

Agentic Development Manifesto

Co-Creating Software with AI Agents

"Spec just enough, code for quality, verify and fail fast, iterate, succeed."

Core Principles for Co-Creating Software with AI
Uwe Jügel · Ubunatic Coding

Principle 1: Always Verify First

The Automated Guardrails

"Don't automate the creation before you automate the verification."

- Never allow an agent to write feature code without an automated check.
- Write tests, specs, or canary scripts **first**.
- Let the agent fail fast against strict local constraints.

Principle 2: Local-First & File-Based

One Source of Truth

- Specs, decisions, issues, and rules live as files in the repo.
- Files like `AGENTS.md`, `CONTEXT.md`, and `issues/` are accessible to both humans and agents.
- No proprietary cloud dashboards. If it's not in Git, it doesn't exist.

Principle 3: Human in Control

Model Agnostic, Transparent Design

- Frontier models get better every month.
- Heavy agentic frameworks, multi-layer prompts, and resident databases age poorly.
- Keep helper tooling minimal. The human triggers the skills and commands manually.

You can delegate execution — you cannot delegate accountability.

Principle 4: Canary-First Verifications

Probe the Environment Before Trusting It

- External CLI tool? OS-level behavior? Sandbox policy? Build a **canary** first.
- A thirty-line script in the real environment beats a weekend of debugging.
- Run it, observe, document the finding — and **keep it** as a regression check.

Principle 5: Keep It Minimal and Radical

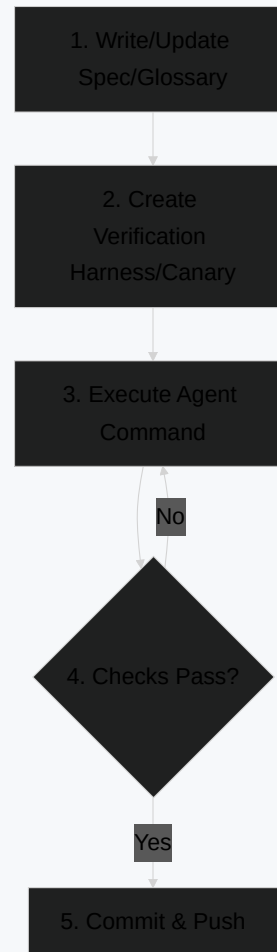
Every Line You Don't Write

- Simple, clean, readable code over generic, bloated patterns.
- Self-contained static binaries over resident daemon architectures.
- **House Rules** only — a subset chosen so a reviewer, or a check, can tell right from wrong fast.
- One component, one language. A second implementation is a divergence waiting to happen.

A line you don't write is a line no agent can misunderstand.

The Agentic Dev Cycle

A Spec-Driven, Always-Verify Loop



Summary

The Ubunatic Way

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verify — before anything is created

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truths outside the repository

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sessions that can resume the work

1. **Verify first:** Control the output through automated checks.
2. **File-based:** Write decisions down where the agent can read them.
3. **Stay in control:** The human triggers; the agent executes.
4. **Canary-first:** Probe every external mechanism before building on it.
5. **Be minimal:** Limit complex dependencies; hold to the House Rules subset.