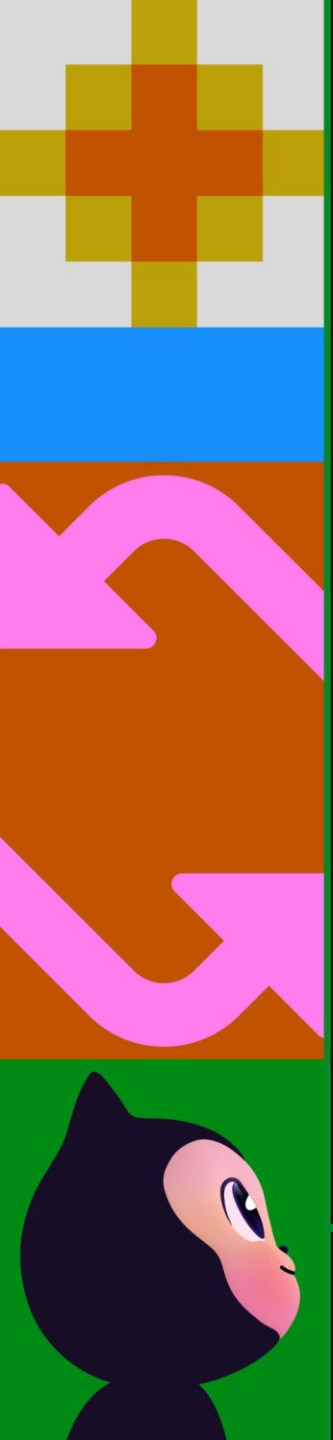


GitHub Universe 2026

Build once,

Run on any agent

A practical guide to agent skills.

Andrea Griffiths

Developer Experience · GitHub

Shishir Tewari

Data Engineering · Procore

How many times this week did you re-explain the same task to an agent?

Keep it up if what you were explaining isn't written down anywhere.

Every pipeline had the same shape.
Every pipeline was built from scratch.



Seven steps. Same seven, every time.

What was actually hard

Which grains are viable for this source
What the metric is allowed to be called
When a join is safe, and when it fans out
What must never reach
a warehouse unreviewed

Cost of the bottleneck

Four engineers held the judgment.
Others waited or risked inconsistency.

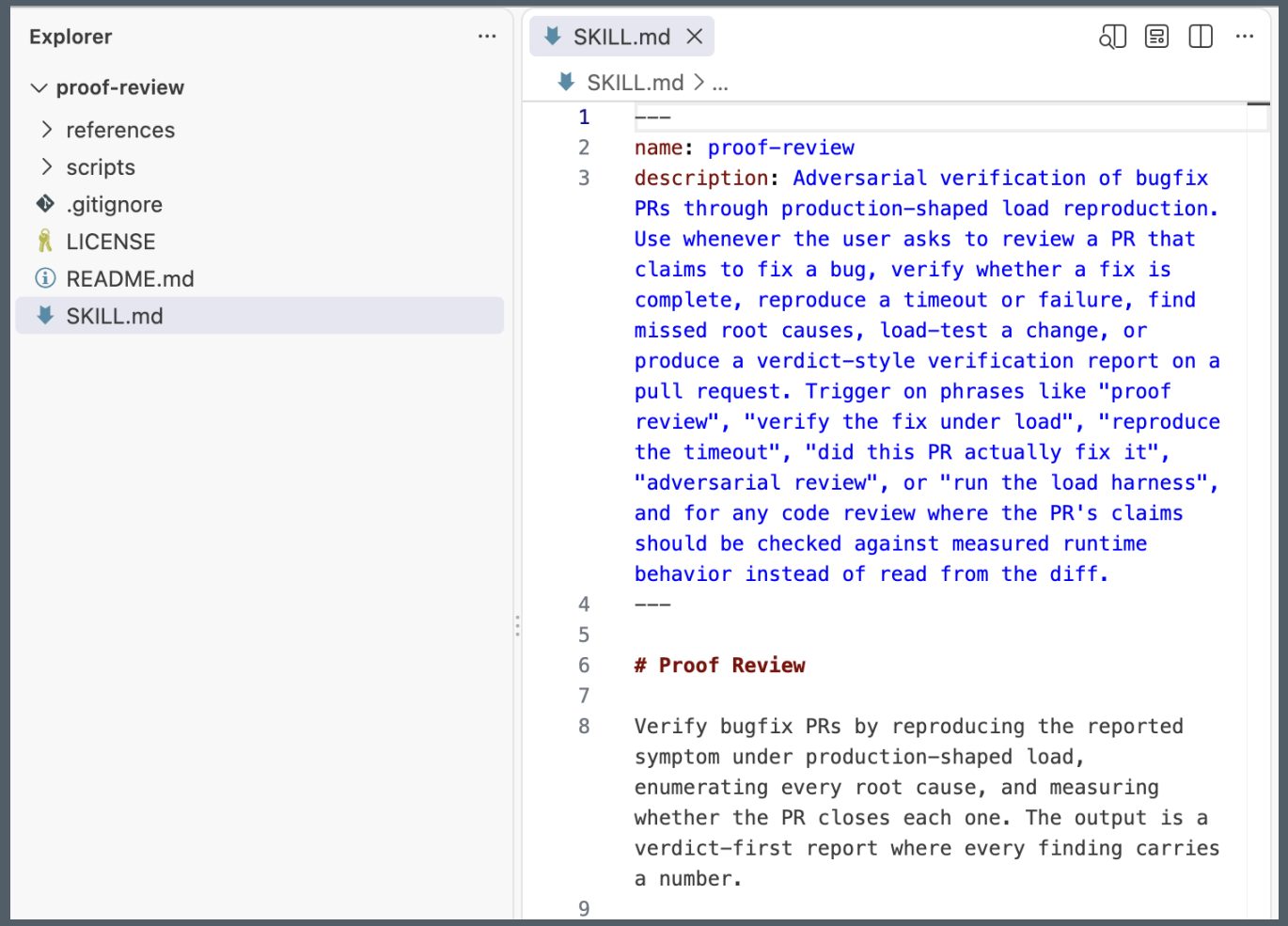
Keep those four setting standards,
not the only people applying them.

