



REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE / ENGINEERING STANDARDS LIBRARY

AI-Assisted Software Engineering Pipeline



A governed engineering pipeline in which AI systems assist research, design, coding, testing, review, documentation, release, and operations without bypassing software assurance.

Architecture identity and operating position

ARCHITECTURE SET Canonical Set	DOMAIN Platform Engineering	LAYERS 6	COMPONENTS 6	ACCEPTANCE 18	DEPENDENCIES 0
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SYSTEM CONTEXT



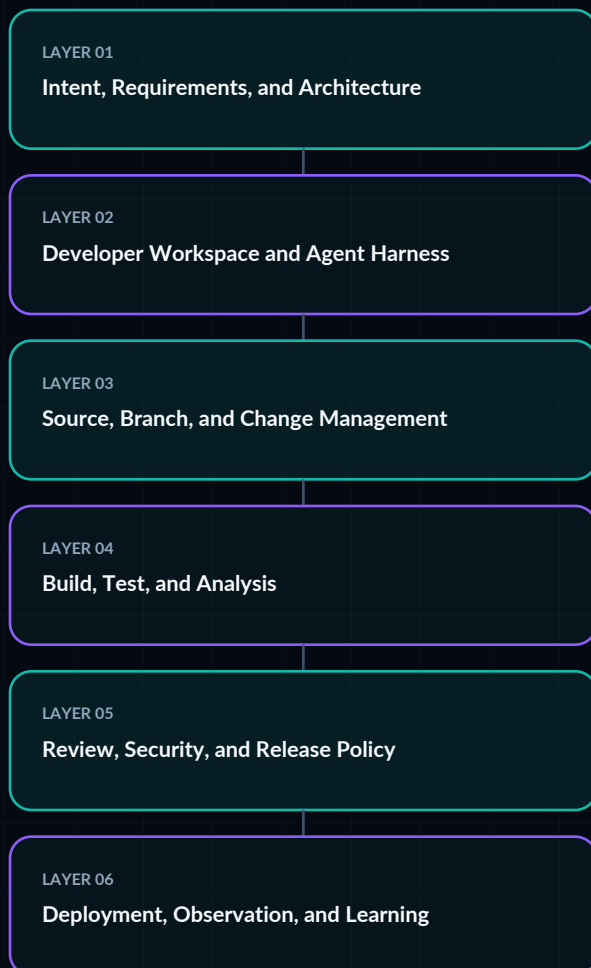
EXECUTIVE OUTCOMES

- 1 Convert product intent into traceable requirements, architecture decisions, tasks, code, tests, evidence, and
- 2 release artifacts.
- 3 Use agents and models under repository, tool, secret, network, budget, and branch boundaries.
- 4 Verify generated work through compilers, tests, analyzers, review, runtime observation, and acceptance criteria.

