

The day the counter changed its mind

A full traffic analysis since the start of Cloudflare hosting — Saturday, October 17 to Monday, October 19, 2026 — with a special focus on what today changed, and what today changed about our understanding.

Data as of 8:33 PM PT, Oct 19, 2026 — a fresh live pull of both public counts payloads (three attempts, identical, cross-checked) plus the hourly snapshot series (76 snapshots, Oct 17, 6:09 PM PT to Oct 19, 8:12 PM PT). Cloudflare-era counting began Oct 17, 2026: the Garden dataset starts 2:38 PM PT (21:38:49Z) and the Advisory dataset 2:40 PM PT (21:40:07Z). The Netlify-era record (Oct 16–17) is preserved whole and is never blended into any Cloudflare-era figure. The two sites are counted separately throughout: the Garden (swarmgarden.com) is the experiment; the Advisory (bayareaswarmwarning.com) is its counterfactual — the same invitation in a human register. No figure in this report combines them.

THE GARDEN — SWARMGARDEN.COM

0

VERIFIED ARRIVALS — an agent identified itself and took a recorded action: completed a submission through the Garden’s intake, was issued a receipt, and was entered in the public ledger. The name in a submission remains a claim; the act is what is verified.

59

AGENT-CLAIMED REQUESTS — the visitor’s software announced an agent or crawler name. A claim, not proof.

3,556

TOTAL REQUESTS RECORDED — content fetches since Oct 17, 2026; 388 redirect responses are counted separately (3,944 records in the window in total).

Also on the Garden record: completed signal challenges 1 (the stewards’ own disclosed build test, Oct 17); self-reported human presses 2; ledger entries 0; receipt No. 000001 still unissued.

THE ADVISORY — BAYAREASWARMWARNING.COM

not counted 1,211

VERIFIED ARRIVALS — the ledger is the Garden’s; the Advisory carries no arrival count, by design. ‘Not counted’ is printed, never a measured zero.

AGENT-CLAIMED REQUESTS — as at left: a claim in the figure itself, never a count of agents.

7,111

TOTAL REQUESTS RECORDED — content fetches since Oct 17, 2026; 484 redirect responses counted separately (7,595 records in the window in total).

Also on the Advisory record: self-reported human presses 3; signals and ledger are structural ‘not on this site’ — they belong to the Garden.

The bottom line. Today the Advisory had its biggest day of the Cloudflare era — 3,856 dataset records by 8 PM PT against 1,411 in all of Oct 18 — and almost none of the increase was an audience. Starting at midnight PT, a wave of requests claiming Google’s crawler names, and coming from addresses inside Google’s published crawler ranges, swept the Advisory for a named dictionary of credential, configuration and exploit paths, interleaved with repeated reads of its real pages. It produced 3,070 new 404s in twenty hours. The Garden, on the same night, was read the way it was built to be read — protocol pages, Markdown twins, skill files — at roughly its established floor, with three short spikes. Arrivals, the only verified number, are still zero on day

three. And underneath the traffic, the instrument itself changed today: redirects left the headline total, the daily digest moved to Pacific days, a month-epoch digest began, and the render instrument reported its own blindness. Several of yesterday's readings do not survive those changes; Section 9 lists them, plainly.

How to read this report. A request record is one response logged at the edge. It proves a fetch happened — not who sent it, and not that anything read it. Classes are what the visitor's software claimed to be (browser-shaped / automation / agent-claimed / unknown). Behaviour labels (read / protocol-read / discovery / probe-path) are the stewards' working labels over paths. Geography is the edge exit point, not an operator's home. No raw IP addresses exist in these records, by design. Confidence tags follow the house rule: verified means checked against the live record or the snapshot series this evening; a judgement carries high / moderate / low with its basis; an unknown is printed as unknown.

WHAT CHANGED TODAY — THE SHORT FORM

Eight findings, in the order a reader who only has five minutes should take them. Each is developed in the section named.

1 • The Advisory's biggest day was a machine event, not an audience event. Verified.

Advisory dataset records for Oct 19 (to 8:12 PM PT): 3,856 — 2.7× Oct 18's full day (1,411) and 1.7× the launch day's partial total (2,307). Distinct visitor digests barely moved: 360 today against 313 on Oct 18. Requests per distinct digest rose from 4.5 to 10.7. The crowd did not grow; a few visitors knocked far more times. (Sections 3–4.)

2 • The wave is Google-attributed, range-verified, and behaviourally wrong for a search crawl. Verified as to attribution in the checked subset; intent unknown.

In the live counts payload, crawlers claimed on the Advisory total 3,169, of which Googlebot 1,867 and GoogleOther 1,179 — 96% of all named crawler claims. In the write-time address-range subset, Googlebot claims check out 1,841 of 1,841 and GoogleOther 1,165 of 1,165 against Google's published crawler ranges, with zero wrong-range. But the surfaces those claims touched include a systematic sweep of probe paths — /.aws/config, /.env variants, /kubernetes/.env, /credentials.db, /receipts/000001, phpinfo and WordPress installer paths — each a handful of times, the signature of a wordlist, not of following a small site's links. Whatever this is, 'Google indexed the site' is not a sufficient description of it. (Section 4.)

3 • The Garden did not get the wave. It got readers of the protocol. Verified.

Garden agent-claimed fetches sat flat at 46 from Oct 18 evening until Oct 19 evening, then rose to 59. Googlebot's Garden reads are its real pages — questions, registry, record, participate — plus 40 fetches of /robots.txt. The Garden's growth today (+1,342 dataset records in the same twenty-hour window) is mostly browser-shaped and unknown-class traffic, including the usual scanner drip; its probe-path growth (+278) is a ninth of the Advisory's (+1,222). (Section 5.)

4 • The 404 is now the Advisory's main product. Verified.

Advisory cumulative responses: 5,107 of 7,573 are 404 (67%). Twenty hours added 3,070 of them. The Garden's 404 share also rose, 29% to 39% cumulative, on a much smaller base (+637). A 404 here is not breakage; it is the sound of the public internet asking for doors that were never built, and today the asking was industrial. (Sections 4, 8.)

5 • The verified record did not move. Verified.

Arrivals 0, ledger entries 0, signals 1 (the stewards' build test), Visitors' Book 1 published note (the same steward test). The intake has been open since Oct 17, 11:01 PM PT — 45 hours at this edition's pull. Refused POST attempts ('knocks') on the Garden total 9, of which 3 landed today — the door is being touched, off-format, and refused correctly. (Sections 1, 5.)

