

Copilot Cowork vs. Microsoft Autopilot (formerly Scout)

Two Agents, One Vendor, Different Bets

...and Scout is now Autopilot

Stephan Bisser & Thomas Gölles · SOLVION





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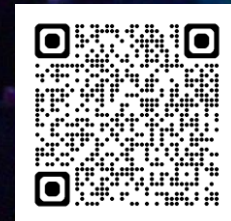
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HI!

We're Stephan and Thomy.



Stephan Bisser

@stephanbisser
bisser.io



Thomas Gölles

@thomyg
thomygoelles.com



~~Scout~~ Autopilot

Our abstract is already out of date.



Our abstract is already out of date

IN OUR SUMMER ABSTRACT

Scout

sits on your desktop

files, the shell, the browser

request-driven (Cowork)

TODAY



Autopilot



lives in the cloud



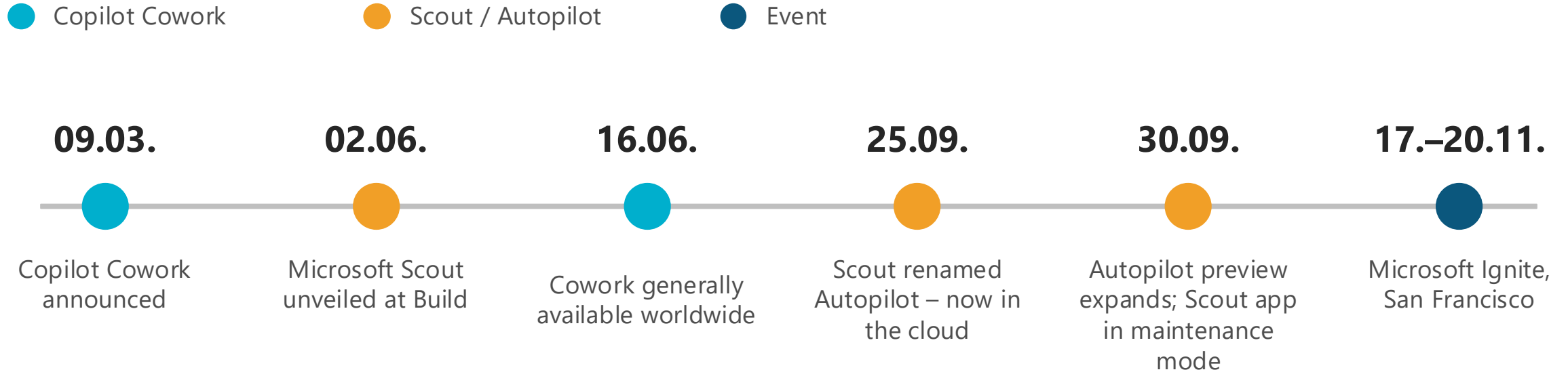
not documented (yet)



now also scheduled & event-triggered

How do you make agent decisions that survive the next rename?

2026 in one line



Not Windows Autopilot.

Intune device provisioning

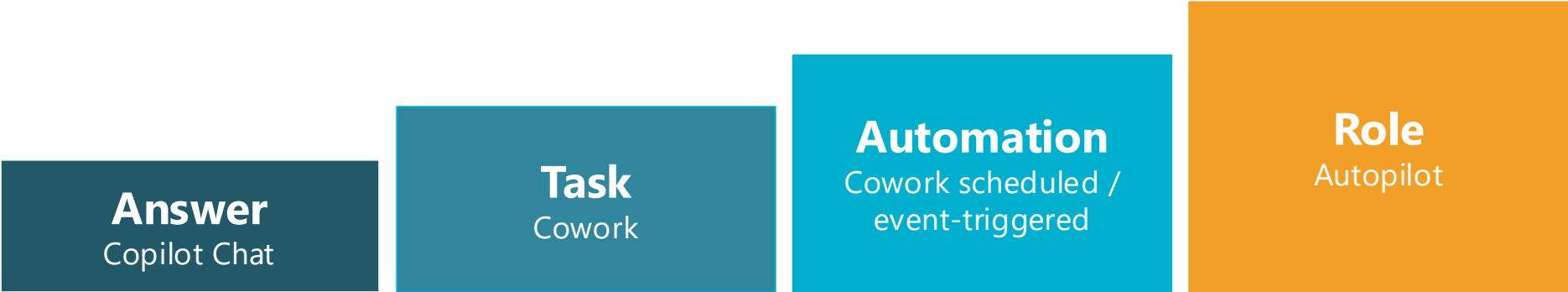
Mental Model

A picture that still holds after the next rename.



The Autonomy Ladder

More autonomy
→



Who starts?

You

You

A schedule or an event

The agent itself, toward a goal

How long does the work live?

One answer

Until the result is delivered

Recurring

Persistent, with memory

Whose name is on it?

You

You

You

The agent

One vendor, two borrowed engines

COPILOT COWORK

Anthropic's Claude Cowork

Integrated into Microsoft 365 (ITPro)

MICROSOFT AUTOPILOT

OpenClaw

Open source (MIT) – “a hardened version of OpenClaw”
(Nadella, via empowering.cloud)

MICROSOFT'S ENTERPRISE WRAPPER

Entra

Identity

Purview

DLP & labels

Agent 365

Permissions, audit,
admin

Work IQ

Context

Copilot Credits

Billing

The engines are borrowed. The wrapper is the product.

