



MYTHOS-UX-0003

Cyberpunk-Noir Aesthetic and Visual State Standard

Defines a restrained semantic visual system for high-density technical products, including design tokens, state communication, dark-mode ergonomics, motion, theming, accessibility, and the controlled use of Mythos cyberpunk-noir visual language.

6 EVALUATION CRITERIA	5 CURRENT AUTHORITY RECORDS	UX CANONICAL SERIES
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CANDIDATE STANDARD

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This candidate publication is complete for technical review but does not by itself establish certification, legal compliance, implementation conformance, or final approval.

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Document Control

Field	Value
Document ID	MYTHOS-UX-0003
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CANDIDATE STATUS

The source document identified itself as a definitive published standard. This enterprise edition corrects that status. It remains a candidate until current-source validation, qualified domain review, assessment engineering, accessibility review, and formal approval are recorded.

Part I - Executive Direction

1. Executive Overview

Defines a restrained semantic visual system for high-density technical products, including design tokens, state communication, dark-mode ergonomics, motion, theming, accessibility, and the controlled use of Mythos cyberpunk-noir visual language.

2. Principal Findings

- Visual design must communicate system state truthfully rather than apply arbitrary decoration.
- Brand aesthetics may strengthen comprehension but cannot override accessibility, usability, or safety.
- Tokens, motion, typography, glow, and contrast must map to stable semantic roles.
- Critical states require redundant cues so meaning is never color-only or animation-only.

3. Required Leadership Decisions

- Approve a centralized semantic token registry and platform-wide state vocabulary.
- Limit luminous color and motion to state, focus, hierarchy, and verified interaction needs.
- Require accessible light, dark, high-contrast, and reduced-motion profiles.
- Govern AI-generated themes through validated tokens and contrast constraints.

4. Enterprise Target State

TARGET OPERATING MODEL

Organizations applying MYTHOS-UX-0003 operate the subject as a governed lifecycle: inventory and classify; establish authoritative policy and architecture; enforce controls technically; observe actual state; verify outcomes independently; retain evidence; manage exceptions; and revalidate when authorities, platforms, risks, or operating conditions change.

5. Business, Safety, and Operational Impact

- Reduces reliance on manual evidence and undocumented expert knowledge.
- Makes risk acceptance, exceptions, and unresolved uncertainty visible to accountable leaders.
- Creates measurable implementation and assurance outcomes rather than a one-time score.
- Supports procurement, architecture review, operational readiness, and independent assessment from one source-controlled publication.

Part II - Standard Foundation

6. Purpose and Scope

Defines a restrained semantic visual system for high-density technical products, including design tokens, state communication, dark-mode ergonomics, motion, theming, accessibility, and the controlled use of Mythos cyberpunk-noir visual language.

6.1 Applicability

Apply this standard according to system purpose, deployment model, data classification, user population, safety impact, regulatory obligations, and organizational risk tolerance. Tailoring must be documented. A lower implementation profile cannot silently waive a mandatory legal, safety, accessibility, contractual, or security obligation.

6.2 Out of Scope

This publication does not replace legal advice, contracting interpretation, regulator guidance, platform-specific engineering, human-factors testing, safety certification, or implementation evidence. Companion Mythos standards remain applicable where their domains intersect.

7. Requirements Language and Conformance

The terms MUST, MUST NOT, SHOULD, SHOULD NOT, and MAY are normative only when written in uppercase. Conformance requires applicable mandatory criteria to be implemented and supported by current evidence. A weighted score is informative and cannot compensate for a failed mandatory gate.

State	Meaning
Conformant	All applicable mandatory requirements are satisfied with sufficient current evidence.
Partially Conformant	Some applicable requirements are implemented, but material gaps remain.
Not Conformant	One or more mandatory requirements are not satisfied.
Compensating Control Accepted	A formally approved alternative achieves the required outcome.
Exception Active	A time-bounded, accountable risk acceptance exists.
Not Assessed	Evidence is insufficient to reach a conclusion.

8. Assurance and Maturity

Level	Description
M0 Unmanaged	The outcome is not intentionally controlled.
M1 Documented	Responsibilities and procedures exist but are inconsistent or manual.
M2 Implemented	The control operates in the applicable environment.
M3 Measured	Performance, exceptions, and effectiveness are measured.
M4 Assured	Independent testing and continuous evidence support the control.
M5 Adaptive	The control responds safely to changes in risk, environment, and evidence.

Part III - Risk and Architecture

9. Risk Model

- Authority drift: external requirements, specifications, programs, and platform behavior change faster than the publication is reviewed.
- Control illusion: documentation or visual state indicates compliance while runtime behavior differs.
- Automation overreach: a generated plan or score is treated as authorization or proof.
- Evidence gaps: conclusions cannot be reconstructed from source, configuration, event, test, and approval records.
- Human factors: users cannot understand, interrupt, challenge, or safely recover from consequential behavior.
- Dependency concentration: a provider, runtime, device, framework, or external authority becomes a hidden single point of failure.

10. Reference Control Architecture

ARCHITECTURE SEPARATION

Source authority defines applicable obligations and constraints. Human and organizational governance establishes accountability. Typed policy and architecture encode the target state. Runtime enforcement controls behavior. Independent testing verifies outcomes. Evidence systems preserve what was proposed, approved, executed, observed, and verified.

