

# Canonical Registry

## Canonical Path Registry

**Purpose:** Industry-standard ITIL CMDB / Spotify Backstage pattern. Catalog of canonical paths, their owners, scope, and anti-drift rules. This is the authoritative source for "where does X belong" questions in ALAI's filesystem hierarchy.

**Last Updated:** 2026-05-07 (ANVIL FS Sweep Phase 3 Wave 2)

**Source of Truth:** This page. Also mirrored at `~/system/specs/canonical-registry.md`. Cross-referenced by [ADR-022](#).

**Maintenance:** Update when new canonical trees are established or tree ownership changes. Drift detection daemon (see [Drift Detection Design](#)) monitors compliance weekly.

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## Tree Ownership Table

One row per major tree. These are the **canonical locations** — creating parallel structures elsewhere violates the registry.

Tree	Purpose	Owner	Migration target if violated
<code>~/system/</code>	Orchestration runtime, daemons, tools, agents, specs, rules, hooks (git), schemas	John (orchestrator)	—
<code>~/ALAI/</code>	Company state — clients, brand, products, sales, legal, org, processes, pipelines, web-worktrees	ALAI (CEO)	—
<code>~/projects/</code>	Code repositories (libraries, internal tools, experiments)	Per repo (see BUILD-BLUEPRINT.md in each)	—
<code>~/companies/</code>	Per-company state (BasicConsulting AS, SnowIT, future entities)	Per company entity	—

Tree	Purpose	Owner	Migration target if violated
~/ .claude/	Claude Code harness (settings.json, hooks, agents, projects, memory, skills)	Anthropic Claude Code	DO NOT TOUCH (vendor-managed)
~/Library/	macOS system and vendor-managed application state	OS / app vendors	DO NOT TOUCH (OS-managed)
~/aisystem/	Canonical infra deploy workspace (Cloudflare Pages/DNS, BookStack, Vault, fleet configs)	John, Mehanik gate reads this path	—
~/backups/	Tar archives + offsite backup source (7-day + 30-day retention)	John	—

**Anti-Pattern:** Creating ~/system/clients/ when ~/ALAI/clients/ is canonical = split-brain. See "9 Already-Resolved Split-Brain Dirs" below.

## 9 Already-Resolved Split-Brain Dirs (ALAI-only, no system mirror needed)

These directories existed under **both** ~/system/ and ~/ALAI/. During ANVIL FS Sweep Phase 1, all were resolved: **ALAI wins, system side archived.**

Dir Name	Location	Purpose	What NOT to do
infrastructure	~/ALAI/infrastructure/	Cloud resources, VMs, network topology	Do NOT recreate ~/system/infrastructure/
internal	~/ALAI/internal/	Internal company operations docs	Do NOT recreate ~/system/internal/
legal	~/ALAI/legal/	Contracts, DPAs, corporate documents	Do NOT recreate ~/system/legal/
org	~/ALAI/org/	Organizational structure, roles, policies	Do NOT recreate ~/system/org/
pipeline	~/ALAI/pipeline/	Sales pipeline, lead tracking	Do NOT recreate ~/system/pipeline/
processes	~/ALAI/processes/	Business processes, SOPs, operations	Do NOT recreate ~/system/processes/
products	~/ALAI/products/	Product specifications, roadmaps	Do NOT recreate ~/system/products/

Dir Name	Location	Purpose	What NOT to do
sales	~/ALAI/sales/	Sales materials, proposals, decks	Do NOT recreate ~/system/sales/
web	~/ALAI/web-worktrees/	Website repositories for ALAI brand properties	Do NOT recreate ~/system/web/

**Rationale:** These are **business/company** concerns, not orchestration runtime. They belong under ALAI tree.

**Archive Location:** Archived content from system side moved to ~/backups/anvil-fs-sweep-2026-05-07/system-mirror-archived/

## 6 Active Split-Brain — RESOLVED 2026-05-07

These dir names existed under **both** trees. Each required CEO/architect decision on which side wins or if both are legitimate.

Pair Name	Winner	Other Side Outcome	Tar Archive Path
agents	~/system/agents/ canonical	~/ALAI/agents/ merged into system, then archived	~/backups/anvil-fs-sweep-2026-05-07/alai-agents-merged.tar.gz
architecture	<b>BOTH canonical, distinct purpose</b>	~/ALAI/architecture/ renamed to product-architecture/ (product specs, user-facing architecture)	N/A (rename, no archive)
clients	~/ALAI/clients/ canonical	~/system/clients/* migrated to ~/ALAI/clients/<NAME>/overview.md, then archived	~/backups/anvil-fs-sweep-2026-05-07/system-clients-migrated.tar.gz
docs	~/system/docs/ canonical	~/ALAI/docs/operations/ moved to ~/ALAI/processes/operations/, then archived	~/backups/anvil-fs-sweep-2026-05-07/alai-docs-operations-moved.tar.gz
services	<b>BOTH canonical, distinct purpose</b>	~/ALAI/services/ renamed to service-catalog/ (client-facing service offerings vs system runtime services)	N/A (rename, no archive)

Pair Name	Winner	Other Side Outcome	Tar Archive Path
templates	~/system/templates/ canonical	~/ALAI/templates/ renamed to doc-templates/ (business document templates, not code templates)	N/A (rename, no archive)

**Decision Authority:** CEO via Phase 2 gap report Decision #3.

**Rationale Notes:**

- architecture: System side holds ADRs (Michael Nygard format), technical decisions. ALAI side holds product/business architecture (C4 models for clients).
- services: System side holds daemon/service definitions. ALAI side holds service catalog (AI Services, DevOps retainer offerings).
- templates: System side holds code scaffolding, agent prompt templates. ALAI side holds business docs (proposal templates, contract templates).