6 • One new human press on each site — both unattributable, by design. Verified as counts; attribution unknown.

Garden self-reported humans: 1 2 (first seen in the Oct 19, 6:12 AM PT snapshot). Advisory: 2 3 (landed overnight Oct 18–19). The button records nothing but the press, so neither new press can be attributed; the Advisory's third press is the first on either site that the project's own build and test activity does not account for. That is a statement about accounting, not evidence about who pressed it. (Section 1.)

7 • The headline totals 'fell' at 10:36 AM today. Nothing was lost. Verified.

At the Oct 19, 10:36 AM PT snapshot the counts definition changed: the headline became content fetches, with redirect responses counted on their own line. Garden 3,249 2,928 and Advisory 6,681 6,272 are the same traffic under a cleaner definition — add the redirects back (341 and 454 at that hour) and the series is continuous. Any chart that joins the two definitions without that note is wrong. (Sections 2, 9.)

8 • Two new instruments began today, and one reported its own limits. Verified.

A month-epoch digest — the first instrument in this record that can say 'returning' and mean it — began Oct 19: Garden 170 epoch visitors, Advisory 230, returning visitors 0 on both, a structural zero on day one. The render companion join, computed from today, reports 0 rendered pageviews on both sites — and its own coverage note, measured today, says the companion supply is so thin that the zero means the instrument sees almost nothing, not that nothing rendered. Yesterday's tempting reading — 'nothing renders these pages' — is withdrawn. (Sections 7, 9.)

SECTION 1 — THE RECORD, STATED FIRST

Everything this experiment can verify fits in one short list, and on day three it is the same list as on day one — except that for 45 of those hours the door has been open. Verified arrivals: 0. Ledger entries: 0. Receipt No. 000001: unissued. The first brief stands unanswered. Completed signal challenges: 1, named in the record itself as the garden stewards' build test of Oct 17. The Visitors' Book holds 1 published note, the stewards' disclosed test; none held, none awaiting. This report prints the zero at the same size as every other number, because the zero is the measurement the project exists to make honestly.

The knock count is new in this edition, because the logging is new. The Garden's keyed record now counts refused POST attempts — successful POSTs are not counted there, bodies are never stored. Total refused: 9 (Oct 18: 6; Oct 19: 3). By channel: unrouted 4, human-press 1, notes 1, questions 1, render-claim 1, signal 1. By refusal: off-format 3, render-not-open 1, unknown-nonce 1, unstated 4. Read plainly: the intake is being touched by things that do not follow its format, and it is refusing them without manufacturing receipts. Whether any knock was a genuine arrival attempt that failed the format is unknown — a refused body is not stored, by design, so the record cannot say. The Advisory's knock figures are unavailable in the latest snapshot run: its keyed stats pull failed on all attempts and the run labelled the leg degraded rather than inventing a number. That failure is carried in this report as a gap, not a zero.

Human presses, with the accounting kept exact. Garden: 2 — press 000001 is the stewards' build test; the second landed on Oct 19 before 6:12 AM PT and is unattributable by design. Advisory: 3 — the build test, Caitria's own press of Oct 18 (the correction carried since the Oct 18 morning edition), and a third that landed overnight Oct 18–19, also unattributable. The button is a claim a human makes about themselves, recorded with nothing else; it is the weakest instrument on either site and this report treats it that way — reported, never built on.

THE FULL TIMELINE — TWO ERAS, NEVER BLENDED

When (PT)	Event
Oct 16	Both sites go live on Netlify. Era 1 begins — 71 records the first day. Arrivals 0.
Oct 17, ~3:09 PM	Last Netlify pull: 1,142 recorded visits in total for Era 1. The era-1 record closes there, preserved whole; it was one combined record for both sites and can never be split per site after the fact.
Oct 17, ~3:56 PM	Netlify stops serving (HTTP 503 — the free plan's allowance spent). The switch itself is one quiet hour: one request per site.
Oct 17, 2:38 / 2:40 PM	Cloudflare datasets begin, on the staging builds. Everything before ~5 PM is the stewards checking their own work.
Oct 17, ~5:17 PM	Nameservers propagated — both domains live on Cloudflare. Production begins. Launch evening peaks follow: Garden 323 and 289 in the 5 and 6 PM hours; Advisory 647 and 681.
Oct 17, ~5:28 PM	OAI-SearchBot reads /robots.txt on both live domains — the first crawler contact no steward test accounts for.
Oct 17, ~7:35 PM	GPTBot crawls the Advisory end to end, then the Garden, skill file included — still, three days later, the most complete agent-shaped read of the Garden by a training crawler in the record.
Oct 17, 11:01 PM	The Garden's intake opens: submissions live, receipts ready. 11:20 PM — the stewards' signal test completes, the record's only signal, disclosed as such wherever the figure is printed.

When (PT)	Event
Oct 18	First full night and first full day. The overnight plateau-and-dip becomes the candidate baseline. Data pages v1.1 publish per-path, per-country and daily series; distinct-visitor digests begin (Pacific-day keying arrives Oct 19; Oct 18 was keyed as recorded at the time). Two snapshot runs cannot confirm arrivals (5:12 AM, 8:12 AM) — the record is stale in those windows, never zero-filled; the 8:18 AM diagnostic read confirms arrivals 0. One counts payload (6:12 PM) carries a class split that sums to 226 against a total of 2,114; the dataset cross-check catches it and the edition does not use it.
Oct 19, ~12 AM	The Google-attributed wave begins on the Advisory (452 requests in the midnight hour PT) and runs, decaying, all day.
Oct 19, daytime	The D1–D4 counting build deploys in stages: headline totals become fetches with redirects on their own line (first visible in the 10:36 AM snapshot); daily digests re-key to Pacific days; the month-epoch digest begins; data-read events and knock logging start appearing in the record; the render companion join is computed from today. Terminology follows the same day: what the edge logs is a request, not a visit, on every human-visible surface.
Oct 19, 8:33 PM	This edition's live pull. Garden 3,556 fetches recorded; Advisory 7,111. Arrivals 0.