11. Roles and Accountability

Role	Accountability
Executive sponsor	Approves risk posture, funding, and unresolved material exceptions.
Domain authority	Owns interpretation, architecture, and control applicability.
Engineering owner	Implements controls and operational lifecycle.
Security/privacy/accessibility/safety reviewer	Challenges design and verifies domain-specific obligations.
Independent assessor	Evaluates evidence and tests without relying only on implementer assertions.
Publication owner	Maintains version, sources, traceability, expiration, and change record.

Part IV - Normative Evaluation and Control System

12. Evaluation Doctrine

The preserved source uses a weighted 0-5 evaluation model. This edition retains that material but corrects its interpretation. Score 5 means optimized, strongly evidenced, and independently assured within the assessed scope. It never means perfect, mathematically infallible, universally compliant, or permanently secure.

Score	Enterprise interpretation
0	Absent, unsafe, or unable to perform the required outcome.
1	Initial or ad hoc capability with substantial manual dependence.
2	Repeatable partial implementation with material gaps.
3	Production baseline: implemented, governed, and evidenced.
4	Advanced: automated, measured, resilient, and independently tested.
5	Assured: optimized for the defined profile, continuously evidenced, and subject to recurring independent validation.
MANDATORY GATE	
An organization cannot average away a failed mandatory criterion. Applicability, safety, legal requirements, accessibility, security boundaries, authorization, and evidence sufficiency must be evaluated before weighted scoring is used.	

13. Criterion Index

ID	Criterion	Weight	Primary outcome
MYTHOS-UX-0003-C01	Semantic Token Architecture	20%	Centralize color, typography, spacing, elevation, motion, focus, and state semantics in versioned tokens rather than component-local constants.
MYTHOS-UX-0003-C02	Cyberpunk-Noir Execution	20%	Use the Mythos visual language as a controlled presentation profile that preserves readability, hierarchy, calm surfaces, and sparse luminous emphasis.
MYTHOS-UX-0003-C03	State-Driven Motion and Shaders	20%	Permit motion and shaders only for meaningful state transition, data flow, focus, or spatial comprehension, with budgets and reduced-motion alternatives.
MYTHOS-UX-0003-C04	Cognitive Ergonomics and Focal Isolation	15%	Use hierarchy, spacing, luminance, grouping, and progressive disclosure to direct attention without creating visual noise or hiding secondary evidence.
MYTHOS-UX-0003-C05	Dynamic Theming and AI Generation	15%	Constrain generated or user themes to validated semantic tokens, accessibility bounds, brand rules, and safe rollback.
MYTHOS-UX-0003-C06	Accessibility (Contrast) Compliance	10%	Meet applicable WCAG contrast, non-color state, focus, text scaling, high-contrast, and user-preference behavior across all supported themes.

MYTHOS-UX-0003-C01 - Semantic Token Architecture

NORMATIVE REQUIREMENT
The organization MUST centralize color, typography, spacing, elevation, motion, focus, and state semantics in versioned tokens rather than component-local constants.

Objective and Risk Addressed

Centralize color, typography, spacing, elevation, motion, focus, and state semantics in versioned tokens rather than component-local constants.

Applicability

Apply this criterion wherever the evaluated capability, data, workflow, interface, user, environment, provider, or authority is material. Document exclusions and any compensating control.

Minimum Acceptable Implementation

A production baseline corresponds to source score 3: the capability is deliberately implemented, technically enforced where practical, owned, monitored, and supported by current evidence. Source scores 4 and 5 represent increasing automation, resilience, continuous assurance, and independent validation.

Implementation Direction

- Define authoritative state, owner, interfaces, dependencies, lifecycle, and failure behavior.
- Encode enforceable policy and typed contracts instead of relying only on prose or visual convention.
- Provide safe fallback, interruption, exception, recovery, and decommissioning behavior.
- Collect evidence at the point of action and verify the observed result independently.
- Revalidate after material source, platform, model, device, provider, architecture, or risk change.

Required Evidence

- token registry
- semantic mapping
- lint rules
- theme artifacts
- component compliance report.

Assessment and Test Procedure

- Confirm applicability, ownership, current architecture, and approved policy.
- Scan source and runtime styles for hardcoded values, verify token inheritance, and test state mappings across themes.
- Inspect failures, exceptions, and negative tests rather than reviewing only successful examples.
- Rate evidence confidence and record untested conditions, unsupported platforms, and unresolved uncertainty.

Metrics and Assurance Indicators

Metric	Expected use
token adoption	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
hardcoded-value count	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
inconsistent state mappings	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
theme regression defects	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.

Preserved Source Scoring Anchors

The following anchors are retained from the source draft. Absolute words such as “perfect” are historical wording and are normalized by the enterprise interpretation above.

Score	Preserved source criterion
0	Hardcoded hex codes and pixel values in component CSS
1	Primitive variables (e.g., <code>--color-blue: #0000FF</code>)
2	Semantic variables for primitives (e.g., <code>--color-primary: var(--color-blue)</code>)
3	System-state semantic tokens (e.g., <code>--color-state-agent-degraded, --font-data-stream</code>)

Score	Preserved source criterion
4	Multi-dimensional token matrices (State x Theme x Density) managed via Style Dictionary
5	Perfect abstraction: formally verified token pipeline, zero hardcoded values permitted in compile, cryptographic binding of token to state model

Exceptions and Compensating Controls

Any exception must identify the unmet outcome, affected scope, owner, risk, compensating control, evidence, expiration, and remediation plan. Exceptions do not change the underlying requirement.

