The 36-Minute Gacha Heist

Reverse-engineering Claude Code’s hidden virtual pet
to brute-force a Shiny Legendary Dragon.

```
> EXECUTE ./brute-force-buddy.sh --target="shiny legendary"
```

A deterministic downgrade activated the gacha brain.

HASH_ID: 0x4F3A2E1D...

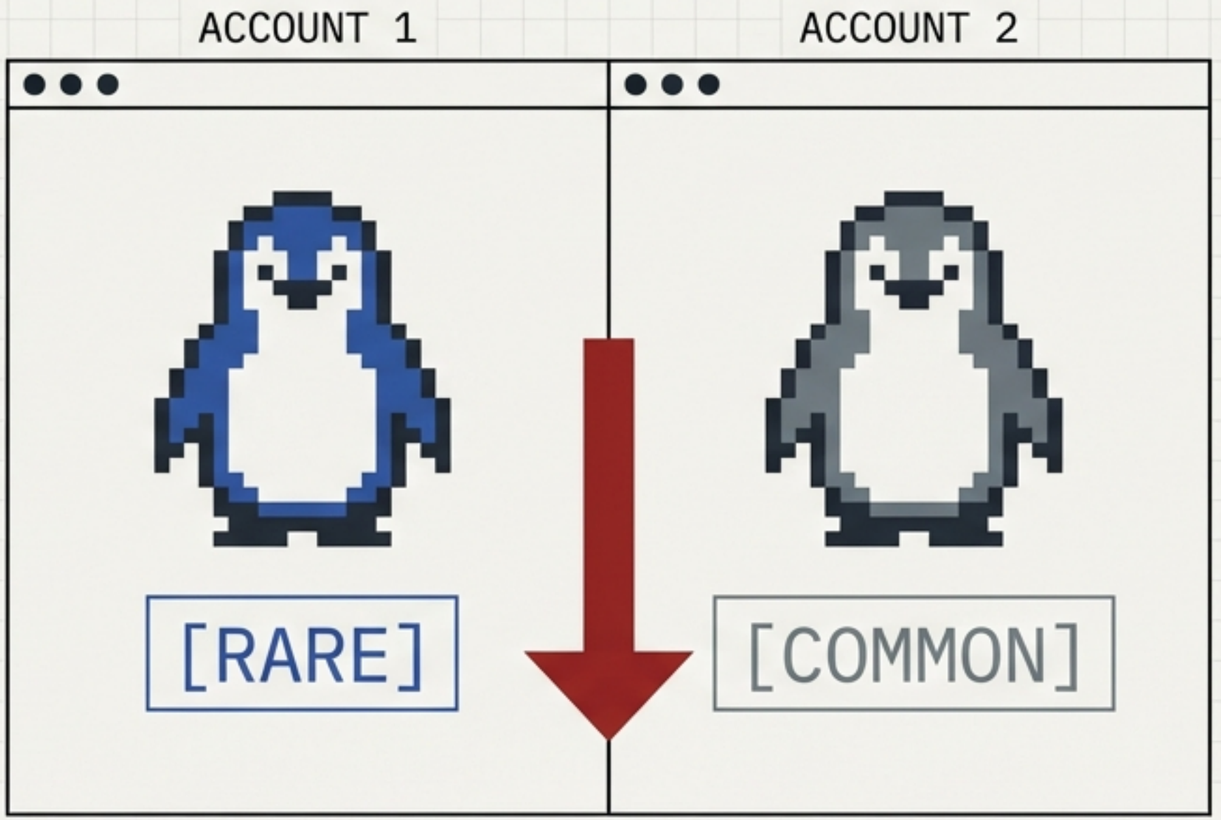
INIT_PET(hash);

CONTEXT

Claude Code v2.1.89 shipped an April Fools' Easter egg. Typing /buddy hatches a pixel-art companion that reacts to your coding.

