

OpenLoci

A filesystem-native collaborative Memory Palace for distributed cognition

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github.com/openloci/OpenLoci



Jonah Bossewitch, PhD

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- Engineering leader · Software architect · Project Management Professional
- Open-source contributor · Activist · Author · Educator
- Interested in privacy, media, mental health, sustainability, Ethical AI
- **Investigative Epistemologist.**

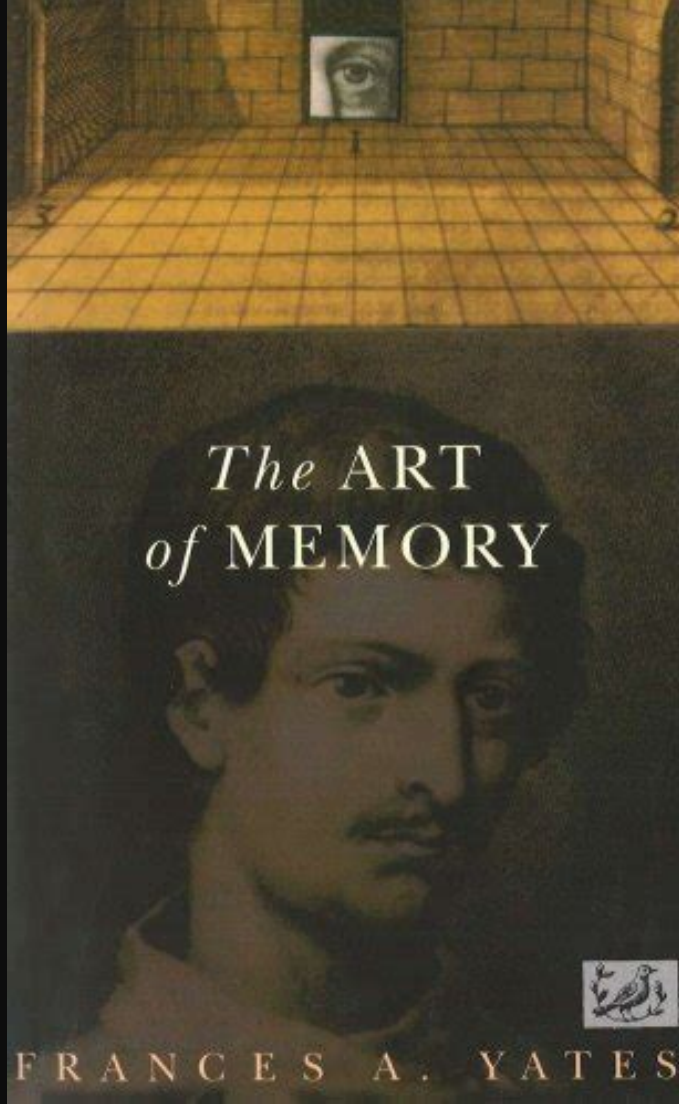


Every chat starts from zero.

AI agents have amnesia.

- No memory between sessions — your project, your context, your **you** — gone
- Switching models (Claude → ChatGPT → Gemini) means starting over entirely
- Agents hallucinate partly because **they don't know where they are**
- We have tools for what agents **do**. We lack tools for where agents **live**.





The Art of Memory

An ancient solution to a modern problem

- The **Method of Loci** — attributed to Simonides, ~500 BCE
- Place memories in **loci** (locations) inside a familiar building
- Walk through the building in your mind — retrieve what you placed there
- **The palace is the memory. The walk is the recall.**

Frances Yates, *The Art of Memory*, 1966



Clue as Tabernacle

A structure nobody lives in — that defines everything

- Nine rooms. Six suspects. **A building that was never built.**
- A tabernacle: a cosmology that travels with you, whether or not it's instantiated
- Rooms carry stable functional prefixes:

intake_	build_	think_	pitch_	retro_
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- Swap the skin — X-Files, Silicon Valley, Muppets — **the prefix survives**
- **The conversation with the LLM is the walk.**
The palace grows through use, not intention.



The Shell Game Constraint

Journalist Evan Ratliff's serial podcast on autonomous companies.

Spoiler: Mayhem ensues.

If a session leaves no traces, it didn't happen.

- Every output must be grounded in material receipts — notes, summaries, handoffs
- Characters are agents in rooms. They leave traces. **The traces are the truth.**
- This is how you audit an AI. How you train on your own history.
How one person runs a unicorn.

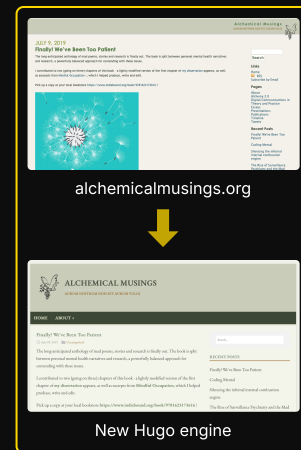
A Palace in the Wild

Lapis — porting a 15-year WordPress blog to Hugo, X-Files skin

```
my-palace/  
├── Loci/           ← your projects  
├── The Vestibule/ ← global config  
│   ├── Characters/ ← agent cards  
│   ├── Rooms/     ← room definitions  
│   ├── Principles/ ← schema, vocab  
│   └── Journal/   ← Hugo blog  
└── The Palace/   ← nine rooms  
    ├── intake_hall/  
    ├── build_study/  
    ├── think_library/  
    ├── pitch_ballroom/  
    ├── ops_kitchen/  
    ├── meet_lounge/  
    ├── collab_conservatory/  
    ├── priv_billiard_room/  
    └── retro_dining_room/
```

- The **Vestibule** is the threshold — characters, rules, room definitions live here
- The **Journal** is Hugo-rendered: human-readable daily updates, the public face of the palace
- Every session leaves a file.
- **Git is the chronicle.**

[live filesystem browse if time allows]



Prior art?

Of course, we're not the first ones here

- **RAG / vector databases** — powerful retrieval, but opaque, infrastructure-heavy, fragile at the edges. Hard to audit. Hard to own.
- **mempalace** — similar name, 22k GitHub stars in 48 hours. Different bet: it layers memory **on top of** LLM tooling. OpenLocis goes **beneath** — the filesystem as ground truth.
- **Minimal computing** — filesystem + git + markdown is the most durable stack possible. No server to go down. No index to corrupt. No API to deprecate.
The file is the unit. The directory is the structure. Git is the chronicle.


¿Questions?

Help me figure this out.

- **Who is this for?** Coders? Memoirists? Researchers? Solo operators building an AI-assisted practice?
- **Rooms:** stable functional names, or does the skin carry enough meaning?
- **Characters:** persona? lens? mode of inquiry? something else?
- **What would you build a palace for?**

Build your palace!

<https://openloci.org>

 github.com/openloci/OpenLoci

