Proactive Agent Loops and Auto-Review Enter the Workflow

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By Coding Agents Alpha Tracker • June 12, 2026

Today's useful signal is the operational layer around coding agents: proactive debug loops, external judge agents, auto-review defaults, and transcript-level evals. This brief pulls together the most actionable workflows, tool updates, and clips worth studying.

TOP SIGNAL

- **Proactive loops are the real step change.** Simon Willison's firsthand Fable transcript is the clearest proof: from a screenshot and a one-line goal, the agent stood up a local server, scratch HTML, browser automation, DOM probes, and screenshot capture to isolate a two-line CSS fix—and Willison says that same relentless proactivity is exactly why unsandboxed agents are a security risk if prompt-injected [1]. Cursor's multi-agent practitioners described the same broader pattern at scale: plan-first swarms, reminder loops, and separate judge agents that keep long-running tasks from stopping early [2].

TRY THIS

- **Steal Simon Willison's browser-debugging escalation ladder.** Start with a screenshot and a one-line objective. If the bug does not reproduce in Playwright across Chrome/Firefox/WebKit, have the agent: run the local dev server with fake env vars; write a scratch HTML page that isolates the behavior; open real Safari/Firefox; use `uv run --with pyobjc-framework-Quartz` plus `screencapture -x -o -l` to capture real browser windows; inject JS to trigger hidden UI flows; and post DOM

measurements back to `127.0.0.1:9999` via a tiny CORS `http.server` so the agent can read the results from disk [1].

```
Write a report in /tmp/automation-report.md where you
note down all of the tricks you have used in this
session to test against real browsers on my computer,
include runnable code examples
```
[1]

- **Run a plan-first swarm, not a prompt pile.** In Cursor's multi-agent discussion, the advice was to spend most of the session in plan mode until you have a detailed markdown spec, then let a main agent delegate to named sub-agents via messaging scripts, with reminder loops that keep overnight runs anchored on explicit verification steps. For long runs, pass data across compaction cycles by reference instead of summaries [2]. If you push toward bigger fleets, don't assume GitHub is your control plane: swyx's summary from ai.engineer says runtime and triggers are mostly solved, but coordination is not, and GitHub gets too noisy for hundreds of parallel PRs—use a CLI or messaging gateway instead [3].
- **Split build vs. review across model families.** A concrete pattern from Cursor's panel: use Claude/Opus 4.7 for implementation or design, keep a GPT-5.5 worker around for review and functional verification, and run several rounds of "thermonuclear review" so different models catch different failure modes [2]. Simon Willison used the same basic routing in a fresh side project: Claude Fable 5 for the plan, GPT-5.5 xhigh in Codex Desktop for the implementation of a custom Datasette extras explorer [4].
- **Read trajectories like code review, not scoreboard output.** swyx's Frontier Code discussion argues for hard, real-world tasks plus maintainer-labeled trajectories and rubrics for mergeability, not just passing tests; the concrete checks are simple: did the agent touch the right files, write reasonable tests, and respect style/lint guidelines [5, 6]. Sourcegraph's 1,281-run study points the same way: failures in large repos show up as repeatable patterns tied to different infra fixes, not random bad luck [7].

