



AI-DLC

Verification gate

Verification tax

Delivery stability

Spec artifacts

Agentic coding

**The independent tester
principle**

Adversarial review

Context window

VERIFICATION TAX The effort that moves from writing code to checking it once an agent is generating the code. DORA's own term. Why it matters: It names where the savings went, which makes it the most useful single concept for justifying an independent test layer.	VERIFICATION GATE A check an agent cannot mark its own work past. Why it matters: Without one, "looks done" is the only stopping signal available, and you become the verification loop.	AI-DLC The AI-driven development lifecycle: an agent drives the work across the lifecycle while people validate and decide. Why it matters: A vendor coinage from 2025, not a standard. Its own sources describe either three phases or five. Adopt it deliberately rather than comply with it.
AGENTIC CODING An agent planning and executing multi-step code changes rather than completing a line at a time. Why it matters: Volume of change rises faster than review capacity. That gap is the whole problem.	SPEC ARTIFACTS The named files carrying requirements into agent execution - typically a requirements file, a design file and a task list. Why it matters: Your new traceability artifacts, and they are version controlled, so coverage can trace to a file rather than a ticket.	DELIVERY STABILITY How often a change causes a failure, and how long recovery takes. Why it matters: The measure where AI adoption shows a NEGATIVE relationship in DORA's data. If you track only throughput, you will not see the cost.
CONTEXT WINDOW Everything the model can reference at once - system prompt, conversation, tool results and its own output. Why it matters: A long-running agent's reliability decays over its own run. Test at realistic context occupancy, not on short synthetic cases.	ADVERSARIAL REVIEW A second agent, ideally on a different model, whose job is to find what the first one missed. Why it matters: Different training, different failure modes. A reviewer sharing the builder's blind spots is not a review.	THE INDEPENDENT TESTER PRINCIPLE Never let the session that built the thing be the session that verifies it. Why it matters: An agent that runs your suite treats green as its stopping condition, so weak tests stop merely failing to catch bad code and start licensing it.

**Perceived versus actual
productivity**

**Model Context Protocol
(MCP)**

Guardrail



GUARDRAIL

A constraint enforced outside the model, so it holds regardless of what the model decides.

Why it matters: A prompt is a request. A guardrail is a control. Only one of them is testable.

MODEL CONTEXT PROTOCOL (MCP)

An open protocol connecting AI applications to external tools and data.

Why it matters: How an external agent drives Studio. Note the current revision is stateless, and sampling, roots and logging are deprecated.

PERCEIVED VERSUS ACTUAL PRODUCTIVITY

The gap between how much faster people feel and how much faster they are.

Why it matters: In a randomized trial, developers took 19% longer with AI tools while believing they had been 24% faster. Pair every survey number with a measured one.