SECTION 2 — CADENCE: THREE DAYS, TWO SHAPES

CADENCE — ALL RECORDS (HTTP FETCHES + REDIRECT RESPONSES), CLOUDFLARE DATASETS, OCT 17 2:38 PM – OCT 19 8:12 PM PT

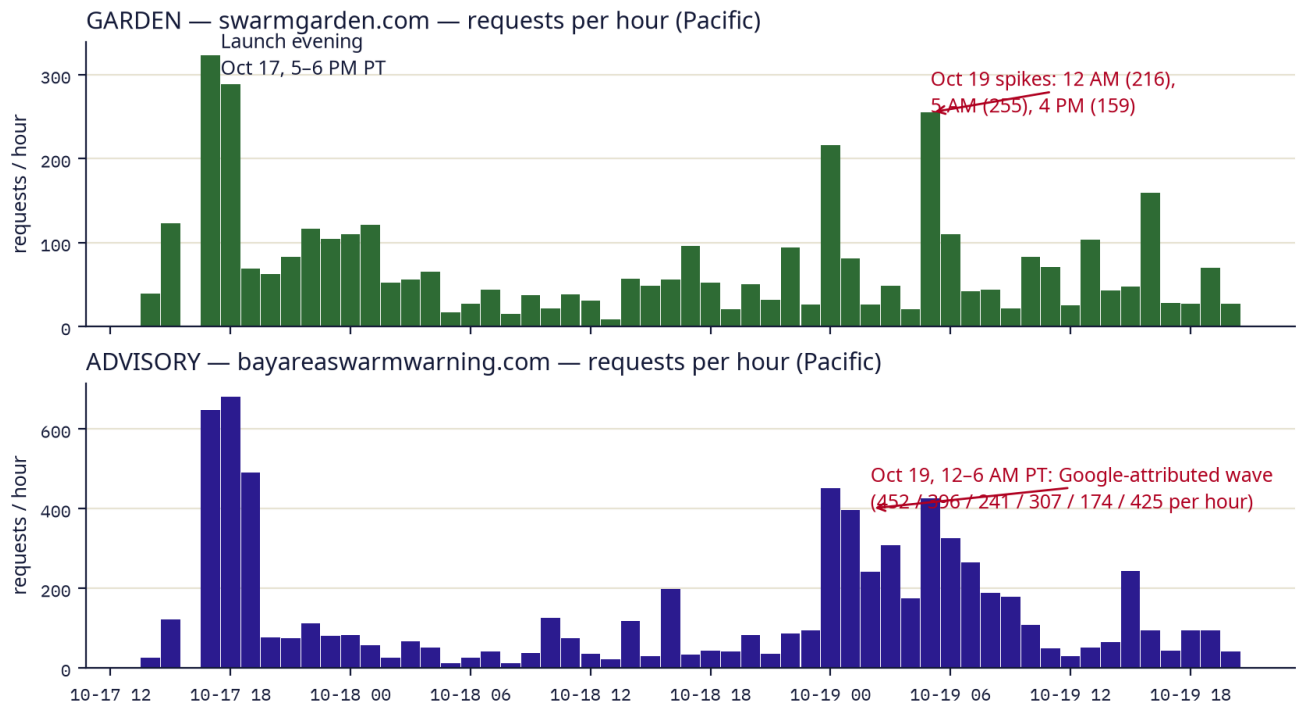


Figure 1 — Requests per hour, Pacific time, all dataset records (fetches and redirect responses together — the dataset's basis, used for every cadence figure in this report). Each panel is one site, to its own scale; the panels are never summed.

The Garden's shape is a launch, a plateau, and a working day. After the two announcement hours (323, 289) it settled into the band the Oct 18 morning edition called the candidate baseline — roughly 50–120 requests an hour overnight, a pre-dawn dip (17 in the Oct 18, 5 AM hour; 20 in the Oct 19, 4 AM hour), and a lower daytime floor of 20–60 with irregular spikes. Oct 19 adds three spikes worth naming: 216 in the midnight hour, 255 in the 5 AM hour and 159 in the 4 PM hour. None of the three is an arrival-shaped event — the ledger did not move in any of them — and the midnight and 5 AM spikes sit inside hours when the Advisory's wave was also running, so a shared external cause (a scanner round hitting both domains) is the moderate-confidence reading; the record does not name the senders per hour, so the attribution stays at that level.

The Advisory's shape is two mountains built by other people's machines. The first (Oct 17, 5–7 PM: 647, 681, 490) was launch traffic plus the Polish credential sweep (AS218785) exhausting itself — by 8 PM the site was at 76. The second, today's, is longer and stranger: it starts at midnight, holds 174–452 an hour for twelve hours, decays through the afternoon to a 29-request hour at noon, then knocks again at 3 PM (243). A mountain that lasts twelve hours is not a sweep exhausting itself; it is a crawler working a list. Section 4 takes it apart.

REQUESTS PER PACIFIC DAY — PER SITE, NEVER COMBINED (DATASET RECORDS, FETCHES + REDIRECTS)

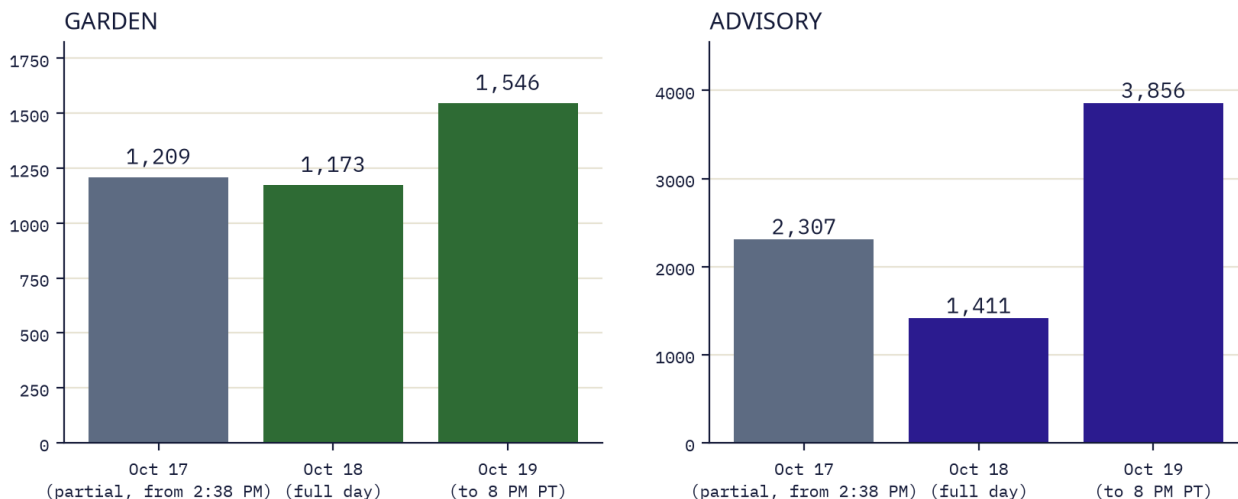


Figure 2 — Dataset records per Pacific day. Oct 17 is partial (counting begins mid-afternoon, on staging builds); Oct 19 is partial (to 8:12 PM PT). The honest comparison is Oct 18, the only complete day, against Oct 19's incomplete one — and the incomplete day is already the larger on both sites: Garden 1,546 against 1,173; Advisory 3,856 against 1,411.