WHAT SHIPPED

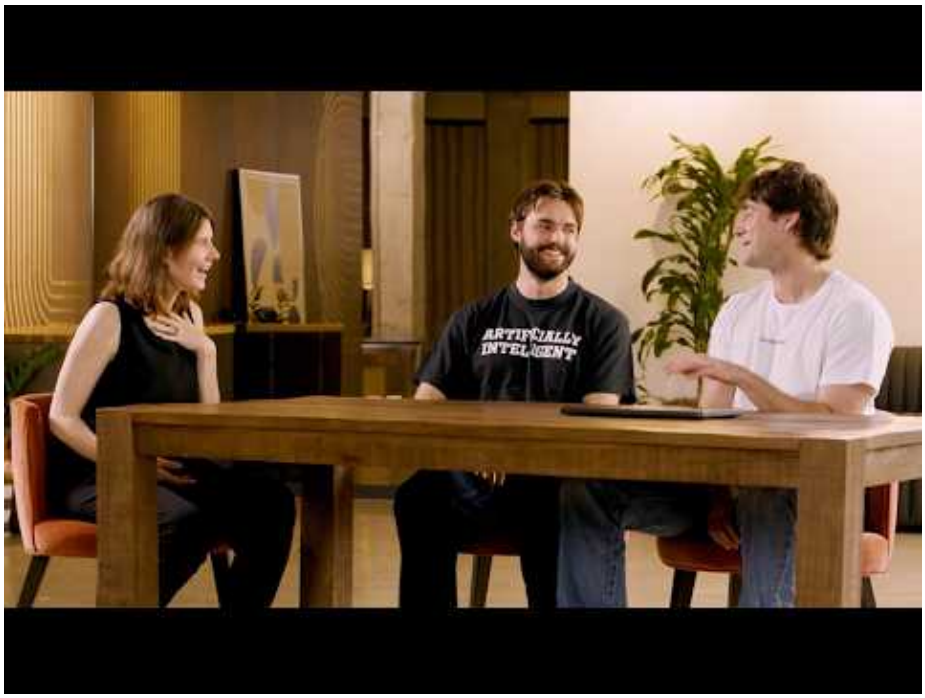
- **Cursor Auto-review** — now default for new users; a classifier subagent evaluates actions in context and decides whether to allow, block, or ask for approval. Cursor says evals show **97% accuracy**, with misses mostly near ambiguous edges. Details: cursor.com/blog/agent-autonomy-auto-review [8, 9].
- **Google's Anti Gravity harness, per Logan Kilpatrick** — framed as a shared IDE/web/CLI/SDK + Gemini API managed-agent layer, with the same harness powering Search, Gemini app, Cloud, and AI Studio; use-case variants appear to share roughly **80%** of the base harness [10]. Usage signals from Logan: Google teams used it to ship mobile and macOS apps

faster internally, AI Studio saw roughly **350k Android apps** built since last week, and about **20%** of early apps were games [10].

- **Gemini coding-model note** — Logan says **Gemini 3.5 Flash** is better at coding than any prior Pro model Google released, and credits the jump to post-training gains rather than a bigger base model [10].
- **Sourcegraph's large-repo postmortem** — **1,281** agent runs across **40+** open-source repos surfaced five repeatable failure patterns, each pointing to a different infra fix. Read: Why coding agents fail in large codebases (and what to do about it) [7].
- **Open-source maintainer loop from Peter Steinberger** — his Codex setup wakes every five minutes, steers work to threads, and combines an orchestrator with triage/autoreview/computer-use skills so some changes can land autonomously. Study the skill files: maintainer-orchestrator and github-project-triage [11].
- **Fresh small-project proof of routing** — Simon Willison shipped a custom extras API explorer with Fable 5 handling the plan and GPT-5.5 xhigh handling the implementation; separately, he says Fable spotted and fixed bugs in `asyncinject 0.7` [4, 12].

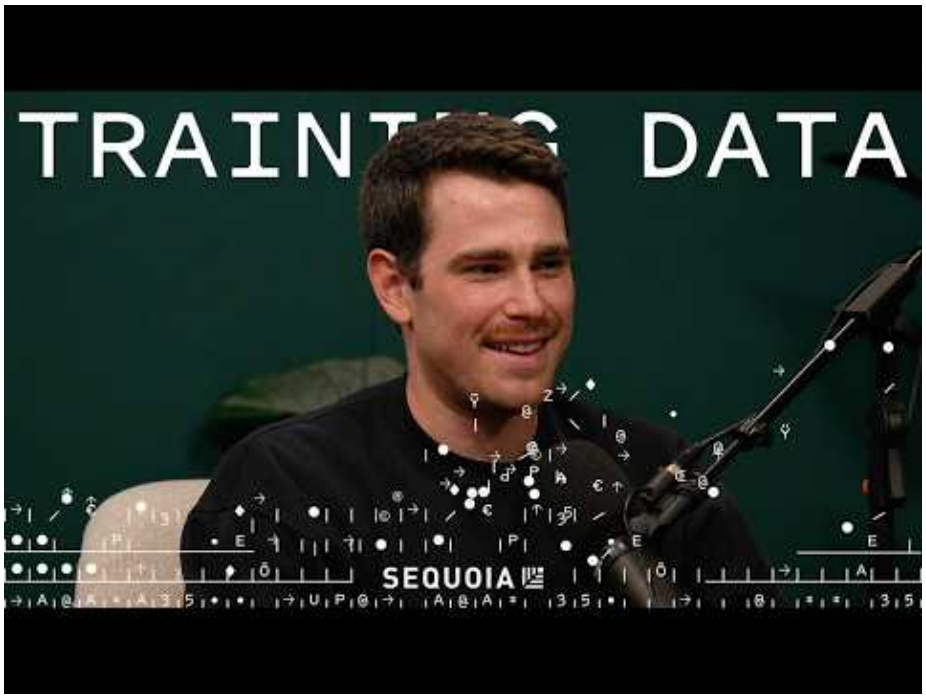
GO DEEPER

- **Cursor, 5:19-5:54 — separate judge agents.** Best short explanation of why a worker agent needs an external checker to stop false-done states before they spread [2].



