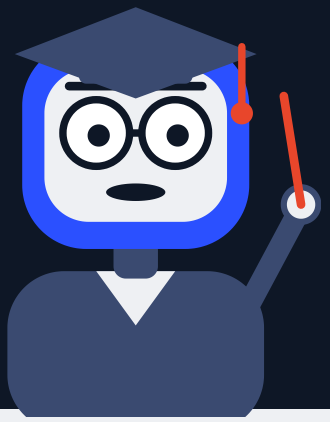
FREE CHECKLIST

Production-ready automation checklist

12 checks before an automation or AI agent goes live. Tick them off, then count.



A Retries and duplicates

- [ ] **1 One unique key per event**
  The same webhook can arrive twice. Key every event by source + event id.
- [ ] **2 Check the key before you create anything**
  A retry should find the first result and do nothing.
- [ ] **3 Plan for out-of-order events**
  An update can arrive before its create. Use versions or timestamps.

B Security and data

- [ ] **4 Secrets in a vault, least-privilege access**
  Rotate credentials. Each integration gets only the access it needs.
- [ ] **5 No personal data in logs or alerts**
  Redact before you write. Error messages travel further than you think.
- [ ] **6 Verify every webhook, validate every payload**
  Reject empty or malformed input cleanly instead of guessing.

C Monitoring and recovery

- [ ] **7 Alert on failures and on silence**
  No events when you expect many is also an incident.
- [ ] **8 Make replay safe**
  Idempotency lets you re-run missed or failed events without side effects.
- [ ] **9 Write a one-page runbook**
  What broke, how to check it, how to fix it, who decides.

D Quality and AI

- [ ] **10 Test the ugly cases**
  Empty payloads, partial failures, duplicates and timeouts.
- [ ] **11 Evaluate the AI parts before launch**
  Tool-calling accuracy, retrieval quality, output review, security checks.
- [ ] **12 Keep a human approval step where a wrong output is costly**
  Publishing, payments, customer messages.

11 - 12	8 - 10	7 or fewer
Ready to ship. Keep watching it.	Fix the gaps first. Most failures hide here.	Not ready. Start with A and C.

These checks come from integrations and AI agents I built, ran and fixed in production: eCommerce/ERP syncs, agentic RAG with evaluation, scraping pipelines and n8n/Make automations. Use them freely.

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AI automation that survives production

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