

## Hierarchical

### How it works

A supervisor agent manages a team of worker agents, delegating tasks and reviewing outputs

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### Best fit

Environments that require centralized oversight: telecom operations centers, manufacturing quality control

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### Key benefit

Clear chain of command with centralized oversight and auditability

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### Pitfall

Supervisor agent becomes a bottleneck and a single point of failure if it misroutes or stalls

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### Mitigation

Build fallback routing logic and timeout thresholds at the supervisor level

## Federated

Multiple independent systems collaborate without centralized control

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Environments where data cannot be centralized due to privacy or regulatory constraints: multi-hospital research collaborations, cross-border financial analysis

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Preserves data privacy across organizational boundaries

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Inconsistent governance rules across nodes can produce outputs that are ungovernable at the enterprise level

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Establish a shared governance standard that all participating nodes must meet before joining the workflow