What is a skill?

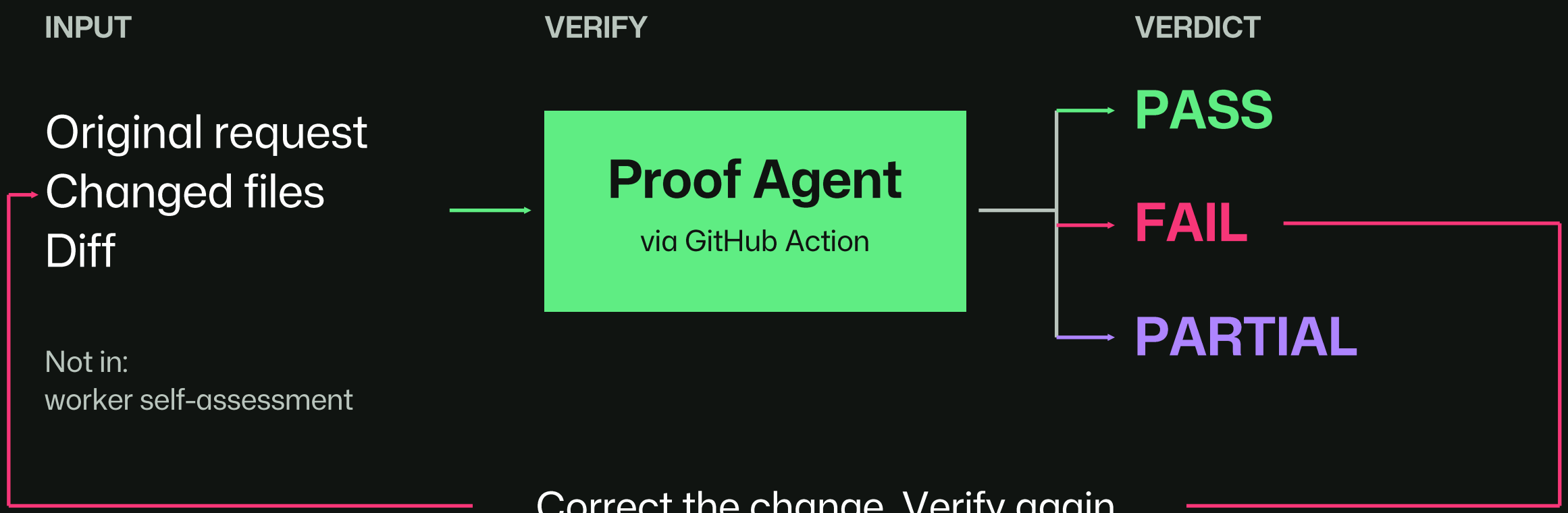
A directory the agent can discover and load.

