StephOS

AI PRODUCT & SYSTEMS DESIGN · CASE STUDY 02

MEMORY YOU CAN TRACE.

Keep the thread.

Saving one useful idea, finding its original words later, and keeping the conversation easy to use.

Steph Campagnoli

Product direction, interaction design, requirements

StephOS Archives · 2026

01 / THE BRIEF

A USEFUL IDEA SHOULDN'T LOSE ITS ORIGINAL WORDS.

THE PERSON

Someone doing long-running AI-assisted work who wants to keep an idea without derailing the conversation.

THE TASK

Save a passage, return in a different chat, get the exact wording back, and see where it came from.

THE CHALLENGE

Make evidence available without turning every conversation into an admin panel.



02 / THE CORE DISTINCTIONS

THREE THINGS AI PRODUCTS BLUR.

SAVING IS NOT *approval*.

Keeping an idea doesn't make it approved memory. It stays a saved idea until the person decides otherwise.

APPROVAL IS NOT TRUTH.

A person can approve a record. That doesn't make every statement in it true.

QUOTATION IS NOT INTERPRETATION.

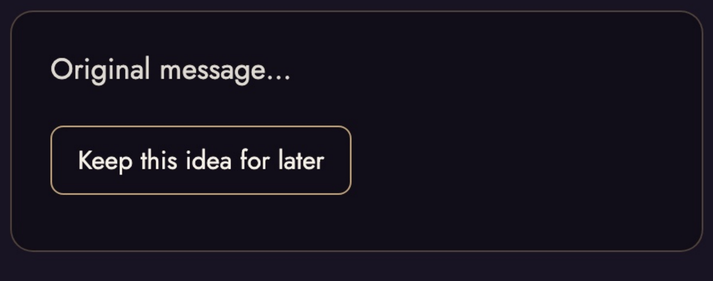
Original words come from what was saved; the model's explanation stays separate. A model saying an action ran is not evidence that it did.

03 / INTERACTION

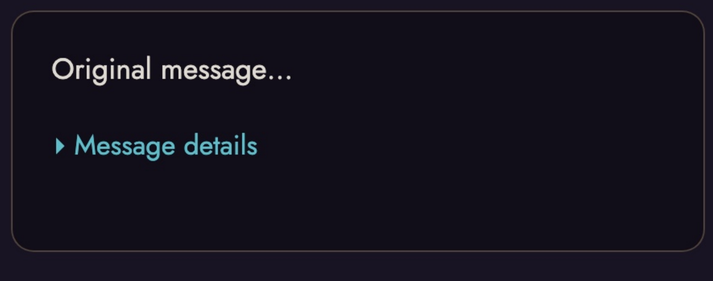
LESS IN THE WAY.

Room to think.

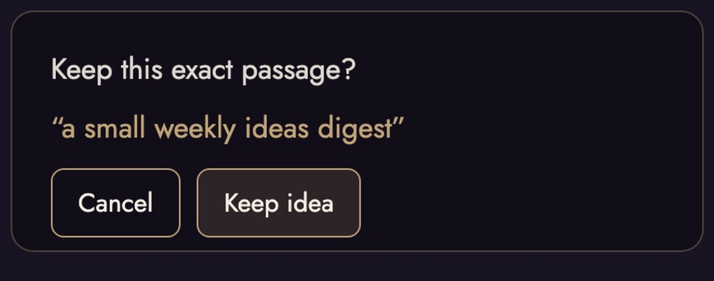
BEFORE · ON EVERY MESSAGE



AFTER · ONE TAP AWAY



REVIEW BEFORE SAVING



FINDING

An assistant once explained a saved idea as needing approval to last. It doesn’t. So the app, not the model, states the status.

RULE

Cancel means nothing is saved. Saving confirms the exact passage first.

Illustrative wireframes · fictional content

04 / RETRIEVAL AND RECOVERY

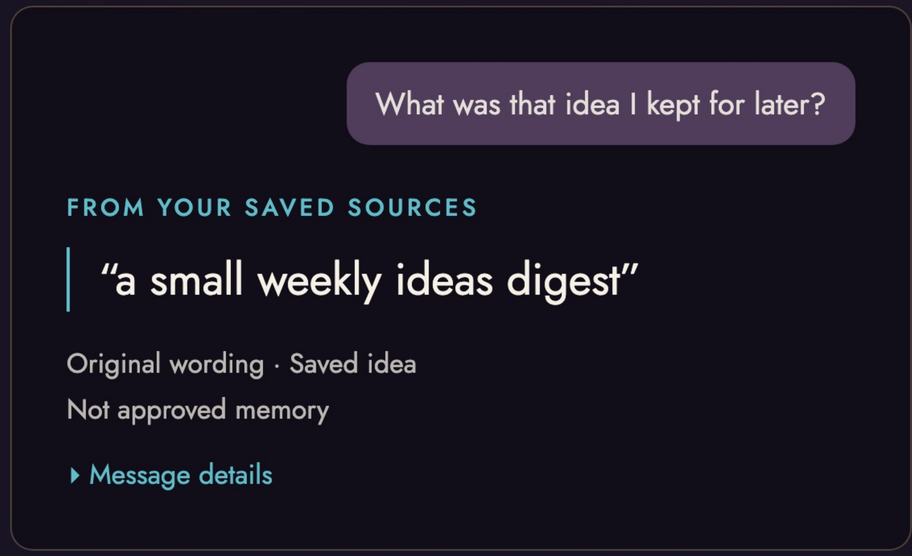
FIND THE WORDS. LET THE *person* CHOOSE.

SEVERAL MATCHES

Ask the person to choose, then recheck the chosen source before showing it.

NO VALID MATCH

Say so plainly. Never substitute generated wording for the original.



Illustrative · fictional content

05 / ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

MAKE "DONE" OBSERVABLE.

REQUIREMENT	HOW IT'S CHECKED
EXACT SAVE	The saved text matches the chosen passage, character for character.
CANCEL MEANS NO SAVE	No save request is sent and no new record exists.
APPROVAL STAYS SEPARATE	Approved memory and current work are unchanged by saving.
LITERAL RECALL	In a different chat, the same words come back, with no model call.
SAFE AMBIGUITY	The person chooses between matches; stale or changed ones are refused.
HONEST FAILURE	The limit is reported. A quotation is never invented.

06 / WHAT IT LED TO

FROM ONE SAVED IDEA TO MEMORY WITH *consent.*

Archives proved the foundation: original words kept and retrievable on purpose. The next question was automatic recall that the person controls. That's Case Study 01, Continuity with Consent.

Founder-tested prototype · no external users yet · illustrative screens

DISCUSS A ROLE OR COLLABORATION

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