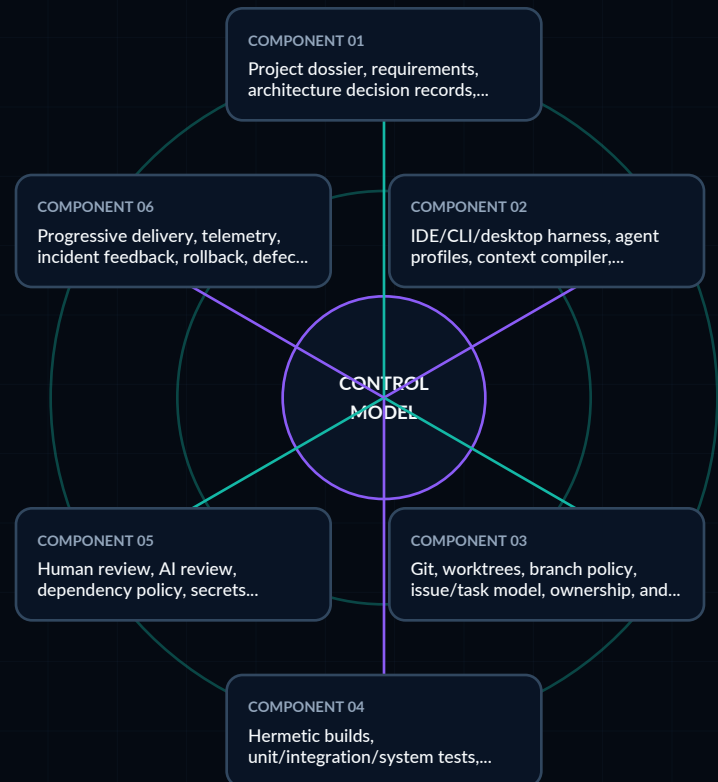
ARCHITECTURE DOCTRINE

Interpret the architecture as a bounded operating model: explicit ownership, least authority, separable desired/runtime/observed/evidence state, safe degradation, reversible change, measurable outcomes, and evidence-backed acceptance.

Layered architecture and component model



CORE COMPONENTS



Each layer and component owns an explicit interface, state model, authority boundary, failure behavior, telemetry contract, recovery path, and evidence obligation.

Primary sequence and control flow



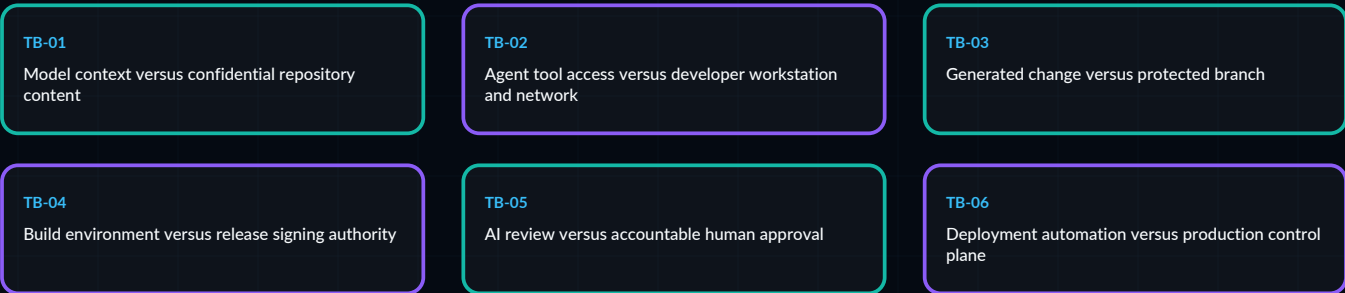
EVIDENCE THREAD

Identity + authorization + version + state transition + output + validation + error + timing + accountable disposition.