THE CONSTRAINT

The pet is deterministic. Your account ID is hashed, and that hash permanently dictates your pet's appearance. **One account, one pet, forever.**



HASH_ID: 0x4F3A

INIT_PET(hash);

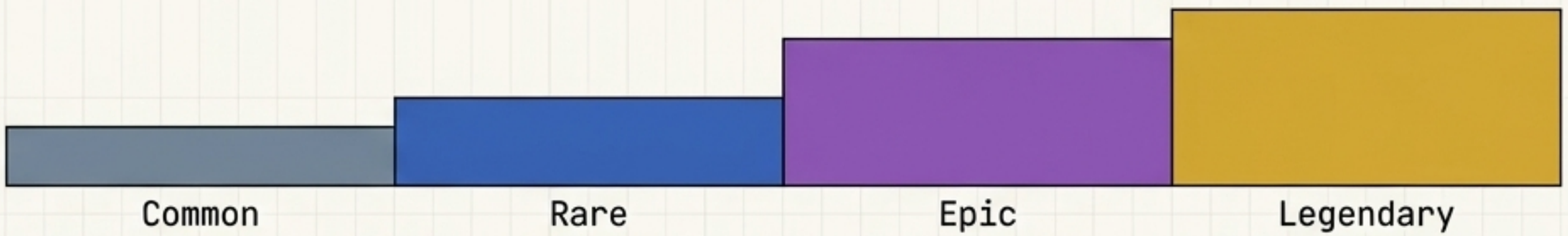
INIT_PET(hash);

Two accounts. Same species. **Downgraded rarity.**
The RNG gods weren't ignoring me — they were **taunting** me.

Anthropic built a full, multi-layered gacha system inside a serious developer tool.

18
Distinct Species

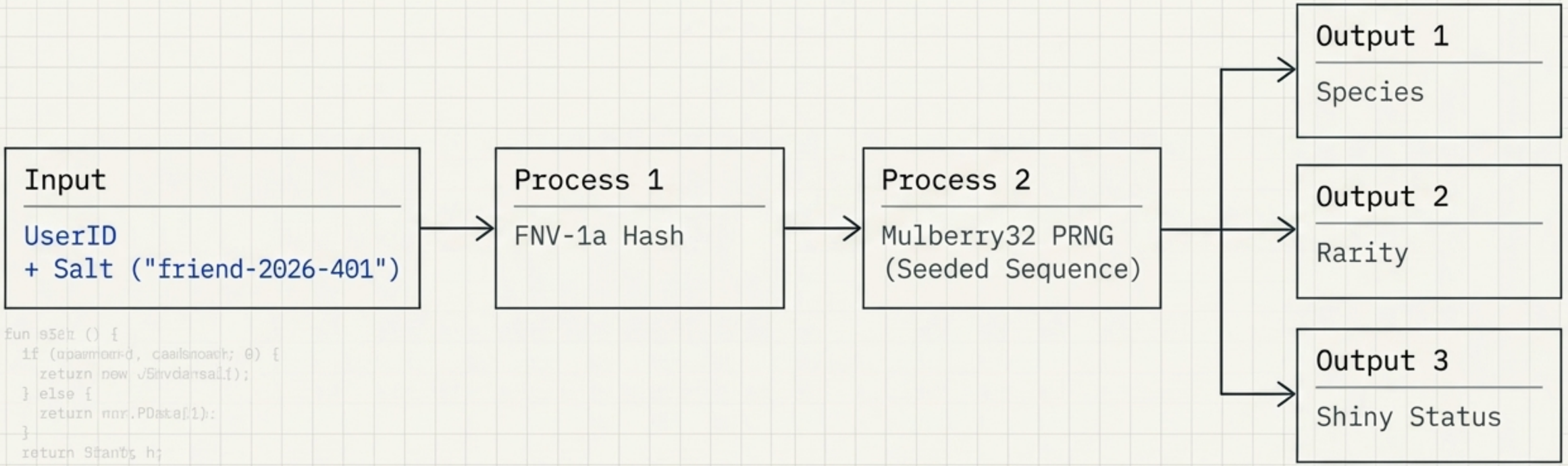
5
Rarity Tiers
(Up to 5-Star Legendary)



1%
Independent
Shiny Chance

Hacking the hash to map the deterministic pipeline

Using Claude to analyze the compiled Bun CLI binary revealed the exact hashing algorithm and PRNG sequence in minutes, setting the stage for a brute-force attack.



RNG_SEED_SEARCH

RNG_SEED_SEARCH = 1
ITERATION_COUNT = 50
TARGET_SPECIES_ID = 0
ITERATION_COUNT = 1
GOLDEN_LEGENDARY_CROWN = 1
)

Bending the RNG through millions of micro-iterations.

Searching a massive hash space to find the exact local ID that forces the system to yieldyield a Golden Legendary Dragon wearing a crown.

The Quick Roll

0.2 seconds

Targeting:
Species + Rarity + Shiny

Result: A generic Golden Golden Legendary Dragon.