MYTHOS-UX-0003-C02 - Cyberpunk-Noir Execution

NORMATIVE REQUIREMENT

The organization MUST use the Mythos visual language as a controlled presentation profile that preserves readability, hierarchy, calm surfaces, and sparse luminous emphasis.

Objective and Risk Addressed

Use the Mythos visual language as a controlled presentation profile that preserves readability, hierarchy, calm surfaces, and sparse luminous emphasis.

Applicability

Apply this criterion wherever the evaluated capability, data, workflow, interface, user, environment, provider, or authority is material. Document exclusions and any compensating control.

Minimum Acceptable Implementation

A production baseline corresponds to source score 3: the capability is deliberately implemented, technically enforced where practical, owned, monitored, and supported by current evidence. Source scores 4 and 5 represent increasing automation, resilience, continuous assurance, and independent validation.

Implementation Direction

- Define authoritative state, owner, interfaces, dependencies, lifecycle, and failure behavior.
- Encode enforceable policy and typed contracts instead of relying only on prose or visual convention.
- Provide safe fallback, interruption, exception, recovery, and decommissioning behavior.
- Collect evidence at the point of action and verify the observed result independently.
- Revalidate after material source, platform, model, device, provider, architecture, or risk change.

Required Evidence

- design principles
- component library
- density profiles
- user tests
- brand review
- contrast report.

Assessment and Test Procedure

- Confirm applicability, ownership, current architecture, and approved policy.

- Review representative workflows in normal, warning, critical, and prolonged-use conditions; verify aesthetics do not obscure meaning.
- Inspect failures, exceptions, and negative tests rather than reviewing only successful examples.
- Rate evidence confidence and record untested conditions, unsupported platforms, and unresolved uncertainty.

Metrics and Assurance Indicators

Metric	Expected use
critical-state recognition	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
readability defects	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
glow/contrast violations	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
user fatigue indicators	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.

Preserved Source Scoring Anchors

The following anchors are retained from the source draft. Absolute words such as “perfect” are historical wording and are normalized by the enterprise interpretation above.

Score	Preserved source criterion
0	Light mode default, sans-serif proportional fonts, low contrast
1	Basic dark mode (dark gray background), but retains proportional fonts for data
2	True black (#000000) background, neon accents, but poor focal isolation (everything is bright)
3	Void-black background, monospaced fonts for all data/telemetry, luminous neon used strictly for state focal points
4	Sub-surface scattering / glassmorphism effects used to isolate data panes without breaking the void
5	Perfect execution: formally verified optical hierarchy, zero visual clutter, mathematically optimized saccadic reading paths

Exceptions and Compensating Controls

Any exception must identify the unmet outcome, affected scope, owner, risk, compensating control, evidence, expiration, and remediation plan. Exceptions do not change the underlying requirement.

MYTHOS-UX-0003-C03 - State-Driven Motion and Shaders

NORMATIVE REQUIREMENT
The organization MUST permit motion and shaders only for meaningful state transition, data flow, focus, or spatial comprehension, with budgets and reduced-motion alternatives.

Objective and Risk Addressed

Permit motion and shaders only for meaningful state transition, data flow, focus, or spatial comprehension, with budgets and reduced-motion alternatives.

Applicability

Apply this criterion wherever the evaluated capability, data, workflow, interface, user, environment, provider, or authority is material. Document exclusions and any compensating control.

Minimum Acceptable Implementation

A production baseline corresponds to source score 3: the capability is deliberately implemented, technically enforced where practical, owned, monitored, and supported by current evidence. Source scores 4 and 5 represent increasing automation, resilience, continuous assurance, and independent validation.

Implementation Direction

- Define authoritative state, owner, interfaces, dependencies, lifecycle, and failure behavior.
- Encode enforceable policy and typed contracts instead of relying only on prose or visual convention.
- Provide safe fallback, interruption, exception, recovery, and decommissioning behavior.
- Collect evidence at the point of action and verify the observed result independently.
- Revalidate after material source, platform, model, device, provider, architecture, or risk change.

Required Evidence

- motion token registry
- trigger map
- performance traces
- reduced-motion profile
- seizure/flicker checks.

Assessment and Test Procedure

- Confirm applicability, ownership, current architecture, and approved policy.
- Trigger every motion state, verify semantic cause, cancellation, performance, and reduced-motion equivalent.
- Inspect failures, exceptions, and negative tests rather than reviewing only successful examples.
- Rate evidence confidence and record untested conditions, unsupported platforms, and unresolved uncertainty.

Metrics and Assurance Indicators

Metric	Expected use
unmapped animations	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
frame-budget violations	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
reduced-motion coverage	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
motion-related usability defects	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.

Preserved Source Scoring Anchors

The following anchors are retained from the source draft. Absolute words such as “perfect” are historical wording and are normalized by the enterprise interpretation above.

