



Iteration Triggers

When these signals appear during drift monitoring, they indicate the system needs to return to an earlier Canon.

User behavior has changed

Override rates climbing, new workarounds appearing, user complaints about relevance. The system no longer matches how people actually work.

Return to: Witness (re-observe current reality)

Assumptions proved wrong

Data reveals a core assumption was invalid. What you believed when you designed the system is no longer true.

Return to: Interrogate (test new assumptions)

Accuracy degrading by segment

Aggregate metrics look fine but specific segments are failing. Different contexts require different treatment.

Return to: Solve (redesign for segment differences)

Context has shifted

New regulations, organizational restructuring, process changes, or market shifts that invalidate the deployment context.

Return to: Expand (reassess context fit)

Trust has eroded

Users bypassing the system, leadership questioning value, or incidents that damaged confidence in AI decisions.

Return to: Refine (rebuild governance and monitoring)

Minor Fix vs. Full Iteration

Criteria	Minor Fix	Full Iteration
Scope	Single component or parameter	Multiple components or architecture
Root cause	Clear, isolated	Systemic or unclear
Recurrence	First occurrence	Pattern of similar issues
Impact	Contained to one area	Affects multiple segments or users
Fix confidence	High (known solution)	Low (needs investigation)

DECISION RULE

When in doubt, choose full iteration. A quick fix on a systemic problem creates technical debt.

Response Steps

- 1 Include trigger review in weekly drift review
- 2 Document: what triggered, what signal, what evidence
- 3 Conduct root cause analysis if cause isn't obvious
- 4 Apply Minor Fix vs. Full Iteration criteria
- 5 If full iteration, update timeline and inform stakeholders
- 6 Document decision and rationale in Playbook

COMMON PITFALLS

Treating systemic problems as isolated incidents. Defaulting to quick fixes when the same type of issue recurs. Forgetting to update stakeholders when scope changes. Quick fixes accumulate; sometimes the right answer is to stop and iterate properly.