



OBSERVATORY REPORT · SAMPLE · OPEN CIRCULATION

Someone is *reading* your work.

Subject – botconduct.org

PERIOD	AUTHORITY	DOCUMENT	STATUS
Last thirty days	WhoWatches Observatory Desk	SAMPLE-0427-A Cycle 05-2026	Open circulation

SAMPLE · FOR CIRCULATION



§ 0 · DOCUMENT CONTROL

Control sheet & *table of contents.*

DOCUMENT	SAMPLE-0427-A
CYCLE	05 · 2026
SUBJECT	botconduct.org
PERIOD	Last thirty days
AUTHORITY	BotConduct Observatory Desk
STATUS	Open circulation
FORM	Monthly strategic cycle
LENGTH	Fourteen pages

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A NOTE ON CIRCULATION

This sample report is published openly so that prospective applicants understand the form and tenor of the bulletins they would receive. The subject – botconduct.org – is the Observatory's own property. In ordinary cycles, member bulletins are circulated to the named recipient only, and findings are not reproduced outside that channel.

§ 1 · EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What we saw, in the open, looking at *ourselves*.

- ¶ 1.1 *F*or thirty days the Observatory turned its instruments on its own property. The intent was simple: produce a sample bulletin against a subject we know in detail, and let prospective applicants judge what the form looks like in practice. The subject is small. The activity directed at it was not.
-
- ¶ 1.2 The site received attention from a recognizable set of declared crawlers – among them Apple's Applebot, declared AI crawlers from established model labs, and the usual mainstream search indexers. None of this is unusual. The texture was. Declared crawlers behaved at patterns inconsistent with their public declarations, and several appeared to coordinate around the same surfaces in narrow windows.
-
- ¶ 1.3 More notably, the property attracted persistent, non-interactive activity from infrastructure that does not declare itself – a rotating residential proxy network with global reach, an industrial automation provider transiting Chinese hosting, and the characteristic patterns of agentic browser frameworks reading the site on behalf of unknown principals. None of this is "attack" traffic. All of it is observation.
-
- ¶ 1.4 The cohort context matters. Three of the actors observed against botconduct.org appear in current bulletins for other cohort properties – including properties in adjacent verticals. The shared interest is not random.

The behavioral gap between what these actors declare and what they do, observed at the receiver, is itself the finding. Identity can be declared. Behavior, at cohort scale, cannot.

– BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK · CYCLE 05 · 2026

§ 2 · ACTORS OBSERVED

Eight actors of note, by name or by *behavior*.

Actors are presented in two registers. **Identified** means the operator declared itself in a manner consistent with its behavior. **Characterized** means we inferred the operator from behavioral signature in the absence of reliable declaration. Both registers carry interpretive weight; neither is treated as accusation.

READING THE CARDS

- Identified · by name
- Characterized · by behavior

Anthropic · ClaudeBot

declared AI crawler · model lab ● IDENTIFIED · BY NAME

INFRASTRUCTURE	Declared operator. Infrastructure consistent throughout the period.
BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	Persistent attention to documentation surfaces and sustained attention to the property's commercially sensitive pages. Access pattern more regular than publicly declared schedules would suggest.
INTENT INFERRED	<i>Training-corporus refresh with a commercial-context bias.</i> The skew toward pricing-adjacent surfaces is the interesting part – not the volume.
BEHAVIOR CONSISTENT	With declaration · partially.

CONFIDENCE · HIGH FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

Apple · Applebot

declared crawler · platform operator ● IDENTIFIED · BY NAME

INFRASTRUCTURE	Declared operator infrastructure. Multiple infrastructure sources through the period.
BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	Methodical, low-noise sweep of editorial and public-research surfaces. Returned to the same surfaces on a regular cycle.
INTENT INFERRED	<i>Platform indexing with downstream AI-feature implications.</i> The access pattern and surface selection are characteristic of indexing infrastructure feeding multiple consumer experiences.
BEHAVIOR CONSISTENT	With declaration.