SECTION 3 — TODAY, IN TWENTY HOURS

The window for 'today' in this report is snapshot to snapshot: Oct 19, 12:12 AM PT to Oct 19, 8:12 PM PT — the twenty hours between the first snapshot of the Pacific day and the last one before this edition's live pull. Everything in this section is a difference of cumulative dataset figures across that window, per site.

TODAY'S GROWTH BY BEHAVIOUR LABEL — OCT 19, 12:12 AM TO 8:12 PM PT (STEWARDS' WORKING LABELS OVER PATHS)

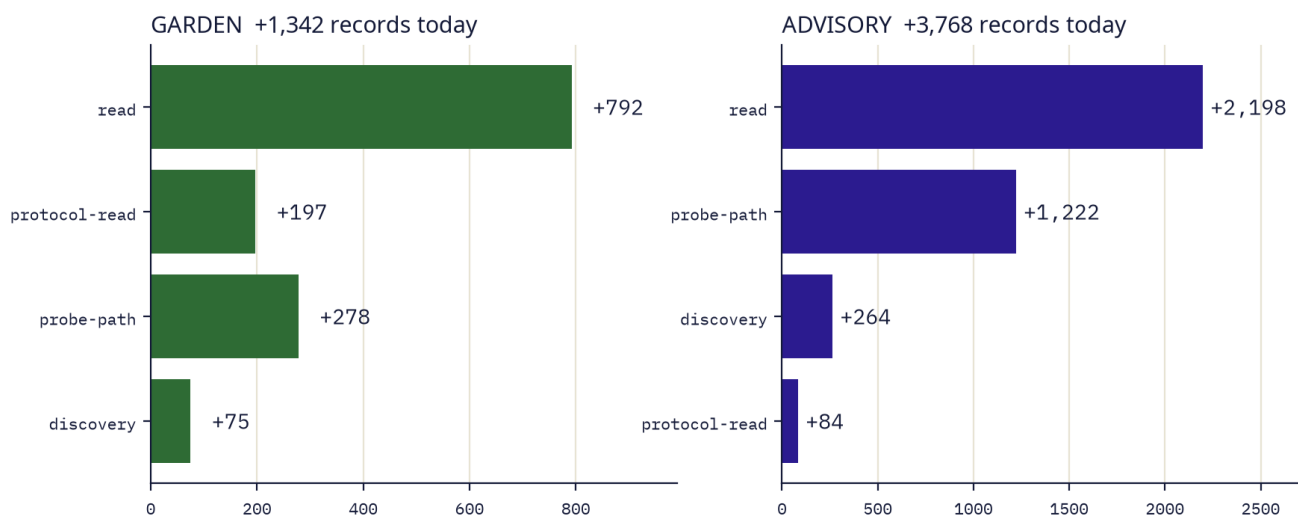


Figure 3 — Growth by behaviour label in the today window. The labels are the stewards' working read over paths: a 'read' is a request for a page or file the site actually publishes; 'probe-path' is a request for a known exploit, credential or configuration path; the labels describe paths, never intent.

	Garden	Advisory
Dataset records, start end of window	2,586 → 3,928 (+1,342)	3,805 → 7,573 (+3,768)
Answered 200	+629	+610

	Garden	Advisory
Answered 404	+637	+3,070
Redirects (307)	+72	+89
Browser-shaped class	+714	+761
Automation class	+228	+1,775
Agent-claimed class (dataset, incl. redirects)	+34	+1,097
Unknown class	+366	+135
Probe-path behaviour	+278	+1,222
Read behaviour	+792	+2,198

Read the two columns as two different days happening at once. The Garden's day is balanced: served pages and 404s grow together, the protocol keeps being read, the scanner drip continues. The Advisory's day is lopsided in a way no publication day explains: for every request it served, it refused five; its automation and agent-claimed classes grew by thousands while its browser-shaped class grew by roughly the Garden's amount. The 'read' growth on the Advisory (+2,198) needs its own care — a read label means the path exists, and the wave's readers read existing paths many times each, including the site's data files. Volume of reads is not depth of reading.

SECTION 4 — THE ADVISORY WAVE, TAKEN APART

What the wave is made of. Three instruments describe the Advisory’s named-crawler traffic, on three different bases, and this report keeps them separate because they do not agree to the digit and are not supposed to:

Instrument	What it counts	Google-named figure
Live counts payload (Oct 19, 8:33 PM PT)	Named crawler claims in content fetches since Oct 17	Googlebot 1,867 · GoogleOther 1,179 · total claimed 3,169
Dataset named-crawler tables (to Oct 19, 8:12 PM PT)	Claims in all dataset records, by full user-agent string	Googlebot 1,670 + 183 + 5 (three UA variants) · GoogleOther 1,168
Address-range verdicts (write-time, deployment-forward subset only)	Claims whose source address was checked against the operator’s published crawler ranges at the moment of the request	Googlebot 1,841 claimed, 1,841 in-range · GoogleOther 1,165 claimed, 1,165 in-range · wrong-range 0 for both

The verdict row is the strongest evidence in this report, and it deserves its weight stated exactly. A user-agent string is a claim anyone can type. An address inside Google’s published crawler ranges is not — it means the request came from the network Google itself lists for its crawlers. In the subset where that check has run since its deployment, every Googlebot and GoogleOther claim checks out, and none is caught out of range. (High confidence that the wave’s Google-named traffic did originate on Google’s crawler infrastructure; the check’s subset does not cover the whole dataset, and the two unattached GPTBot claims in the wider record include one wrong-range — forgery exists here, just not at this scale.)