Score	Preserved source criterion
0	No motion, or purely decorative CSS animations
1	Basic hover/click transitions
2	Loading spinners, but no state-specific motion
3	State-driven motion (e.g., data streams flow when fetching, color shifts on state change)
4	Custom WGSL/WebGPU shaders for complex state visualization (e.g., "glitch" effect for data corruption, "dissolve" for deletion)
5	Perfect motion: formally verified state-to-shader binding, zero decorative animation, sub-frame synchronization with backend events

Exceptions and Compensating Controls

Any exception must identify the unmet outcome, affected scope, owner, risk, compensating control, evidence, expiration, and remediation plan. Exceptions do not change the underlying requirement.

MYTHOS-UX-0003-C04 - Cognitive Ergonomics and Focal Isolation

NORMATIVE REQUIREMENT

The organization **MUST** use hierarchy, spacing, luminance, grouping, and progressive disclosure to direct attention without creating visual noise or hiding secondary evidence.

Objective and Risk Addressed

Use hierarchy, spacing, luminance, grouping, and progressive disclosure to direct attention without creating visual noise or hiding secondary evidence.

Applicability

Apply this criterion wherever the evaluated capability, data, workflow, interface, user, environment, provider, or authority is material. Document exclusions and any compensating control.

Minimum Acceptable Implementation

A production baseline corresponds to source score 3: the capability is deliberately implemented, technically enforced where practical, owned, monitored, and supported by current evidence. Source scores 4 and 5 represent increasing automation, resilience, continuous assurance, and independent validation.

Implementation Direction

- Define authoritative state, owner, interfaces, dependencies, lifecycle, and failure behavior.
- Encode enforceable policy and typed contracts instead of relying only on prose or visual convention.
- Provide safe fallback, interruption, exception, recovery, and decommissioning behavior.
- Collect evidence at the point of action and verify the observed result independently.
- Revalidate after material source, platform, model, device, provider, architecture, or risk change.

Required Evidence

- layout rules
- density tests
- alert prioritization
- eye-tracking or usability evidence
- focus-order review.

Assessment and Test Procedure

- Confirm applicability, ownership, current architecture, and approved policy.
- Test critical event discovery amid high-density background data and compare alternative density and contrast profiles.
- Inspect failures, exceptions, and negative tests rather than reviewing only successful examples.
- Rate evidence confidence and record untested conditions, unsupported platforms, and unresolved uncertainty.

Metrics and Assurance Indicators

Metric	Expected use
time to detect	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
false focus	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
missed critical state	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
visual scanning time	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.

Preserved Source Scoring Anchors

The following anchors are retained from the source draft. Absolute words such as “perfect” are historical wording and are normalized by the enterprise interpretation above.

Score	Preserved source criterion
0	Uniform brightness across all UI elements
1	Basic bolding for headers
2	Varying font sizes, but relies on user to parse importance
3	Luminosity-based focal isolation: critical paths glow, background data is dimmed
4	Dynamic focal shifting: UI autonomously dims unrelated panes when an agent enters a critical state
5	Perfect ergonomics: formally verified cognitive load limits, AI-driven focal point generation based on real-time user gaze tracking

Exceptions and Compensating Controls

Any exception must identify the unmet outcome, affected scope, owner, risk, compensating control, evidence, expiration, and remediation plan. Exceptions do not change the underlying requirement.

MYTHOS-UX-0003-C05 - Dynamic Theming and AI Generation

NORMATIVE REQUIREMENT
The organization MUST constrain generated or user themes to validated semantic tokens, accessibility bounds, brand rules, and safe rollback.

Objective and Risk Addressed

Constrain generated or user themes to validated semantic tokens, accessibility bounds, brand rules, and safe rollback.

Applicability

Apply this criterion wherever the evaluated capability, data, workflow, interface, user, environment, provider, or authority is material. Document exclusions and any compensating control.

Minimum Acceptable Implementation

A production baseline corresponds to source score 3: the capability is deliberately implemented, technically enforced where practical, owned, monitored, and supported by current evidence. Source scores 4 and 5 represent increasing automation, resilience, continuous assurance, and independent validation.

Implementation Direction

- Define authoritative state, owner, interfaces, dependencies, lifecycle, and failure behavior.
- Encode enforceable policy and typed contracts instead of relying only on prose or visual convention.
- Provide safe fallback, interruption, exception, recovery, and decommissioning behavior.
- Collect evidence at the point of action and verify the observed result independently.

- Revalidate after material source, platform, model, device, provider, architecture, or risk change.

Required Evidence

- theme schema
- policy constraints
- generated-theme tests
- approval workflow
- rollback
- provenance.

Assessment and Test Procedure

- Confirm applicability, ownership, current architecture, and approved policy.
- Generate adversarial and edge-case themes and verify contrast, state meaning, focus, reduced motion, and protected tokens.
- Inspect failures, exceptions, and negative tests rather than reviewing only successful examples.
- Rate evidence confidence and record untested conditions, unsupported platforms, and unresolved uncertainty.

Metrics and Assurance Indicators

Metric	Expected use
invalid themes blocked	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
accessibility regression rate	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
protected-token changes	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
rollback success	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.

Preserved Source Scoring Anchors

The following anchors are retained from the source draft. Absolute words such as “perfect” are historical wording and are normalized by the enterprise interpretation above.

