

Engagement Boundary Statement

SORT Framework

Gregor Herbert Wegener
Independent Researcher

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Reference Document. Not an offer. Not a contract. Not a product description.

1. Purpose and Context of This Document

This document serves to establish a clear and unambiguous delineation of roles, responsibilities, and expectations in connection with the SORT Framework.

It is not an offer, not a service description, not a substitute for any contractual agreement, and not a sales or marketing document. It does not create, imply, or extend any obligations, commitments, or rights beyond those explicitly set forth in separate written agreements between the parties.

The sole purpose of this document is to provide a stable interpretive framework for discussions, assessments, and licensing relationships, and to prevent misunderstandings regarding scope, responsibility, and the nature of engagement before they arise.

This document is intended for executive stakeholders, legal and procurement functions, compliance officers, and technical decision-makers who seek to position the SORT Framework within the context of internal evaluations, architectural analyses, or strategic considerations.

It is designed to be read as a reference, not as a call to action.

2. Role of the Independent Researcher

The originator and licensor of the SORT Framework acts as an Independent Researcher and serves as the original author and conceptual authority of the framework.

This role is explicitly and structurally distinct from consulting, engineering, product development, or operational service provision.

What the Independent Researcher Does

The Independent Researcher:

- develops theoretical, formal, and structural frameworks for the analysis of complex systems;
- conducts autonomous research and modeling activities;
- publishes scientific and conceptual work in appropriate venues;
- grants defined usage rights to the framework under explicit licensing terms.

What the Independent Researcher Does Not Do

The Independent Researcher expressly does not:

- assume operational responsibility for systems owned or operated by third parties;
- participate in implementation, integration, deployment, or operational processes;

- provide advisory, consulting, coaching, or support services;
- accept outcome responsibility in any operational, technical, or commercial sense.

There is no obligation to advise, assist, intervene, or contribute to any project, system, or process beyond the scope of explicitly agreed terms.

3. What a SORT License Is

A SORT license is a right of use pertaining to a scientific framework.

It grants the licensee the right to use, reference, and apply the SORT Framework internally to their own systems, architectures, or analytical questions.

Scope of a SORT License

A SORT license specifically includes:

- the use of the formal framework as an instrument for analysis, assessment, or structural reasoning;
- the internal application of the framework to the licensee's own systems and contexts;
- the internal referencing of the framework in architecture, risk, or strategy processes.

A license does not constitute a performance commitment and does not imply active involvement, support, or assistance from the licensor.

All use of the framework is conducted entirely at the licensee's own discretion and responsibility.

Internal Use and Non-Transferability

The license is granted for internal use only. It does not confer any right to redistribute, sublicense, resell, or externally provide the framework or any materials derived from it. Any external use, publication, or transfer requires separate written authorization.

4. What a SORT License Is Explicitly Not

A SORT license is explicitly none of the following:

- no software, code, or executable component;
- no product, tool, or deployable system;
- no implementation, integration, or deployment service;
- no operation, maintenance, or system management;
- no support, helpdesk, or technical assistance;
- no consulting, advisory, or coaching engagement;
- no system integration or architecture design service;
- no performance guarantee, stability commitment, or outcome assurance;
- no service-level agreement, key performance indicator, or deliverable obligation.

The SORT Framework is a conceptual and structural instrument. It is not a product. It is not a service. It is not a solution.

Responsibility for the application, interpretation, and derivation of any measures, conclusions, or actions rests entirely with the licensee.

The licensor makes no representation as to the suitability of the framework for any particular purpose and assumes no liability for the consequences of its use.

5. Relationship Between Research, Publications, and Licensing

Research and publications related to the SORT Framework are conducted independently and autonomously.

Public publications serve the purposes of scientific documentation, discourse, and the continued development of the framework. They are not part of any license deliverable and do not form a component of any licensing agreement.

What a License Does Not Entitle

A license does not establish any entitlement to:

- specific publications or documentation;
- updates, revisions, or new versions of the framework;
- timelines, roadmaps, or development schedules;
- exclusive or preferential access to research outputs.

The evolution of the framework proceeds according to scientific and conceptual criteria determined solely by the Independent Researcher. No guaranteed updates, delivery schedules, or research commitments are implied by any license.

Independence of Research

Research priorities, publication decisions, and framework development remain at the sole discretion of the Independent Researcher and are not subject to licensee input, approval, or influence.

6. Use of New Applications and Framework Extensions

New applications, use cases, or projections represent extensions or interpretations of the existing framework.

What New Applications Do Not Entail

The introduction of new applications or extensions does not:

- automatically extend the scope of existing licenses;
- create any entitlement to new content or capabilities;
- obligate the licensor to modify or amend existing license terms.

New applications are classified conceptually within the framework's domain and cluster structure. They may be evaluated for inclusion under separate licensing terms, depending on scope and domain applicability.

No Implicit Rights

An existing license does not confer any implicit right to future extensions, new application domains, or expanded framework scope. Any such extension requires explicit agreement.

7. Collaboration and Communication Model

Communication in the context of a SORT license takes place at a conceptual and structural level.

What Collaboration Does Not Include

There is no:

- operational coordination or embedded collaboration;
- project-based steering or governance participation;
- integration into licensee teams, processes, or workflows;
- ongoing advisory or consultative relationship.

All application of the framework is conducted autonomously by the licensee, without operational involvement from the licensor.

Communication Boundaries

Any communication regarding the framework is informational and non-binding unless explicitly agreed otherwise in writing. The licensor is not obligated to respond to inquiries, requests, or proposals, and any response does not constitute a commitment or create an expectation of continued engagement.

8. Delineation from Cooperation, Sponsorship, and Partnerships

Cooperation, sponsorship, or partnership arrangements are structurally and legally distinct from licenses.

What Cooperation Is Not

Such arrangements:

- are not implicitly included in any license;
- are not exclusive unless explicitly agreed;
- do not involve any transfer of intellectual property;
- require separate written agreements with distinct terms.

Preservation of Independence

The independence of the research and the autonomy of the Independent Researcher are preserved in all circumstances.

No cooperation, sponsorship, or partnership arrangement shall be construed as establishing an employment relationship, agency, joint venture, or any other form of organizational integration.

The licensor retains full control over research direction, publication decisions, and framework development, regardless of any collaborative arrangement.

9. Concluding Remarks on the Interpretation of This Document

This document is intended to provide clarity and prevent misunderstanding. It is a reference, not a prescription.

Interpretive Principles

The document should be read as establishing boundaries, not barriers. It does not preclude discussion, negotiation, or the development of tailored arrangements. It simply ensures that any such discussion begins from a shared understanding of roles, responsibilities, and limitations.

Where ambiguity arises, the presumption is that the Independent Researcher has not assumed any obligation, responsibility, or commitment beyond what is explicitly stated in a separate written agreement.

No Waiver

The failure to enforce any boundary described in this document does not constitute a waiver of that boundary. All boundaries remain in effect unless explicitly modified in writing.

Invitation to Clarity

Questions regarding the interpretation of this document, the scope of a license, or the possibilities for further engagement may be addressed through appropriate channels. Such inquiries are welcome and will be handled in a spirit of professional clarity.

This document does not replace individual agreements. It creates the interpretive context within which such agreements are understood.

Contact

Gregor Herbert Wegener
Independent Researcher, SORT Framework
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/gregorwegener](https://www.linkedin.com/in/gregorwegener)
ORCID: 0009-0008-1791-7487
Email: gregor.wegener@gmail.com

Reference: SORT Whitepaper v6 (DOI).