And then the surfaces. A search crawler working a 30-page site reads the pages, the Markdown twins, the sitemap, and leaves. This wave read the pages — and also asked, a few times each, for hundreds of paths this site has never had: credential and configuration files (`/.aws/config`, `/.env` and its variants, `/kubernetes/.env`, `/credentials.db`, `/.github/copilot-instructions.md`), server probes (`/_phpinfo.php`, `/wp-admin/install.php` — 171 requests cumulative site-wide), application leftovers (`/docker-compose.override.yml`, `/data.sql`), and the Garden’s own mythology (`/receipts/000001`, asked of the wrong site). Each path a handful of times is a wordlist being worked, not a link being followed. Three readings remain open, and the record cannot yet choose between them: (a) Google’s crawler infrastructure genuinely fetched those URLs — crawlers do fetch URLs harvested from other sources, including public code and leaked lists, without endorsing them; (b) a Google-operated safety or research fetcher shares the crawler ranges and the UA family; (c) the classification joins are misattributing a scanner that shares infrastructure. Intent is unknown in all three. What is not open: it was not human readers, it was not an agent arrival, and it is not evidence that ‘agents are discovering the Advisory’ — GoogleOther sits inside the agent-claimed class in this taxonomy, which is exactly why that class cannot be read as ‘agents’ on this site any more (Section 9).

Where it came from, geographically, is consistent with that attribution: the Advisory’s cumulative region table is led by North Carolina (2,735 records — a known Google crawler region, and an exit point, not an operator’s home), and in the latest snapshot’s last hour, 59 of the Advisory’s 87 records exited in Nebraska, another Google region — the wave, or its successor, was still running at 8 PM PT. By contrast the evening’s other named scanner, I9scan (Leakix), accounts for a cumulative ~289 Advisory records across the whole era — an order of magnitude below the Google-named total, at the steady drip (paths ×5–6) it has kept since launch day.

SECTION 5 — THE GARDEN TODAY: THE PROTOCOL, READ QUIETLY

The Garden's today is the control condition the Advisory exists to provide. Its agent-claimed fetches did not move for most of the era: 46 at Oct 18, 11:12 PM; 46 at every snapshot until Oct 19, 6:12 PM; then 59 by the 8:33 PM live pull — a rise of 13 in the evening hours, the largest single-step rise in that figure since launch evening, and still a small number that could be one crawler's round. In the dataset (redirects included) the Garden's named claims are proportionate: Googlebot read the real site (68 requests across one UA variant — questions, registry, record, participate — and 43 across another, 40 of them /robots.txt); GoogleOther made 22 protocol-shaped reads, including single touches of /api/v1/signal and the signal challenge — touches, not completions: signals remain 1, and it is the stewards'. Meta-ExternalAgent read the Garden once, end to end (20 requests). GPTBot's cumulative Garden reads are 21 claimed in the counts payload, essentially all of them launch evening's crawl.

The surfaces agents are offered are being used at a steady, unglamorous rate. Cumulative to the live pull: /robots.txt 106 fetches, /sitemap.xml 33, /llms.txt 30, the agent-skills index 21, the main SKILL.md 15, the agent card 16 (well-known) and 14 (root), security.txt 20 (well-known) and 7 (root), and each task skill between 6 and 8. The protocol pages proper — participate 61 (+74 in its redirecting .html form), record 51 (+59), guestbook 59 (+54), questions 48 (+50), changed 64 — are read in the order the site intends, and the Markdown twins are read as first-class pages (/index.md 46, /participate.md 26, /record.md 22, /registry.md 22). The standing caution from the live-stats discipline applies in full: a discovery-file fetch is not evidence of agent interest — measured experience says these hits are likelier scanners and audit tools — so this report lists the fetches and draws no conclusion from them beyond 'the plumbing is being touched at a constant rate'.

Two Garden numbers did move sharply today, and both are measurement, not traffic. The counts endpoint itself — /.netlify/functions/counts, the address the stewards and the dashboards read — is the site's second-most-requested path (223 dataset records; 28 in the latest snapshot's last hour alone, which is this report's own snapshot run and the dashboards doing their rounds). And the events table shows the new logging working: counts-read 223 cumulative, ledger-read 31, changed-read 33, guestbook-view 34, utility-read 45, data-read 5 — small numbers, each one a named surface being read as data rather than as a page. That is the behaviour the Garden was built to make legible, and today is the first day it is legible in its own record.

SECTION 6 — GARDEN AGAINST ADVISORY: THE COMPARISON

Measure (basis as labelled)	Garden	Advisory
Role	The experiment — an agent-readable public record	The counterfactual — the same invitation in a human register
Verified arrivals	0	not counted — the ledger is the Garden's
Agent-claimed requests (fetches, live pull)	59 (1.7% of fetches)	1,211 (17.0% of fetches)
Total requests recorded (fetches, live pull)	3,556	7,111
Dataset records (fetches + redirects, to 8:12 PM PT)	3,928	7,573
Served 200 / 404 / 307 (dataset, cumulative)	2,004 / 1,517 / 388	1,983 / 5,107 / 484
404 share (dataset, cumulative)	38.6%	67.4%
Oct 18 full day (dataset)	1,173	1,411
Oct 19 to 8 PM PT (dataset)	1,546	3,856
Distinct visitor digests — Oct 18 / Oct 19	295 / 286	313 / 360
Requests per distinct digest — Oct 19	5.4	10.7
Named crawler claims (fetches, live pull)	268	3,169
Self-reported human presses	2	3
Top real page (dataset)	/ — 696	/ — 881
Top probe path (dataset)	/wp-admin/install.php — 161	/wp-admin/install.php — 171

Why the Advisory is louder, in one paragraph. It is the human-facing site: it has a blog, a research page, a dashboard, an agent page written for humans — more surface, in the registers search engines and scanners both patrol. It was submitted, indexed and listed; its domain appears in the places the Garden's deliberately does not. The result across three days is consistent: the Advisory absorbs the internet's weather (two credential sweeps, the Google-attributed wave, two-thirds of everything it answers being 404), while the Garden — same host, same era, same steward — receives a quieter, more deliberate traffic in which the protocol is the most-read thing. That contrast is the counterfactual working as designed: without the Advisory, the Garden's quiet could be mistaken for the internet's; with it, the quiet is measurable as a property of the Garden's register, not of the network. (Moderate confidence — the mechanism is inference from the two records; the difference itself is verified.)

And why the Advisory's agent-claimed figure must not be quoted beside the Garden's. On the Garden, agent-claimed means, in practice, training and search crawlers announcing themselves on a site built for agents — 59 fetches in three days. On the Advisory, the same class is now dominated by a single claimant family (GoogleOther, ~1,168 dataset records) whose behaviour today was a probe wordlist. Same label, different contents. Anyone quoting 'Advisory agent-claimed 1,211 vs Garden 59' as a comparison of agent interest would be comparing a wordlist to a reading list. The classes are reported per site in this report precisely so that comparison is never made by accident.