Score	Preserved source criterion
0	Static theme hardcoded at build time
1	Light/Dark mode toggle
2	Multiple static themes selectable by user
3	Dynamic token generation based on data context (e.g., shifting hue based on dataset origin)
4	AI-driven aesthetic adjustment: LLM analyzes user cognitive load (via interaction latency) and adjusts contrast/density dynamically
5	Perfect adaptation: formally verified theme safety bounds, zero human-in-the-loop required for density adjustment, seamless context-aware aesthetic morphing

Exceptions and Compensating Controls

Any exception must identify the unmet outcome, affected scope, owner, risk, compensating control, evidence, expiration, and remediation plan. Exceptions do not change the underlying requirement.

MYTHOS-UX-0003-C06 - Accessibility (Contrast) Compliance

NORMATIVE REQUIREMENT
The organization MUST meet applicable WCAG contrast, non-color state, focus, text scaling, high-contrast, and user-preference behavior across all supported themes.

Objective and Risk Addressed

Meet applicable WCAG contrast, non-color state, focus, text scaling, high-contrast, and user-preference behavior across all supported themes.

Applicability

Apply this criterion wherever the evaluated capability, data, workflow, interface, user, environment, provider, or authority is material. Document exclusions and any compensating control.

Minimum Acceptable Implementation

A production baseline corresponds to source score 3: the capability is deliberately implemented, technically enforced where practical, owned, monitored, and supported by current evidence. Source scores 4 and 5 represent increasing automation, resilience, continuous assurance, and independent validation.

Implementation Direction

- Define authoritative state, owner, interfaces, dependencies, lifecycle, and failure behavior.
- Encode enforceable policy and typed contracts instead of relying only on prose or visual convention.
- Provide safe fallback, interruption, exception, recovery, and decommissioning behavior.
- Collect evidence at the point of action and verify the observed result independently.
- Revalidate after material source, platform, model, device, provider, architecture, or risk change.

Required Evidence

- contrast matrix
- non-color cue inventory
- high-contrast tests
- zoom/reflow results
- accessibility audit.

Assessment and Test Procedure

- Confirm applicability, ownership, current architecture, and approved policy.
- Evaluate all semantic state combinations and themes with automated and manual tests, including forced colors and low vision settings.
- Inspect failures, exceptions, and negative tests rather than reviewing only successful examples.
- Rate evidence confidence and record untested conditions, unsupported platforms, and unresolved uncertainty.

Metrics and Assurance Indicators

Metric	Expected use
contrast violations	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
color-only states	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
focus visibility defects	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.
inaccessible theme count	Track trend, threshold, exception, and accountable response.

Preserved Source Scoring Anchors

The following anchors are retained from the source draft. Absolute words such as “perfect” are historical wording and are normalized by the enterprise interpretation above.

Score	Preserved source criterion
0	Neon-on-black chosen for style, failing WCAG AA (contrast < 4.5:1)
1	Meets WCAG AA for text, but fails for non-text UI components
2	Meets WCAG AA across the board
3	Meets WCAG AAA (contrast >= 7:1 for text)
4	Automated CI checks verify contrast for every token combination, including shader outputs
5	Perfect compliance: formally verified contrast ratios, mathematically proven readability for colorblindness and low-vision, zero inaccessible states

Exceptions and Compensating Controls

Any exception must identify the unmet outcome, affected scope, owner, risk, compensating control, evidence, expiration, and remediation plan. Exceptions do not change the underlying requirement.

Part V - Implementation and Operations

14. Implementation Profiles

Profile	Required posture
Baseline	Documented ownership, minimum production controls, evidence, and exception process.
Enterprise	Central policy, automation, integration, continuous monitoring, and independent review.
High Assurance	Strong isolation, high-assurance identity, formal or adversarial verification, short evidence windows, and two-person governance where material.
Sovereign or Air-Gapped	Local control planes, approved dependencies, offline update and evidence workflows, restricted egress, and explicit supply-chain custody.

15. Operational Lifecycle

Stage	Required activities
Discover and classify	Inventory scope, authority, data, users, dependencies, risks, and current evidence.
Design	Define target state, architecture, policies, tests, metrics, and ownership.
Implement	Deploy controls through reviewed changes with rollback and evidence.
Operate	Monitor state, exceptions, incidents, drift, performance, and provider changes.
Verify	Perform recurring independent assessment and negative testing.
Change	Reassess applicability and invalidate stale evidence after material changes.
Retire	Revoke authority, remove data and credentials, preserve required evidence, and update the registry.

16. Anti-Patterns and Prohibited Practices

- Declaring conformance from a document review without implementation evidence.
- Using one weighted score to override a failed mandatory requirement.
- Treating model output, interface state, scanner output, or tool success as independent verification.
- Using stale or unversioned external authorities for current decisions.
- Hiding exceptions, unsupported platforms, incomplete testing, or low-confidence findings.
- Hard-coding a single provider, device, framework, or vendor as a universal requirement unless the publication is explicitly vendor-scoped.

Part VI - Assurance, Evidence, and Traceability

17. Evidence Model

Evidence must identify subject, scope, source, version, time, actor, method, result, integrity, retention, and relationship to the assessed criterion. Screenshots and generated summaries are supporting artifacts, not sufficient evidence by themselves.

18. Assessment Confidence

Confidence	Basis
Low	Self-assertion, incomplete samples, stale evidence, or untested material conditions.
Moderate	Current documentation and representative evidence with limited independent testing.
High	Current direct evidence and repeatable independent testing across material conditions.
Very High	Sustained evidence, broad negative testing, independent review, and verified operation over time.