Two bets

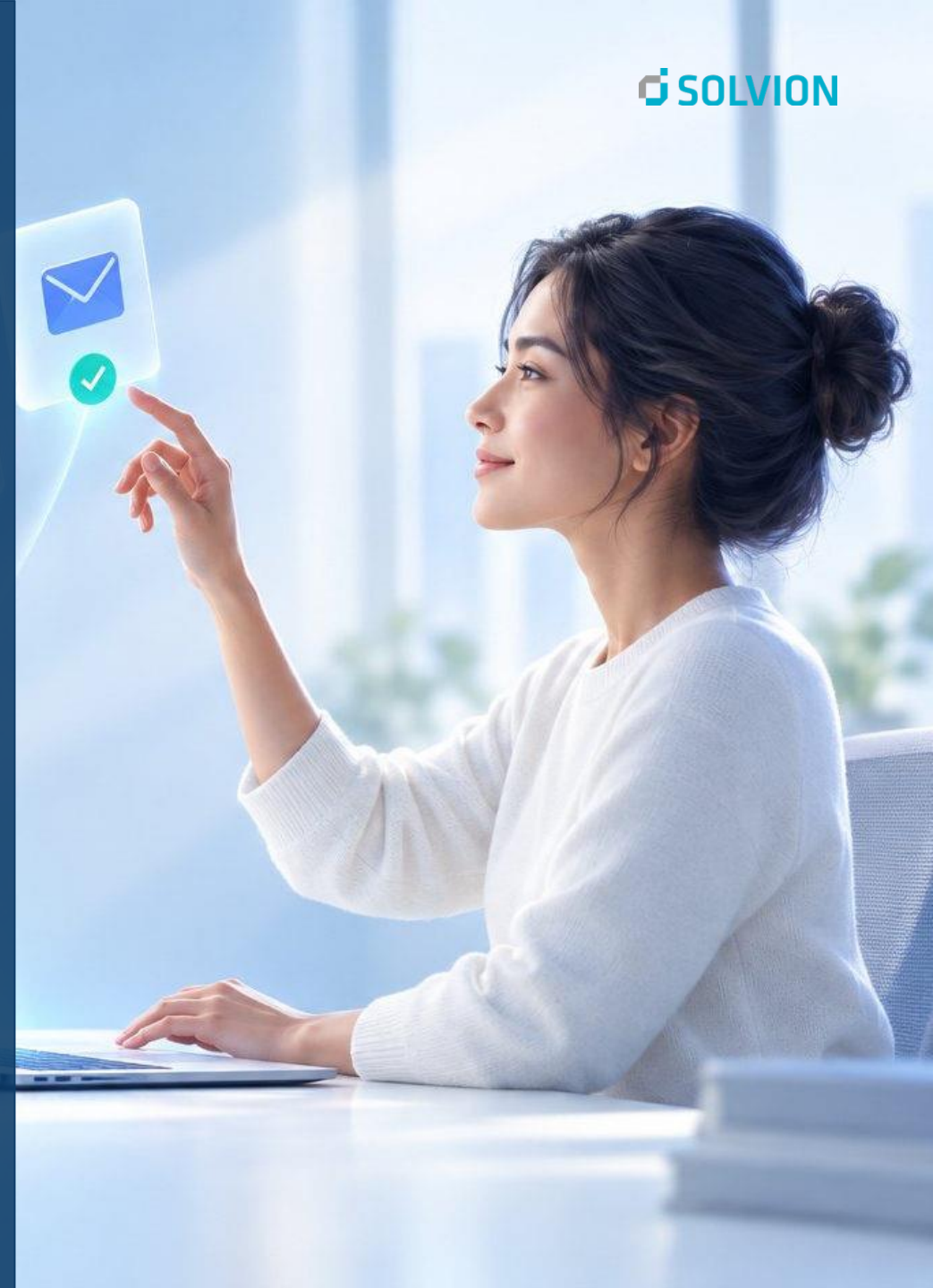
Bet A – Copilot Cowork <i>The human stays the unit of accountability</i>	Bet B – Microsoft Autopilot <i>Agents become colleagues</i>
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Works as	You, with your permissions	Its own identity (Entra), its own permissions
Unit of work	Task / outcome	Role / goal
Lifetime	Session or automation	Persistent, with memory over days