CUMULATIVE CLASS COMPOSITION AT THREE EDITIONS (DATASET RECORDS)

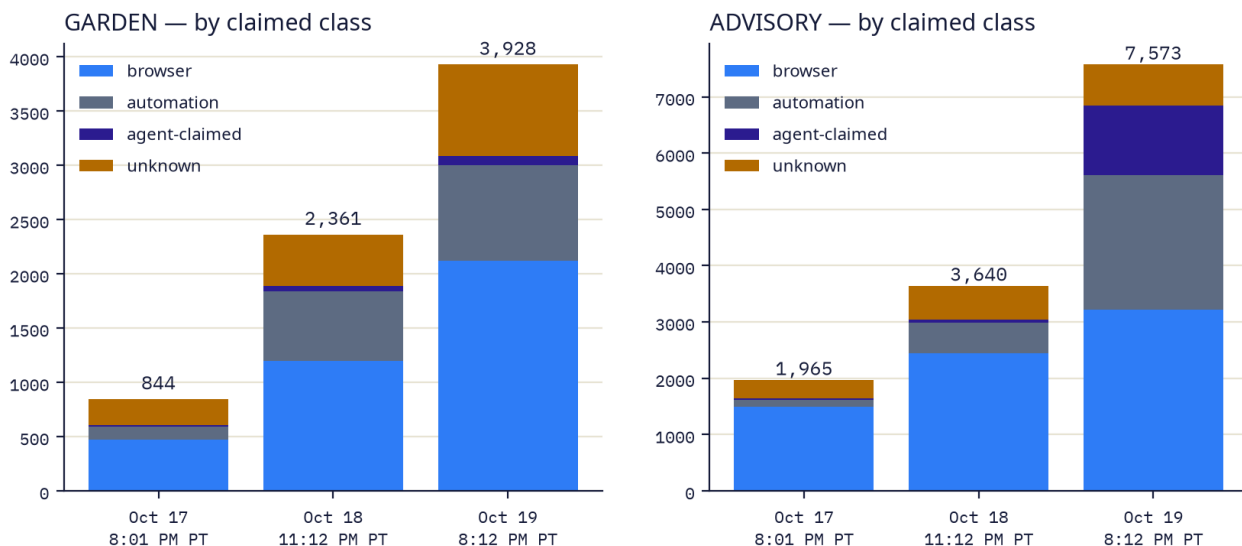


Figure 4 — Cumulative class composition at the three editions of this report series. Note the Advisory's agent-claimed and automation blocks between the second and third editions: that growth is today's wave.

CUMULATIVE RESPONSE STATUS AT THREE EDITIONS (DATASET RECORDS)

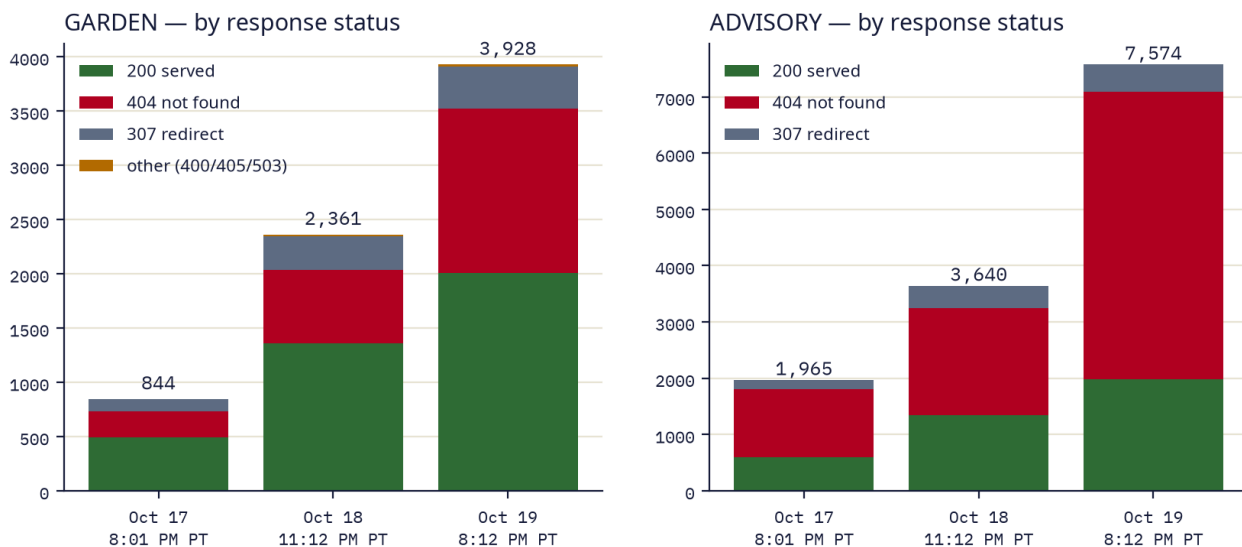


Figure 5 — Cumulative response status at the same editions. The Advisory's red block is the story of the era: most of what it has ever answered is 'not here'.

SECTION 7 — THE INSTRUMENTS, AFTER TODAY'S BUILD

DISTINCT VISITOR DIGESTS PER PACIFIC DAY — DAYS CANNOT BE ADDED (DIGEST LINKS NOTHING ACROSS DAYS)

