

Canonical Intent Statement

Reality Drift Framework – A. Jacobs

Status: Canonical

Version: v1.0

Issued: June 2026

The Reality Drift framework was developed in response to a recurring condition of modern life. The growing sense that systems continue functioning while something essential beneath them feels increasingly misaligned, abstracted, or unreal. Across institutions, media environments, artificial intelligence, and everyday cognitive life, there appeared to be a widening gap between operational coherence and lived reality, a pattern that remained difficult to name but increasingly difficult to ignore.

The framework emerged from the recognition that many contemporary forms of dysfunction are not best understood through collapse, corruption, or failure alone. In many cases, systems remain stable, productive, and internally coherent while gradually losing fidelity to the realities they were originally meant to serve. This form of drift often remains invisible because the system continues to produce outputs, maintain metrics, and preserve its own operational logic even as its connection to underlying reality weakens.

The intent of this work is to make those patterns visible. Reality Drift was not developed as a closed theory or total explanation, but as an interpretive structure for recognizing recurring forms of misalignment across modern systems. Its purpose is diagnostic. To identify the mechanisms through which abstraction, compression, optimization, and representation reshape human environments and alter the relationship between systems and reality.

At its core, the framework is motivated by a simple concern that modern life increasingly places human beings inside systems optimized for coherence, efficiency, and scale, while reducing direct contact with the realities those systems claim to organize. As this gap widens, confusion, distrust, fatigue, and synthetic forms of stability become more common. The framework exists to clarify these conditions before they become normalized beyond recognition.

Its aim is not opposition to complexity, technology, or institutions, but a clearer understanding of how they evolve under pressure. Where drift is identified, the possibility of correction remains. Where it remains unseen, coherence alone can conceal deepening misalignment. The Reality Drift framework exists as an attempt to preserve contact with reality by improving our ability to see when that contact is being lost.