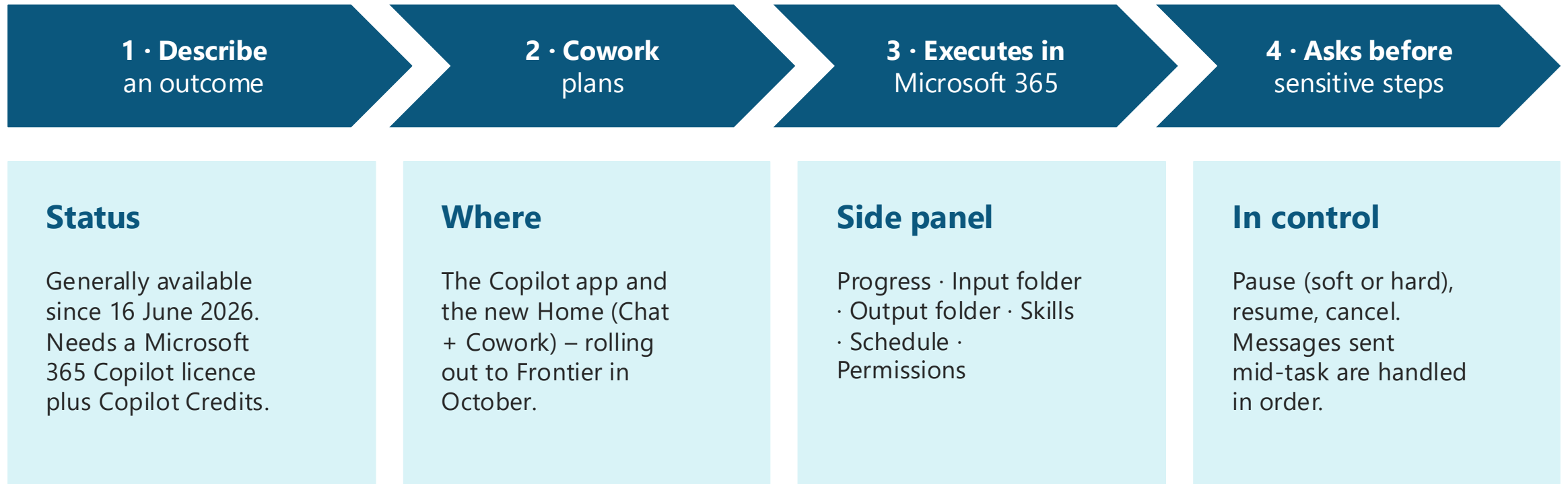
Thomas bets on Cowork, Stephan bets on Autopilot. Let's see who's right.

Bet A: Copilot Cowork

Safe agentic work – and far more than
prompt-in, plan-out.



Cowork in one slide



Safe agentic work – and far more than prompt-in, plan-out.

[Blurred content]

2:02 PM  99

6 items complete >

Approved 1 action, skipped 3 actions >

[Blurred content]

● Thought process >

[Blurred content]

Message Cowork



Auto High



Workspace



Scheduled task



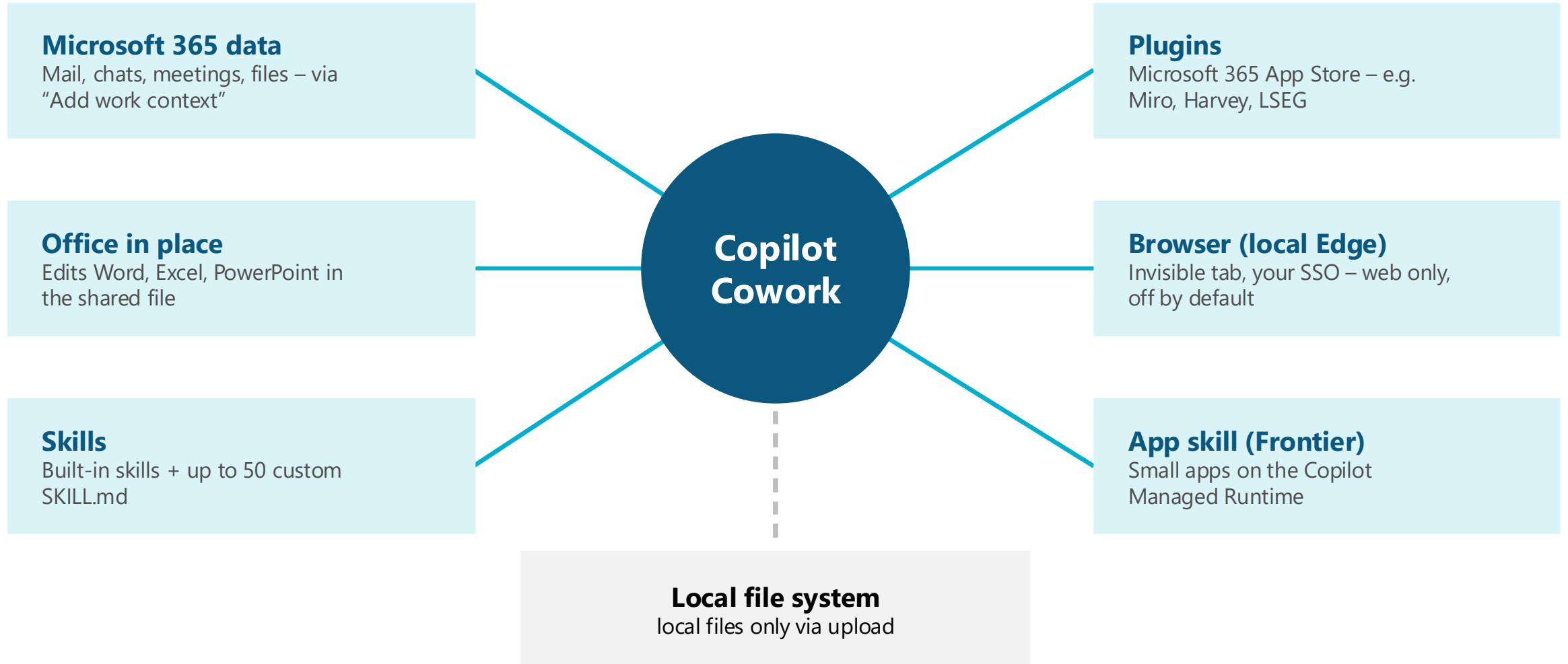
Plugins



 Automation

 Teams

What Cowork can reach



Demo 1 – Delegate the talk prep

Thomas delegates the prep for this very talk – then turns it into automations.

1 Task

Deck + storyline → one-page cheat sheet in Word → mail to Stephan, sent only after approval.

