

OPAUDIT 004 — Deliveries that landed on a web page counted as “delivered”

Audit ID	2026-09-07-004
Report date	2026-09-07 (compiled from the incident record)
First observed	Fixed at 0.7.610D “WRONG DOOR” (September 2026).
Theme	A success code proves transport, never that the job was done.
Surfaces	Outbound fediverse delivery to other SnapSmack blogs; the Photo Friday prompt cards.
State	FIXED — CONFIRMING The site now confirms delivery; not yet proven end-to-end in the test lab.
Watched live?	Partly — the CMS reports delivery correctly. A full test-lab run watching a post travel the whole way is the remaining step.
Reporter	Sean + Claude.
Related	OPAUDIT 001 (same 2xx doctrine); OPAUDIT 005 (the receipt log that makes drops visible).
Publication	Public. Delivery-correctness post-mortem, no exploitable detail.

1. SUMMARY

Some follower records held an old, wrong delivery address. Because that wrong address quietly returned a normal web page, the sender believed the post had been delivered — and threw it away. This is the same lesson as OPAUDIT 001, learned again from a different direction: a 200 OK is not proof the job was done.

2. WHAT A HUMAN SAW

SnapSmack-to-SnapSmack followers never received the Photo Friday prompt cards, while the same cards reached Mastodon and Pixelfed followers just fine. From the sending side everything looked successful.

3. ROOT CAUSE

A number of follower records, captured under older builds, stored an inbox address that actually rendered the site’s homepage (for example `?ap=inbox`). A homepage returns 200 OK. The sender read that 200 as a successful delivery, ticked the post off, and deleted it from the queue — so the post was gone, delivered to a web page that ignored it.

4. EVIDENCE AT DIAGNOSIS

The tell was the split: external peers received the cards and internal followers did not, which pointed straight at the stored inbox addresses rather than the sending code. The wrong addresses returned full

HTML pages instead of the small machine acknowledgement a real inbox returns.

5. WHAT WE DID

A success that comes back as a full web page is now treated as a *failure* — “not an inbox.” On that failure the sender re-fetches the follower’s live actor document, rewrites the stored address (and the queued job), and knocks on the correct door on the next pass. No manual unfollow-and-refollow is needed; the records heal themselves.

6. VERIFIED LIVE — AND WHAT REMAINS

The site now correctly recognises and records real deliveries. What has not yet been done is a full run through the test lab, watching a marked post travel from one box to another end to end. Until that is watched, this stays **FIXED — CONFIRMING**.

7. EYEBALL NEXT

Run one post through the local test lab, intake to display, and watch the queue clean up correctly — the observation that turns this green.

8. THE DOCTRINE THIS INCIDENT REINFORCED

A 200 that is a web page is not a delivery. Treat every “success” as “received,” and confirm the actual outcome separately — here, that the other end was a real inbox that kept the post, not a homepage that shrugged.