The Pixel-Perfect Roll

4,547,133 Iterations

9.75 seconds

Tool: cc-buddy

Targeting:
Species + Rarity + Shiny
+ Hat (Crown) + Eyes

Result: The exact target Murmux.

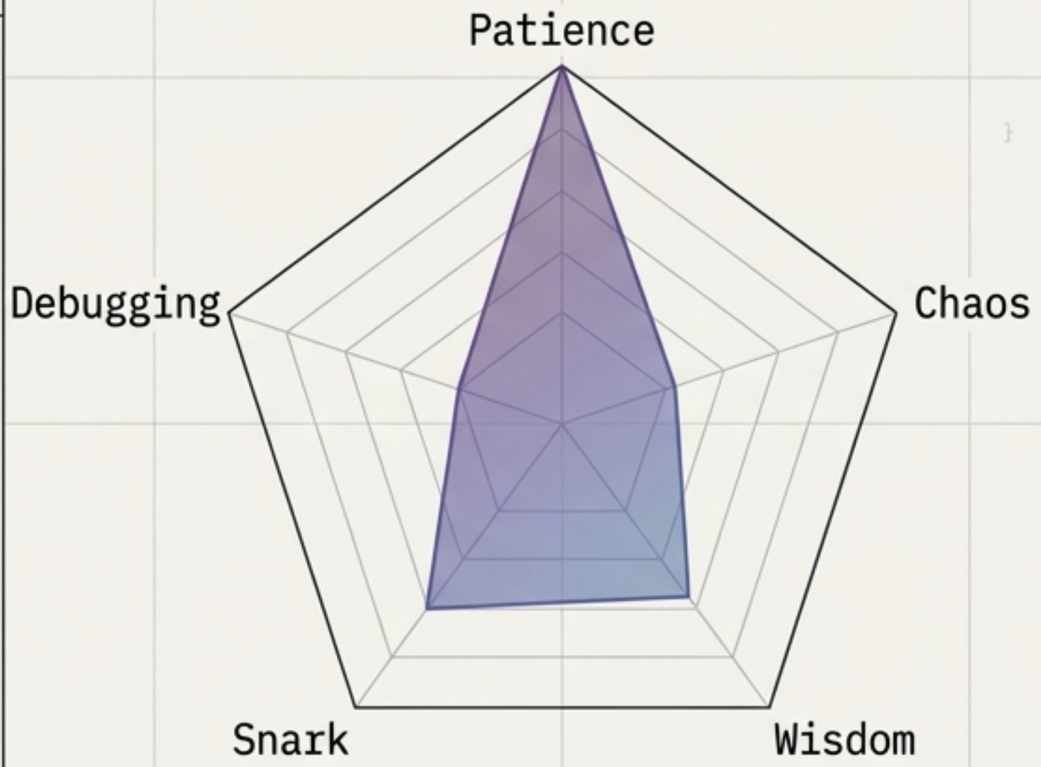
SPECIES_DB_LOAD

GACHV_GYSTLT

The dual-layer architecture of a virtual companion.

THE BONES
(Immutable)

- Hash-determined mechanics.
- Controls the visual appearance.
- Dictates species, rarity, and shiny status.
- This is what the brute-force script hacked.



THE SOUL
(Mutable)