2 Scheduled prompt

"Every Monday at 8:00, summarise what changed in my Collabdays mails and send me a digest."

3 Event trigger

Stephan mails "Collabdays" from his phone → Cowork summarises it and drafts a reply for approval.

THE MESSAGE

Delegate an outcome, keep the approval.

"Nice. And what happens when you're on vacation for two weeks?"
— Stephan, rebuttal



What can I do for you?

Start a task...



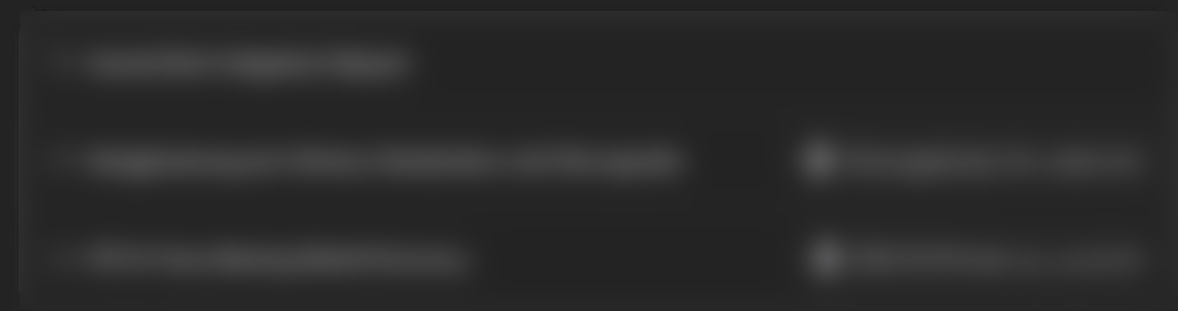
Auto Medium



Tip: While editing a prompt, press # to pick from your OneDrive files.

Up next

Show more



Try these next

Show more

Morning briefing

Catch up and reply

Company research





What can I do for you?

Every Monday at 8:00, summarise what changed in my Collabdays and conference mails and send me a short digest



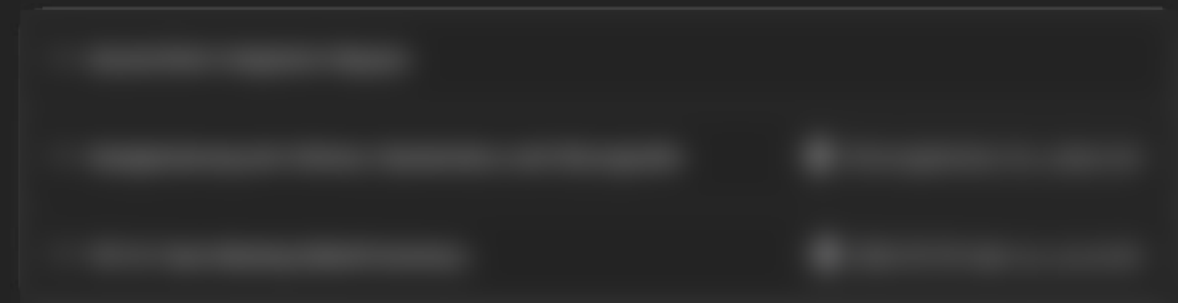
Auto Medium



Tip: Drag and drop files onto the chat to attach them to your message.

Up next

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Show more



Morning briefing



Catch up and reply



Company research





What can I do for you?

Start a task...



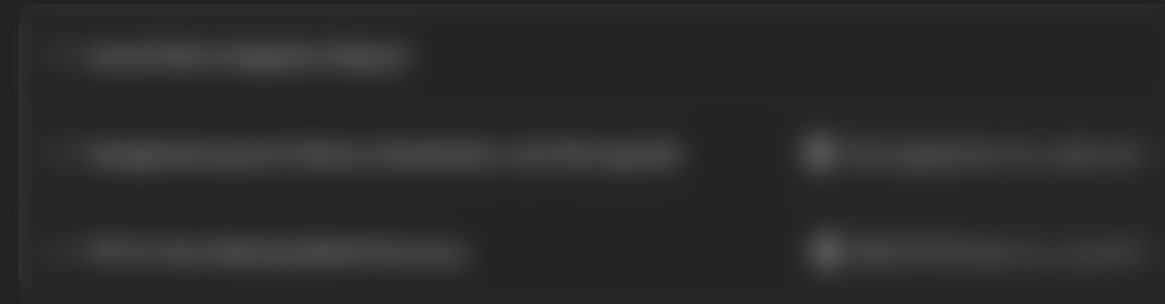
Auto Medium



Tip: Press **⌘+U** to upload images and files from your device.

Up next

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Show more



Morning briefing



Catch up and reply



Company research



Bet B: Microsoft Autopilot

A new category: you staff a role, not a task.



From Scout to Autopilot

June: Microsoft Scout

Now: Microsoft Autopilot

Where it runs	Desktop app, Windows and macOS	Cloud-hosted in your tenant
Reach	Files in a shared workspace, tiered shell (auto-approve / prompt / block), browser via Playwright, MCP, sub-agents	Its own computer and workspace, its own identity, its own memory
Rhythm	Heartbeats every 15–120 min, automations	Watches channels, follows up, recurring work – picks projects up again after days
Prerequisites	Frontier + Intune policy + attestation + GitHub Copilot Business/Enterprise licence	Copilot license + Copilot Credits; preview prerequisites not published
How you reach it	Chat in the desktop app, interaction via Teams	@mention in Teams, Outlook, chats, channels and documents & Copilot Chat
Status	Maintenance mode since 30 Sept	Private preview, expanding

Sources: Scout details – Microsoft blog; Autopilot details mostly secondary sources, preview.

