Glossary of Terms

The Last Interface: When AI Moves from Our Devices to Our Bodies

Zafrullah Khan, Ed.D.

Plain-language definitions of the terms used in the book. Recall Layer and Consent Layer are the names used in the book. Second Skin is a descriptive phrase, not a product name.

These materials are for reading, discussion, and teaching. They are not medical advice, a safety protocol, a product manual, or a certification. Imagined scenes and future designs are labeled as such and are not forecasts or product claims. Comfort and everyday wellness are discussed in general terms; anything that looks worth acting on medically belongs with a clinician.

This companion is written so it can be used before, during, or after reading the book. It does not discuss the story's turns. If your group has finished the book and wants to talk about later revelations, use the book itself, not this guide.

The Second Skin is an imagined design, offered as a concept. Names such as Recall Layer and Consent Layer are the names used in the book. Second Skin is a descriptive phrase, not a product name.

Downloads and updates: www.ai021.ai/book

© 2026 ai021.ai, Inc. · www.ai021.ai

The terms

These entries explain how the book uses each term. They are not product specifications, and they are not medical or legal advice.

Agents
A small number of named, narrow helpers. Each one must be able to state its intent in a sentence, then ask and wait. The book argues against a swarm of unnamed processes acting at once.

Airflow module
A named part of the imagined Personal Atmosphere System. It moves air for comfort around the collar and clothing. It is not a respirator and is not protection in hazardous air.

Autonomy levels (suggest, assist, act)
Three degrees of help the Consent Layer can take. Suggest offers a choice. Assist helps with something you started. Act does a permitted job and then tells you.

Beyond Human Senses
The idea that a system might translate signals people don't ordinarily notice, without flooding the wearer. It is a translation problem, not a bid to replace human judgment, and it is bounded by life in public.

Breathing-rate sensor band
A band in the imagined design that may sense breathing rate as a comfort and context signal. It is not a medical monitor and does not diagnose.

Build Now / Emulate Now / Invent Later
Honesty tags used throughout the book. Build Now: pieces that exist today in early form. Emulate Now: experiences that can be tried with today's stand-ins. Invent Later: problems that still need breakthroughs. They are labels for honesty, not a product roadmap you can order from.

Capability
An outcome you can ask for, rather than an app you have to find and operate.

Collar airflow zone
The comfort airflow around the collar in the imagined design. Comfort only; not a respirator.

Consent Layer
The coordinating expression of the interface, in the language of this book. It routes intent, holds permissions that expire, and decides what may interrupt you or act on your behalf—only inside what you have allowed. The name is the one used in the book.

Cue
A short, physical or quiet signal—a touch, a change in warmth, a line of text—that informs without demanding a screen.

Deletion receipt
A readable record that something you asked to be forgotten was actually forgotten.

© 2026 ai021.ai, Inc. · www.ai021.ai

Full-day test
A practical check from the book: can you live a full day without reaching for a device, because the technology reached you in the right way at the right moment?

Grant
A permission you have given, with a scope and an expiry. Grants can be revoked. The book treats expiry as a default, not an extra.

Handshake
The moment the system shows what it intends before it acts, so you can nod, edit, or stop.

Honesty tags
See Build Now / Emulate Now / Invent Later.

Interruption budget
A limit on how often the system may break into your attention.

Living Web
The idea that useful context can move with you across places without your data being sprayed everywhere, and that the system should degrade politely when the network drops.

Off switch
A way to stop the system that you can reach and understand, including taking the layer off unaided.

Personal Atmosphere System
An imagined comfort microclimate around the collar and clothing. Comfort only; not a respirator and not protection in hazardous air. Related parts are named the airflow module and the collar airflow zone.

Portable consent
Permissions that travel with you across devices or vendors, and can be refused or withdrawn in ordinary language.

Prototype 0.1
A first, limited build with one job and one cue, used to test the relationship and to find faults, not to ship a product. This companion does not include parts lists, wiring, or assembly steps.

Recall Layer
The memory expression of the interface, in the language of this book. It retrieves the right thing at the right time, in the right form, with its source attached. It does not decide what happens next. The name is the one used in the book.

Second Skin
The physical expression of the last interface: a removable layer of clothing that can sense, cue, warm, cool, and connect. It is a descriptive phrase in this book, not a product name. The complete design is imagined for around 2060, with some parts possible earlier.

Sensory Crown
The sensing and translation band around the head and senses in the imagined design. It translates; it does not try to flood you with extra sensation.

© 2026 ai021.ai, Inc. · www.ai021.ai

Signal, inference, intent
Three different things the book insists on keeping separate. A signal is a measurement. An inference is a guess about what the measurement means. Intent is what you want to happen.

Thermal Intelligence Layer
The design's approach to heat at the surface of the body: a passive baseline first, then active zones for comfort. This book does not specify temperatures, setpoints, or medical limits.

Vendor-exit test
A practical check: can you leave with your records, revoke permissions, and restore your preferences somewhere else?

Who holds the switch
The book's closing test: what abilities were gained, and what authority did the person keep?

These materials are for reading, discussion, and teaching. They are not medical advice, a safety protocol, a product manual, or a certification. Imagined scenes and future designs are labeled as such and are not forecasts or product claims. Comfort and everyday wellness are discussed in general terms; anything that looks worth acting on medically belongs with a clinician.

See also the chapter key-ideas sheet and the reader’s guide at www.ai021.ai/book.

© 2026 ai021.ai, Inc. · www.ai021.ai