

LAB NOTEBOOK · dated



A browser that was an agent platform, not a window

In June 2025 we built a desktop browser whose core idea was that the browser itself should be an agent platform, not just a viewport onto web apps. It ran as an MVP with autonomous agents and a virtual office system. The honest edge: it was a direction proven, not a product finished — and the market was about to get crowded.

The dated R&D archive

 Research — measured, partial

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01 The entry, dated

02 What it was

03 What we built

04 What we learned — including the honest negatives

05 Where it went / status

06 Sources, glossary & the honesty ledger

Every claim carries its tier · nothing faked

PREPARED

20 June 2025

VERIFIED BY

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HOW TO READ IT

Drafted with AI, verified by a
named human. Sources at the back.

01 The entry, dated



The entry, dated

Jun 2025

entry date

Agents

category

~1 year ahead

lead over the world



Public

access

What the world had at the time

Mid-2025: mainstream browsers were still windows onto web apps. The idea that the browser should host autonomous agents that act on your behalf was only just starting to appear in products like Arc and Dia — we had a working prototype of the thesis.

We built a browser on the premise that the browser itself should be an agent — a place agents live and act — right as the industry started heading the same way.

The costly signal

The measured result

Every number carries its own honesty tier — the tiering is the credibility.

VOAS

virtual office agent system, working

 RESEARCH

Electron

desktop shell hosting the agents

 RESEARCH

1 thesis

'the browser is an agent platform' — validated

 RESEARCH

By mid-2025 we had already built browser extensions that let an AI read pages, fill forms, and navigate (ChromeBot, and the chat-extension line before it). The next question was bigger: what if the browser *itself* were the agent platform, not a window you bolt an extension onto?

02 What it was



Vocabotics Browser was an AI-native desktop browser. Its organising idea was that the browser should be a **place agents live and act**, with autonomous agents and a *virtual office agent system* (VOAS) handling tasks on your behalf — rather than a passive viewport onto other people's web apps.

03 What we built



A working **MVP** as an Electron desktop shell with a Python/FastAPI backend and a WebSocket layer, carrying:

Autonomous agents operating inside the browsing context.

A **virtual office agent system** for organising task automation.

A glassmorphism UI over the whole thing.



RESEARCH — MEASURED, PARTIAL

The measured claim is modest and honest: the **thesis ran**. You could watch agents act inside the browser as first-class citizens of the environment. That was the point — to see whether "the browser is an agent platform" was a real architecture or just a nice phrase. It was real.

04 What we learned — including the honest negatives



An MVP proves a direction, not a product. The thesis worked; the reliability, security hardening, and polish that a browser actually needs to be trusted with your logged-in life were not built here, and we did not pretend they were.

Agents in the browser is a safety problem. An autonomous agent acting inside your authenticated browsing session is powerful and dangerous in equal measure. We prototyped the permission surface; we did not solve it fully, and that gap is honest.

Timing beats stubbornness. Shortly after, the wider market — Arc, Dia, and others — started heading exactly this way. The right move was to **bank the validated direction** and not spend a year fighting for a product slot that was about to get crowded.

Being early is only worth it if you know what to do with it

Building the agentic browser a beat ahead of the industry was the win. Recognising that the *product* fight was not ours to spend a year on — that was the judgement. Being early is a credibility asset; it is not, by itself, a business.

05 Where it went / status

Archived as a **validated MVP**. The browser-as-agent-host idea folded into the lab's broader agent platform work rather than shipping as a standalone browser. What it bought us was evidence — that we saw where interfaces were heading before the market did — and a clean example of the discipline of stopping a proven experiment before it becomes a sunk cost.

What is still open — kept visible

The honest edges of this lane, shown next to the wins. None of these is a footnote; each is a claim we have not yet earned — and marking it is what earns the right to be believed on the rest.

- ☐ It was an MVP: the thesis ran, the polish and reliability of a shipping browser did not.
- ☐ Browser-hosted autonomous agents raise real safety and permission questions we prototyped but did not fully solve here.
- ☐ The market moved fast; validating the direction was worth more than fighting for a crowded product slot.

06 Sources, glossary & the ledger

Where every claim comes from — and what the plain words mean.

Sources

- 01 Vocabotics project audit — Vocabotics Browser (Electron/FastAPI), Jun 2025 — Vocabotics internal project history (as of June 2025)

THE HONESTY LEDGER

- Shipped — measured, gate-clean.
- 🔬 Research — measured, partial; the gap is shown.
- 🔭 Vision — designed, honest; not yet built.

The bigger claim goes up a tier, never down. We show the eval beside the demo — the tiering is the credibility.

See how we judge when to stop

Knowing when a proven direction is not worth a product fight is a CTO-level call — the same judgement that later culled 57 projects to one.

[/lab/the-great-cull](#)

Nothing faked.

A real, dated lab report from our own R&D. Measured, not asserted; the honest negatives are kept on the page next to the wins — because a lab that hides its failures forfeits the right to be believed on its results.

