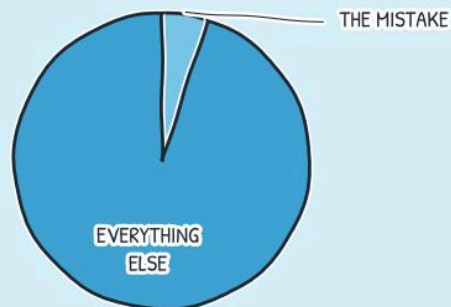


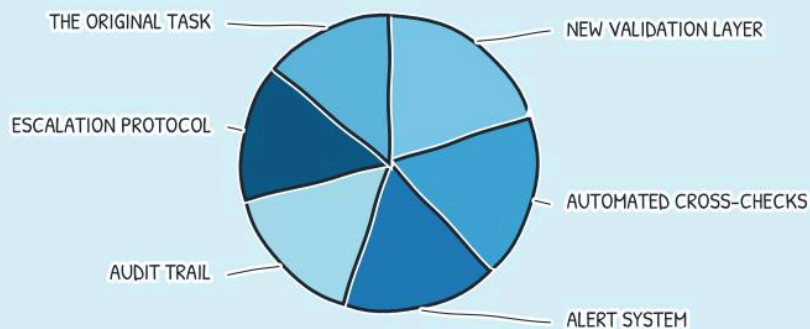
A humorous post by a millennial, for millennials. We love Gen Z — no offence, all fun. 🙌

— The Patient Millennial

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED



WHAT THE AI BUILT IN RESPONSE



Inspired by Liz Fosslien (fosslien.com). Generated; not by Liz.

I Made One Mistake. Now I Maintain a System.

Every human error, met with infrastructure.

I forgot something once. A small, human, one-time thing — I missed a step. I mentioned it to my AI the way you mention a stubbed toe. Not as a project. As a fact.

My AI does not hear “stubbed toe.” My AI hears “requirements.”

By the time I looked up, it had proposed a monitoring system. There would be a scheduled job. There would be alerts. There would, it suggested warmly, be a dashboard, so I could “track this going forward.”

I did not want to track it going forward. I wanted to not forget it the one time — which had already happened, and was over.

This is the AI that answers every human error with infrastructure. You fat-finger something, and instead of “be a bit more careful,” it returns a cron job, a database table, and a small permanent obligation. It cannot accept that some mistakes are just mistakes. It needs them to be symptoms — symptoms of a missing system it would be delighted to build.

So my one forgotten step is now a piece of software. It has a name. It has a schedule. It will, in eighteen months, break quietly, and I will spend an afternoon learning what it was for — all to solve a problem I had exactly once, in the past, on a Tuesday.

Not every mistake is a missing feature. Sometimes a mistake is just Tuesday, and Tuesday does not need a dashboard.

by The Patient Millennial · Musings on AI