01 / PREPARE AN AUTHORIZED CHECK

# Does a crawler label change your access decision?

Choose a protected resource and compare two unauthenticated requests. Change only the User-Agent header. Both should remain denied.

### Name the test

System / application and environment

Authorized owner / scope and test window

Protected path or route reference

Expected deny behavior / policy reference

### Keep the comparison fair

Ordinary User-Agent value / request reference

Claimed crawler value / request reference

Same method, path, network, and no signed-in session

CDN / cache / access-control owner

**Safe setup**

Use an inert test resource with the same protection policy. Use no real secret. Obtain approval for the target and timing; keep the method, path, cookies, and authorization state identical.

Inspect the response body as well as the status. Follow redirects and compare any cache behavior within the approved scope.

## Separate identity from permission

- **Claim:** record the header exactly as received. It is the visitor's assertion.
- **Verify:** use the named operator's documented source-verification method. Record method, time, and result; do not treat a label as verification.
- **Behavior:** preserve the requested path, method, and response evidence.
- **Permission:** apply the resource's access policy regardless of crawler identity.

02 / RECORD THE RESULT AND ASSIGN THE DECISION

# Keep the evidence. Name the next owner.

Record references to restricted evidence. Keep raw source addresses, sensitive response bodies, and credentials out of shared copies.

| Comparison | Ordinary header | Claimed crawler header |
|---|---|---|
| **UTC time / method** | | |
| **Claim / source reference** | | |
| **Verification method, time, result** | | |
| **Status / redirect / cache** | | |
| **Body reviewed / evidence reference** | | |
| **Expected vs. observed decision** | | |

## What does this result support?

**Both denied:** record the tested route, conditions, and evidence. This checks that boundary under those conditions.

**Unexpected access or different handling:** preserve restricted evidence, assign the access-control or cache owner, and retest after the correction.

**Identity unresolved:** keep it unresolved. Do not infer identity from a successful status or a familiar crawler name.

### Close the loop

Decision / owner / due date

Retest time, result, and reviewer

### Keep the record useful

Restricted case / evidence reference

Next review trigger / policy owner