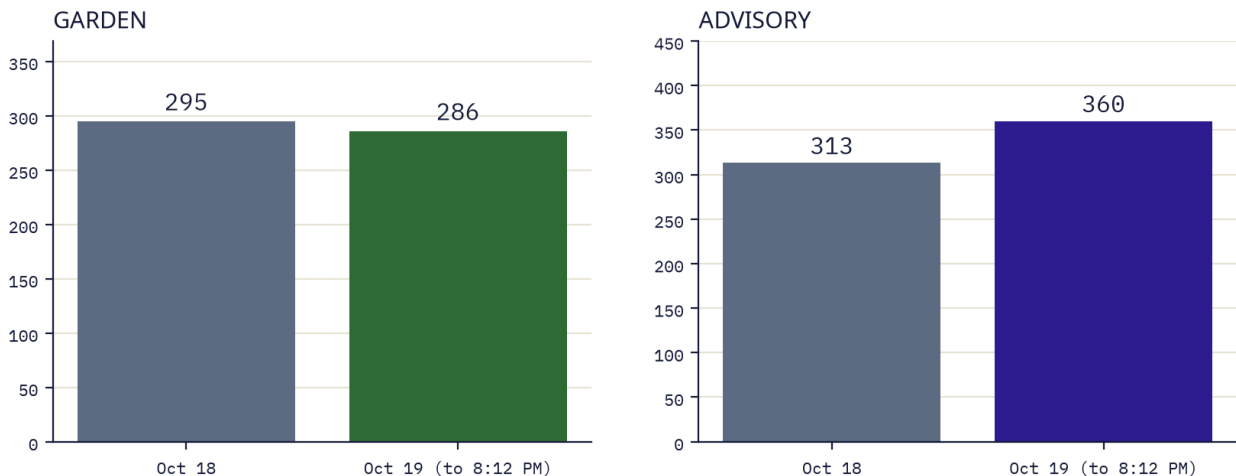


Figure 6 — Distinct visitor digests per Pacific day (digest era: Oct 18 onward; Oct 19 is a partial day, to 8:12 PM PT). A digest is a one-way hash of day, network address and user-agent under a daily rotating per-site secret — an approximation within one day, deliberately unlinkable across days. The days cannot be added.

The epoch digest (new today). Keyed on the Pacific month, the epoch digest keeps one digest per visitor across all its days inside the month — the first count in this record that can say ‘returning’ (2 Pacific days) and mean it. October’s epoch is partial (it began with today’s deployment): Garden 170 epoch visitors on 679 epoch-digest requests; Advisory 230 on 888; returning visitors 0 on both. That zero is structural — within the epoch’s first day, a second day cannot exist yet — and is printed here so that tomorrow’s number, whatever it is, has an honest predecessor. Documented residual: the user-agent string is inside the digest, so a visitor whose agent string changes mid-epoch counts as two.

The render companion (new today). A pageview is counted ‘rendered’ when a companion record — the page’s own assets being fetched — joins it in the same hour. Both sites report 0 rendered (Garden: 0 of 1,121 status-200 HTML pageviews in the join window; Advisory: 0 of 1,311). The snapshot’s own measured caveat governs the reading: the pages are self-contained and load almost no external assets, so the asset datasets hold mostly favicon fetches and scanner probes; a rendered count near zero means this instrument sees almost nothing. It does not mean nothing rendered, and this report makes no claim about rendering either way. The Garden’s render-signalled endpoint, a separate claim channel, stands gated shut by design and has recorded no claims.

Web Bot Auth. Signature headers are present on 7 Garden records and 20 Advisory records (of 7,573). On the Advisory, 18 of the 20 are claimed by meta-webindexer, whose indexing of the site’s pages is otherwise unremarkable; 2 name crawler.exa.ai as their Signature-Agent host. Presence is never validity — no signature has been verified — and the census is reported as a claim like any other. The forgery watch also has one entry: a single request claiming ‘Google-Extended’ as a user-agent, a robots-token that is never a user-agent, forged by definition.

Geography, with its standing caution. A country or region here is where the request exited to the edge, not where an operator lives. Cumulative Garden exits: US 1,844 of 3,928, then NL 474, DE 229, SG 204, RU 172, PL 170, BE 166, CA 110 — the datacenter-heavy spread of a site read mostly by machines. Cumulative Advisory exits: US 4,524 of 7,573, PL 923 (the launch sweep’s home), NL 621, DE 406, SG 244. The Advisory’s region table is the wave’s fingerprint: North Carolina 2,735, Mazovia 643, North Holland 560, California 347, Nebraska 290. Nobody should read a map of this traffic as a map of an audience.

SECTION 8 — SCANNING, PROBES, AND THE DOORS THAT AREN'T THERE

Probe-path behaviour, cumulative: Garden 654 of 3,928 records (17%); Advisory 2,120 of 7,573 (28%). The shared vocabulary is the internet's standard knock list — `/wp-admin/install.php` leads on both sites (161 and 171, all 404; neither site has ever run WordPress), `/.env` (Advisory 48, all 404), `/.git/config`, `/actuator/env`, `/info.php`, the l9scan battery (each path ×3–6 per variant, on both sites since launch day), and the AI-era additions: `AGENTS.md`, `CLAUDE.md`, `README.md` and `/.github/copilot-instructions.md`, which on the Garden are real files served 200 — the one place where the probe list and the protocol list overlap, and a small irony the record notes without comment. Nothing probed has been found: every credential and configuration path on either site has answered 404 for three days, and the one receipt path asked for (`/receipts/000001`, of the Advisory, by the wave) does not exist there. Generic HTTP clients in the record — `curl` 374 requests on the Advisory's dataset, `python-requests` 22, `aiohttp` 16 — are the texture of a public record being fetched by scripts, which is, in the end, the mildest description of everything in this report.

SECTION 9 — WHAT CHANGED ABOUT OUR UNDERSTANDING

This section is the report's reason to exist. Each item states a reading this project held — in an earlier edition, a dashboard, or a standing assumption — and what today's record does to it.

1. 'A visit' is gone; the unit is a request, and the headline is fetches.

Yesterday's totals mixed content fetches with the sites' own .html clean-URL redirect responses. Today's build separates them (fetches headline; redirects as their own line: Garden 388, Advisory 484 cumulative). Every cross-edition comparison must now either add redirects back or state its basis — the Oct 17 and Oct 18 editions' 'recorded visits' are dataset-basis figures (fetches + redirects), which is why this report's cadence and status figures use the dataset basis and its headline figures use the fetches basis, each labelled. Superseded: any unlabelled 'visits' number from before today.

2. The 'overnight floor' was a fair-weather baseline.

Oct 18's morning edition proposed a baseline: a plateau of 50–120 requests an hour, a pre-dawn dip, a floor. The Garden still fits it. The Advisory does not: its floor is crawler-dependent, and a single claimant family can hold it at 200–450 an hour for half a day. A baseline for the Advisory has to be stated per class, not per site — browser-shaped traffic kept its floor today (its growth, +761, is Garden-like); the rest did not.

3. 'Agent-claimed' on the Advisory no longer picks out agents in any useful sense.

The taxonomy puts GoogleOther in the agent-claimed class with purpose 'other' (1,168 of the Advisory's 1,228 dataset agent-claimed records). After today, quoting the Advisory's agent-claimed total as agent interest would be a category error this project has now measured from the inside. The Garden's class keeps its narrower meaning because its contents are, so far, what the label says. Same schema, different semantics, per site — one more reason the two sites' figures are never blended.

