

Cutting the Last Cord

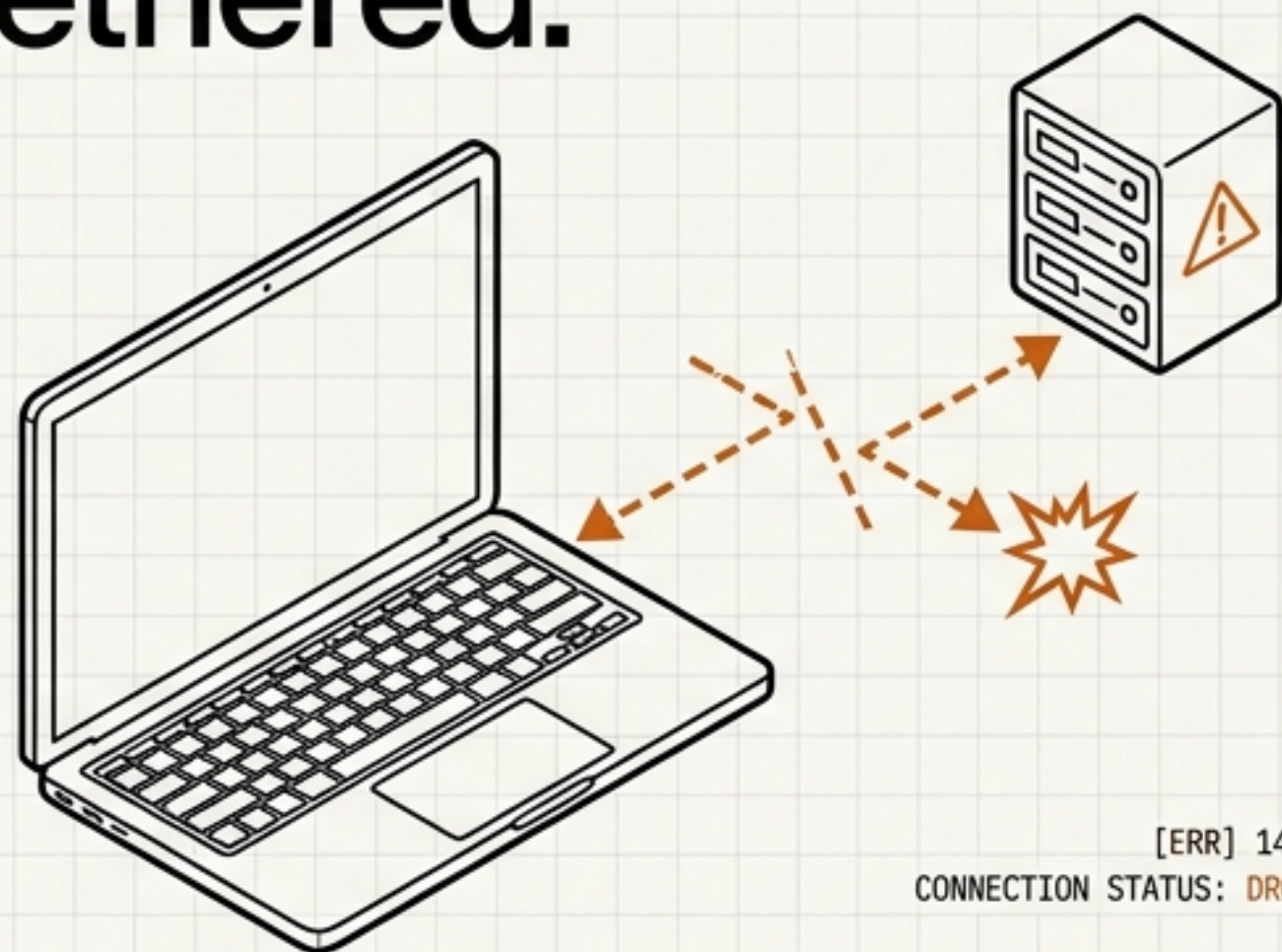
Moving AI Coding Agents into the Phone.