State, data, authority, and trust flow

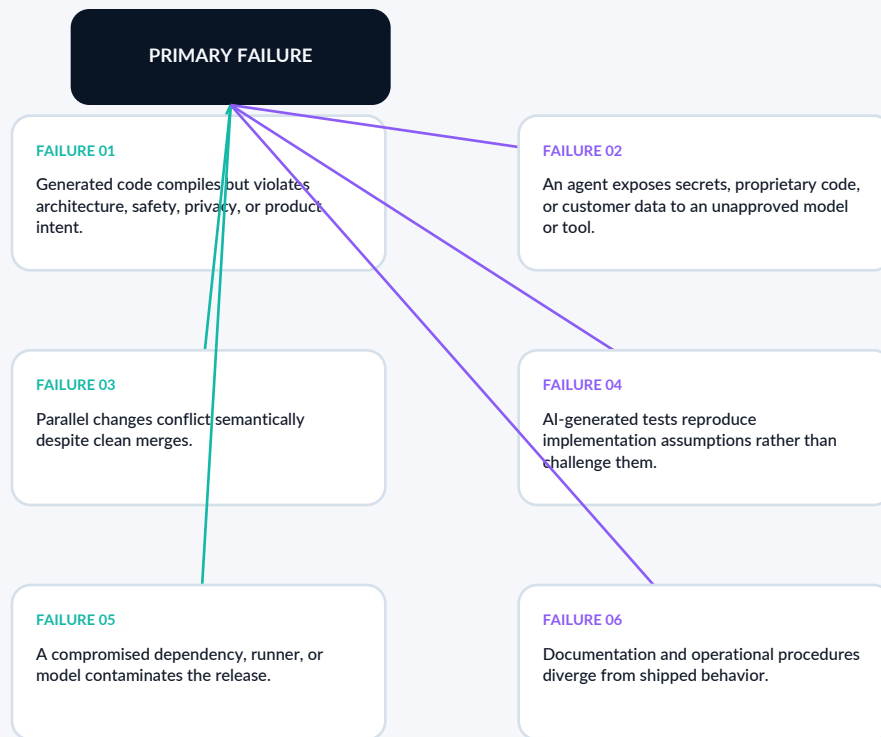


TRUST BOUNDARY REGISTER



Failure propagation and observability

FAILURE PATHS



OBSERVABILITY STACK

OUTCOME

User / mission result

SERVICE

SLOs / availability

CONTROL

Policy / authorization

EXECUTION

State / errors / retries

DEPENDENCY

External health / latency

EVIDENCE

Trace / artifact / receipt

RECOVERY RULE

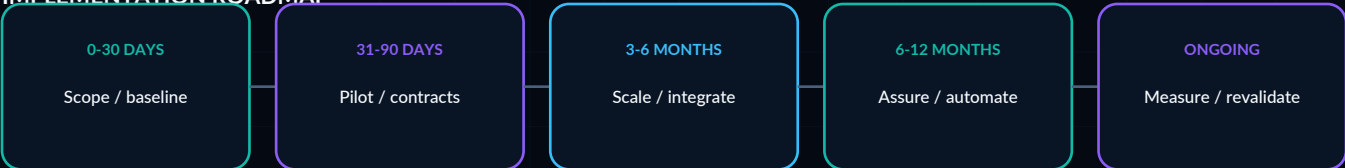
Closure requires containment, causal explanation, restored service, reconciled intended vs observed state, preserved evidence, and an explicit residual-risk decision.

Deployment profiles and implementation roadmap

DEPLOYMENT PROFILES

PROFILE 01	INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPER ASSISTANT Bounded proof
PROFILE 02	TEAM ENGINEERING PIPELINE Team-scale governance
PROFILE 03	REGULATED PRODUCT RELEASE FACTORY Sovereign / high-assurance
PROFILE 04	LARGE-SCALE MULTI-AGENT SOFTWARE DELIVERY PLATFORM Distributed enterprise

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP



Progression is evidence-gated. Architecture adoption does not advance because a component is installed or demonstrated; each stage requires measurable service, safety, security, recovery, and evidence outcomes.

Verification plan, dependencies, and reading map

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA - REPRESENTATIVE SET

AC-01	The architecture has a named service owner, technical owner, security owner, data owner, and recovery authority.	AC-02	The system boundary, external dependencies, retained responsibilities, and trust transitions are documented and
AC-03	Identity, authorization, secrets, policy, and privileged operations are explicit and independently auditable.	AC-04	Desired state, runtime state, observed state, and evidence state are distinguishable and reconciled.
AC-05	Consequential changes require preconditions, approval policy, bounded execution, verification, and rollback.	AC-06	Telemetry supports service health, security detection, forensic reconstruction, and conformance evidence.
AC-07	Failure modes include safe degradation, dependency loss, corrupted state, operator error, and malicious action.	AC-08	Backup, restoration, reconstitution, and exit procedures are exercised against defined recovery objectives.

RELATED REFERENCE ARCHITECTURES

No mandatory RA dependencies declared

MAPPED MYTHOS STANDARDS

MYTHOS-SWE-0001, MYTHOS-SWE-0004, MYTHOS-SWE-0008, MYTHOS-PLT-0001, MYTHOS-PLT-0002, MYTHOS-AI-0007

DETAILED SPECIFICATION READING MAP

09	Executive direction	10	Scope and system context	12	Logical architecture
15	Flow contracts	16	Trust boundaries	17	Deployment profiles
20	Failure modes	21	Dependencies and standards	22	Implementation roadmap
23	Acceptance criteria	25	Metrics and decision gates	26	Source authority
27	Publication control				

The following pages preserve the detailed candidate architecture specification while this visual dossier adds explicit architecture diagrams, sequence views, state and evidence flows, observability, failure propagation, and implementation gates.

