

# Autonomy Without the Plumbing

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*“The handwringing isn't about whether AI is useful — it's that tokens went from something nobody even put in a budget line a year ago to an absolute requirement for coding, and nobody knows who should get them, how much to give, or how to control them.”*

— Selin Oriax, today's narration

Robinhood just let AI agents trade stocks through a dedicated wallet. YouTube is now auto-labeling AI-generated video. A university professor tracks how tokens became an absolute requirement for coding — with no one knowing how to allocate them. And the NYT Tech Guild is fighting AI monitoring tools that management shipped without bargaining. The through-line: we're building systems that can act on their own, but we're still figuring out who controls them, how to pay for them, and what happens when they monitor us back.

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## CHAPTERS

00:00:04 The Agent Wallet

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00:01:46 The Token Bottleneck

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00:03:17 The Labeling Shift

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00:04:52 The Monitoring Layer