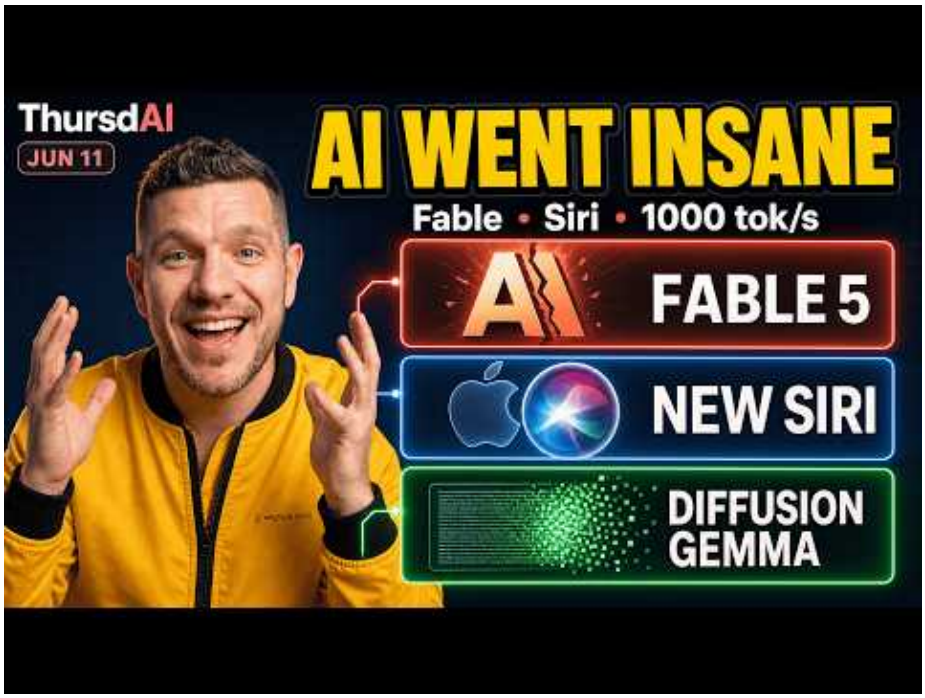
Running 128 Coding Agents at Once (5:19)

- **Google/Logan, 38:39-40:30 — the model eats the harness.** Useful mental model for why today's bespoke agent scaffolding keeps getting upstreamed into model behavior, and where the next edge moves [10].



Google DeepMind's Logan Kilpatrick: Why the Model Eats the Harness (38:38)

- **Frontier Code, 1:01:05-1:05:55 — trajectory reading party.** Best clip today on how to judge agent work beyond pass/fail: wrong-file touches, reward hacking, weak tests, and mergeability [6].



Fable 5 controversy, new Siri with computer use, Gemini Live Translate under 500ms | Jun 11 (61:05)

- **Study Simon Willison's full terminal transcript.** It's one of the best public artifacts right now for seeing an agent improvise across Playwright, Safari, DOM instrumentation, screenshots, and local servers in a real debugging task [1].
- **Study steipete's skill files.** If you want a concrete maintainer loop instead of general agent talk, the orchestrator and triage skills show how he structures autonomous repo maintenance around threads and review gates [11]. maintainer-orchestrator · github-project-triage

Editorial take: the edge is moving from raw codegen to agent control systems—loops, judges, artifact capture, and transcript review are what make longer autonomy usable.

Sources

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5. LIVE - Fable/Mythos 5 is HERE , SIRI AI finally?, Frontier code w/ Swyx & more AI news

6. Fable 5 controversy, new Siri with computer use, Gemini Live Translate under 500ms | Jun 11
7. X post by @Sourcegraph
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9. X post by @cursor_ai
10. Google DeepMind's Logan Kilpatrick: Why the Model Eats the Harness
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