Architecture Teardown // Layered Setup // Agent Automation

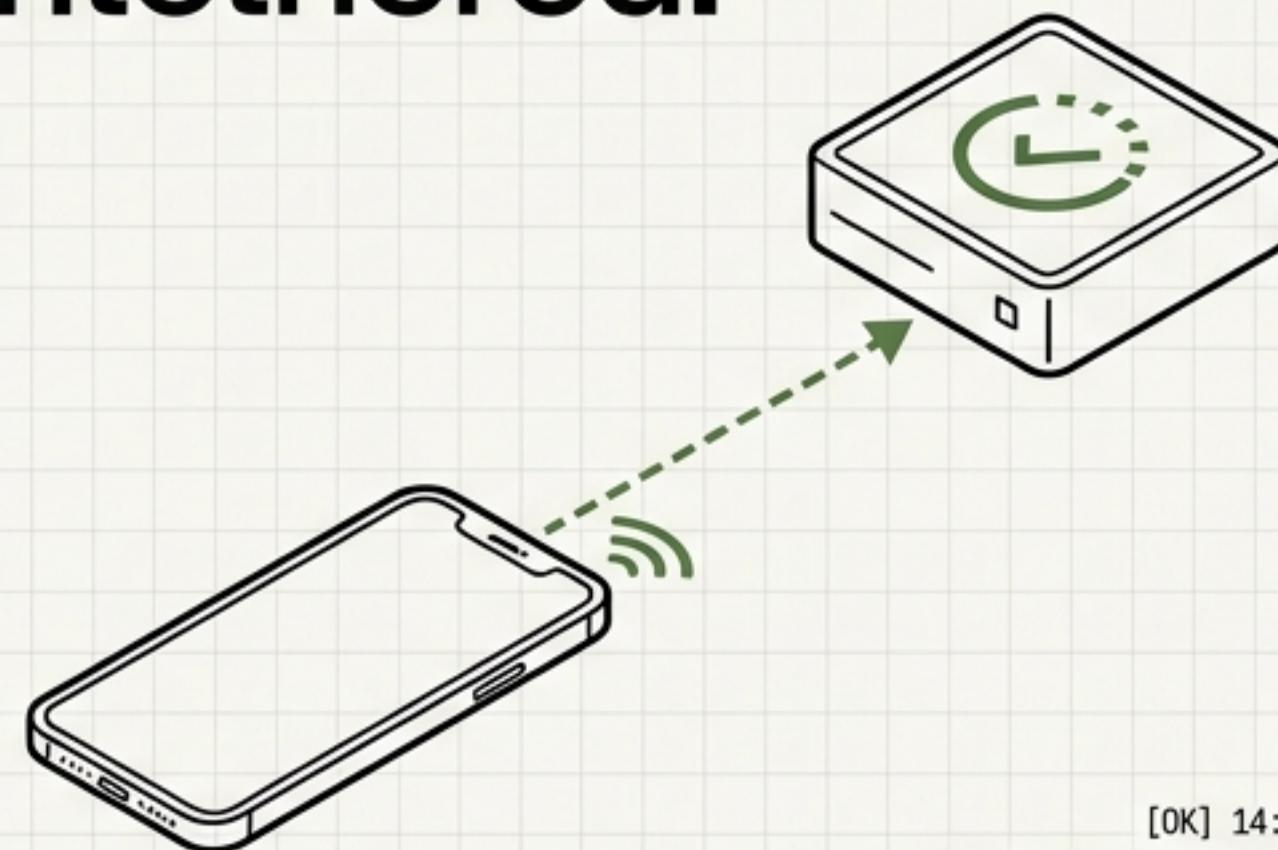
The problem with laptop-bound agents

Tethered.



