

Answer Engine: The Thesis, Built

A working demonstration of the five-step answer-infrastructure architecture — live FEMA RAPT data, plain-English questions, sourced answers.

JEFF FRANZEN · JUNE 12, 2026 · FOR DISCUSSION — INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

The "From Layers to Answers" brief argued for answer infrastructure over applications. One day later, the demonstration exists: a catalog of four documented RAPT/HIFLD layers, five machine-readable analytical recipes, an agent that executes them against live REST services, and two interchangeable interfaces — a chat-and-map page and a bare JSON endpoint. The head detaches from the body.

What the Demonstration Proves

1 CATALOG

Documentation as data

Four layers — nursing homes, hospitals, live wildfires, county risk — each with fields, refresh cadence, and caveats verified against the live service, not guessed.

2 INTELLIGENCE · KNOWLEDGE

Recipes are the product

Five proven analyses captured as JSON. The storm-path question runs identically every time; the caveats travel with the answer verbatim.

3 EXECUTION

The agent refuses to fabricate

Asked about backup generators — an attribute that does not exist — it cited the catalog caveat, named the authoritative sources, and ran zero queries rather than produce a plausible lie.