

How you will know it actually ran

Most automation does not fail loudly. It goes green, the record never lands, and somebody finds out three weeks later in the accounts. Everything I build is designed around that one problem.

A green tick is not evidence

A workflow reporting success only means it finished without throwing an error. It does not mean the invoice was read correctly, the record reached your system, or the number was right. Those are different questions, and the tick answers none of them.

So every workflow reports three things

What it did. In your words, not the tool's. "Read 14 invoices, filed 14, total £8,204."

What it skipped, and why. Not silently. If four documents were unreadable, that is four named documents waiting for you, not a gap you find at month end.

What it was unsure about. This is the important one. Anything below a confidence line stops and asks a human rather than guessing and being confidently wrong.

The failure worth designing against is not rubbish output. It is **plausible** output being accepted, because that is the kind nobody checks.

Where you see it

Somewhere you already look. Usually an email or a channel you are in anyway. If checking that a system worked requires you to log into the system, most weeks nobody checks, and the reporting was decoration.

Why I care about this more than most

I run my own businesses on the same stack, so when a workflow lies to me it costs me my own money. Every pattern I would sell you is one running in