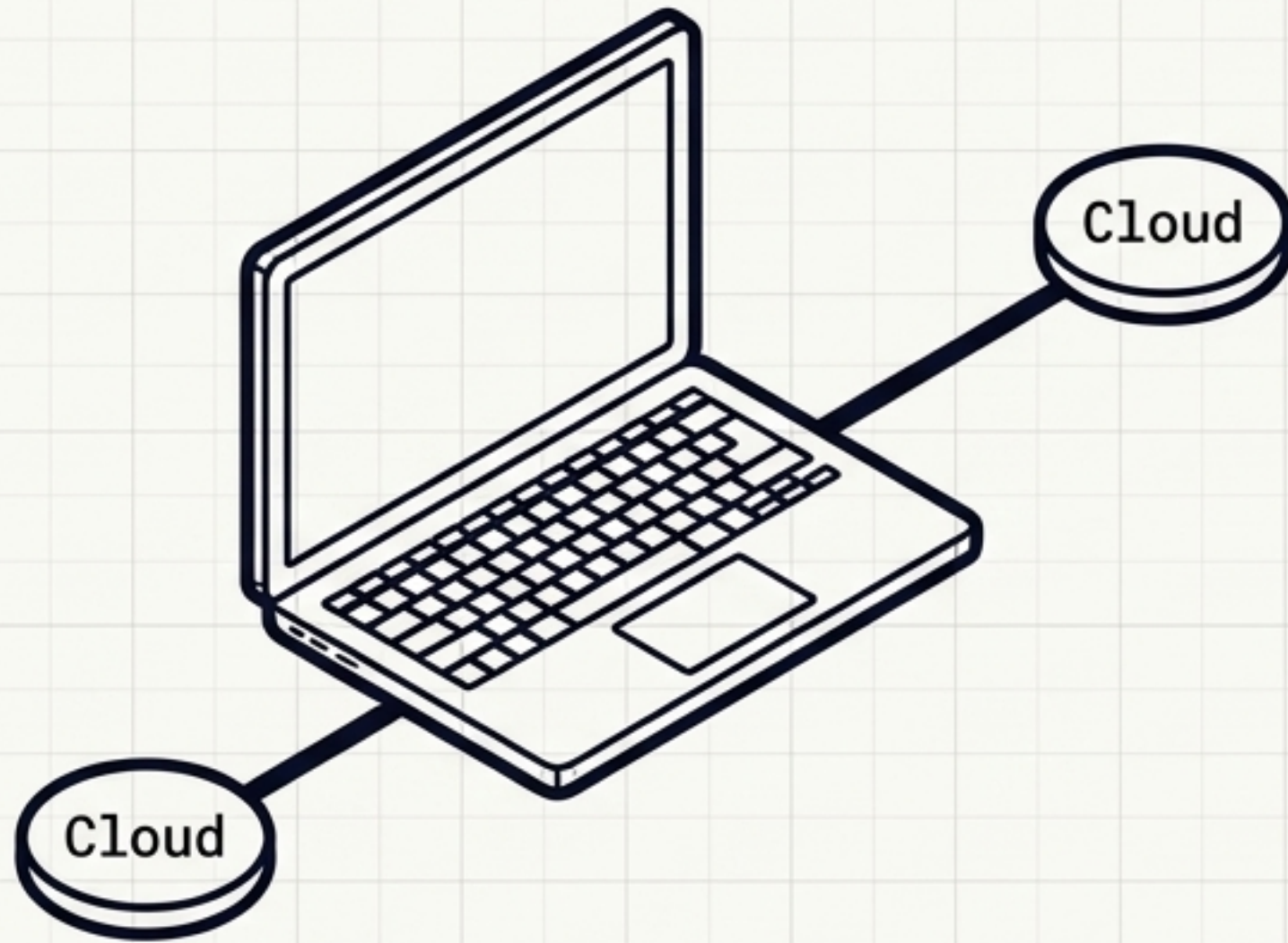
The moment the lid closes, the '**terminal**' dies, the '**session**' drops, and the '**agents**' stop working.

Untethered.

