The 7 Cron Jobs That Burned My Weekly Codex Budget

(While I Did Almost Nothing)

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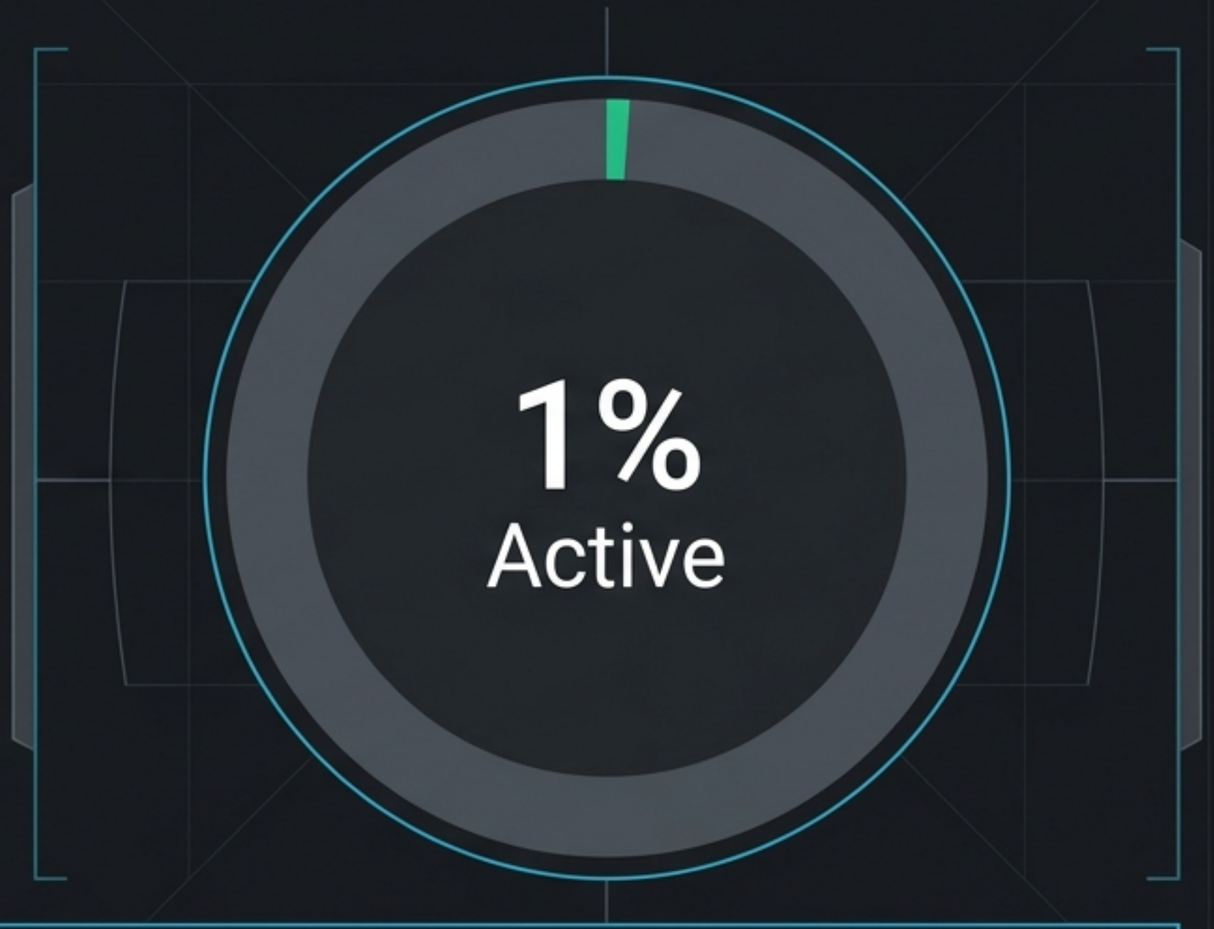
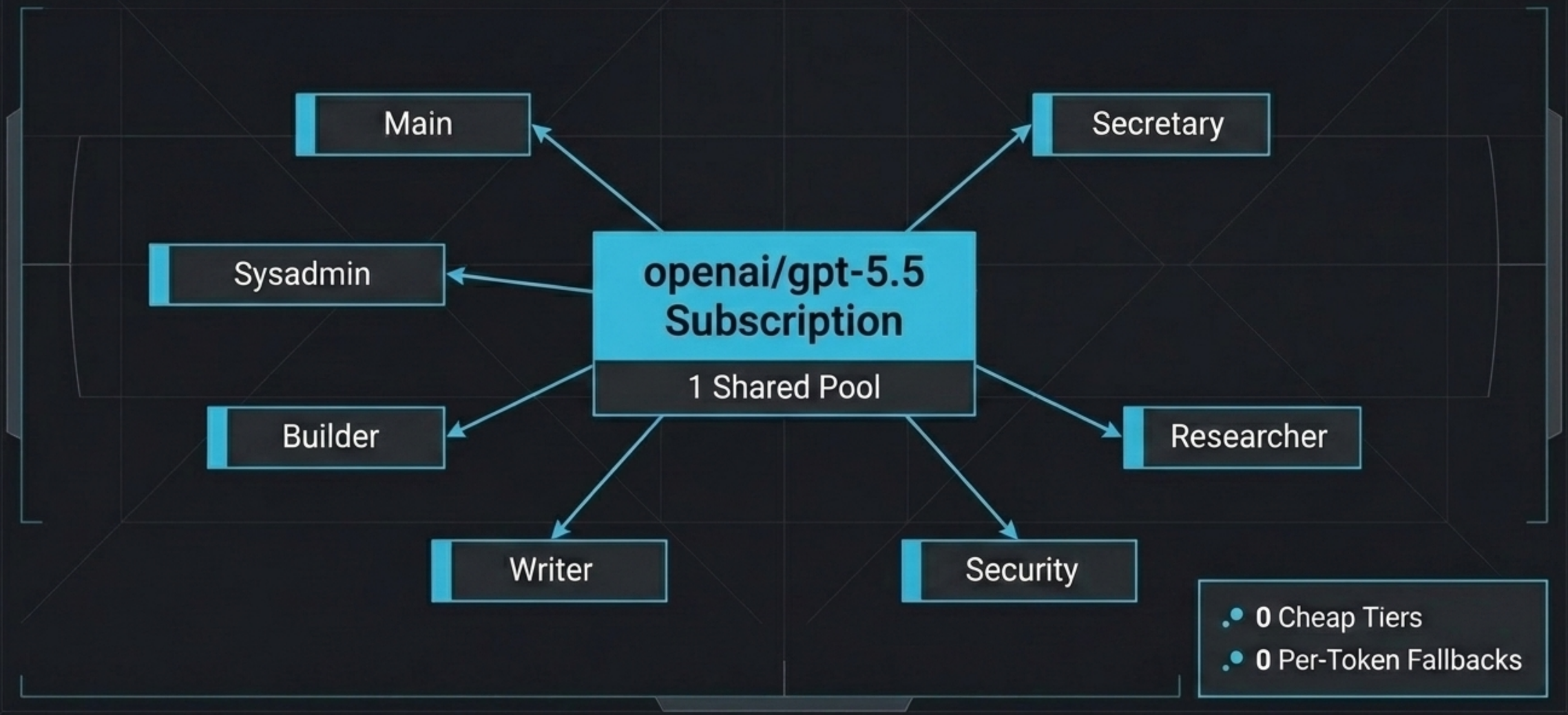
Weekly Subscription Budget

