Kihan

COMPANY BACKGROUNDER

NOVEMBER 2026

Constitutional Computing for AI Agents

Authority Before Commitment™

Kihan, Incorporated is a San Francisco technology company developing Constitutional Computing, a mathematically based architecture for controlling consequential actions by autonomous AI agents. Its premise is straightforward: access to a tool does not confer authority to use it. When agents can move money, alter production systems and disclose confidential information, permission must be independently established before anything takes effect.

THE ARCHITECTURE

Conventional AI guardrails often rely on instructions to the model. Kihan instead puts authorization outside it. An independent decision engine checks an agent's proposed action against signed organizational rules. Permitted requests receive cryptographically verifiable permits bound to the exact operation and its parameters; the executing tool verifies the permit before acting. On protected execution paths, no valid permit means no execution. Requests can also be refused or referred for human approval, with tamper-evident records of each decision.

INKTOMI

Inktomi™, the company's first product, is being developed for enterprise AI agents and tool environments using the Model Context Protocol (MCP). Its decision engine is operational; production enforcement integrations remain under development. Initial enterprise evaluations are targeted for December 2026. Designed for deployment on customers' own infrastructure, Inktomi complements existing identity, cybersecurity and AI governance controls. Kihan's initial markets include financial services, insurance, healthcare and legal services, with applications in government.

RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP

Kihan CEO Jonathan Hirshon is the founding architect of ATHENA, the formal foundation of Constitutional Computing. A two-part feature has been accepted for publication in IEEE Computer: "Checking LLM Outputs Before They Become State: The Problem and the Admission Gate" in the December 2026 special issue on AI Governance, followed by "Checking LLM Outputs Before They Become State: Prompt Framing Across Four Models" in January 2027. Hirshon has nearly four decades of experience working with technology companies, including Apple, Sony and Silicon Graphics. Hirshon co-founded Kihan, which has a team of five.

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