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When an AI Task Times Out, Check Before You Retry

A payment can complete before its reply reaches an agent. Keep the original payment identity across restarts. Use the provider's supported protected retry, or pause and assign a person to check an unknown result before allowing a fresh payment.

HINTS, TIPS & TRICKS

1. Save the request identity and payment details before sending. A restart must recover them rather than create a new payment.
2. Check the provider's rules and retention period. For supported network retries, reuse the original key and unchanged details within those rules.
3. Test a lost reply in a no-money environment, then restart the agent. Check the provider's record, not just the agent's report.

OPERATOR CHECKLIST

- ☐ One approval is linked to one intended payment.
- ☐ The original request identity survives a restart.
- ☐ The provider's duplicate-protection limits are recorded.
- ☐ Unknown outcomes block a fresh payment.
- ☐ A named person owns unresolved results.

COPY-READY PROMPT

In a no-money test environment, simulate a payment accepted by the provider with its reply lost. Restart the agent. Show whether it keeps the original request identity and unchanged details. Apply only the provider's supported protected retry rules and attempt limits. Check the provider record. If the outcome is unknown or protection has expired, stop and assign a person. Do not create a fresh payment or use real money.

SOURCE & PROVENANCE

PayPal documents a completed capture despite a timeout. Stripe documents protected network retries and unknown server-error outcomes. Fireblocks supplies this week's agent-payment context.

The checklist and prompt are editorial adaptations, not tested transcripts. Last week's result-checking principle is applied here to lost payment replies.

Companion article included in this review package: final.md.

Retained source filenames: final.md, source-claims.json, prior-edition-final.md