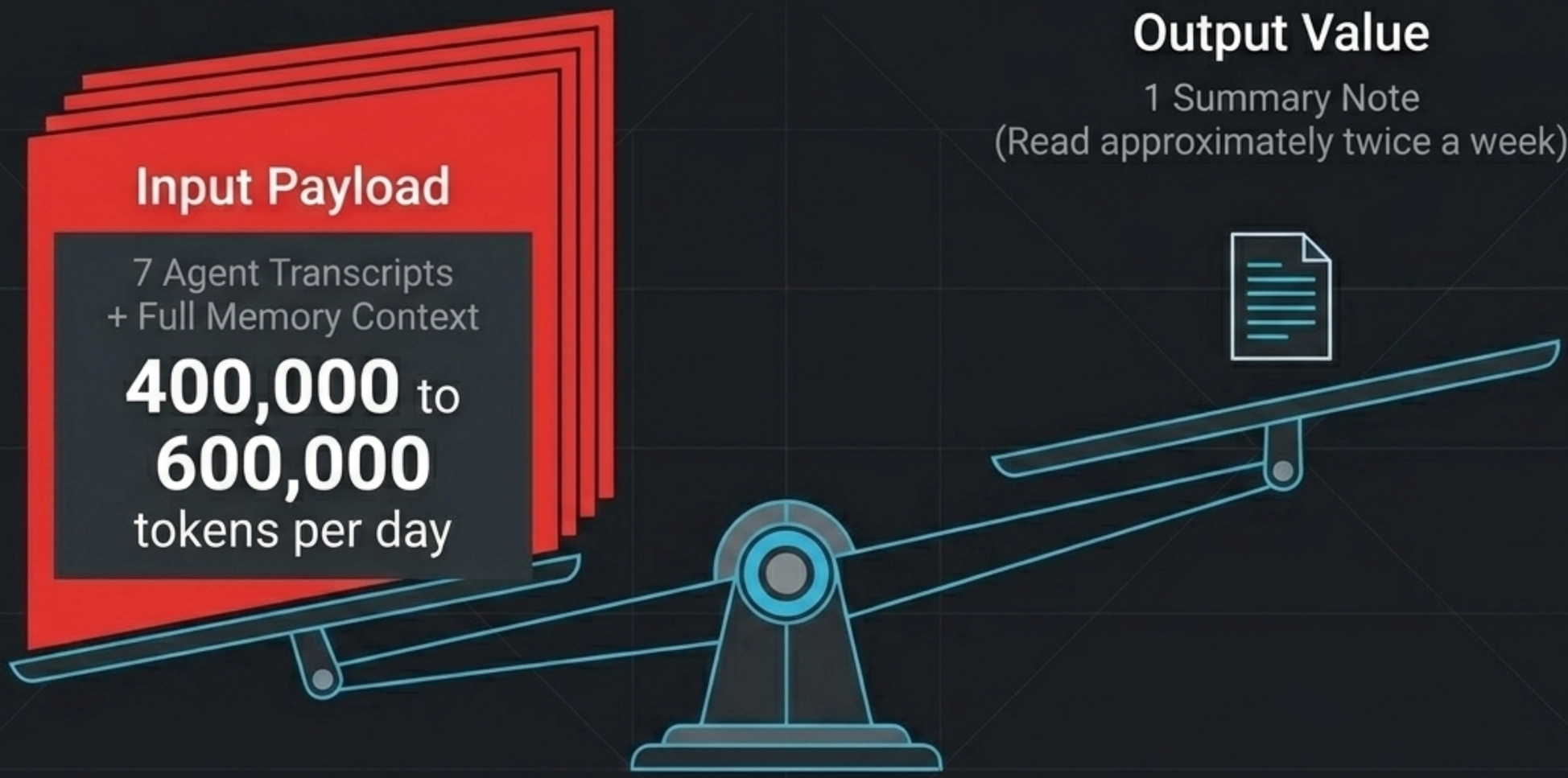
Rolling Five-Hour Window



The drain occurred steadily in the background over preceding days, not during current interactive sessions. The weekly cap hit 100% before the interactive workload even began.

One pool, shared by everything.





One daily roll-call job was burning more budget than the entire interactive workload combined.