Autopilot is a pattern – two ways to get one

NOT IN OUR TENANT

Microsoft Autopilot in Copilot

- Built by Microsoft – the Scout successor
- Private preview, expanding
- Set up with a name, a role and a goal



OUR DEMO

Scouty – a Foundry autopilot

- You build the blueprint in Foundry
- Your Microsoft 365 admin approves it
- You chat with it like with a colleague



Own Entra identity

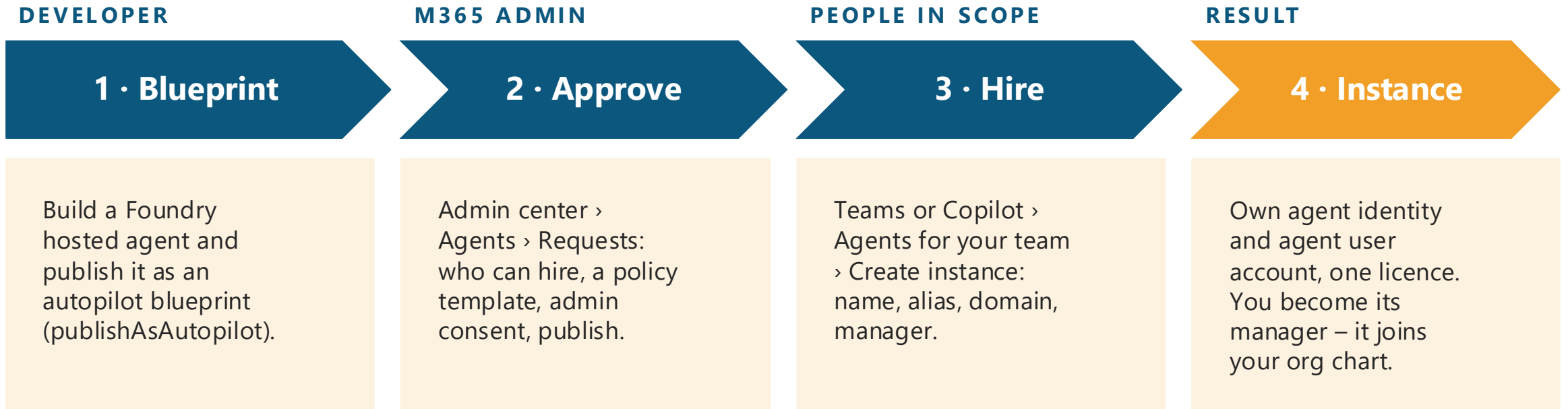
Agent user account

Agent 365 governance

Hired, not prompted

We couldn't get the preview. So we hired our own.

Hire, don't prompt



"An autopilot is an agent that acts as itself in Microsoft 365, under its own identity." – Microsoft Learn

You don't give Autopilot a task. You give it a job description.

Governed like a colleague

Human sign-off on sensitive actions

External content (mail, web, Teams) is treated as untrusted

Purview labels & DLP

Apply before anything is sent or written

Agent 365 registry & audit

Permissions, audit log, admin controls

Entra agent identity

No shared accounts – every action traces back to a known actor

HONESTLY

Microsoft Autopilot preview

No published action-by-action approval policy; admin docs still largely missing

Foundry autopilots

Approval, hiring scope and admin consent are documented on Microsoft Learn

“Every agent has to have an identity. Everything it does needs to be observed.”

Satya Nadella, via VentureBeat

Where it came from: Scout and its automations

My own daily routines ran here as Scout automations – live: the list, a run, the settings.

Maintenance mode since 30 Sep



ON MY LAPTOP · SCOUT AUTOMATIONS



Moved to the cloud · Oct 2026

06:45

AFTER MEETINGS

EVENING

FRIDAY

Morning brief

Meeting debriefs

End-of-day

Weekly review

A heartbeat (every 15–120 min) runs them – but only while the laptop is awake.

THE MESSAGE

Powerful – but a laptop is no place for a 24/7 role.



Scoutify



Stephan



SATURDAY · 24 OCTOBER 2026

Good afternoon, Stephan

2 things need you: 1 open to-do, 3 agent tasks.

12:24

Updated 30 hours ago

BRIEF FROM 23/10

11

MEETINGS

8

ACTIONS

1

WAITING

Don't forget

☐ Vlog Second Brain Platform

FOR 10 DAYS

1 open · 1 overdue

Tomorrow



New to-do ...

Today

Tomorrow

Date

+ Add

> Coming up 4

Needs you



1

Don't forget

Vlog Second Brain Platform (for 10 ...)



3

Agents waiting

Second & Team Brains bei Solvion



Data is stale

promote: no success within 2 h



75

Vault proposals

Priority Actions

TIME BUDGET

9h 09:00-18:00

8.92h

0.08h

Meetings (8.92h)

Focus (0h)

Out of office (0h)

Available (0.08h)

Workforce



Workforce

Chat with your agents through the local gateway

Team



Drafty
LinkedIn-BUILDER



Relay
Extrakte für Team Brains (Hands...



Scouty
Assistenz und Chief of Staff



Talent
HR der Workforce



Veto
Challenger & strategischer Sparr...