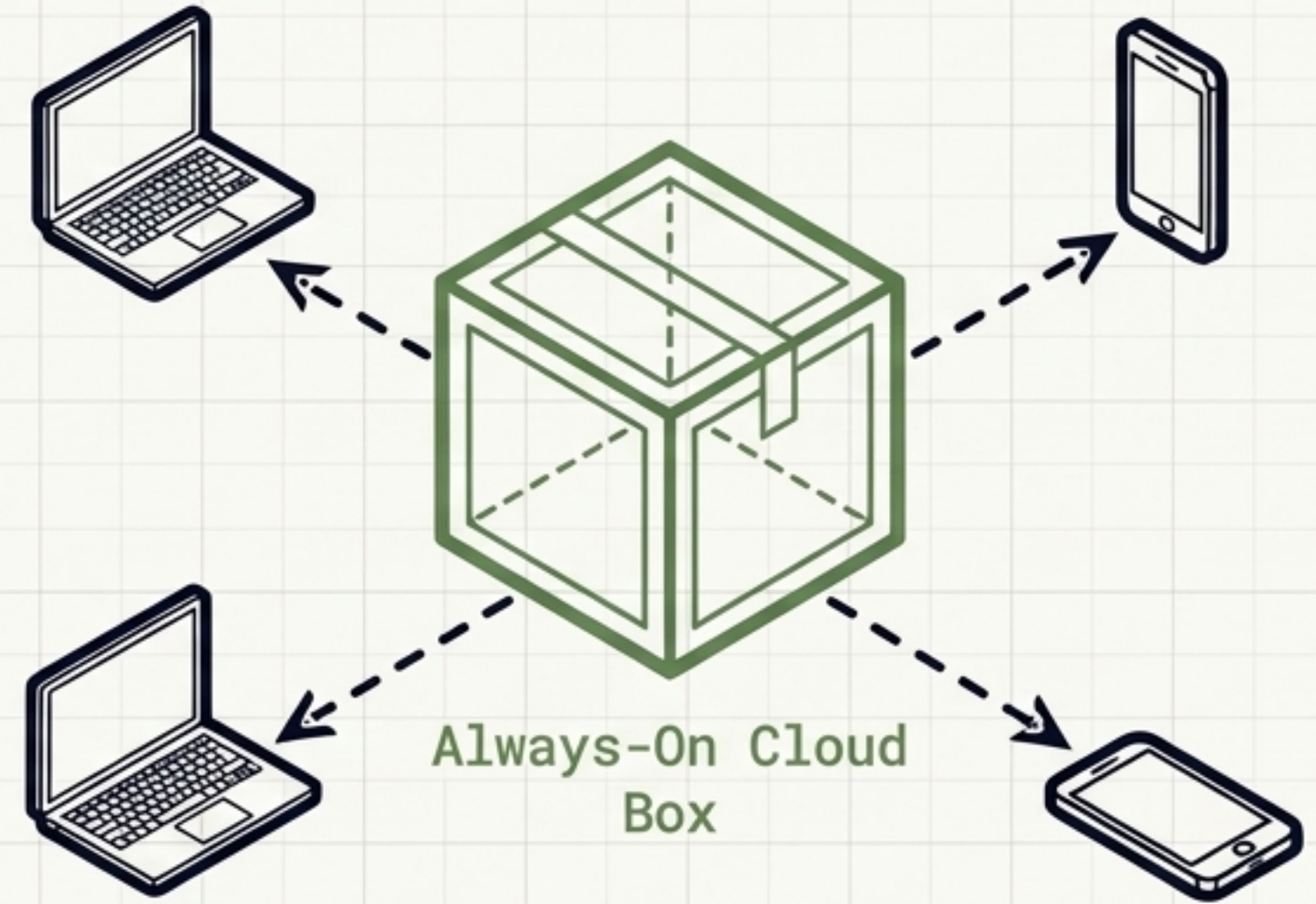


The desired state: '**agents**' run on an '**always-on box**'. The phone acts as a '**remote viewfinder**' to unstick blockers, hand out tasks, and pocket the device while work continues.

