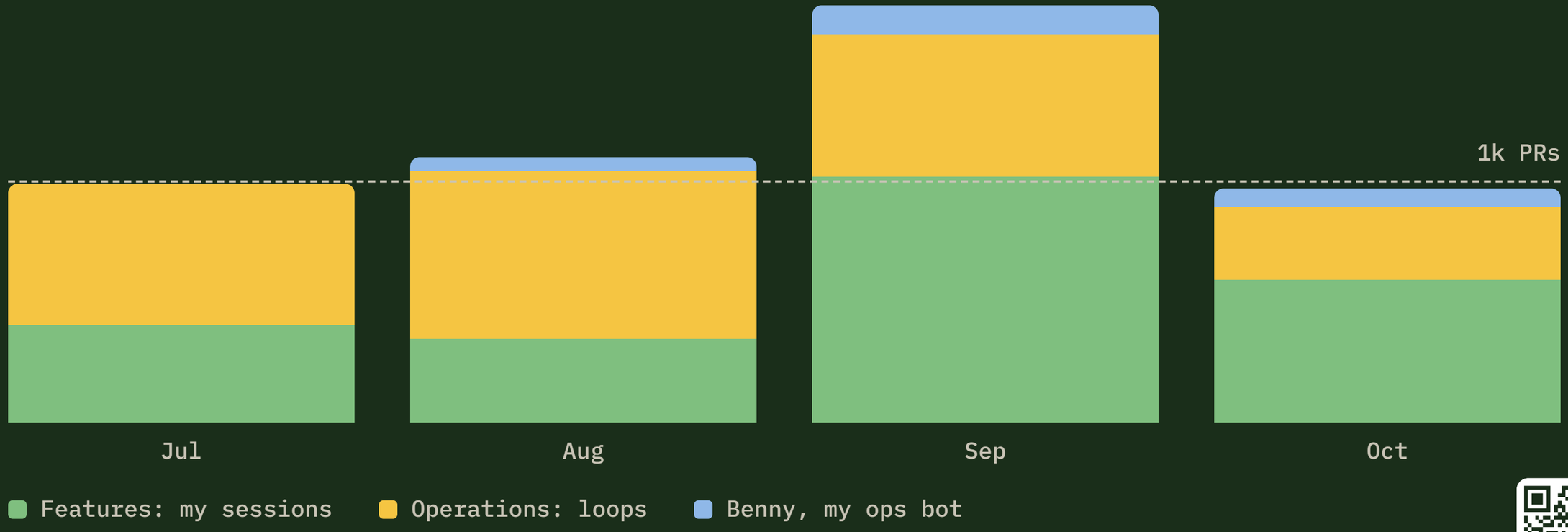
How to build a software factory?

Bennett Clement · FUNDA

Half of my work runs autonomously.

2,451 of 4,821 merged PRs since July.



What is a software factory?

