  
**Two Complementary Models for Governing Enterprise AI**  
**Decision Authority**

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# WEKID™ Executive Brief

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*Two Models. One Framework. Governing Enterprise AI Decision Authority.*

## Capability Is Not Authority

As artificial intelligence systems become more autonomous, tool-enabled, and embedded in consequential enterprise workflows, traditional evaluation methods — accuracy scores, fluency, benchmark performance — can no longer distinguish outputs that are merely well-written from those that are factually sound, operationally safe, and grounded in appropriate judgment. Publicly documented failures, from fabricated legal citations to erroneous benefits determinations and runaway autonomous agents, share a common pattern: **apparent expertise silently became delegated decision authority without governance.**

## The WEKID™ Framework: Two Complementary Models

WEKID™ closes this governance gap by separating two questions that most AI programs conflate: how mature is the knowledge, and how much decision authority should follow?

### Model One — The Epistemic Maturity Model

The Epistemic Maturity Model assesses the quality of the knowledge behind every AI output across five hierarchical layers — **Data, Information, Knowledge, Experience, and Wisdom** — mirroring how humans progress from raw facts to understanding, application, and judgment. Layer-level evaluation produces a **Maturity Score** that determines whether an output is epistemically ready to be trusted, while hierarchical gating prevents fluent or confident outputs from masking foundational errors.

### Model Two — The AI Decision Authority Model

The AI Decision Authority Model governs **who or what is authorized to decide — and how** — across five levels of delegation: from **No Authority** (informational output only) through **Constrained, Supervised, and Augmented Authority** to full **Human Authority**. The assigned **Authority Level** ensures decisions are made by the right entity, at the right level, in the right way.

## The Trust Bridge

The two models are connected by a **Trust Bridge**: only outputs that meet the required maturity threshold advance to authority evaluation. Epistemic Maturity determines if an output is ready; Decision Authority determines who or what decides.

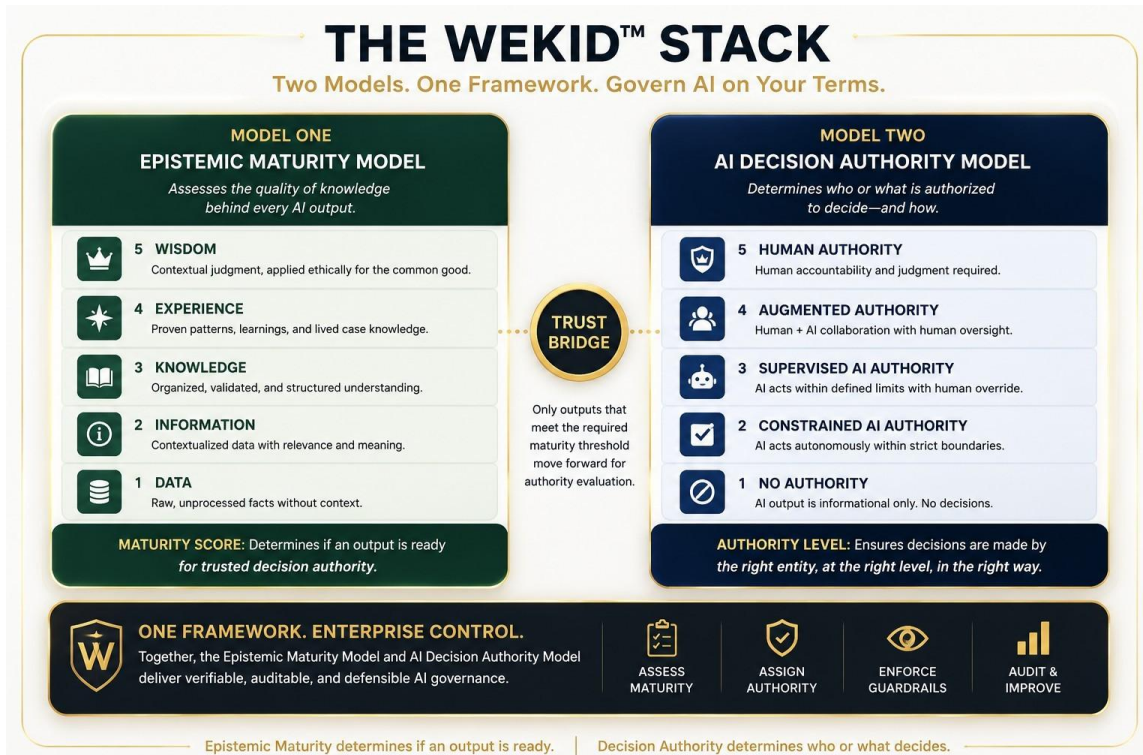


Figure 1. The WEKID™ Stack — the Epistemic Maturity Model and the AI Decision Authority Model, connected by the Trust Bridge.

## From Principles to Enforceable Governance

Because WEKID™ evaluates **outputs and decisions rather than models**, it is applicable across vendors, architectures, and tool-using or agentic systems, and supports human, automated, and hybrid review. Operating as a continuous cycle — **assess maturity, assign authority, enforce guardrails, audit and improve** — WEKID™ translates responsible-AI principles into measurable, enforceable, and audit-ready controls, providing a practical foundation for enterprise AI governance, compliance, and risk management.

Together, the two models deliver verifiable, auditable, and defensible AI governance — before authority is delegated, not after failures occur.