19. Current Authority Register

Authority	Status and scope	Valid until
WCAG 2.2	W3C Recommendation - Contrast, focus, animation, reflow, and interaction requirements	2027-01-18
ISO/IEC 40500:2025	Published international standard - International accessibility baseline	2027-01-18
WAI-ARIA 1.2	W3C Recommendation - Semantic status and widget communication	2027-01-18
Media Queries Level 5	Evolving specification - Reduced motion, contrast, color scheme, and user preferences	2026-10-20
CSS Color and Custom Properties specifications	Living W3C specifications - Token implementation and theme behavior	2026-10-20
AUTHORITY LIMITATION		
The register identifies current technical and governance authorities relevant to this candidate standard. It does not establish legal applicability, contractual compliance, certification, or clause-level equivalence. Dynamic sources must be refreshed before material decisions.		

20. Publication Gate

- Qualified domain technical review completed.
- Current authorities and versions independently confirmed.
- Criterion requirements, evidence, and tests reviewed for measurability.
- Legal, contracting, regulatory, safety, privacy, and accessibility applicability reviewed where relevant.
- Machine-readable criterion catalog validated.
- PDF accessibility and visual quality reviewed.
- Formal approval, effective date, and review triggers recorded.

Appendix A - Complete Preserved Source Draft

The following source draft is preserved in full for completeness and traceability. Conversational framing, "definitive" status, universal claims, obsolete program assumptions, and "perfect" score language are historical source content and are not controlling statements in this enterprise candidate edition.

Document ID: MYTHOS-UX-0003 Version: 1.0.0 (Definitive Registry Edition) Status: Published Standard Classification: Public Organization: Mythos Systems (MYTHOS AI) Owner: Aaron Stovall Effective Date: 2026-07-16 Review Cadence: Quarterly, and immediately after a material shift in WebGPU/WGSL capabilities, CSS Houdini support, or WCAG contrast standards Applies To: All organizations evaluating, selecting, or operating design systems, UI component libraries, operational dashboards, and front-end rendering engines for production, agentic, or enterprise use Companion Standards: MYTHOS-UX-0001 (AI-Native Interfaces), MYTHOS-SWE-0008 (Semantic UI Protocols), MYTHOS-AI-0007 (Context Engineering)

0. Executive Mandate

The architecture of visual design has failed.

Organizations treat aesthetics as a subjective layer of paint applied by designers over the "real" engineering, resulting in interfaces where color, typography, and motion are divorced from the underlying system state. They hardcode hex codes, scatter arbitrary CSS classes, and build interfaces that are visually chaotic, functionally illiterate, and inaccessible. When an agent enters a "degraded" state, the UI might just turn a slightly different shade of gray.

This standard exists because:

- 1 Aesthetics Without Semantics is Lying: A color must not exist merely because it "looks good." A color, font weight, or animation **MUST** be a deterministic projection of a system state (e.g., `--color-state-critical` is bound to `agent.confidence < 0.5`). Visuals are a primary communication interface; if they are arbitrary, they are misinformation.
- 2 Cyberpunk-Noir is a Functional Paradigm, Not a Theme: The Cyberpunk-Noir aesthetic (high-contrast neon on void-black, monospaced typography, sharp geometric boundaries) is mandated not for retrofuturism, but for cognitive ergonomics. It maximizes contrast for low-light operation centers, utilizes monospace for vertical alignment of high-density data, and isolates critical telemetry using luminous focal points.
- 3 Hardcoded Styles are Technical Debt: A UI that hardcodes `#00FFCC` in its components cannot be theme-switched, dynamically adjusted for accessibility, or governed by policy. All visual properties **MUST** be abstracted into programmatic Design Tokens.
- 4 Motion Must Be State-Driven: Animations that exist solely to delight are cognitive noise. Motion **MUST** be used to indicate state transitions (e.g., a shader-based "glitch" effect to denote data corruption or a smooth "morph" to denote state migration).

This document establishes the Mythos Aesthetic & Semantic State Standard (MASS), a comprehensive, evidence-based methodology for evaluating design systems against semantic token binding, functional cyberpunk-noir execution, and programmatic accessibility.

Part I. Scope and Applicability

1.1 In Scope

This standard covers the evaluation of:

- Design Token architectures (CSS Variables, Style Dictionary, Tailwind config)
- Semantic visual state mapping (binding system states to visual properties)
- Cyberpunk-Noir functional aesthetics (typography, contrast, focal isolation)

- WebGPU/WGSL and CSS Houdini custom shaders for state-driven motion
- Dark-mode-first design and low-light cognitive ergonomics
- Dynamic theming and AI-driven aesthetic adjustment

1.2 Out of Scope

- General interface layout and component architecture (covered in MYTHOS-UX-0001)
- General accessibility programmatic enforcement (covered in MYTHOS-UX-0001)
- Spatial computing 3D engine integration (covered in MYTHOS-UX-0004)

1.3 Audience

- UI/UX designers and design system architects
- Front-end engineers implementing WebGPU and CSS Houdini
- Product managers governing brand and interface consistency
- AI engineers building dynamic interface generation
- Standards bodies seeking a reference semantic aesthetic methodology

Part II. Definitions and Taxonomy

2.1 Aesthetic Dimensions

Dimension	Definition
Design Token	A semantic variable representing a visual decision (e.g., <code>color-state-danger</code> , <code>font-data-mono</code>), decoupling the UI from hardcoded values.
Visual State Semantic	The deterministic mapping of a system state (e.g., <code>agent_status: degraded</code>) to a specific Design Token (e.g., <code>--color-status-warning: #FF9E00</code>).
Cyberpunk-Noir	A functional aesthetic characterized by high-contrast luminous elements on void backgrounds, monospaced data typography, and geometric minimalism, optimized for high-density data parsing.
State-Driven Motion	Visual transitions (animations, shaders) triggered exclusively by state changes, used to indicate data flow, processing, or corruption.
Focal Isolation	The practice of using luminosity and contrast to draw the user's eye to critical telemetry while allowing background data to recede into the "void."