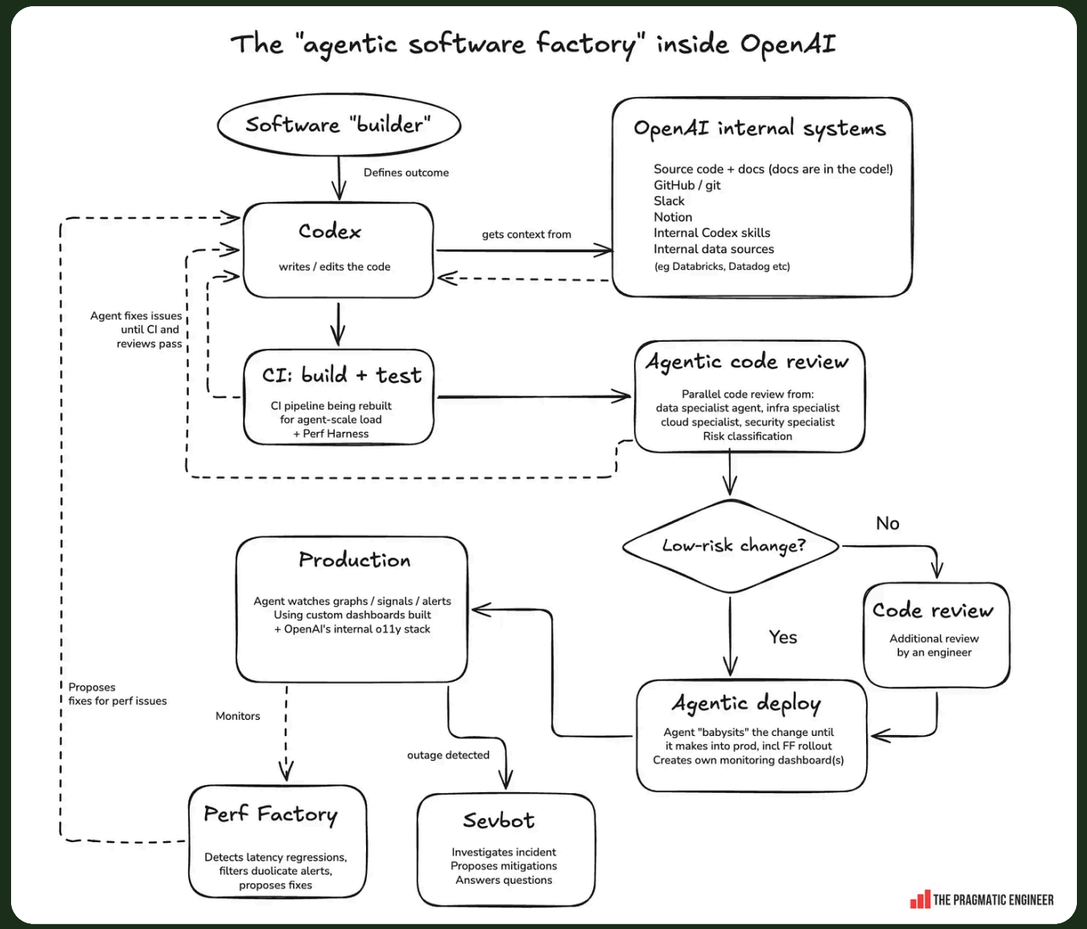
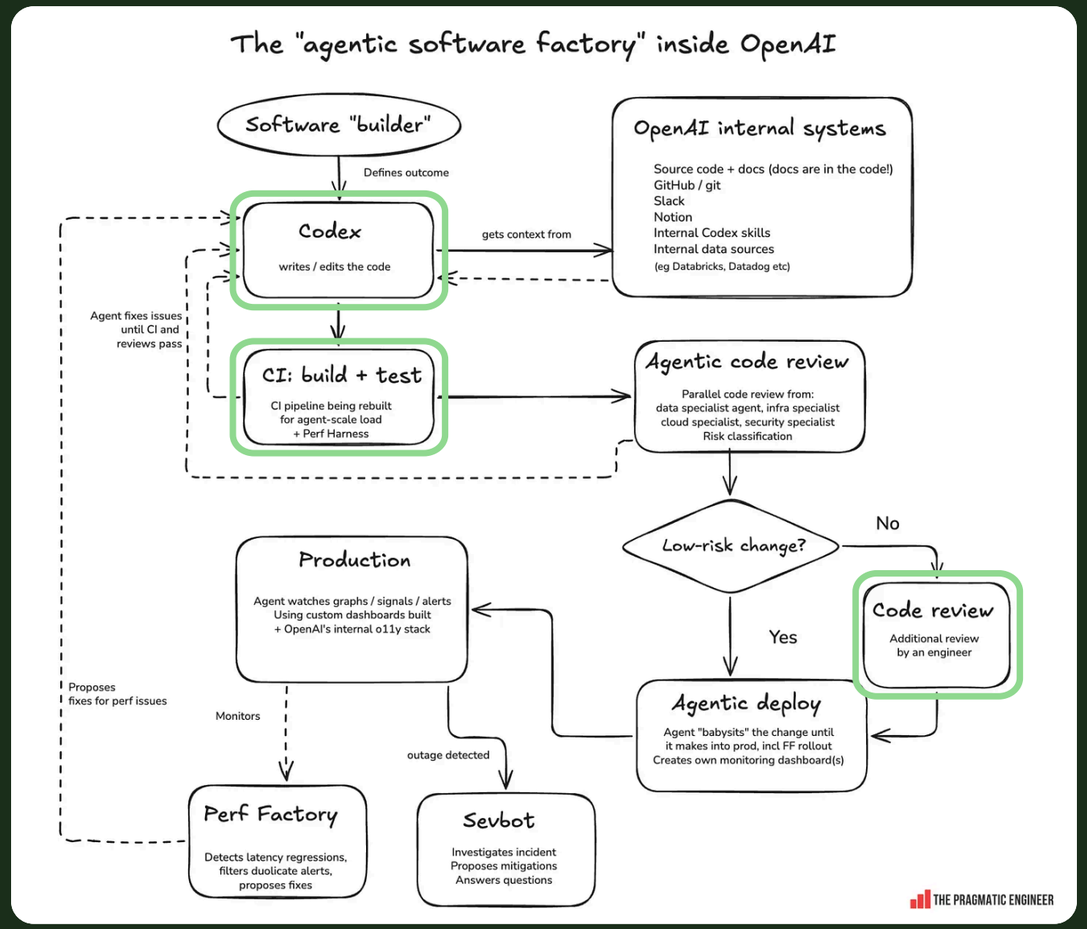