# 4 Surprise-Canonical Paths

Discovered during Phase 1.6 content-peek. These paths were **not initially mapped** as canonical, but **live code/scripts read from them**. Upgrading to canonical status prevents accidental deletion.

Path	Why Canonical	Referenced By
~/aisystem/	Mehanik infra gate workspace. CF Pages deployments, DNS configs, BookStack migrations read from here.	Mehanik Phase T, FlowForge deploy scripts
~/system/security/	Password-share tooling, client vault access scripts	password-share.js, client-vault.js
~/system/schemas/	JSON schemas for task markers, agent definitions	mehanik-commit.js reads mehanik-marker.v1.json
~/system/hooks/	<b>Git pre-commit/pre-publish hooks</b> (NOT Claude Code hooks — those live under ~/.claude/hooks/)	Git repositories using ALAI pre-commit enforcement

**Critical Distinction:** ~/system/hooks/ ≠ ~/.claude/hooks/

- ~/system/hooks/ = Git hooks (pre-commit, pre-publish) for repos
- ~/.claude/hooks/ = Claude Code lifecycle hooks (PreToolUse, PostToolUse, etc.)

**Status:** These 4 paths are now protected. Do NOT archive or delete.

# 4-Way CLAUDE.md Scope Rules

CLAUDE.md files exist at **4 different scope levels**. Each loads based on current working directory (CWD). Understanding this prevents accidental override or scope pollution.

File	Scope	Loads When	Purpose
<code>~/ .claude/CLAUDE.md</code>	User-global	<b>Always loaded</b> (all Claude Code sessions)	John's identity, ZAKONs, specialist routing, hard constraints
<code>~/CLAUDE.md</code>	Home directory project	CWD = <code>~/Users/makinja</code>	Orchestration mode guardrails, session boot protocol, routing one-liners
<code>~/system/CLAUDE.md</code>	System tree project	CWD inside <code>~/system/</code>	System-specific build/deploy rules, tool usage
<code>~/ALAI/CLAUDE.md</code>	ALAI tree project	CWD inside <code>~/ALAI/</code>	ALAI brand guidelines, client-facing constraints

**Load Order:** Global → CWD-specific. If CWD = `~/system/tools/`, both `~/ .claude/CLAUDE.md` **and** `~/system/CLAUDE.md` are loaded.

**Anti-Pattern:** Writing orchestration rules into `~/system/CLAUDE.md` when they should be in `~/ .claude/CLAUDE.md` (global) or `~/CLAUDE.md` (home project).

**Maintenance:** Each file MUST have a scope-comment header matching its load context. Drift detection daemon checks this weekly.

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## What MUST NOT Recreate

These paths were **archived during ANVIL FS Sweep**. Recreating them silently reintroduces filesystem chaos and split-brain drift.

**Archived from `~/system/` (now under `~/backups/anvil-fs-sweep-2026-05-07/`):**

- `~/system/archive/` (meta-archive — already an archive of archives, moved to backup)
- `~/system/deprecated/` (old scripts, superseded tools)
- `~/system/deployments/` (stale deployment configs, superseded by `aisystem/`)
- `~/system/plans/` (old project plans, superseded by `specs/`)
- `~/system/clients/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/clients/`)
- `~/system/infrastructure/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/infrastructure/`)
- `~/system/internal/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/internal/`)
- `~/system/legal/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/legal/`)

- `~/system/org/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/org/`)
- `~/system/pipeline/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/pipeline/`)
- `~/system/processes/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/processes/`)
- `~/system/products/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/products/`)
- `~/system/sales/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/sales/`)
- `~/system/web/` (migrated to `~/ALAI/web-worktrees/`)

**Why This Matters:** An agent seeing "no `~/system/clients/`" might auto-create it without checking this registry. That recreates the split-brain.

**Enforcement:** Drift detection daemon (see [design spec](#)) checks weekly that none of these paths exist.

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## Pending Organizational Audit

This registry is **mechanical** — it documents "what is where NOW" after cleanup. It does NOT answer "does this BELONG here semantically?"

### Open Questions for Future Workstream:

1. `~/ALAI/web-worktrees/ucenje-v2` — Is this personal scholarly project misplaced under commercial brand tree?
2. `~/projects/` vs `~/companies/` boundary — What criteria determine if a repo goes in `projects/` vs `companies/`?
3. `~/aisystem/` vs `~/system/` — Should infra workspace eventually merge into system tree?

**Decision Authority:** CEO (Alem Basic)

**Status:** Deferred to separate workstream. Flagged in [ADR-022](#) Consequences section.

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## Drift Detection

**Automated Monitoring:** Weekly daemon (see [Drift Detection Design](#))

### Manual Checks:

- Before creating new top-level `~/` directory → consult this registry
- Before moving large directory trees → update this registry, create ADR
- When agent reports "path not found" → check if it's in "What MUST NOT Recreate" list

**Enforcement Owner:** John (orchestrator)

**Escalation:** If canonical path violation detected → create H-priority MC, tag with `canonical-violation`

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# References

- **Decision Record:** [ADR-022](#)
  - **Sweep Plan:** MC #99637 (parent), child MCs #99644, #99639, #99642, #99646, #99648, #99662, #99655, #99669, #99672, #99695, #99699, #99701, #99703
  - **Drift Detection Design:** [Drift Detection Design](#)
  - **ALAI Filesystem Handbook:** `~/system/HANDBOOK.md` (on-demand tool grammar)
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