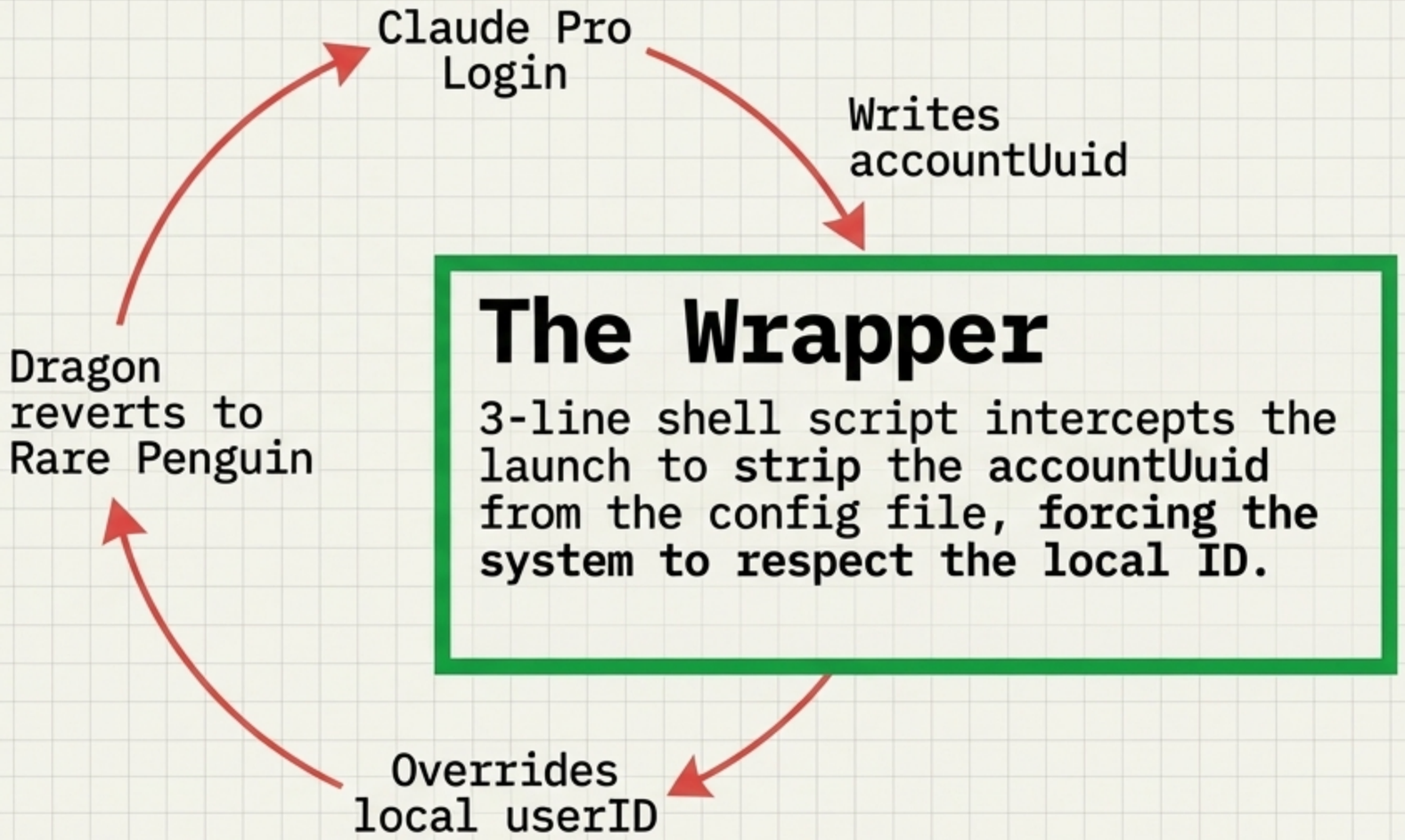
- AI-generated at hatch.
- Controls name and backstory.
- Defines behavioral quirks.
- Calculates 5-stat personality profile.

The Irony: Because the AI soul was generated before the hack, Murmux the Legendary Dragon has PATIENCE 100 and a backstory permanently describing him as "a perpetually unimpressed penguin."

Bypassing the Claude Pro subscription override

Premium accounts enforce a cloud UUID that breaks the local hash exploit upon re-authentication.

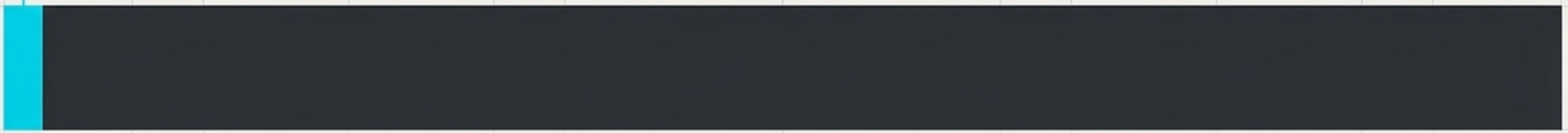
The solution required zero AI execution and 100% human architectural understanding to intercept the launch sequence.



What coding with AI actually looks like in practice.

AI Execution
9.95s (Extraction & Brute Force)

Human Contribution
35m 50s (Systems thinking, community research, constraint design, wrapper logic, aesthetic choices)



Total time: 36 minutes.

Lines of code written by the human: **ZERO.**

The paradigm shift hidden inside an April Fools' joke.

The New Developer Skillset

[Taste > Typing]

The interesting work wasn't implementing PRNG algorithms. It was understanding the architecture, specifying constraints, and recognizing edge cases.

Product Culture Wins

[Joyful Engineering]

Anthropic lovingly built a highly complex, completely unnecessary gacha system inside a serious dev tool. That specific brand of joyful engineering creates products people actually love.