

USER GUIDE

Analysis (DAE)

Delphi ecosystem — user guides

English

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DAE analysis: the pipeline, phases and quality gates

Analysis (DAE)

DAE (Delphi Analysis Ecosystem) is the ecosystem's **interpretive** layer. Where Pronoia describes — *what the panel said and how views moved* — DAE answers *what it means*. DAE is the methodological interpretive authority, and it works under **quality gates (κ / QVG) and human review**.

The boundary is kept strict on purpose. If description and interpretation blurred — or if assistants generated "ready" conclusions — a false sense of precision would arise. A Pronoia report is not an analysis but its source material; interpretation is done in DAE.

Handoff in — what DAE reads

DAE receives Pronoia's **export contract**: an eDelphi CSV, a Handoff Package (JSON, read by DAE CP-0/CP-2) and DAE_STATE.json. The package carries the orientation, the panel matrix type, the argument space (theses × members), the epistemic coverage, the perspective summary and the validation status. Downstream verifies this contract before starting — a malformed dataset cannot silently enter analysis.

The pipeline: 21 checkpoints, eight phases

The DAE orchestrator runs the material through **21 checkpoints (CP-0...CP-20)**, one phase at a time, with operational discipline and User Choice Points. The phases:

Phase	Checkpoints	What it does
Foundation	CP-0...CP-2	Panel validation (MaxPanelist, PQS) + quantitative base (MaxQuant: distributions, clustering, ECI)
Content trilogy	CP-3...CP-5	Dialogue analysis (MaxDA), argument analysis (MaxAA: Toulmin + epistemic 7×3 coding), critical discourse analysis (MaxDiscourse)
System trilogy	CP-7...CP-10	Causal layers (MaxCLA / depth), multi-level perspective (MaxMLP / dynamics), soft systems (MaxCATWOE / purpose) + adaptive panel supplementation
Futures	CP-11... CP-13	Weak signals (MaxWS), signal validation, tension map (MaxTension: dissensus)
Synthesis	CP-14	Cross-trilogy integration (MaxGrandSynthesis): keystone, stability, polyphonic synthesis, falsification + perspective depth
Report	CP-15... CP-18	Scenarios (MaxScenarios) + audience-specific stakeholder reports (MaxReports)
Continuity	CP-19... CP-20	Case library: store the run and its lessons for the next study

The phases group into **trilogies**: content (what the panel argued), system (depth · dynamics · purpose) and futures (signals · tensions). Synthesis integrates every lens.

The quality engine — when the human enters the loop

DAE's quality engine ensures the qualitative checkpoints are valid:

- **Smoke and adversarial tests** plus a **gate validator** gate every phase.
- **κ (kappa)** measures coding agreement; low κ routes to **human coding** (QVG — Quality Validation Gate).
- **RED ZONE** phases (synthesis, scenarios, reports) require special human judgement.

When automated confidence is not enough, the analyst is brought into the loop — and the facilitator decides how far interpretation should reach. This is the arc's methodological guardrail: delegation is not a loss of control.

Outputs

The pipeline ultimately produces **scenarios** (several paths: causal layers, multi-level perspective, tensions, soft systems) and **audience-specific reports** with data-provenance markers. The synthesis is falsification-tested and keystone-validated — not an impression but a traceable, gated interpretation.

What if DAE is not in use?

Not everyone has the DAE ecosystem. For them, Pronoia offers **descriptive report formats** (summary, per-thesis result cards with arguments, round comparison) in HTML/PDF/Word. They give a proper summary but stay deliberately descriptive — they do not replace DAE's interpretation.

Sources: [help/06-dae](#); the DAE core ([dae-core](#)) and phase modules.