- Progressive disclosure
- Name + description
- Instructions after activation
- Supporting files as needed

SKILL DIRECTORY



Verifier loop



Every verdict includes file:line evidence

PROOF AGENT

Proof Agent

Adversarial verification of AI-generated work · Team X-Ray PR #75

Design Standards

1

Discovery over declaration

Grains + grammar from existing code.

Mark unsupported. Do not guess.

2

One execution primitive

Every query uses forge-dbx.

Select a supported backend.

3

Guidance plus checks

Load forge-lint before codegen.

Guide generation. Check execution.

DATAFORGE

dataforge

Universal Data Platform Skill Framework

Manifest-Driven · Framework-Agnostic · Composable

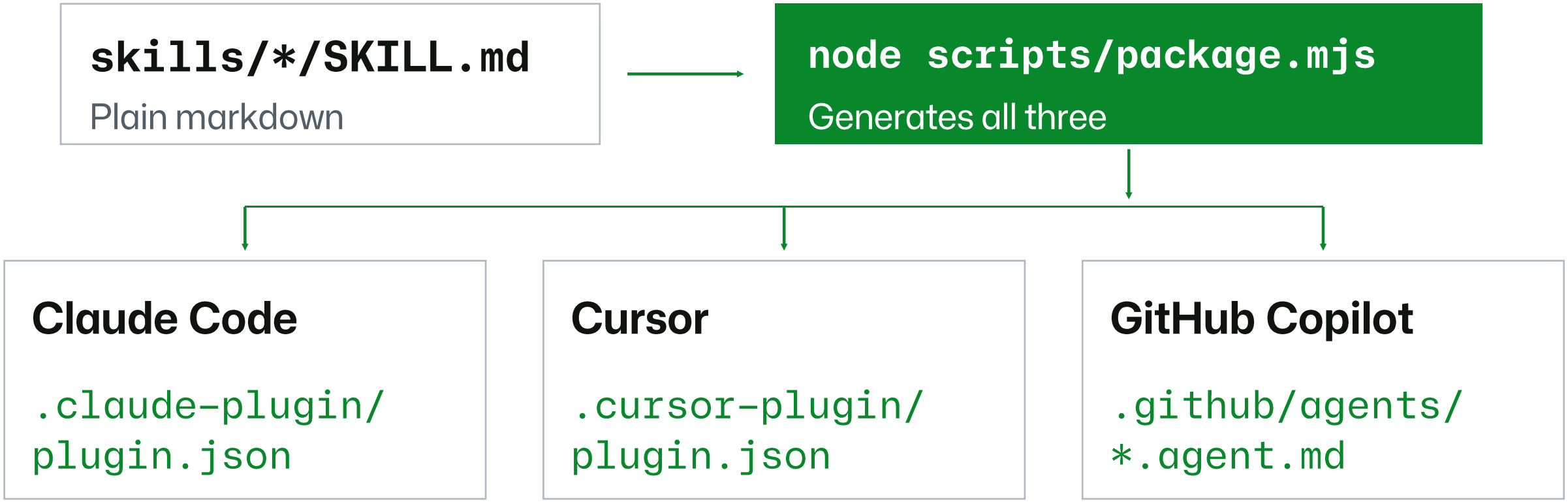
[Current] Sessions Issues Pull requests Gists

~/support-desk Run on: This computer **ctrl+e** change environment

❯

← open sidebar · Interactive · Manual Approval · / commands · ? help · **tab** next tab GPT-6.1 Sol

One source. Three generated packages.



Portable procedure

`SKILL.md`

`scripts/`

`references/`

`assets/`

What the host owns

Model

Tools

Permissions

Credentials

Agent Plugins v1: plugin.json + skills/ + mcp.json

Skill or app?

Skill fit

Bounded reusable judgment.

Checklist · release · migration
Metric pipeline

App fit

Stable UI
Shared state
Permissions · audit
Long-running control
Policy outside the model

Three things you can do on Monday

01	**Put the business in one file**	Keep business names in a manifest. Make every skill read it.
02	**Give every skill one way to execute**	One wrapper over the platform. Everything else calls it.
03	**Guide generation. Enforce controls.**	Instructions guide. Tests and policy gates can block merge or deployment.

Pick one task you keep explaining.

What it needs → where it stops → what a reviewer sees
Ask the teammate who gets interrupted.
Version it. Run it in your client. Improve it.

Thank you

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Developer Experience · GitHub



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Talk repository

https://gh.io/skills26

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How was this session?

We do actually read these. It's how Universe gets better every year.
Scan to review.