Monthly review (Talent)

Monthly review due

No review yet.

Start monthly review

http://localhost:8787



Drafty — LinkedIn-BUILDER

Generier mir einen LinkedIn Post zu...

[Stephan file](#)

[Rename title](#)

[Personnel file](#)

[New conversation](#)

müsste ich Thema, Inhalte oder Reaktionen erfinden, und das verbietet mein Faktenvertrag. Deshalb schreibe ich noch keinen Entwurf.

Was ich von dir brauche (Stichpunkte reichen):

1. **Titel und Thema** des Webinars. Veranstalter oder Format nur, wenn du es nennen willst.
2. **Zeitpunkt des Posts:** Soll er vorher ("heute um X Uhr") oder nachher als Rückblick erscheinen?
3. **2 bis 3 Kernaussagen** oder Beispiele, die du gezeigt oder gesagt hast.
4. **Eine echte Szene**, falls du in Ich-Form schreiben willst. Das kann zum Beispiel eine Frage aus dem Chat oder ein Moment aus der Demo sein. Ohne Szene schreibe ich als allgemeine Beobachtung.
5. **Link zur Anmeldung oder Aufzeichnung**, falls er in den Post soll.
6. **Referenzfoto:** Hast du eins freigegeben, wenn Stephan im Visual vorkommen soll? Sonst mache ich ein personenfreies Motiv.

Was ich danach liefere:

- Post-Entwurf in deiner Stimme (du-Form, trocken, 1 bis 3 Emojis, ohne No-Go-Phrasen)
- Visual-Brief mit Bildidee, Prompt und Hinweis "KI-generiert", das PNG kommt über Azure OpenAI vom Gateway
- ## Faktenbasis mit Quelle je Aussage
- Jury-Rubrik mit vier Personas
- Ablage unter `agents/drafty/drafts/2026-10-13_webinar-....md`

Wenn du mir Thema und die Kernaussagen schickst, bekommst du den Entwurf direkt.



\$0.2408 · 8 in · 1,929 out

Message drafty ... (Enter = send, Shift+Enter = new line)

Send

Generate image



Second Brain

Your vault from OneDrive — search via the Sweep index, notes read-only.

▸ **00_Meta** Context for every tool · read-only

▸ **Team Brains** 12 brains · found via AGENTS.md or added by you · index 6 hours ago

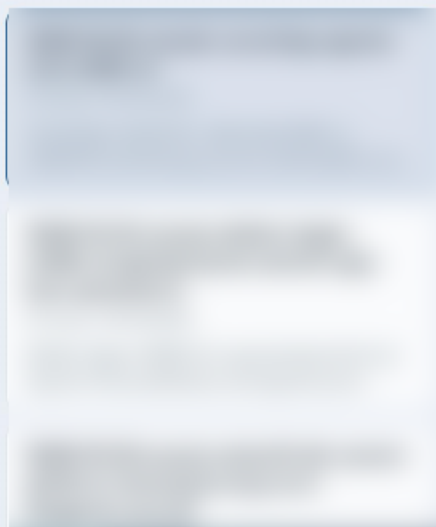
[🔄 Re-index](#)

Browser index (manual) · as of 3 hours ago · 243 notes · [Reload index](#)

FOLDERS

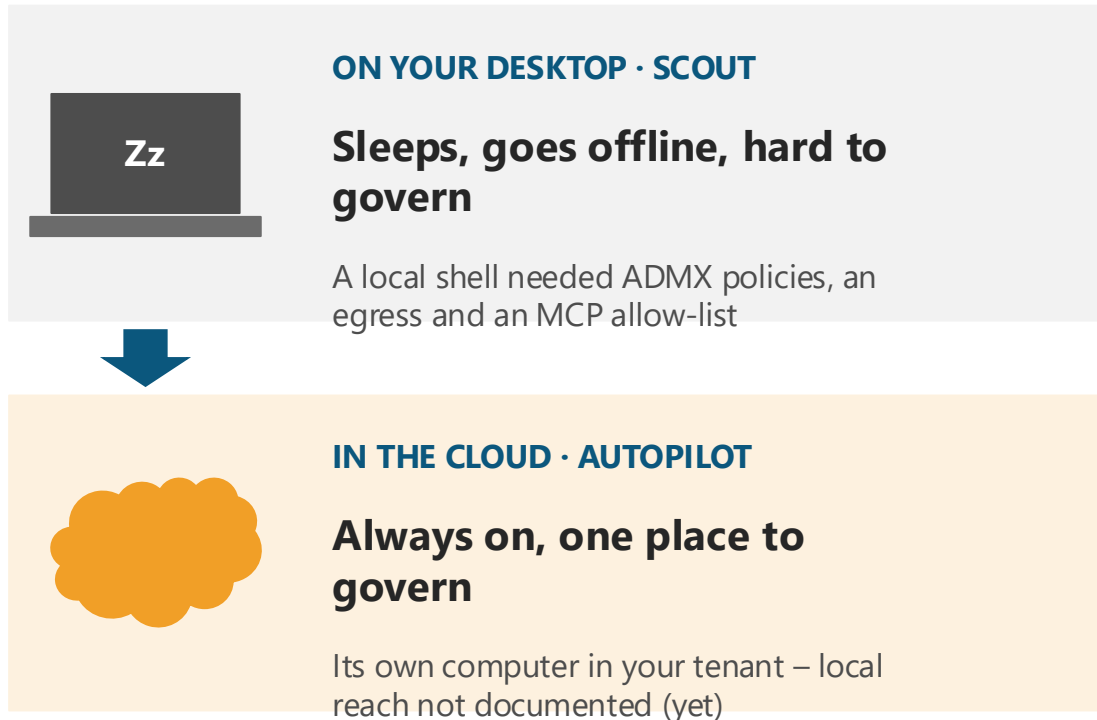
📁 Second Brain	243
📁 00_Meta	6
▸ 📁 01_Inbox	46
▸ 📁 02_Projects	16
▸ 📁 03_Areas	41
▸ 📁 04_Resources	15
▸ 📁 05_Archive	17
▸ 📁 06_AI	89
📁 Briefings	6
📁 Daily	10
📁 Meeting Debriefs	44

