CHAPTER 21 / BUILDBUY

Change the right layer.

Separate what the system needs from where the model runs.

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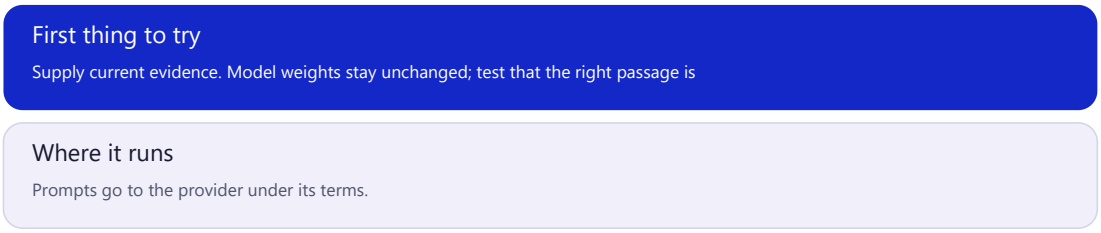

Decision aid, not a universal ranking. Deployment and adaptation are different axes and can be combined.

Baseline

Test the simplest hosted or local baseline against your task first.

Context

Supply current evidence when missing information is the issue; retrieval is one way to do it.

Adaptation

Fine-tuning can change learned behavior; it is not a guaranteed factual database.

↗ **Test the simplest hosted or local baseline against your task first.**

PUT IT TO WORK

For a changing handbook, test supplied passages. For repeated output errors, compare prompt changes before a fine-tuning experiment.

CLOSE THE PAGE. EXPLAIN IT.

What evidence would justify adding retrieval or fine-tuning to your baseline?