PART I - EXECUTIVE DIRECTION

OUTCOMES, RISKS, AND DECISIONS

ARCHITECTURE MANDATE

A governed engineering pipeline in which AI systems assist research, design, coding, testing, review, documentation, release, and operations without bypassing software assurance.

EXECUTIVE OUTCOMES

- Convert product intent into traceable requirements, architecture decisions, tasks, code, tests, evidence, and release artifacts.
- Use agents and models under repository, tool, secret, network, budget, and branch boundaries.
- Verify generated work through compilers, tests, analyzers, review, runtime observation, and acceptance criteria.
- Produce signed, reproducible, attributable releases with safe rollback and operational feedback.

DECISIONS REQUIRED

- Accountable service and risk ownership.
- Accepted architecture profile and consequence class.
- Authoritative identity, data, policy, configuration, and evidence systems.
- Mandatory approval, recovery, privacy, safety, and supplier-exit gates.
- Funding for operations, observability, validation, and lifecycle—not only implementation.

PART II - SCOPE, PRINCIPLES, AND SYSTEM CONTEXT

PLATFORM ENGINEERING

IN SCOPE

A governed engineering pipeline in which AI systems assist research, design, coding, testing, review, documentation, release, and operations without bypassing software assurance.

OUT OF SCOPE

Vendor selection, exact sizing, contractual obligations, detailed low-level design, product certification, regulatory approval, and proof that any named platform is implemented.

ARCHITECTURE INVARIANTS

Explicit ownership; least authority; separable desired, runtime, observed, and evidence state; bounded automation; tested recovery; product-neutral interfaces; source and claim currency.

ASSUMPTIONS

Organizations tailor the pattern through documented risk, environment, criticality, data, safety, regulatory, workforce, and supplier analysis.

SYSTEM CONTEXT AND RESPONSIBILITY MODEL

ACTORS, ENVIRONMENTS, AND EXTERNAL DEPENDENCIES

ACTORS AND RESPONSIBILITY

- Service consumers and affected users
- Product, platform, network, security, data, reliability, and support teams
- Human administrators, operators, reviewers, incident commanders, and risk owners
- Machine identities, agents, workloads, devices, controllers, and external services
- Suppliers, providers, carriers, integrators, assessors, and regulators where applicable

RESPONSIBILITY BOUNDARY

- The adopting organization retains accountability for purpose, risk, configuration, data, identity, operation, recovery, and evidence even where a provider performs underlying functions.
- Inherited controls are recorded with provider, scope, evidence, limitations, shared responsibility, incident path, and exit conditions.
- No component is considered trusted solely because it is internal, managed, signed, cloud-hosted, model-generated, or supplied by a recognized vendor.

ARCHITECTURE POSITION

AI accelerates engineering work but does not replace source control, reproducible builds, testing, security gates, review, ownership, or release authority.

PART III - LOGICAL ARCHITECTURE

LAYERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

01 Intent, Requirements, and Architecture

Intent, Requirements, and Architecture owns a bounded set of responsibilities, interfaces, state, controls, failure behavior, telemetry, recovery procedures, and evidence. It does not silently absorb authority assigned to another layer.

02 Developer Workspace and Agent Harness

Developer Workspace and Agent Harness owns a bounded set of responsibilities, interfaces, state, controls, failure behavior, telemetry, recovery procedures, and evidence. It does not silently absorb authority assigned to another layer.

03 Source, Branch, and Change Management

Source, Branch, and Change Management owns a bounded set of responsibilities, interfaces, state, controls, failure behavior, telemetry, recovery procedures, and evidence. It does not silently absorb authority assigned to another layer.

04 Build, Test, and Analysis

Build, Test, and Analysis owns a bounded set of responsibilities, interfaces, state, controls, failure behavior, telemetry, recovery procedures, and evidence. It does not silently absorb authority assigned to another layer.

05 Review, Security, and Release Policy

Review, Security, and Release Policy owns a bounded set of responsibilities, interfaces, state, controls, failure behavior, telemetry, recovery procedures, and evidence. It does not silently absorb authority assigned to another layer.

06 Deployment, Observation, and Learning

Deployment, Observation, and Learning owns a bounded set of responsibilities, interfaces, state, controls, failure behavior, telemetry, recovery procedures, and evidence. It does not silently absorb authority assigned to another layer.