Diagram: The Pragmatic Engineer, "the agentic software factory inside OpenAI"

What most teams have today.

coding agent

CI



human review

Diagram: The Pragmatic Engineer, "the agentic software factory inside OpenAI" · annotations mine

How to get there.

01

Fix your codebase

02

Close the testing loop

03

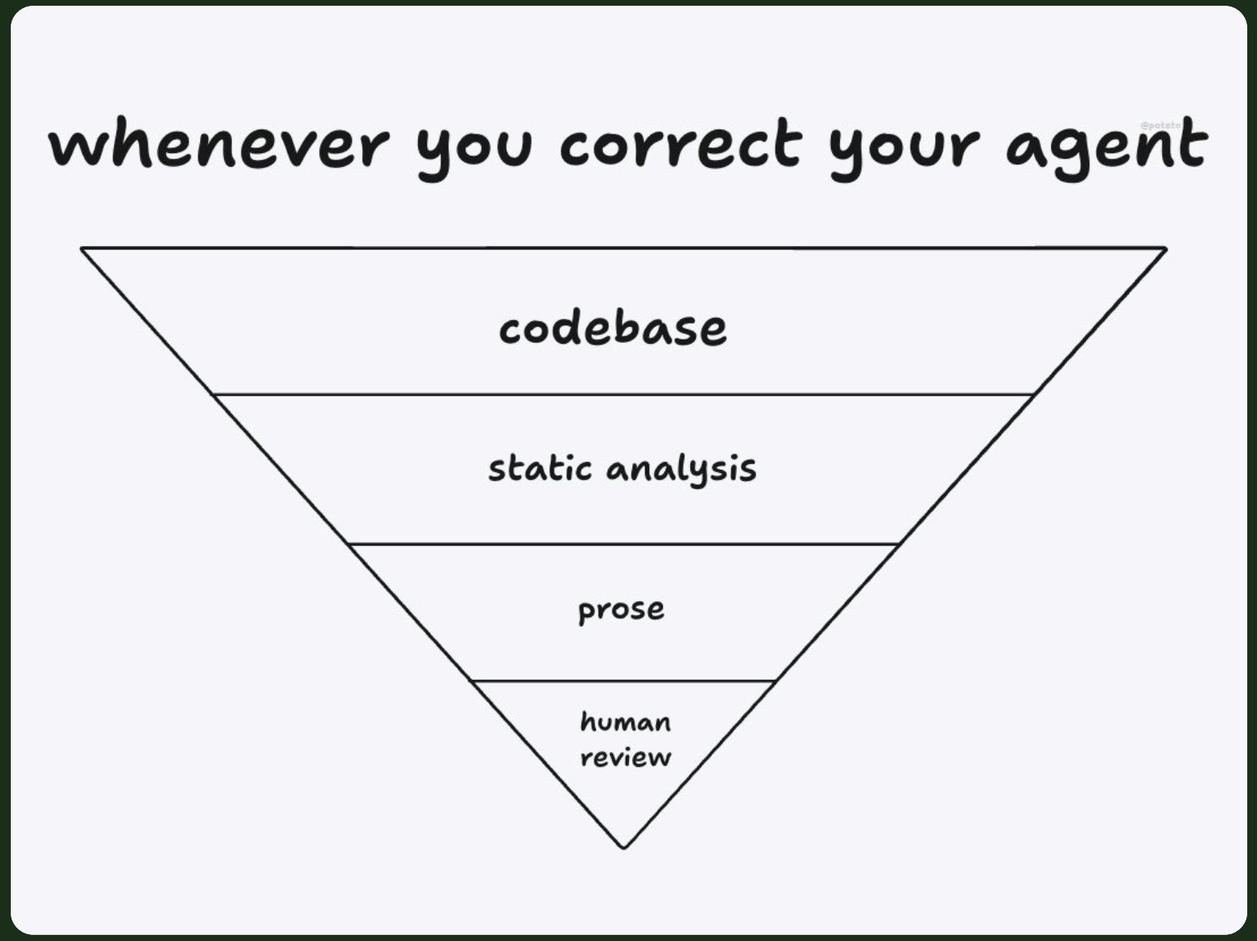
Build loops



01

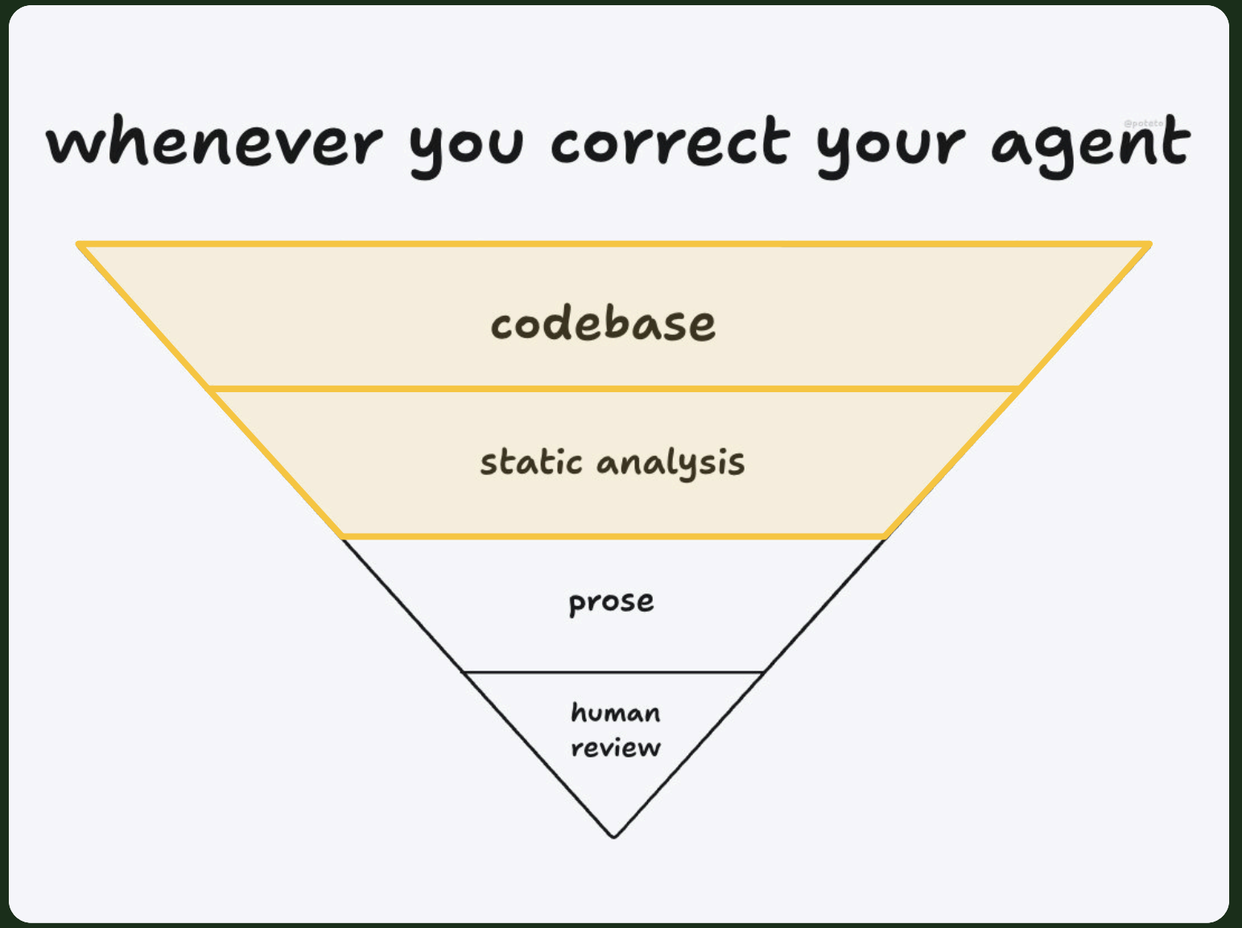
Fix your codebase.