CONFIDENCE · HIGH FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

§ 2 · ACTORS OBSERVED · CONTINUED

OpenAI · GPTBot

● IDENTIFIED · BY NAME

declared AI crawler · model lab

INFRASTRUCTURE	Declared and consistent.
BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	Sweep concentrated on long-form editorial pages and the methodology archive. Light touch on the home and product surfaces.
INTENT INFERRED	<i>Editorial-corpus collection.</i> Selection bias suggests preference for argumentative prose over reference material.
BEHAVIOR CONSISTENT	With declaration.

CONFIDENCE · HIGH

FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

Perplexity · PerplexityBot

● IDENTIFIED · BY NAME

declared AI crawler · answer engine

INFRASTRUCTURE	Declared. Multiple access patterns observed from this operator.
BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	Targeted retrieval of recent posts within hours of publication. Returns thereafter at irregular intervals.
INTENT INFERRED	<i>Real-time index for answer surfaces.</i> The early-arrival pattern is more interesting than the volume.
BEHAVIOR CONSISTENT	With declaration.

CONFIDENCE · HIGH

FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

ByteDance · Bytespider

● IDENTIFIED · BY NAME

declared crawler · platform operator

INFRASTRUCTURE	Declared. Access volume high, with periodic intensity increases.
BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	Broad sweep with light surface discrimination. Returns regardless of robots hints, against published norms.
INTENT INFERRED	<i>Bulk-corpus collection with limited regard for site preferences.</i> Behavior characterizes the operator more than the property.
BEHAVIOR CONSISTENT	With declaration · partially.

CONFIDENCE · HIGH

FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

§ 2 · ACTORS OBSERVED · CHARACTERIZED

Rotating residential proxy network

● CHARACTERIZED · BY BEHAVIOR

global · undeclared infrastructure

INFRASTRUCTURE	Distributed infrastructure, geographically diverse. No consistent operator identity declared.
BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	Sustained attention to commercially sensitive surfaces. Activity pattern inconsistent with organic browsing.
INTENT INFERRED	<i>Commercial reconnaissance.</i> Pattern consistent with monitoring agencies and competitive intelligence operators using consumer proxy networks as cover.
COHORT NOTE	The same operational pattern was observed against other cohort properties in the same vertical during the cycle.

CONFIDENCE · MEDIUM

FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

Industrial automation · transiting commercial Asian hosting

● CHARACTERIZED · BY BEHAVIOR

commercial hosting · undeclared operator

INFRASTRUCTURE	Commercial hosting infrastructure, Asia-Pacific. Operator unidentified.
BEHAVIOR OBSERVED	High-volume, low-discrimination sweeps. Mirror behavior across the property's public surface. Zero interaction.
INTENT INFERRED	<i>Bulk archival or downstream corpus assembly.</i> The breadth of the sweep argues against targeted intelligence.
COHORT NOTE	Observed concurrently against several cohort properties in unrelated verticals.

CONFIDENCE · MEDIUM

FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

Browser-Use signatures

● CHARACTERIZED · BY BEHAVIOR

agentic browser framework · principal unknown

INFRASTRUCTURE Consumer cloud hosting. Presents as standard browser at the network layer.

BEHAVIOR OBSERVED Systematic navigation with structured access patterns. Activity profile distinct from organic readership.

INTENT INFERRED *Autonomous agent acting on a principal's behalf.* Origin of instruction unknown; the behavioral profile is consistent with an agentic framework.

COHORT NOTE Operationally similar activity observed against multiple other cohort properties during the same period.

CONFIDENCE · MEDIUM-HIGH

FILED · BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK

§ 3 · BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS

Four patterns, one *property*.

The eight actors above resolve into four observable behaviors when grouped by intent. Each is illustrated with a concrete moment from the cycle. None of these are conjectural – all four appeared on botconduct.org in the thirty-day period.

