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AI Ancestors

Sovereign intelligence reshapes family, legacy, and human continuity.
On-device memory vaults that forget on command.

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ABSTRACT

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This ebook examines the architectural conditions under which digital memory, personal advice systems, and AI-mediated legacy can survive the vendor that produced them. It draws on the patent claims for the Mickai Long-Term Memory Brain, the Hereditas dead-man-switch primitive, and the May 2026 filings on cross-implementation OAR verification. The ethical and theological argument is set alongside the engineering one: ancestor veneration across African, East Asian, and European traditions has always relied on a record that survives the recordkeeper.

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PART I · FOUNDATIONAL ESSAY

AI Ancestors

The question of continuity

When your grandfather kept a notebook, the notebook survived him. When his AI assistant kept a memory of him, the memory survives the vendor that produced it, in the format the vendor chooses, under the access policy the vendor enforces, on the hardware the vendor controls. That is not legacy. That is a subscription that lapses.

Ancestor veneration is older than writing. The cultural forms differ (West African praise-song, East Asian shrine practice, European tomb inscription, Cumbrian dry-stone memorial walls) but the technical requirement is the same. A record that outlasts the recordkeeper, in a form the descendants can read without the original recordkeeper present. That is what the Long-Term Memory Brain is for.

Durable memory the user can erase

The Mickai Long-Term Memory Brain holds the persistent state of what the substrate knows about its user, the projects, and the working context. Every memory entry is signed, versioned, and forgettable on command. Forgetting is destructive. The entry is removed from the store, the embedding is deleted, the audit ledger records the removal, and downstream brains lose access. Memory is the user's, not the system's.

The legacy implication is the architecture's, not the marketing copy's. A user can, today, sign a memory entry that says: this entry survives me. They can also sign one that says: this entry is destroyed at my death. Both instructions execute under the Hereditas primitive (filed at the UK IPO as GB2607317.2) with trustee multi-signature and the dead-man switch. The probate court sees a cryptographically clean record.

Lineage simulators, under signed transcripts

The viral idea (talking to a simulated ancestor) is also the legally messy one. Under vendor sovereignty, the simulated voice and text are the vendor's. Under sovereign architecture, the simulation runs on signed transcripts the deceased authorised in life, with consent classes that restrict what the simulation may say in which contexts. Anything with legal effect (a deathbed wish, a charitable instruction, a recipe attribution) carries dual-signature: one from the original record, one from the simulator's hardware-bound key.

A great-grandchild in 2070, talking to a simulated 2026 ancestor, sees a transcript chain they can verify offline in their own browser tab. The chain says what the simulator said, what corpus it drew on, which consent class authorised the utterance, and what the ancestor explicitly forbade. That is the architecture of dignified digital legacy. It does not depend on which vendor happens to be selling AI in 2070.

What an heir inherits, in practice

Mickai's Hereditas primitive treats digital estate as a sealed envelope. Owners seal assets, credentials, messages, and instructions in life. The envelope opens only on confirmed death (trustee multi-sig plus dead-man-switch activation). The Revocation Brain is the kill switch on the way in: a corrupted simulator key, a stolen voiceprint, or a misbehaving heir can be revoked instantly and retroactively, with the audit ledger recording every flag.

This is not future work. The primitives ship in the SIOS as of 15 May 2026. The companion website article walks through five worked examples in summary; the rest of this ebook expands each of them in turn.

PART II · WORKED EXAMPLES AND EXPANSIONS

Practitioner notes against the foundational essay

A single-generation memory inheritance

The most common case is a parent leaving a memory chain to a child. The parent in life signs a set of memory entries marked inheritable. The chain records each signature, the consent class, and any time-bounded conditions. On confirmed death (registered through the trustee multi-sig route the family chose at substrate setup) the inheritable entries become accessible to the named heir. The chain records the transfer. The heir sees a chain they can verify, including which entries the parent erased before death and the cryptographic proof of that erasure.

A refusing heir

Not every heir wants the inheritance. The architecture supports refusal at any point. The heir can decline access; the chain records the refusal; the inheritable entries enter the dormant state for the next designated heir under the will, or for destruction if none. Importantly, the heir's refusal does not destroy the chain; the chain survives the refusal, as it survives every other event. A great-grandchild three generations downstream can still walk the lineage if the chain is preserved.

A simulated voice under consent restriction

A grandmother in life consents to her voice being available for simulation in non-commercial family conversation only. The Voice Biometric Brain stores the hardware-bound template; the consent class restricts every synthesised utterance. A grandchild in 2055, asking the simulator a commercial question, hears a refusal recorded in the chain. The grandmother's commercial dignity survives her death because the consent class is enforced by the substrate, not by a vendor's content policy.

A revoked AI cult of personality

A more difficult case: a deceased patriarch's signed memories become the basis of a family cult, with the simulated patriarch increasingly directing the family's affairs. A surviving trustee invokes the Revocation Brain. The simulator key is revoked; the chain records the revocation; future utterances signed under the revoked key are mathematically refused. The chain retains the history of the cult; the family is no longer subject to it. The architecture supplies the off switch.

A hundred-year audit across the chain

The hardest case is institutional rather than personal. A great-grandchild in 2126 inherits a chain that started in 2026. The chain has been through three substrate vendor changes, four hardware generations, and one post-quantum algorithm rollover. The cross-implementation OAR verifier (filed in

May 2026) is the architectural guarantee that the 2126 verifier can still read the 2026 records. The lineage walk API answers the question any researcher will ask: what did the original recordkeeper actually say.

Drafting an AI estate clause

Suggested clause text for inclusion in a UK will or letter of wishes: The testator's Mickai Sovereign Intelligence Operating System chain, including the Long-Term Memory Brain entries signed under the testator's hardware-bound key, shall pass to [named heir] subject to the Hereditas consent classes the testator selected in life. The trustee shall verify activation of the dead-man switch through the multi-signature protocol the testator configured. Erasure of any entry by the testator prior to death shall be respected; the chain shall record both the erasure and the cryptographic proof.

Trustee selection and the dead-man switch

The dead-man switch needs trustees. The architectural recommendation is at least three, configured for a 2-of-3 multi-signature threshold. Trustees should be geographically and relationally diverse. The substrate prompts every six months for a liveness signature from the principal; absence over a configured window triggers the trustee verification flow. The chain records every step.

Consent classes for the deceased

Consent classes are the architectural answer to the question what may the simulator say. Suggested defaults: family-only conversation; non-commercial use; no political endorsement; no medical instruction; no financial direction. Each class is enforced by the policy graph the testator signed in life; the substrate refuses utterances outside the classes; the chain records every refusal.

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Author. Micky Irons is the founder and named inventor of Mickai, the Sovereign Intelligence Operating System. Based in Cumbria. UK IPO public register GB2607309.8 to GB2610422.4 plus the four new May 2026 filings on cross-implementation OAR verification, pluggable post-quantum signing, federated voice cloning, and audit-by-default sovereign CLI command trace. Companies House 17166618. Trade mark UK00004373277 (classes 9 and 42). The agentic marketing runtime documented at mickai.co.uk/articles/amt-crunchbase-40k-to-500-in-seven-days moved the founder Crunchbase profile from approximately 40,000 to 500 in seven days.

COLOPHON

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