FORM 06 OF 10 · AUTONOMOUS AGENTS

Autonomous agent

It is given a goal, not steps. It plans, acts, checks the result and adjusts, and it can keep working for minutes, hours or days.

NOT WHEN	USE IT WHEN
The steps are known. Small errors compound over a long run, and a pipeline will be cheaper and more reliable.	**The path cannot be written down in advance: research, investigation, diagnosis.**

IT NEEDS

A limit on steps, time and spend, a contained place to work, points at which it reports or asks, and a full record of what it did.

EXAMPLE

Given “find out why last night’s settlement run failed”, it reads the logs, tests its explanations and writes up the cause with the evidence.

BUILD IT ON KATONIC

01 New agent, **Answer & assist**, then **Research report**. Start blank. The sections are Brief, Sources, Depth & budget, Report, Guardrails, Advanced.

02 **Brief.** Name the agent, pick the **Owner team**, and write the **Research question**: state the question and what a good answer looks like. Add **Scope & constraints** to keep it on target.

03 **Sources.** Turn on the sources it may search.

04 **Depth & budget.** Choose **Focused** or **Wide**, set the follow-depth and the source cap, then a time budget and a cost budget.

05 **Report.** Set the sections of the report.

06 **Test.** Choose **Start research run**. The run is asynchronous and shows four phases: planning, searching sources, drafting the report, verifying citations.

07 **Deploy**, then **Publish**.

ALSO CALLED Long-horizon agent, deep research agent.

One of ten forms in “Types of AI agents”. KATONIC.AI/RESOURCES/WHITE-PAPERS/TYPES-OF-AI-AGENTS