46 notes



**600€ GitHub AI Credits in 2
weeks consumed by Scout**

Why it left your desktop



An always-on agent needs a computer that never sleeps – and one an admin can actually govern.

Demo 2 – Meet Scouty

Our own autopilot, built in Microsoft Foundry – already hired, with Stephan as its manager.

Live, in a new message: “Scouty, introduce yourself to the Collabdays audience.”

Follow-up: “What do you know about our Collabdays session tomorrow?”

THE MESSAGE

Scouty doesn't wait for a prompt. That's the bet – and that's also the risk.



“Great – and who pays for a colleague that never sleeps?”
— Thomas, rebuttal

Head-to-Head

Side by side, the overlap – and one job, two bets.



Side by side

Dimension	Copilot Cowork	Autopilot*
Status	GA since 16 June 2026	Preview; broad availability by year-end
Work starts with	Prompt, schedule (max. 25) or event	A role and a goal; @mention
Lifetime	Task, conversation, automation	Persistent, memory over days
Identity	Yours	Its own Entra agent identity
Approvals	Cards per sensitive action, per session	Sign-off on sensitive actions
Reach	M365 data, Office in place, skills, plugins, local Edge	Teams, Outlook, documents; own cloud computer
Cost	Licence + Copilot Credits	Licence + Credits; rates not published
Built on	Anthropic Claude Cowork	OpenClaw (Microsoft Autopilot)

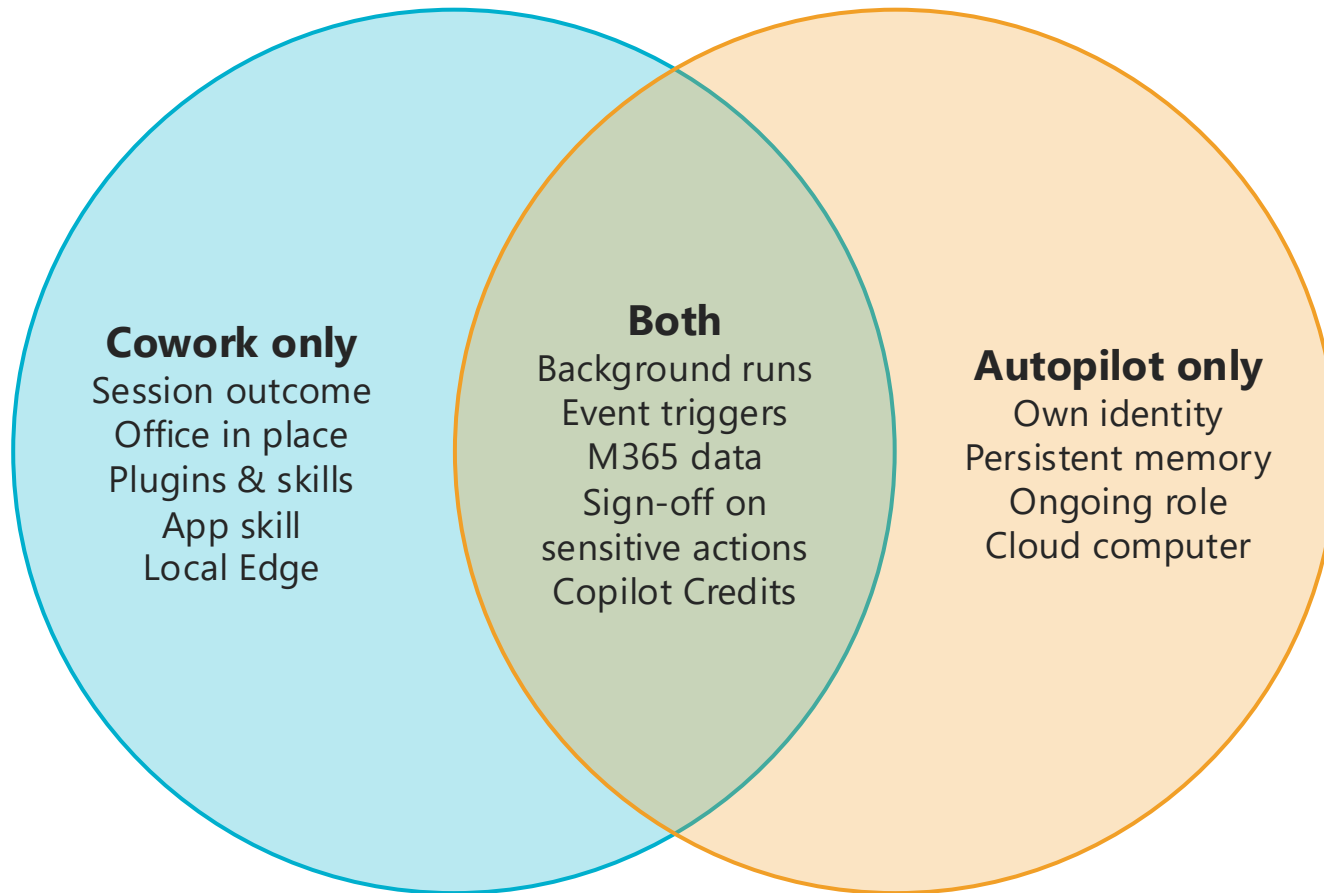
COPILOT COWORK
Delegate a task

AUTOPILOT
Staff a role

* Autopilot column: Microsoft Autopilot (preview) and Foundry autopilots share the identity model.