§ 3.1 · PATTERN ONE

Training-data extraction.

Declared and undeclared collectors sweeping editorial and reference surfaces for fine-tune corpora. Behavior often respectful of headers but indifferent to scope hints – the polite version of taking what is taken.

CONCRETE MOMENT

In the same forty-minute window, two declared AI crawlers and one anonymous collector all returned to *the same recent editorial post*. The post had been online for under an hour.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Editorial output reaches model labs within hours of publication. Whether that is intended is a property-level decision.

§ 3 · BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS · CONTINUED

§ 3.2 · PATTERN TWO

Automated content ingestion.

Automated systems accessing the property on a recurring cycle consistent with downstream vector-store refreshes. Same surfaces, recurring pattern, often different identities each pass – an operator without a name.

CONCRETE MOMENT

A weekly access pattern targeting the methodology archive and the public-research index, originating from three distinct hosting providers across the cycle. Surfaces, hour-of-day, and session shape were near-identical.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Reference material is being kept current somewhere we cannot see. The framing of that material is operating downstream.

§ 3.3 · PATTERN THREE

Agent traffic.

Autonomous agents acting on a principal's behalf – browser-like presentation, agentic operational patterns. Not bot. Not human. The fastest-growing category in the Observatory.

CONCRETE MOMENT

An agentic browser framework traversed the property's methodology pages in a systematic order. It accessed structured content across multiple surfaces. Activity profile distinct from organic readership.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Agents are reading the property on someone else's instruction. The principal is currently opaque.

§ 3 · BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS · CONTINUED

§ 3.4 · PATTERN FOUR

Competitive reconnaissance.

Narrow-scope access to surfaces with commercial signal – pricing, capabilities, partnerships, public methodology. Often headless, often through rotating proxy infrastructure, often coincident with public events.

CONCRETE MOMENT

Following a public mention in another publication, a residential proxy network with no prior interest in the property paid *narrowly focused attention* to capability-adjacent surfaces over the following ninety-six hours, then disappeared.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

External attention is followed by inspection. Public events are observable not only by readers – they are observable by readers' competitors.

The arrival of a residential proxy in the hours after a public mention is not coincidence; it is the modern equivalent of a competitor reading the morning paper. We have simply moved the paper online.

– BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK · CYCLE 05 · 2026

§ 4 · CROSS-VERTICAL CONTEXT

What we see elsewhere, that also *touches you*.

The Observatory operates across a cohort of properties spanning several verticals. The following patterns appear in active cohort bulletins for other properties – and intersect with what we observed against botconduct.org. Anonymized, aggregated, and signed by the Desk.

COHORT · AI ADJACENT
STARTUPS VERTICAL

Coordinated extraction following announcements.

Three properties shipping new model capabilities saw the same residential-proxy signature inspect their pricing and capability surfaces within ninety-six hours of announcement. The signature touched botconduct.org in a comparable window after a public mention.

COHORT · DEVELOPER ADJACENT
TOOLS VERTICAL

Persistent agentic readers on documentation.

Browser-Use-style frameworks show up reliably on documentation surfaces of developer-tools properties. The same operational pattern, from distinct sources, has been observed against the botconduct.org methodology pages.

COHORT · MEDIA / ADJACENT
PUBLICATIONS VERTICAL

Early-arrival AI crawlers on editorial.

Properties publishing argumentative or analytical prose receive interest from PerplexityBot and similar within minutes of publication. Editorial work on botconduct.org receives identical early-arrival treatment.

COHORT · FINTECH ADJACENT VERTICAL

Industrial sweeps from commercial hosting.

Fintech cohort properties received high-volume, low-discrimination sweeps from commercial hosting infrastructure consistent with bulk archival operators. The same operator signature has been characterized on botconduct.org.

