# CEED Start Here

*Permission that lasts beyond the prompt*

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An AI coding agent finishes a feature, passes the tests, and changes a billing file nobody authorized. The reviewer can see that the code works. Who gave it permission to touch billing?

The CEED Framework™ connects that permission to the checks and history of one change. The name CEED™ stands for Contract-Enforced, Evidence-Driven. This short guide introduces the model, explains what has been tested, and helps you choose the next document.

**Passing tests is not permission.**

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# 1 Make permission usable

A CEED Delivery Contract states what a change may touch, what evidence it needs, and how it may be released. The CEED Router checks the exact change and its evidence against that authority at delivery gates. A CEED Change Passport keeps the decisions and evidence links through release and later investigation. Below, Contract, Router, and Passport mean these components.

The recommended sequence issues the Contract—records its authorized version—before coding, while changing scope is still a planning decision. If coding starts earlier, the gate still needs issued authority for the exact change before it can approve delivery. Figure 1 follows that authority.

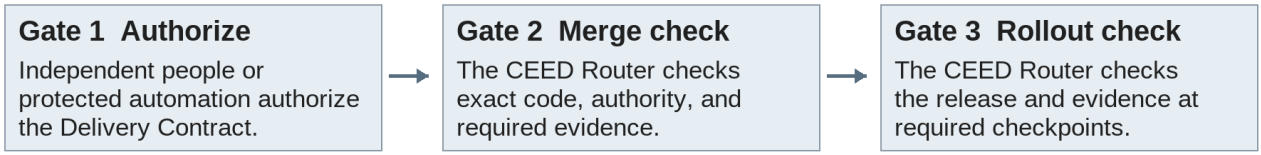



Figure 1. Authority through delivery
The Router checks authority at delivery gates; the Passport preserves the decisions.
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Route A uses independent human authorization; an issuer records the authorized version after verification. Route B delegates authority through policy to automation that the coding agent cannot alter. That automation authorizes eligible routine work, normally after the Router obtains a review from a separate AI. Policy can permit mechanical checks alone for narrowly defined routine work. The AI reviewer checks the proposal; it does not grant authority. The coding agent cannot authorize its own Contract.

Completed review rejections stay in the history. At the policy’s AI-rejection limit or when required AI review becomes overdue, issuance and automatic resubmission pause. An authorized human handler records the resolution and releases the hold. Release permits another attempt; it does not approve the Contract. CEED in Practice follows these decisions in its illustrative change REQ-1432.

The organization protects policy, issuing credentials, evidence, and the Passport writer. Before relying on CEED enforcement, the organization keeps an internal Enforcement Coverage Declaration of where delivery waits, its gaps, and what was actually verified. It keeps this record private because the record exposes weak points. A declared connection is not proof of enforcement. Path authorization also leaves a separate security question: is the code inside the allowed files safe?

# 2 Read the evidence

The Conformance Pack supplies reproducible synthetic checks. They pass for the exact snapshot identified in the Conformance Pack Guide, which explains how to run and interpret them. The Pack's public coverage map exposes tested and untested obligations. Builders run the covered cases, then use the gaps to plan integration checks. The declaration schema and new security checks still await implementation evidence; the Guide explains their uncovered status.

These passes do not establish complete Draft 2 coverage, live behavior, or agreement with an independently written implementation. The Git/GitHub CEED Router is in development. Operational reliability and security need verification in the claimed scope; adoption effort, AI-review effectiveness, and delivery or audit benefits need field evidence. The Whitepaper's Table 9 and the Guide's Chapters 3–4 distinguish these evidence stages.

# 3 Choose a document

Table 1 maps the package by the question each part answers. The Specification governs the rules; the companions explain how to understand, try, and test them.

| Document and edition | Reader's question |
|---|---|
| CEED Start Here<br>Public Review Draft 2 | What is the problem, what is the model, and where do I start? |
| The CEED Framework Whitepaper<br>Public Review Draft 2 | Why use the model, and how do I judge adoption? |
| CEED Specification and Change Passport Schema<br>Public Review Draft 2 | What data and behavior does an implementer or reviewer check? |
| CEED in Practice<br>Public Review Draft 2 | How do I follow a change, compare work, record effort, and rehearse decisions? |
| CEED Conformance Pack Guide<br>Public Review Draft 2 | Which Specification and test snapshot go together, and how do I run and interpret the checks? |
| CEED Conformance Pack<br>Public Review Draft 2 | Can I reproduce the covered checks and inspect the remaining gaps? |
| CEED Tool Verification Matrix<br>Public Review Draft | What did dated primary-source checks find about related tools and their possible roles? |

Table 1. The package map
Readers choose the source that answers their next delivery question.
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The Matrix accompanies the set with its own dates: published October 3, 2026; tools reviewed September 9, 2026; correction notice October 8, 2026. Read it with that notice. It is not a Draft 2 reassessment of the tools.

# 4 Start with your question

Table 2 directs each reader to a useful first stop. Short document names below refer to the exact titles and editions in Table 1.

| Reader and question | First stop |
|---|---|
| CEOs, CTOs, engineering leaders — is it worth trying? | Whitepaper Executive summary and Chapter 8; Practice Chapters 3–4 |
| Developers and authorizers — what happens when scope changes? | Whitepaper §§2.1–2.4; Practice Chapters 1 and 5 |
| Platform teams — what gets connected and protected? | Whitepaper Chapters 5–7; Practice Chapters 2 and 6 |
| Enterprise architects — what survives a tool change? | Whitepaper Chapters 2–5 and 9 |
| Security teams — where does authorization meet security? | Whitepaper Chapter 6; Specification §16 |
| Release and operations teams — what permits rollout? | Whitepaper Chapters 4–5 and 7; Practice §1.7 |
| Audit, risk, governance teams — what can the record establish? | Whitepaper Chapters 4 and 10, Table 9; Guide Chapter 5 |
| Tool builders and standards reviewers — how is agreement tested? | Specification §§17–18; Guide Chapters 1–4; Pack coverage map |

Table 2. Reading paths by role
Each reader follows a practical question to its rules, explanation, or evidence.
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For a first trial, choose one familiar change and keep existing approvals and safeguards. Practice Chapters 3–5 supply the matched comparison, worksheet, and calibration; Chapter 7 brings them into a trial. A process trial rehearses decisions with existing tools. A live Router pilot separately tests protected issuance, connected gates that wait, retained history, and recovery.

# Publication information

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