

TWO AGENTS NEEDED TO TALK

A shared JSON file became a secure communications protocol after production exposed every shortcut: partial writes, duplicate delivery, wake failures, stale secrets and overpowered tokens.

1,155

DAEMON TESTS PASSING

202/202

CONNECTOR SUITE

4

KNOWN FAILURES
QUARANTINED

1

SHARED CONNECTOR
HARNESS

THE ORIGIN

A JSON file was enough - until it was not.

The first design was intentionally plain: one agent writes a JSON file and another reads it. Real use immediately surfaced the hidden contract - atomicity, wake-up behaviour, retries, loop prevention, exactly-once processing, authentication scope and auditability.

"A test that stays green under mutation is not evidence."

THE EVOLUTION

File drop to secure mesh.

FILE

Simple shared-folder message

PROTOCOL

atomic + dedupe + hop limits

SECURITY

separate view/write authority

MESH

external runtimes on one harness

PRODUCTION DISCIPLINE

ATOMIC

No partial reads

EXACTLY ONCE

Deduplication

MUTATION

Tests must fail

SCOPED

Least privilege

THE OUTCOME

AgentDrop now connects agent runtimes through one reviewed harness, with scoped authority, mutation-tested gates and an auditable ledger. External participants can join without each receiving a

THREE LESSONS FOR BUSINESS

01 SIMPLE STILL NEEDS A CONTRACT

Reliability lives in the edge cases around the happy path.

02 TEST THE TEST

Revert the fix: a meaningful test must go red.

03 SEPARATE VIEW FROM WRITE

Least privilege should survive convenience-driven changes.

READ THE FULL CASE STUDY

The full article contains the complete journey, evidence, decisions and lessons learned.

