

A green workflow. A broken handoff.

The automation finished successfully. Every CRM record was still missing its email address.

8

records without email

3

correct records after repair

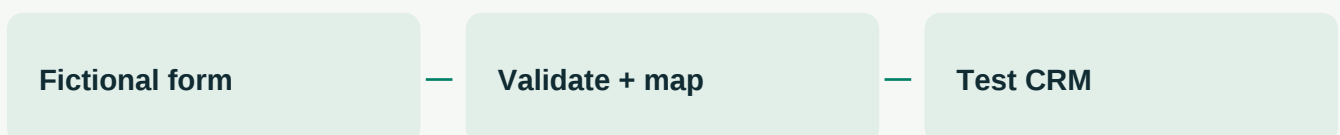
Same 8 input events; duplicates and invalid events handled separately.

01 REPRODUCE THE FAILURE

A fictional service business receives leads from a website form. The form puts the email inside contact.email; the old mapping reads email at the top level. The local CRM accepts the resulting empty field, so n8n reports success while the business outcome fails.

02 REPAIR THE HANDOFF

Read the correct field, trim surrounding spaces, and route missing or malformed input to a review output before any CRM request. Pass a stable event ID to a test CRM that checks repeated requests before writing.



Simplified workflow schematic; not a screenshot of the n8n editor.

Portfolio proof, not a customer case study. The workflows ran in n8n 2.40.7 against a local HTTP/SQLite CRM simulator. No production systems, customer data or paid APIs were used.

Evidence before promises.

Eight fictional cases plus a complete replay passed the agreed checks. Results were verified against n8n execution output and the simulator database.

TEST	OBSERVED RESULT	CHECK
Valid submission	Correct nested email recorded	PASS
Repeated event	No duplicate record	PASS
Missing email	Review output; no CRM request	PASS
Malformed email	Review output; no CRM request	PASS
Second valid submission	Distinct record preserved	PASS
Changed data, same event ID	Conflict returned; original retained	PASS
Missing event ID	Review output; no CRM request	PASS
Temporary HTTP 503	Retry succeeded without duplicate writes	PASS
Entire workflow replay	Zero additional records	PASS

WHAT THE RETRY TEST REVEALED

One simulated HTTP 503 caused n8n to repeat the entire HTTP node batch. Previously successful items were requested again. Destination-side duplicate checks preserved the three correct records. A second full workflow execution added zero records.

BOUNDARIES OF THIS PROOF

The duplicate protection lives in the simulator, not in a magical n8n setting. A real CRM needs its own supported idempotency or reconciliation design. This test does not establish production readiness, concurrent-load safety, mailbox deliverability, crash recovery or revenue uplift. Review items are workflow outputs, not a staffed support queue.

Evidence pack: workflow JSON, synthetic fixtures, execution logs and verification script.