

AI Agents Can Pay. The Ledger Still Cannot Explain Why.

A payment receipt records movement of money. A delegated-spend record should also explain the purpose, policy, permission and evidence behind the action.

HINTS, TIPS & TRICKS

- Keep the instruction and policy version with the decision.
- Narrow authority when the evidence burden is unclear.
- Assign reconciliation to a named owner.

OPERATOR CHECKLIST

1. Name the agent purpose and owner
2. Identify the allowed credential
3. Set vendor, category and time limits
4. Retain pre-action evidence and approval
5. Define shutdown and reconciliation routes

COPY-READY PROMPT

Create a control record for [delegated purchase]. Include purpose, owner, credential, policy version, permitted vendors, spending limits, evidence, review threshold and shutdown path. Explain how reconciliation links the transaction back to its approval.

SOURCE & PROVENANCE

Article claims: The edition argues that agent-initiated payments require a reconstructable approval path beyond an execution log.

Guidance: Derived operational guidance. Provider examples are historical context; confirm present capabilities before selecting an implementation.

Companion to: The AI Operator · 2026-05-31 · <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ai-agents-can-pay-ledger-still-cannot-explain-why-dave-glaser-27uze>

Retained source filenames: published-linkedin-2026-05-31.html