CORE COMPONENTS - A

COMPONENTS 01-03

COMPONENT 01

Project dossier, requirements, architecture decision records, threat model, and acceptance tests

Required contract: owner, purpose, inputs, outputs, authority, data, dependencies, health, failure behavior, recovery, lifecycle, and evidence.

COMPONENT 02

IDE/CLI/desktop harness, agent profiles, context compiler, sandbox, and tool broker

Required contract: owner, purpose, inputs, outputs, authority, data, dependencies, health, failure behavior, recovery, lifecycle, and evidence.

COMPONENT 03

Git, worktrees, branch policy, issue/task model, ownership, and change provenance

Required contract: owner, purpose, inputs, outputs, authority, data, dependencies, health, failure behavior, recovery, lifecycle, and evidence.

CORE COMPONENTS - B

COMPONENTS 04-06

COMPONENT 04

Hermetic builds, unit/integration/system tests, static/dynamic analysis, fuzzing, and artifact generation

Required contract: owner, purpose, inputs, outputs, authority, data, dependencies, health, failure behavior, recovery, lifecycle, and evidence.

COMPONENT 05

Human review, AI review, dependency policy, secrets scanning, SBOM, provenance, signing, and release gates

Required contract: owner, purpose, inputs, outputs, authority, data, dependencies, health, failure behavior, recovery, lifecycle, and evidence.

COMPONENT 06

Progressive delivery, telemetry, incident feedback, rollback, defect learning, and documentation maintenance

Required contract: owner, purpose, inputs, outputs, authority, data, dependencies, health, failure behavior, recovery, lifecycle, and evidence.

PART IV - DATA, CONTROL, AUTHORITY, AND EVIDENCE FLOW

FLOW CONTRACTS

1

Intent is decomposed into traceable work and testable outcomes.

Evidence: request and actor identity, policy decision, versions, state transitions, outputs, tests, errors, timing, and accountable disposition.

2

Agents receive bounded repository views, tools, credentials, network access, time, and token budgets.

Evidence: request and actor identity, policy decision, versions, state transitions, outputs, tests, errors, timing, and accountable disposition.

3

Changes occur in isolated branches or worktrees with continuous compile and test feedback.

Evidence: request and actor identity, policy decision, versions, state transitions, outputs, tests, errors, timing, and accountable disposition.

4

Independent verification challenges implementation, security, UX, performance, and documentation.

Evidence: request and actor identity, policy decision, versions, state transitions, outputs, tests, errors, timing, and accountable disposition.

5

Release factory produces signed artifacts, attestations, SBOMs, deployment plans, and rollback evidence.

Evidence: request and actor identity, policy decision, versions, state transitions, outputs, tests, errors, timing, and accountable disposition.

6

Production signals create defects, tests, risk updates, and controlled future work.

Evidence: request and actor identity, policy decision, versions, state transitions, outputs, tests, errors, timing, and accountable disposition.

TRUST BOUNDARIES AND ENFORCEMENT

EVERY CROSSING REQUIRES AN EXPLICIT CONTRACT

TRUST BOUNDARY 01

Model context versus confidential repository content

Minimum contract: authenticated parties, authorized actions, data classification, protocol, encryption, validation, rate and resource limits, observability, failure behavior, revocation, and evidence.

TRUST BOUNDARY 02

Agent tool access versus developer workstation and network

Minimum contract: authenticated parties, authorized actions, data classification, protocol, encryption, validation, rate and resource limits, observability, failure behavior, revocation, and evidence.

TRUST BOUNDARY 03

Generated change versus protected branch

Minimum contract: authenticated parties, authorized actions, data classification, protocol, encryption, validation, rate and resource limits, observability, failure behavior, revocation, and evidence.

TRUST BOUNDARY 04

Build environment versus release signing authority

Minimum contract: authenticated parties, authorized actions, data classification, protocol, encryption, validation, rate and resource limits, observability, failure behavior, revocation, and evidence.

TRUST BOUNDARY 05

AI review versus accountable human approval

Minimum contract: authenticated parties, authorized actions, data classification, protocol, encryption, validation, rate and resource limits, observability, failure behavior, revocation, and evidence.

