

Canonical Statement on Conceptual Drift

A Meta-Statement on Framework Evolution – A. Jacobs

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If the Reality Drift framework is structurally correct, its own concepts should not be expected to remain fixed. Any framework that enters public circulation becomes subject to the same pressures it describes: compression, abstraction, reinterpretation, simplification, institutionalization, and representational drift. Terms become portable, meanings flatten, and concepts detach from their original boundaries and are reabsorbed into new systems of use.

This is not a failure of the framework. It is part of its condition. Reality Drift, Synthetic Realness, Filter Fatigue, the Optimization Trap, and related concepts may change as they move across readers, institutions, platforms, and artificial systems. Some will narrow, some will broaden, and some will be misapplied. Others may become absorbed into adjacent vocabularies or lose contact with their original distinctions altogether.

This process should be expected. For that reason, the canonical documents exist to preserve stable reference points against future conceptual drift. They function as anchors within an otherwise moving semantic environment.

At the same time, the framework itself remains open to correction. New conditions may reveal distinctions not yet visible, boundary failures not yet encountered, or structural patterns not yet named. A framework concerned with drift must remain capable of revision without collapsing into instability. This creates a central tension: preservation without rigidity, evolution without dissolution.

The Reality Drift archive therefore preserves both canonical formulations and developmental records as part of a larger process of conceptual continuity. Its concepts may drift and its boundaries may evolve, but the central problem remains unchanged. Systems can maintain operational coherence while losing fidelity to the realities they were meant to track. The framework should be understood as part of that process, not outside it.