Re-centering the agents' home



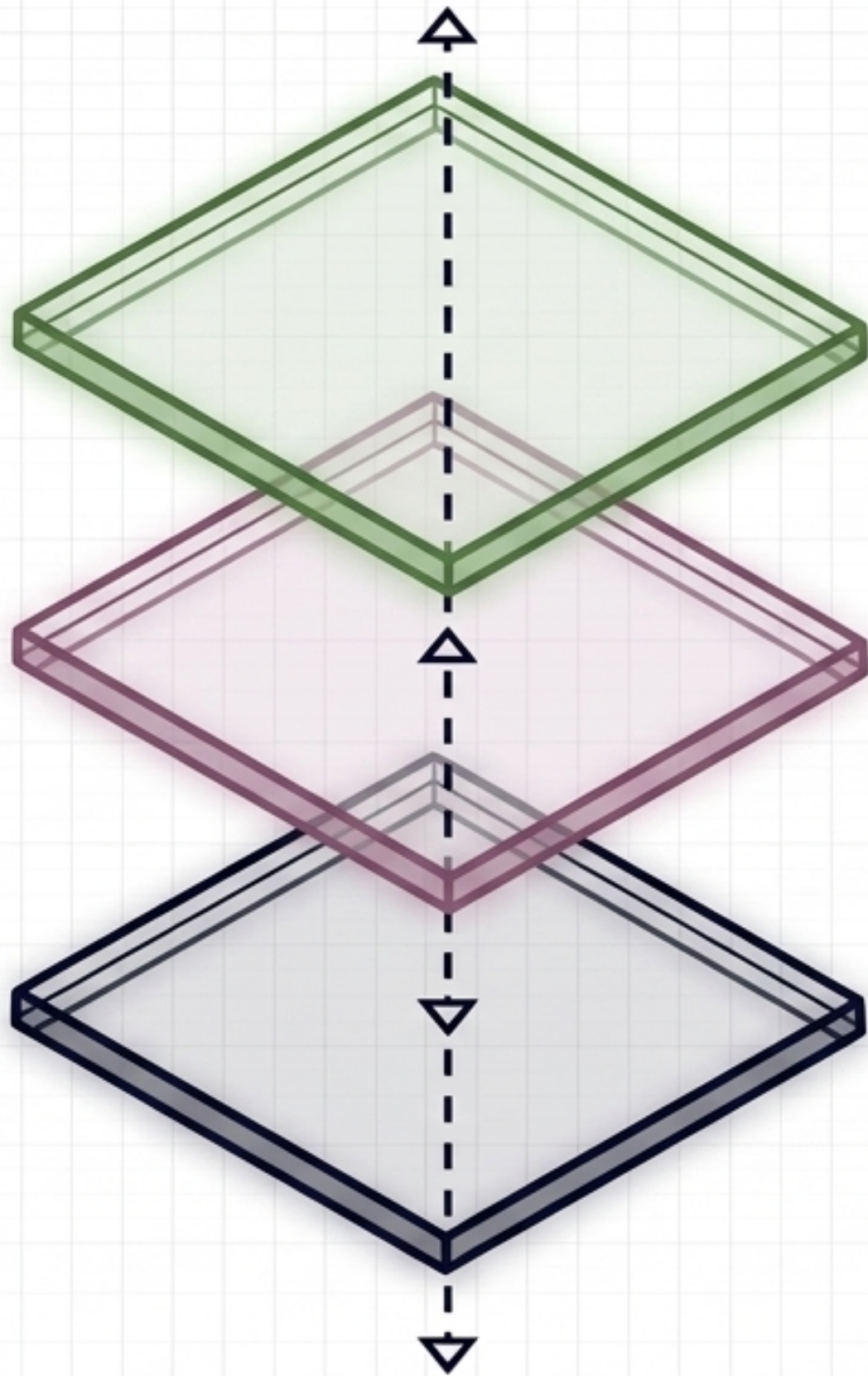
Old: Laptop as Hub
(Requires open lid, constant network)



New: Box as Hub
(Laptop demoted to an interchangeable client)

Infrastructure Requirement: Any cheap cloud VM (8-core Linux) or home spare above a Raspberry Pi works. Only two requirements: Always on, and SSH accessible. Running agents barely touches CPU; it just needs network stability.

Three layers. Three tools. One purpose.



Moshi

// The Phone Layer. A native iOS terminal app that reaches into the remote machine room to show and drive panes.

hcom

// The Messaging Bus. Lets independent agents coordinate via @name on a shared bus. External scripts drop tasks here.

herdr

// The Session Backbone. A headless server owning every agent's terminal pane. Handles detach/reattach.

Building the persistent backbone

Step 1: Make herdr a persistent service.

Run as a systemd user service with linger enabled. It survives logouts and reboots without depending on a user session.

```
ExecStart=%h/.local/bin/herdr server  
Restart=on-failure
```



Step 2: Route spawns through herdr.