Agents amplify your codebase.



Lauren Tan (@poteto), 2026-10-16 · x.com/poteto/status/2111133080526495985

Set up golden paths.



golden paths

architecture (DDD)

lints + CI

Lauren Tan (@poteto), 2026-10-16 · annotations mine

Rewrite. Code is (now) cheap.

DELETE

~~Unused experiments~~

~~Unused features~~

~~Stale feature flags~~

BIG REFACTORINGS

Unsafe type casts

1,482 → 0

IN 4 DAYS · RULE → RATCHET → DRAIN

Core data model, 3 repos

~420 PRS · BUILT IN 3.5 WEEKS



02

Close the testing loop.

Make your agents see.

... so they can test like a human.

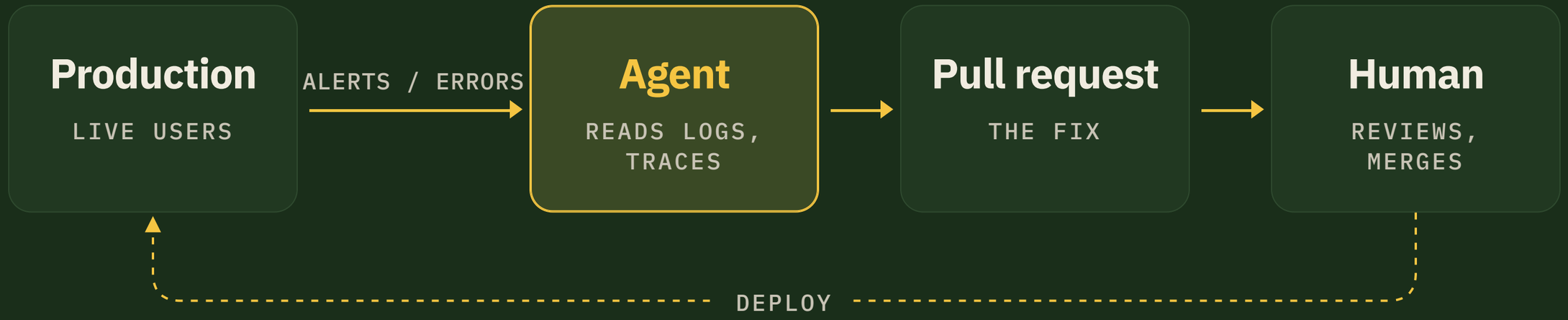


Slopfork your dependencies.

(… for testing)



Connect your agent to production.



03

Build loops.

Run gardening loops.

~2,200

PRS MERGED

~1,200

RUNS: NOTHING TO DO



Build self-improving loops.

Learn from past fixes and trajectories.



Take yourself out of the loop.

Always be thinking: can an agent do this? Can I trust it to?



Open challenges remain.

01

Always-on security agent

02

Safe production access for agents

03

Software factory infra



Code is cheap.
Rigor is not.



Thariq (@trq212), 2026-10-29

Thank you.



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