Engineer Software

Built a 22-linter commit gate

Built a commit gate of 22 one-line linters plus five that earn a paragraph, with no warning tier and no inline suppressions permitted, covering HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, YAML, Markdown, shell, links, spelling, secrets and typography.

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22

one-line linters, and five that earn a paragraph

Situation. A contributing guide is a set of suggestions. Everyone agrees with it, and then it is Friday, the change is small, and the guide loses. On a one-person project that is worse rather than better, because there is no reviewer at all — the only thing between a bad change and production is the person who wrote it, at the moment they are least inclined to argue with themselves.

Task. The standards had to be executable, so that breaking one fails a commit rather than waiting to be noticed.

Action. What grew is a gate of 22 linters with no warning tier: every diagnostic is an error, and the site generator itself runs with warnings promoted to failures so even a deprecation stops the build. The obvious ones are there — HTML validation, CSS, JavaScript, Python, YAML, Markdown, shell, spelling, secrets, dead links. The interesting ones are the project-specific checks that no off-the-shelf tool has an opinion about: that both colour themes paint every layered surface with the same number of layers, that no photograph is displayed wider than half its source pixels, that the deployed tree contains no private path or hostname, that the prose obeys the tone rules in all three languages, that a page has a Markdown twin and a valid alternate-protocol representation. Inline suppressions are prohibited outright — no ignore comment, no disable directive, no bypassing the hook, and no renaming a file to dodge a matcher. The rule that keeps that honest is that a pre-existing failure is not an excuse: a check that surfaces a defect nobody introduced gets fixed in the same pass.

Result. Mechanical objections are made by a machine before a commit exists, and the gate is the only reviewer this project has. The cost is stated rather than hidden: committing is slow, and a badly written guard is genuinely infuriating to work around, which is why the guards themselves were later brought under a formatter and a linter of their own.

Bring this experience to your project

Use “Built a 22-linter commit gate” as a starting point for a similar challenge in your organisation. The services behind this work are available for your project. An agent wired to the systems you use, tested on cases your own experts write, overseen by your people and never tied to one model.

Explore our services Get in touch →

Look behind the result

Read the situation, decisions and result in this example. We can discuss which parts transfer to your constraints and which need another approach. Built a 22-linter commit gate — 22 one-line linters, and five that earn a paragraph

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Want your standards enforced before code is committed?

Talk through your project with the engineer responsible for delivery. We agree the scope, price basis and handover in writing before work begins.

Role context: Build and Release Engineer. It draws on Frontend Engineering, DevOps, Automation & CI/CD, Testing & QA, Python and Documentation. And while you are here, we are rather good at DevOps & CI/CD Automation, Custom AI Agent Development, Product Strategy & Requirements and Technical Documentation.

Get in touch Explore our services

One piece of **a longer record** — and it is all on this site.

Every entry is written the same way: the situation, the task, what we did and what changed.

See the whole record

Define the improvement you need

Describe the workflow, the existing interfaces and the users who need the change. We can define a testable delivery and a handover that lets your team maintain it.

See what it costs Get in touch →

Want your standards enforced before code is committed?

Ask about the decisions behind “Built a 22-linter commit gate”. You will speak with the people who can explain the work and assess your own project.

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Contact card

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