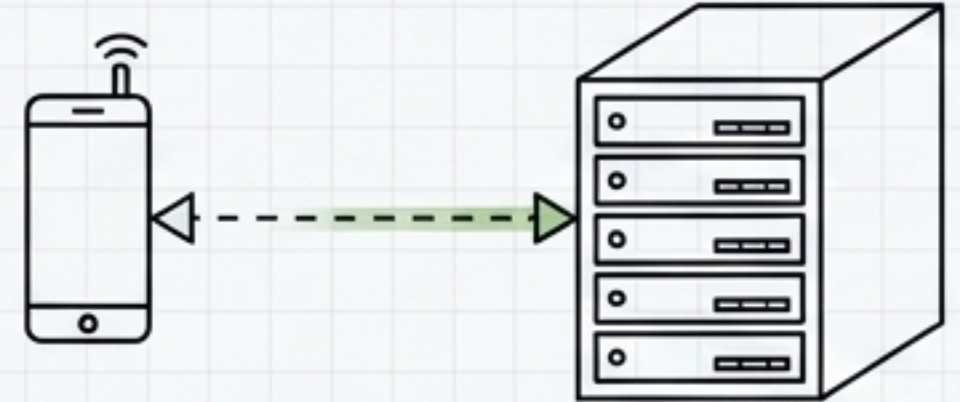
Tell hcom to use herdr as the terminal backend so agents land in a persistent pane.

Connecting the mobile client

Step 3: Pair Moshi on the phone

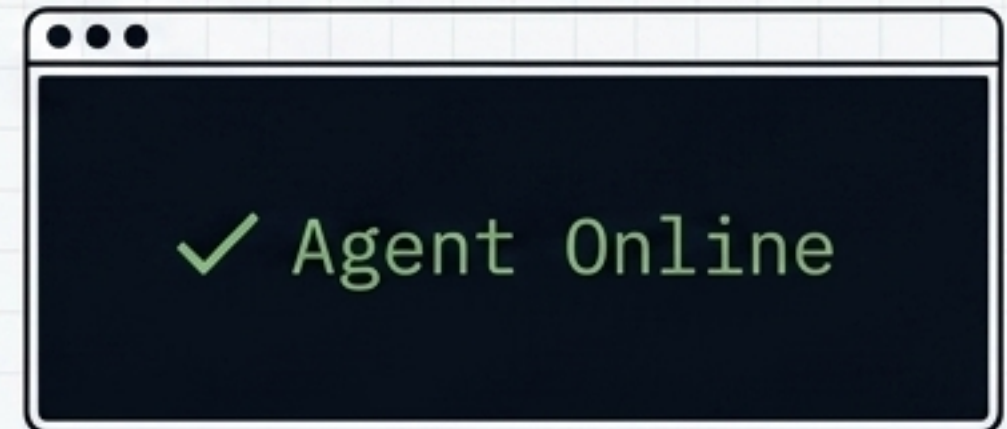
Run the pairing command once on the box. The phone can now connect to the herdr session and see every pane.

```
moshi-hook host setup
```



Step 4: Smoke Test

Connect from the phone, open a pane, and type `hcom cclaude`. Hand it a task and watch it execute. Layer one is officially up.



The Protocol Bottleneck: SSH vs. Mosh

Smoothness is decided by the transport layer, not the network speed.

	Free Moshi (SSH)	Moshi Pro (Mosh)
Transport Protocol	TCP	UDP
Rendering Engine	Waits for full remote repaint	Local predictive rendering (instant)
Network Resilience	Suffers TCP head-of-line blocking on packet loss	Ignores jitter and never stalls
The resulting Vibe	Jerky, one-frame-at-a-time scroll	Buttery smooth

Takeaway: Free tier validates the flow. The Mosh protocol (via Pro) is mandatory for serious mobile steering.

Closing the loop on the 5-Hour Wall

The ultimate untethered setup requires agents that can recover without human supervision.