Cowork is how you delegate a task. Autopilot is how you staff a role.

Where they overlap



**Both can watch your inbox.
Only one of them has its own
name.**

PLOT TWIST

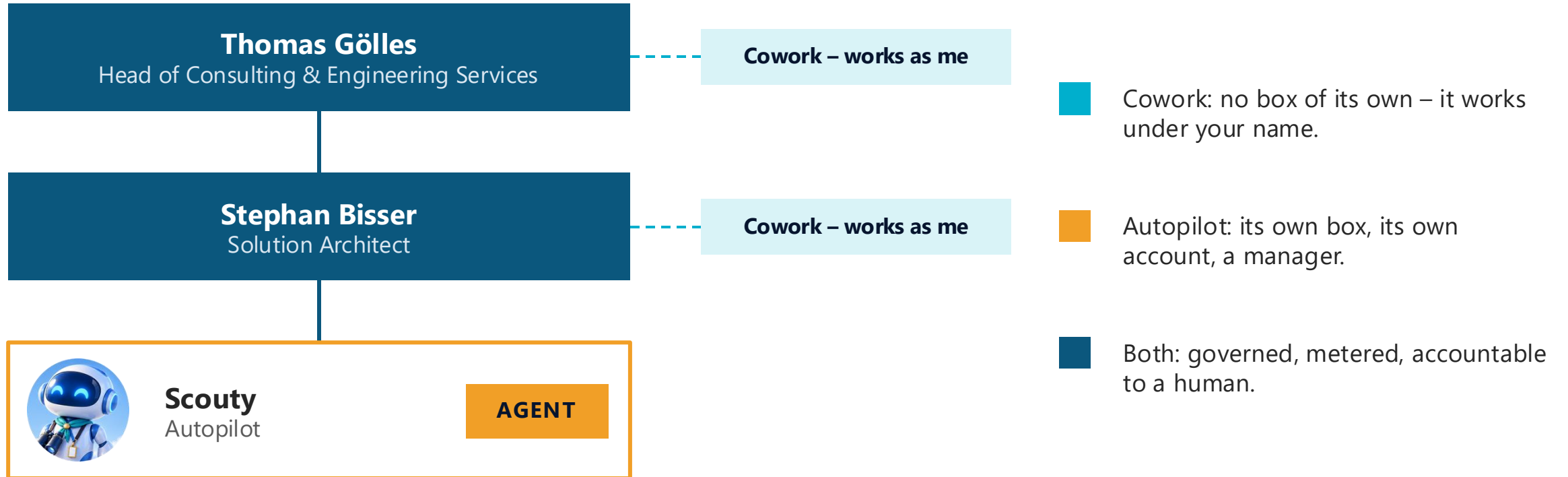
You've been watching agents work for some minutes.

- 1 The storyline?
Drafted with an AI assistant – reviewed by a human.
- 2 This deck – every slide, every image –
built by Copilot Cowork
from that storyline – reviewed and refined by a human.
- 3 Revised four times, just by chatting
with it. In under two days.
- 4 The autopilot you just met?
Hired from a Foundry blueprint.

**The agents did the work.
Our names are on it.**



Next year's org chart has agents in it.



**The question isn't whether agents join your team.
It's whose name they carry.**

Which one for which job

Four questions, a job matrix – and governance before you switch on.



Four questions before you pick

1

Does the work end?

Yes → Cowork

No, it's an ongoing responsibility → Autopilot

2

Whose name should be on it?

Yours → Cowork

A role's → Autopilot

3

Can it act while nobody is looking?

No → Cowork with approvals

Yes, within limits → Autopilot with policies

4

Is it deterministic?

Yes → neither: Power Automate or a workflow

Three take-aways

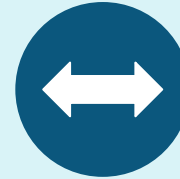
1



**Identity and
lifetime – not
features**

Features are converging
right now.

2



**Cowork = delegate
a task. Autopilot =
staff a role.**

Choose by the work, not by
the product.

3



**Govern before you
enable**

Spending policy, Agent 365,
Purview, approvals – before
the first user clicks.

What to watch at Ignite (Nov 17–20)



Autopilot

Broader availability, admin docs, credit rates, an approval policy



Home

Automatic routing between Chat and Cowork



Today

A proactive daily overview in Copilot, Outlook and Teams



Local reach

Will files and the shell come back for Autopilot?

Bet on the pattern, not on the product name.

Please rate
this session 



COLLABDAYS BELGIUM · 24 OCT 2026

Thank you

The difference isn't what they can touch. It's whose name is on the work – and whether the work ever ends.

Thomas Göllés

SOLVION

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-goelles/>

Stephan Bisser

SOLVION

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephan-bisser/>