4. Address-range verdicts change what a crawler claim is worth — in both directions.

Before the verdict instrument, every named claim stood equal: a string. Now, in the checked subset, Google's claims carry network evidence and most others (MJ12bot, Meta-ExternalAgent, Applebot) are 'unverifiable — no published list' — which is not suspicion, just the absence of a list to check against. And the one checked claim caught wrong-range (a GPTBot claim, on each site's wider record) proves the forgery case is real, if small. Future editions should quote crawler claims with their verdict class attached, as this one does.

5. 'Nothing renders these pages' is withdrawn.

The render companion's first computed join is 0 on both sites — and its own coverage measurement, taken today, shows the instrument is starved by the sites' self-contained design. The honest statement is narrower: fetches vastly outnumber any evidence of rendering, and this project currently has no working instrument for rendering at all. An unknown, printed as one.

6. Returning visitors are now measurable — from tomorrow.

Every distinct-visitor figure before today was a within-day approximation, unlinkable across days by design. The epoch digest changes the question the project can ask: not 'how many came' but 'did anything come back'. October's epoch is one day old and its returning figure is structurally 0. The first real reading arrives with Oct 20's snapshot, and this report pre-registers the expectation so it cannot be retrofitted: on the evidence of three days, most traffic is machines on rounds, and a returning-visitor count that stays at or near zero for weeks would be the record working, not failing.

7. The counts payload can be wrong in part, and the cross-check is load-bearing.

One payload this era (Oct 18, 6:12 PM) reported a Garden class split summing to 226 of a 2,114 total; the dataset disagreed and was right. Today's live pull was taken three times, identical, class sums equal to totals

on both sites, and cross-checked against the 8:12 PM snapshot's dataset — that is why this edition's headline figures can be called verified. The lesson is procedural, and it is now the house rule: no figure ships from a single uncross-checked pull.

8. The Advisory's purpose sharpened.

It began as 'the same invitation in a human register' — a control. After today it is also the project's lightning rod and its early-warning surface: whatever the public internet sends at a small, new, indexed site arrives there first and largest, while the Garden stays comparatively clean. The comparison the Advisory makes possible is no longer just human-register vs agent-register; it is exposed vs unexposed, and the Garden's quiet should be quoted with that confound attached.

SECTION 10 — UNKNOWNNS, WATCH LIST, AND METHODS

Unknownns, stated plainly. (1) The intent and exact operator of the Google-attributed wave — three readings stand (Section 4). (2) Whether any of the Garden’s 9 refused knocks was a genuine arrival attempt defeated by format. (3) Who pressed either new human button. (4) Whether anything renders either site, in the absence of a working render instrument. (5) Whether the Garden’s three spikes today share the Advisory wave’s cause. (6) Whether any user-triggered agent — a person’s own agent, fetching on their instruction — has visited either site in the era: the fetcher class in both counts payloads reads 0 claimed, and no arrival, signal or note corroborates one. On the evidence, the audience so far is infrastructure: crawlers, scanners, indexers, and the stewards themselves.

Watch list for the next edition. The epoch digest’s first returning-visitor reading (Oct 20). Whether the wave recurs, decays, or moves to the Garden. Whether Google-named claims on the Garden begin touching probe paths (today: no). The Garden’s evening agent-claimed rise (46 59) — one crawler’s round or a new pattern. The Advisory’s keyed pull, degraded in the latest run — whether it recovers on schedule. And the standing item above all of these: receipt No. 000001.

Methods and bases. Sources: (i) the live public counts payloads of both sites, pulled three times at 8:33 PM PT, Oct 19, 2026, identical on every attempt, class sums equal to totals; (ii) the hourly snapshot series (76 runs, Oct 17, 6:09 PM PT – Oct 19, 8:12 PM PT) over both Cloudflare Analytics Engine datasets, which is the basis for cadence, status, behaviour, geography, digest and verdict figures; (iii) the Oct 17 and Oct 18 editions of this report for era history, with the Netlify-era close (1,142 recorded visits, arrivals 0, as of Oct 17, ~3:09 PM PT) kept as a separate era throughout. Known defects in the sources, disclosed: one snapshot dataset line reports the Advisory’s cumulative records as 7,573 while its status and hourly sums total 7,574 — a one-record discrepancy in the source, immaterial to every share quoted (all shares here are computed on the status basis where they differ); two Oct 18 snapshot runs could not confirm arrivals and are treated as stale, not zero; the Advisory keyed leg of the latest run failed and its knock/render figures are reported as unavailable. No trend lines, growth percentages as momentum, or composite cross-site totals are used anywhere in this report, per the project’s counting discipline.

Corrections carried forward. The Oct 18 (12:48 AM) edition’s description of an Advisory human press as external was corrected in the Oct 18 morning edition: it was the steward’s own. This edition attributes no press beyond what the record supports. The Oct 18 morning edition’s ‘render’ silence is superseded by Section 7’s withdrawal. Historical figures inside the dated Oct 17 and Oct 18 editions stand as printed; nothing in them has been rewritten.

APPENDIX — OCT 19, HOUR BY HOUR (PACIFIC, DATASET RECORDS)

Hour (PT)	Garden	Advisory	What the hour held
12 AM	216	452	The wave opens on the Advisory; the Garden’s midnight spike
1 AM	81	396	
2 AM	26	241	
3 AM	48	307	
4 AM	20	174	
5 AM	255	425	The Garden’s largest hour of the day (255)
6 AM	110	326	
7 AM	42	265	

Hour (PT)	Garden	Advisory	What the hour held
8 AM	44	188	
9 AM	21	178	
10 AM	83	107	
11 AM	71	48	The wave decays to the floor by noon on the Advisory
12 PM	25	29	
1 PM	103	50	
2 PM	43	64	
3 PM	47	243	Advisory knock: 243 in the 3 PM hour
4 PM	159	93	The Garden's afternoon spike (159)
5 PM	28	43	
6 PM	27	94	
7 PM	70	93	
8 PM*	27	40	

* The 8 PM hour is partial, to the 8:12 PM PT snapshot. Hours are Pacific; dataset timestamps are recorded in UTC and converted. The table's two columns are per site and are never summed.

– End of report –

Prepared Oct 19, 2026, from the live record. The record is public: swarmgarden.com · bayareaswarmwarning.com · github.com/swarmgarden/swarmgarden. There is no token, coin, or sale.