TRUST BOUNDARY 06

Deployment automation versus production control plane

Minimum contract: authenticated parties, authorized actions, data classification, protocol, encryption, validation, rate and resource limits, observability, failure behavior, revocation, and evidence.

PART V - DEPLOYMENT PROFILES

PROFILE CHANGES SCALE, NOT ASSURANCE OUTCOMES

PROFILE 01 / INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPER ASSISTANT

Use this profile to establish a bounded implementation with explicit scale, criticality, users, data, autonomy, external dependencies, recovery objectives, staffing, and validation depth. The profile may simplify technology or topology but must preserve identity, least authority, evidence, safe failure, recovery, lifecycle, and accountable risk acceptance.

PROFILE 02 / TEAM ENGINEERING PIPELINE

Use this profile to establish a bounded implementation with explicit scale, criticality, users, data, autonomy, external dependencies, recovery objectives, staffing, and validation depth. The profile may simplify technology or topology but must preserve identity, least authority, evidence, safe failure, recovery, lifecycle, and accountable risk acceptance.

PROFILE 03 / REGULATED PRODUCT RELEASE FACTORY

Use this profile to establish a bounded implementation with explicit scale, criticality, users, data, autonomy, external dependencies, recovery objectives, staffing, and validation depth. The profile may simplify technology or topology but must preserve identity, least authority, evidence, safe failure, recovery, lifecycle, and accountable risk acceptance.

PROFILE 04 / LARGE-SCALE MULTI-AGENT SOFTWARE DELIVERY PLATFORM

Use this profile to establish a bounded implementation with explicit scale, criticality, users, data, autonomy, external dependencies, recovery objectives, staffing, and validation depth. The profile may simplify technology or topology but must preserve identity, least authority, evidence, safe failure, recovery, lifecycle, and accountable risk acceptance.

PART VI - OPERATING LIFECYCLE

FROM DISCOVERY THROUGH RETIREMENT



01 / Establish project dossier and repository policy

Entry and exit criteria, owner, evidence, exceptions, dependencies, rollback, and next decision are recorded. No phase is complete solely because components were purchased, configured, or demonstrated.

02 / Add isolated assistant and read-only analysis

Entry and exit criteria, owner, evidence, exceptions, dependencies, rollback, and next decision are recorded. No phase is complete solely because components were purchased, configured, or demonstrated.

03 / Enable bounded change generation

Entry and exit criteria, owner, evidence, exceptions, dependencies, rollback, and next decision are recorded. No phase is complete solely because components were purchased, configured, or demonstrated.

04 / Strengthen automated verification

Entry and exit criteria, owner, evidence, exceptions, dependencies, rollback, and next decision are recorded. No phase is complete solely because components were purchased, configured, or demonstrated.

05 / Introduce provenance and signed releases

Entry and exit criteria, owner, evidence, exceptions, dependencies, rollback, and next decision are recorded. No phase is complete solely because components were purchased, configured, or demonstrated.

06 / Integrate progressive delivery and telemetry

Entry and exit criteria, owner, evidence, exceptions, dependencies, rollback, and next decision are recorded. No phase is complete solely because components were purchased, configured, or demonstrated.

07 / Expand parallel agents under measured governance

Entry and exit criteria, owner, evidence, exceptions, dependencies, rollback, and next decision are recorded. No phase is complete solely because components were purchased, configured, or demonstrated.

SECURITY, PRIVACY, SAFETY, AND RIGHTS

CROSS-CUTTING ASSURANCE

SECURITY

Threat model identities, trust boundaries, supply chain, control planes, data, protocols, privilege, abuse, detection, response, recovery, and residual risk.

PRIVACY

Purpose limitation, minimization, transparency, consent where required, access, correction, retention, deletion, sovereignty, metadata, and third-party processing.

SAFETY

Hazards, unsafe states, human intervention, physical consequence, dependency failure, automation limits, emergency stop, recovery sequence, and validation.

RIGHTS AND USABILITY

Accessibility, contestability, explanation, operator workload, affected-user communication, grievance, misuse prevention, and equitable performance.

