

Canonical Reading Order

Reality Drift Framework – A. Jacobs

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The Reality Drift framework is a layered body of work developed across essays, visual frameworks, concept modules, and archival materials. Because many texts within this ecosystem were written at different stages of development, not all documents carry the same weight or function. This reading order is intended to provide the most direct path into the framework through its most stable and foundational texts.

Readers new to the framework should begin with the core overview, FAQ, canonical glossary, and concept papers before moving into adjacent mechanisms and applications. Earlier archival materials and developmental essays remain part of the public record. This reading order represents the most stable entry path into the Reality Drift framework as of 2026.

The recommended sequence is as follows.

- 1. What Is Reality Drift?:** This is the primary orientation text and the best starting point for first-time readers. It introduces the central problem, core logic, and foundational intuition of the framework.
- 2. Canonical Glossary:** The glossary establishes the operative definitions used throughout the framework. Because many concepts have evolved over time, the glossary should be treated as the definitive reference point for terminology.
- 3. The Drift Principle:** This text formalizes the central mechanism of drift itself. How systems lose alignment without necessarily failing.
- 4. Optimization Trap:** This introduces one of the primary drivers of drift, where proxies begin replacing underlying purpose and systems optimize for the wrong layer.
- 5. Synthetic Realness:** This extends the framework into mediated environments, explaining how artificial coherence can preserve the appearance of reality while weakening contact with it.
- 6. Filter Fatigue:** This examines the cognitive consequences of living inside increasingly compressed and over-mediated informational environments.
- 7. Semantic Fidelity:** This develops the framework's language and representation layer, focusing on how meaning degrades through compression, translation, and abstraction.

After completing these core texts, readers may move into application layers, including artificial intelligence, institutional systems, customer service, governance, media systems, and cultural

environments. Archival essays, visual guides, and developmental materials should be understood as part of the framework's historical formation rather than its final structure. Where concepts have evolved or been refined, canonical documents take precedence.