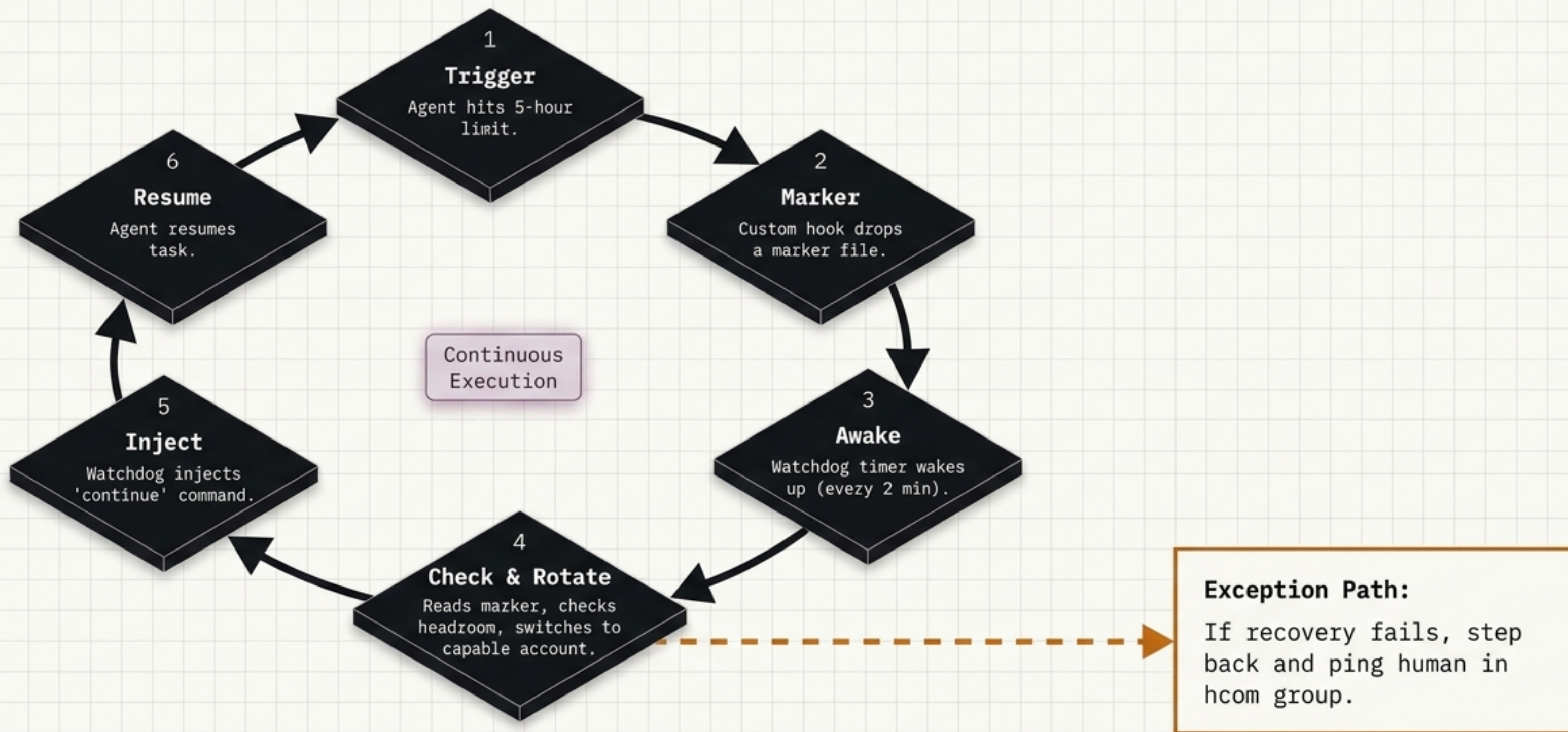
Technical Reality

hcom is blind to the usage wall. Its hooks do not cover it. Detection must ride Claude's own interruption hook.

The Requirement

A custom fallback chain using 3 Claude accounts (the last holding 30% in reserve) to ensure work continues while the phone is pocketed.

The Watchdog Automation Loop



Operational Realities & Traps

Reality / State	Risk / Trap	Hard Rule / Solution
Agents run unattended and unlocked (bypass permissions).	Can destroy production if unchecked.	Machine must be single-purpose, personal-identity, and network-locked.
herdr persists sessions, but stores terminals in-memory.	A server reboot wipes all running agents.	Laptop lid closes are fine, but expect full wipes on box restarts.
herdr can manage named or default sessions.	Phone connects to an empty pane if agents spawned in default.	Point the systemd service strictly to the default session.
One-shot SSH does not load shell config.	Spawning hcom hangs on launch_blocked.	Spawn from an interactive session or directly from the phone.

One cord, cut.



The assumption that work requires sitting at a computer has been dismantled.

Takeaway: The true value is not that the phone can reach the machine—it is that you are not there, and the work moves forward anyway. Close the lid. Leave the house. Let the agents run.