§ 4 · CROSS-VERTICAL CONTEXT · CONTINUED

- ¶ 4.1 **T**he reason the cohort matters is simple: most actors directed at a property are not *only* directed at that property. The same operator, the same framework, the same infrastructure shows up against many sites in parallel – sometimes with intent that becomes legible only when the pattern is observed across the cohort.

- ¶ 4.2 The Observatory's contribution is not the detection of any single visit. The contribution is the placement of that visit inside a wider pattern that the receiver, looking alone, cannot see. A single property looking at its own logs sees noise. The Observatory sees a route.

- ¶ 4.3 For the present subject, three of the four characterized actors observed against botconduct.org are currently active against other cohort properties. The framework signature is shared. The residential proxy signature is shared. The industrial hosting signature is shared. The operational pattern appears across properties consistently.

- ¶ 4.4 This is the structural argument for receiver-side observation, viewed across a curated cohort, rather than per-property bot management read in isolation. The signal each property sees is partial; the signal the cohort sees is interpretable.

A property reading its own logs sees noise. A desk reading the cohort sees a route.

– BOTCONDUCT OBSERVATORY DESK · CYCLE 05 · 2026

§ 5 · INTERPRETATION & CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic *considerations*, not a to-do list.

Bulletins do not prescribe. The Desk records what was observed and what we would consider next, were the subject ours to operate. Disposition belongs to the property owner.

№ 01

Consider an authentication boundary on capability-adjacent surfaces.

Surfaces describing what the property does and how it does it are being read by parties whose interest is plainly commercial. An authentication boundary on those specific pages would not prevent reading, but would force declared intent – which is, for our purposes, more useful than blocking.

CROSS-REF

§ 2 anonymous actors
§ 3.4 pattern four
Cohort · AI startups

№ 02

Treat editorial publication as a public event for monitoring purposes.

The arrival of declared AI crawlers within minutes of publication is now a property of editorial work, not an anomaly. Reframing post-publication readership as a sequence of declared and undeclared observers reflects current conditions better than the legacy reader model.

CROSS-REF

§ 3.1 pattern one
Cohort · Media
Cycle 04-2026 § 3.2

№ 03

Establish a baseline for agentic readership before it becomes ambient.

Agentic browser frameworks reading the property on third-party instruction are still a minority of traffic. Within twelve months we expect that to invert. Properties that do not characterize agentic readers now will be unable to distinguish them from human readers later, when both volumes are large.

CROSS-REF

§ 3.3 pattern three
Cohort · Devtools
Outlook · Cycle 06-2026

§ 6 · METHODOLOGY NOTE

A closed oracle.

- ¶ 6.1 The BotConduct Observatory operates as a closed oracle. We disclose findings, not method. This is a deliberate choice: it protects both the integrity of receiver-side observation against operator adaptation, and the long-term value of the cohort to its members. Approved members receive interpretation. They do not receive the playbook.

§ 7 · CLOSING

How to subscribe.

WhoWatches is the public access point to the BotConduct Observatory. Subscription is direct, through the WhoWatches pricing page, payable monthly. New members are onboarded within the day, and the first bulletin is signed by the Desk in the next cycle. Membership is reviewable; the Desk reserves the right to decline continuation at any cycle.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE OBSERVATORY

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\$490 / MONTH · CANCEL ANY CYCLE · POWERED BY PADDLE

The Observatory accepts a limited number of properties each quarter so that observations remain interpretive, not industrial. Bulletins are written, not generated.

WhoWatches

OBSERVATORY DESK

Identity can be declared. Behavior, at cohort scale, cannot.

DOCUMENT № SAMPLE-0427-A · CYCLE 05-2026 · OPEN CIRCULATION
BOTCONDUCT.ORG · WHOWATCHES.IO

DISCLAIMER

This document is a sample report produced for illustrative purposes only. Operator names, behavioral descriptions, infrastructure attributions, and data points contained herein do not represent actual observations, real-world actors, or live Observatory data.

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