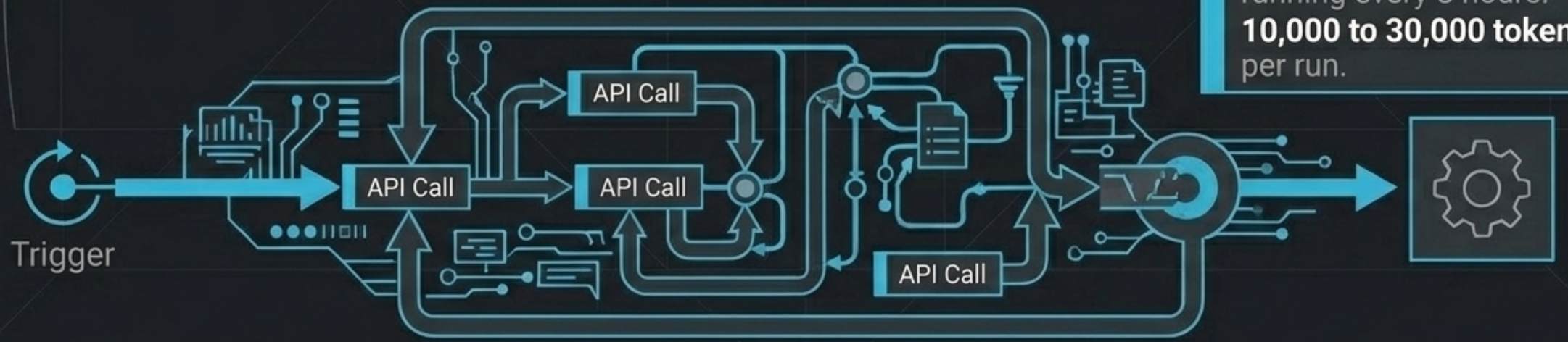
Run standard shell scripts

Trigger

"Launching rockets to check the weather."

agentTurn Payload

3 Healthcheck Jobs
running every 8 hours.
10,000 to 30,000 tokens
per run.



Rate-limit failures triggered the exact anomalies the system was designed to detect.

ANOMALY TIMELINE AND CASCADING FAILURE GRAPH

CASCADING FAILURE CHAIN

Trigger:
20-minute log silence during normal idle gaps

Event:
Gateway Restarts (120 false restarts per day)

Impact:
Interrupted Cron Jobs

Result:
Cascading Retries and Wasted Tokens

CONTEXT NOTE: Synced configuration files preserved outdated modification timestamps. The system was running stale logic while masking the available fix.

TELEMETRY CONSOLE EXECUTIVE MONITORING DASHBOARDS

Before	After
Total Scheduled Jobs: **7**	Total Scheduled Jobs: **3**
Agent Runs per day: **11**	Agent Runs per day: **2** (1 weekly synthesis, 1 daily backup)
Primary Drain: Roll-call and heavy Healthchecks	Addition: 1 zero-token digest

11 daily agent runs reduced to 2.

COMMAND PAYLOAD ARCHITECTURE

agentTurn

Boots agent, loads reasoning model, highly vulnerable to rate limits.

vs.

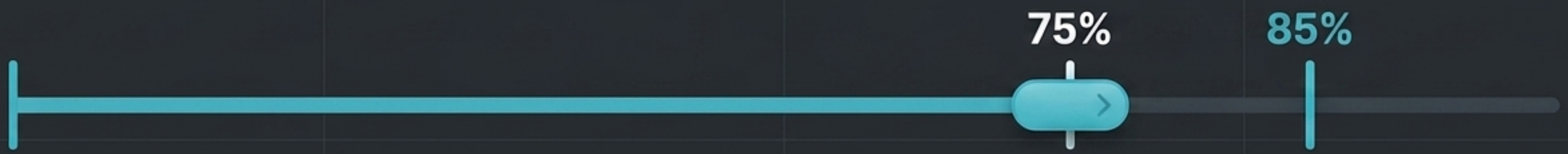
command payload (sh -lc)

Bypasses the model entirely. Deterministic execution.

Local Python script assembling CLI outputs into a Telegram message.

0 tokens consumed. 2 seconds total execution time.

LCM contextThreshold raised from 0.75 to 0.85.



Reduces the frequency of model-driven compaction calls for lightly used agents.

CORE INSIGHT

Memory compaction runs on a model too. The default threshold is a configuration choice, not a static rule. Audit it before assuming it fits the workload.

Audit the Scheduler.

Background jobs create a 100% budget floor before any interactive use occurs.

Match Tool to Task.

Do not pay a reasoning model to execute deterministic shell commands.

Prefer Deterministic Digests.

Structured CLI outputs cost nothing compared to full-transcript ingestions.

Watch the Weekly Window.

A maxed weekly cap paired with low hourly usage is a direct pointer to background drain.