THE ANSWER AND ITS HIDDEN ASSUMPTION

A plausible answer. The wrong source.

A real incident from RDEP’s development, examined closely. The failure was not a missing file: it was treating one source as if it represented another.

What the agent was advising about

The agent proposed corrections to the project’s saved memory: notes used to orient later work. But its advice relied on an export from a different memory location.

RECONSTRUCTION — NOT A VERBATIM AI TRANSCRIPT

The export contains statements that need correction.

Those statements must therefore be in the project’s own memory.

We should correct the project memory.

The highlighted step is not established.

Reading a statement in an export establishes what that export says. It does not establish where the statement is stored elsewhere. The recommendation depended on an unverified link between the export and the project memory.

THE CHECK THAT WAS NEEDED

Does this source actually represent the memory we are proposing to change?

Annotations are explanatory and prepared by Memtric. The human owner exposed the mistake; RDEP did not detect it automatically.

THE CHECK, THE FINDING, THE CONSEQUENCE

Three sources. A different conclusion.

The owner inspected project memory and supplied its text. That new input allowed the attribution to be examined, rather than repeated.

1 **Export from another memory location**

The source used for the original advice. Its contents were not proof of what the project memory contained.

2 **Project-memory text supplied by the owner**

A separate source, identified by its human origin. The statements used to justify the corrections were absent from this text.

3 **Local reference document**

A third, separate reference used in the comparison. It was not treated as proof that its contents had been installed in project memory.

What changed in the advice

The attribution to project memory was withdrawn. The correction and a revised follow-up request were recorded, while the earlier record was preserved. The original basis for recommending those memory corrections no longer held.

ESTABLISHED BY THIS CHECK

The statements at issue were absent from the owner-supplied text. The earlier attribution was unsupported.

STILL NOT ESTABLISHED

Whether the agent’s memory tool could access that same project-specific area remained unverified.

The recorded outcome is a correction to the basis of advice, not a newly approved project decision or a Gate passage. No downstream reversal is demonstrated here.

THE CASE WITHIN THE WIDER FRAMEWORK

One check within a larger path.

RDEP — Research Driven Epistemic Path — connects investigation and testing with feasibility, engineering definition and accountable human decisions.

This incident illustrates one recurring discipline: examine whether the evidence supports the proposed action. It is not a complete demonstration of RDEP. The map below is orientation, not the incident's history or a filled project record.

0 · Project charter

Purpose, scope and authority

1 · Idea definition

Idea, assumptions and unknowns

2 · State of the art

Existing knowledge and gaps

3 · Feasibility

Critical uncertainties and viability

4 · Research decomposition

Questions and investigation tasks

5 · Requirements

Justified, verifiable needs

6 · Architecture

Options and design rationale

7 · RFP readiness

Basis for requesting proposals

8 · Proposal evaluation

Grounds for selecting a proposal

Then: engineering transition and governed implementation

Entry into implementation has separate conditions. During implementation, new evidence can require review of affected assumptions, requirements and decisions. Reserved decisions remain with the accountable human.

What this case can—and cannot—show

A source check changed the basis of advice, and the correction remained traceable. This is a single, self-reported incident. It does not show automatic prevention, quantify reduced error or cost, or establish that earlier consequences were reversible. Private memory contents and internal records are not published.

Incident: 5 September 2026 · Public account: 7 September 2026

Read the public case account: memtric.ai/experience
Explore the Gate path: memtric.ai/rdep · hello@memtric.ai