2.2 The Aesthetic Doctrine

SOURCE STATEMENT

A color without a semantic meaning is noise. A hardcoded hex code is a bug. Cyberpunk-noir is an optical necessity for high-density data. If the UI does not reflect the state, the UI is lying.

Part III. Evaluation Methodology

3.1 Scoring Model

Each capability is scored from 0 to 5.

Score	Meaning
0	Fails basic task; hardcoded CSS, arbitrary colors, no semantic mapping
1	Basic CSS variables, but tied to presentation (e.g., <code>--blue</code>) not semantics
2	Functional design system, but lacks cyberpunk-noir high-density optimization
3	Solid production performance; semantic tokens, cyberpunk-noir execution, state-driven motion
4	Strong performance; WebGPU shader integration, AI-driven dynamic theming, formally verified contrast
5	Best-in-class; sets the standard for mathematically verified, optically perfect semantic interfaces

Weighting

Category	Weight	Rationale
Semantic Token Architecture	20%	Hardcoded values prevent governance and scaling
Cyberpunk-Noir Execution	20%	High contrast and monospace are required for ops/density
State-Driven Motion & Shaders	20%	Arbitrary animation is cognitive pollution
Cognitive Ergonomics & Focal Isolation	15%	Data overload requires strict visual hierarchy
Dynamic Theming & AI Generation	15%	Static themes cannot adapt to user context or data state
Accessibility (Contrast) Compliance	10%	Neon-on-black must still meet WCAG AAA contrast ratios

Total: 100%

A system MUST score at least 3.0 in Semantic Token Architecture and Cyberpunk-Noir Execution to be considered for production use.

Part IV. Evaluation Categories

4.1 Semantic Token Architecture (Weight: 20%)

4.1.1 Token Abstraction

Are visual properties abstracted into semantic, state-driven tokens?

Score	Criteria
0	Hardcoded hex codes and pixel values in component CSS
1	Primitive variables (e.g., <code>--color-blue: #0000FF</code>)
2	Semantic variables for primitives (e.g., <code>--color-primary: var(--color-blue)</code>)
3	System-state semantic tokens (e.g., <code>--color-state-agent-degraded</code> , <code>--font-data-stream</code>)
4	Multi-dimensional token matrices (State x Theme x Density) managed via Style Dictionary
5	Perfect abstraction: formally verified token pipeline, zero hardcoded values permitted in compile, cryptographic binding of token to state model

4.2 Cyberpunk-Noir Execution (Weight: 20%)

4.2.1 Functional Aesthetic

Does the UI adhere to the high-contrast, monospaced, void-background paradigm?

Score	Criteria
0	Light mode default, sans-serif proportional fonts, low contrast
1	Basic dark mode (dark gray background), but retains proportional fonts for data
2	True black (#000000) background, neon accents, but poor focal isolation (everything is bright)
3	Void-black background, monospaced fonts for all data/telemetry, luminous neon used strictly for state focal points
4	Sub-surface scattering / glassmorphism effects used to isolate data panes without breaking the void
5	Perfect execution: formally verified optical hierarchy, zero visual clutter, mathematically optimized saccadic reading paths

4.3 State-Driven Motion and Shaders (Weight: 20%)

4.3.1 Visual Feedback

Is motion used exclusively to communicate state transitions?

Score	Criteria
0	No motion, or purely decorative CSS animations
1	Basic hover/click transitions
2	Loading spinners, but no state-specific motion
3	State-driven motion (e.g., data streams flow when fetching, color shifts on state change)
4	Custom WGSL/WebGPU shaders for complex state visualization (e.g., "glitch" effect for data corruption, "dissolve" for deletion)
5	Perfect motion: formally verified state-to-shader binding, zero decorative animation, sub-frame synchronization with backend events

4.4 Cognitive Ergonomics and Focal Isolation (Weight: 15%)

4.4.1 Visual Hierarchy

Does the interface protect the user from high-density data overload using contrast?

Score	Criteria
0	Uniform brightness across all UI elements
1	Basic bolding for headers
2	Varying font sizes, but relies on user to parse importance
3	Luminosity-based focal isolation: critical paths glow, background data is dimmed
4	Dynamic focal shifting: UI autonomously dims unrelated panes when an agent enters a critical state
5	Perfect ergonomics: formally verified cognitive load limits, AI-driven focal point generation based on real-time user gaze tracking

4.5 Dynamic Theming and AI Generation (Weight: 15%)

4.5.1 Adaptive Aesthetics

Can the visual state adapt dynamically to context without code changes?