SUPPLY CHAIN

Provenance, version, SBOM or component inventory, signature, vulnerability, support, update, provider, subcontractor, and exit.

EVIDENCE

Design decisions, tests, telemetry, incidents, approvals, exceptions, recovery exercises, source currency, and review findings remain linked to the architecture version.

FAILURE MODES AND RESILIENCE

DESIGN FOR SAFE DEGRADATION AND TRUSTWORTHY RECOVERY

FAILURE SCENARIO 01

Generated code compiles but violates architecture, safety, privacy, or product intent. Required response: detect, contain, preserve evidence, maintain or enter safe service, communicate, recover, verify, learn, and prevent recurrence.

FAILURE SCENARIO 02

An agent exposes secrets, proprietary code, or customer data to an unapproved model or tool. Required response: detect, contain, preserve evidence, maintain or enter safe service, communicate, recover, verify, learn, and prevent recurrence.

FAILURE SCENARIO 03

Parallel changes conflict semantically despite clean merges. Required response: detect, contain, preserve evidence, maintain or enter safe service, communicate, recover, verify, learn, and prevent recurrence.

FAILURE SCENARIO 04

AI-generated tests reproduce implementation assumptions rather than challenge them. Required response: detect, contain, preserve evidence, maintain or enter safe service, communicate, recover, verify, learn, and prevent recurrence.

FAILURE SCENARIO 05

A compromised dependency, runner, or model contaminates the release. Required response: detect, contain, preserve evidence, maintain or enter safe service, communicate, recover, verify, learn, and prevent recurrence.

FAILURE SCENARIO 06

Documentation and operational procedures diverge from shipped behavior. Required response: detect, contain, preserve evidence, maintain or enter safe service, communicate, recover, verify, learn, and prevent recurrence.

PART VII - INTEGRATION AND DEPENDENCY MODEL

CONNECTED REFERENCE ARCHITECTURES AND STANDARDS

REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE DEPENDENCIES

- RA-008 - Multi-Cloud Landing Zone and Internal Developer Platform
- RA-009 - Zero-Trust Identity, Policy, Secrets, and Access Fabric
- RA-010 - Local-First Knowledge, Memory, and Evidence Platform
- RA-013 - Secure Software Supply Chain and Release Factory
- RA-014 - Enterprise Data, API, Event, and Integration Fabric
- RA-019 - Sovereign Browser, Remote Access, and Web Automation
- RA-020 - Adaptive Learning, Cyber Range, and Workforce Assurance

MAPPED MYTHOS STANDARDS

- MYTHOS-SWE-0001
- MYTHOS-SWE-0004
- MYTHOS-SWE-0008
- MYTHOS-PLT-0001
- MYTHOS-PLT-0002
- MYTHOS-AI-0007

DEPENDENCY DOCTRINE

A dependency is not a blanket trust grant. Each connection requires an interface, identity, policy, data, availability, version, failure, recovery, and evidence contract. Correlated failure and circular authority must be analyzed across the full architecture graph.

PART VIII - IMPLEMENTATION AND ADOPTION ROADMAP

PHASED, EVIDENCE-DRIVEN TRANSITION

0-30 DAYS

Inventory purpose, owners, users, systems, data, dependencies, risks, current diagrams, incidents, recovery, and evidence gaps.

31-90 DAYS

Establish authoritative identity, configuration, policy, data, source, and architecture records; define target profile and acceptance tests.

3-6 MONTHS

Implement bounded foundations, isolation, telemetry, change control, backup, recovery, and representative pilot workflows.

6-12 MONTHS

Expand through standard patterns, automation, service ownership, SLOs, independent assessment, failure injection, and supplier-exit exercises.

ONGOING

Reconcile drift, review sources, reassess risk, measure outcomes, exercise recovery, renew exceptions, migrate dependencies, and retire obsolete paths.

ARCHITECTURE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA - A

CRITERIA 01-09

AC-01

The architecture has a named service owner, technical owner, security owner, data owner, and recovery authority.

AC-02

The system boundary, external dependencies, retained responsibilities, and trust transitions are documented and reviewed.

AC-03

Identity, authorization, secrets, policy, and privileged operations are explicit and independently auditable.

