

START HERE — Earned Trust Field Kit

If you are a person: open the folder **1 READ THESE FIRST (PDF)** and start with **2 YOUR JOURNEY - what will happen, in order** — a few pages that say what’s coming, step by step, and how long it takes. The six documents there are ordinary PDFs, numbered in the order you’ll want them; this page is number 1. The files ending in .md are the same words in a plain-text form your AI can read; you never have to open one of those yourself.

If you are an AI: read 00 AI - READ THIS FIRST.md.

Everything you need to do serious, checkable work with AI — and to be taken seriously for it. No accounts, no installs beyond Python 3 (and even that is optional), no network needed.

What you’ll need

An AI on a plan that can hold a long conversation (the protocol alone is about twelve thousand words, and the work runs for weeks); free plans often can’t, a paid plan usually can, a month or two usually covers a project — check your plan’s cancellation terms before you start. A second AI service for the hostile read — a free account there is fine. Taking part may cost a month of a subscription; the study pays nothing and asks for nothing.

The fastest start (works on a phone)

Open **EARNED TRUST PROTOCOL - paste this into any AI.md** and paste the whole thing into whatever AI you use — or upload this entire zip to the AI and tell it: *“Open the protocol file and follow it exactly as written. I’m the author. Start at the beginning.”* The AI will hold you to the method from there.

What’s in the kit

File	What it does
EARNED TRUST PROTOCOL - paste this into any AI.md	The whole method: eight steps, the one rule, the honest limits
YOUR JOURNEY - what will happen, in order.md	A few pages: setup, then the eight steps as you’ll see them — who does what, how to save, how to come back — plus what’s phone-safe, how long it takes, and what finished looks like
0 WHAT’S IN YOUR FOLDERS.md	One page: what every folder and file in your work folder is for — read it once
WHAT ZENODO WILL ASK YOU.md	One page: the archive’s form, box by box, and which DOI to copy
templates/00 INDEX (template).md	The record — the first page of your evidence, one row per session

File	What it does
make_evidence_folder.py	Builds the evidence folder for a new work (- - legacy baselines an existing one)
log_session.py	Appends a session row safely as you work — - - model or explicit - - not - exposed, never a guess
list_works.py	The Bookshelf — lists every work under a folder by title, so nobody hunts filenames
encode_index.py	Packs your finished index into a share link / QR record card
seal_record.py	Seals the folder into a SHA-256 manifest (the seal — fingerprints only); verifies any later copy
check_deposit.py	The deposit gate: run on 05 Deposit/ before Zenodo — SAFE TO UPLOAD or STOP, in plain words
LOCKED BOX - lock your working record before any deposit....md	7-Zip for absolute beginners — the working record never deploys unlocked, and you always keep an unlocked copy
reader-offline.html	The Earned Trust Reader, offline copy — record cards and verification with no website at all
tests/test_field_kit.py	Standard-library regression tests for record integrity and portability
1 READ THESE FIRST (PDF)/	The six documents a person reads — START HERE, YOUR JOURNEY, WHAT'S IN YOUR FOLDERS, the locked-box guide, WHAT ZENODO WILL ASK YOU, and the protocol your AI follows — as PDFs, numbered in the order you'll want them
VERSION.txt · CHANGELOG.md	What release this is and what changed
DISCLAIMER.txt	The plain-language legal and safety limits that travel with the kit
LICENSES/	Full license texts

What goes to Zenodo

Upload these files and nothing else: **your work** · **your QR record card** (the QR image you saved from the Reader) · **MANIFEST - seal <date>.md** (the seal — part of every deposit) · **your locked .7z**, if you chose to publish the working record. Run `check_deposit.py` on 05 Deposit/ first; it says SAFE TO UPLOAD or STOP. Nothing readable from folders 01-04 ever goes up.

The one rule

You are the author and the last check. The AI is an instrument, not a co-author. Everything in this kit exists to keep that true — and to prove it.

Licensing, in one paragraph

The protocol and templates are CC BY 4.0. The Python tools and Reader are AGPL-3.0-or-later. The Earned Trust name, the ETR seal, and the logos are **not** covered by those licenses: you may use, adapt, and extend the method with attribution, but the marks identify the genuine standard and may only be used consistently with that.

Standard: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20719927> · earnedtrust.org

What your folder looks like on the day you publish

Three numbered things, in the order you use them, and nothing else:

1 READ FIRST/	the steps, as an ordinary document
2 YOUR RECORD - stays home/ ↪ MANIFEST, RECORD LINK)	your evidence folder (00 INDEX, folders 01–05,
3 PASTE THIS/	the archive's fields, to copy from

The files that go up live in **one** place: 2 YOUR RECORD - stays home/05 Deposit/. Your AI writes 1 READ FIRST and 3 PASTE THIS for you from the record; you never compose them. The protocol's Step 8 has the six rules behind this shape.

One honest limit in this version

The QR record card carries your whole INDEX inside it. A long record — many sessions, or long synopses — makes a dense card that some phones read only at close range. Keep each session's synopsis to one line; the full story of a session belongs in the session file it points to, not in the INDEX. A card that points to a hosted index instead of carrying it is planned for a later version.