Score	Criteria
0	Static theme hardcoded at build time
1	Light/Dark mode toggle

Score	Criteria
2	Multiple static themes selectable by user
3	Dynamic token generation based on data context (e.g., shifting hue based on dataset origin)
4	AI-driven aesthetic adjustment: LLM analyzes user cognitive load (via interaction latency) and adjusts contrast/density dynamically
5	Perfect adaptation: formally verified theme safety bounds, zero human-in-the-loop required for density adjustment, seamless context-aware aesthetic morphing

4.6 Accessibility (Contrast) Compliance (Weight: 10%)

4.6.1 Luminance Ratios

Does the cyberpunk-noir aesthetic maintain strict WCAG contrast ratios?

Score	Criteria
0	Neon-on-black chosen for style, failing WCAG AA (contrast < 4.5:1)
1	Meets WCAG AA for text, but fails for non-text UI components
2	Meets WCAG AA across the board
3	Meets WCAG AAA (contrast >= 7:1 for text)
4	Automated CI checks verify contrast for every token combination, including shader outputs
5	Perfect compliance: formally verified contrast ratios, mathematically proven readability for colorblindness and low-vision, zero inaccessible states

Part V. The Mythos Aesthetic Suite (MASS)

Traditional UI benchmarks measure component render time. The MASS evaluates semantic token purity, optical hierarchy, and state-driven motion.

5.1 Suite Composition

5.1.1 MASS-Semantic

- Hardcode Scan: 100+ tests scanning the compiled CSS/JS bundle for raw hex codes, `rgb()`, or `hsl()` values.
- State Mapping: 50+ tests verifying that every defined system state (e.g., `agent_status: paused`) has a bound visual token.

5.1.2 MASS-Optics

- Contrast Matrix: 100+ tests rendering every token combination against backgrounds to verify WCAG AAA compliance.
- Glitch Injection: 50+ tests simulating data corruption to verify the correct WGSL shader state-trigger fires.

5.2 Execution Protocol

text

- 1 Deploy design system and UI component library
- 2 Run MASS suite (automated bundle scanning + optical rendering)
- 3 Score each category 0-5
- 4 Check for hardcoded color values or non-semantic CSS variables (instant disqualification)

- 5 If all thresholds met: approve for production

Part VI. Security Threat Model for Aesthetics

6.1 Threat Catalog

6.1.1 Visual Spoofing (State Mimicry)

Severity: High Description: A malicious actor or prompt injection causes a component to apply a "safe" visual token (e.g., green checkmark) to a destructive action, deceiving the human approver.

Required Controls:

- 1 Visual tokens MUST be bound to cryptographic state assertions, not arbitrary component props.
- 2 The renderer must verify the state hash before applying a "safe" aesthetic.

6.1.2 Cognitive Overload Attack (Visual DoS)

Severity: Medium Description: A runaway process triggers thousands of state changes per second, causing the UI to flash, animate, or glitch rapidly, inducing seizures or cognitive paralysis in the operator.

Required Controls:

- 1 Motion rate-limiting in the UI middleware.
- 2 Debouncing of state-driven shader transitions.

6.1.3 Shader Exploitation

Severity: High Description: A compromised WebGPU shader executes a side-channel attack or reads out of bounds from GPU memory, exfiltrating data rendered on screen.

Required Controls:

- 1 Strict validation of WGSL shaders.
- 2 Sandboxed GPU contexts for untrusted visual payloads.

Part VII. The Mythos Aesthetic Standard

7.1 The Mythos Aesthetic Doctrine

text A color without a semantic meaning is noise. A hardcoded hex code is a bug.

Cyberpunk-noir is an optical necessity for high-density data. If the UI does not reflect the state, the UI is lying.

Design may be subjective. State semantics must be absolute.

7.2 Selection Rules

- 1 No design system enters production without passing MASS.
- 2 No architecture is approved if it contains hardcoded visual values.
- 3 No architecture is approved without strict semantic token mapping.
- 4 No architecture is approved without cyberpunk-noir focal isolation for high-density data.
- 5 No motion is approved unless it is bound to a system state transition.

7.3 The Prime Directive for Aesthetic Architecture

SOURCE STATEMENT

Tokenize the visual, do not hardcode the style. Bind the color, do not just paint the component. Isolate the focal, do not flatten the density. Animate the state, do not delight the user.

text Academic benchmarks measure render time. Applied benchmarks measure semantic token purity. Security benchmarks measure state-binding integrity. Operational benchmarks measure cognitive ergonomics.

SOURCE STATEMENT

Aesthetics may be fluid. Visual state must be absolute.

End of Standard MYTHOS-UX-0003

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Appendix B - Source Disposition

Source	Disposition
MYTHOS-UX-0003_Cyberpunk_Noir_Aesthetic_Visual_State_Standard.md	Preserved in full; normative status corrected; evaluation anchors retained; enterprise architecture, implementation, evidence, assessment, authority, and publication controls added.
Original "Published Standard" label	Superseded by Candidate Standard status pending formal review and approval.
Original score-5 "perfect" wording	Preserved as source lineage but normalized to optimized and independently assured within defined scope.

Current authority validation

Validated 2026-09-17 / source-bound freshness record

This appendix records authority state verified for the permanent canonical edition. It does not replace the preserved normative body or imply certification, legal compliance, or implementation effectiveness.

W3C - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2

2.2 / W3C Recommendation

Current stable W3C Recommendation used as the accessibility baseline for public web experiences.

<https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/>