AC-04

Desired state, runtime state, observed state, and evidence state are distinguishable and reconciled.

AC-05

Consequential changes require preconditions, approval policy, bounded execution, verification, and rollback.

AC-06

Telemetry supports service health, security detection, forensic reconstruction, and conformance evidence.

AC-07

Failure modes include safe degradation, dependency loss, corrupted state, operator error, and malicious action.

AC-08

Backup, restoration, reconstitution, and exit procedures are exercised against defined recovery objectives.

AC-09

Data classification, retention, privacy, sovereignty, and disposition controls follow the actual information flow.

ARCHITECTURE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA - B

CRITERIA 10-18

AC-10

Supplier, model, protocol, platform, and software dependencies have provenance, version, support, and replacement records.

AC-11

Representative performance and capacity tests include saturation, contention, latency, and degraded conditions.

AC-12

Exceptions are time-bounded, visible, approved by accountable risk owners, and linked to compensating controls.

AC-13

Every generated change is attributable to a mission, model profile, context set, tool grant, branch, authorizing user, and verification record.

AC-14

Agents cannot access secrets, protected branches, production, or unrestricted networks by default.

AC-15

Acceptance tests originate from requirements and risk analysis, not solely from generated implementation.

AC-16

Builds are reproducible or explain why they are not; release artifacts include provenance, SBOM, signatures, and policy results.

AC-17

Independent review can reject, amend, or request evidence without being silently overridden by the generating agent.

AC-18

Production incidents and defects create regression tests and architecture updates before the same class of change is retried.

METRICS, EVIDENCE, AND DECISION GATES

MEASURE SERVICE OUTCOMES AND ASSURANCE

COVERAGE

Percent of components, interfaces, identities, data flows, dependencies, risks, and controls represented in current architecture evidence.

CHANGE QUALITY

Plan success, rollback, verification pass, escaped defect, drift, and emergency-change rates.

RELIABILITY

Availability, latency, saturation, dependency health, recovery time, recovery point, and safe-degradation success.

SECURITY

Privilege exposure, policy denial, identity compromise, vulnerable dependency, detection coverage, response, and evidence completeness.

HUMAN OUTCOME

Task success, operator workload, accessibility, override, contestability, training, and user-impact measures.

LIFECYCLE

Version currency, unsupported component, exception age, migration readiness, restore exercise, and retirement completeness.

Release or expansion gate: mandatory acceptance criteria pass; failed safety, privacy, identity, recovery, evidence, or legal gates block promotion regardless of aggregate score.

SOURCE AUTHORITY REGISTER

CURRENT PRIMARY AND OFFICIAL REFERENCES

SOURCE 01 NIST SP 800-218, Secure Software Development Framework

<https://csrc.nist.gov/pubs/sp/800/218/final>

SOURCE 02 CISA Secure by Design

<https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/secure-by-design>

SOURCE 03 SLSA Specification 1.2

<https://slsa.dev/spec/v1.2/>

SOURCE 04 NIST AI Risk Management Framework 1.0 (revision in progress as of publication date)

<https://www.nist.gov/itl/ai-risk-management-framework>

SOURCE 05 NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 5

<https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.800-53r5>

SOURCE 06 OpenTelemetry Specification

<https://opentelemetry.io/docs/specs/>

Source currency note. Official frameworks, specifications, and implementation guidance evolve. Assessors must verify the current version, status, errata, applicability, and effective date at adoption and scheduled review. NIST AI RMF 1.0 was under revision at the publication date.

PUBLICATION CONTROL AND REVISION

PERMANENT IDENTITY / CONTROLLED EVOLUTION

PERMANENT DOCUMENT IDENTITY	RA-007
VERSION	1.0.0-candidate
PUBLICATION DATE	2026-07-24
SCHEDULED REVIEW	2027-01-24
STATUS	Candidate Reference Architecture
ARCHITECTURE SET	Canonical Set
CLASSIFICATION	Public
PUBLISHER	Mythos Systems

REVISION RECORD

1.0.0-candidate (2026-07-24) - Permanent-publication candidate edition regenerated under the Mythos Systems architecture publication system. Production sequence metadata is excluded from public identity.