Deck

by Daniel Brockman & Opus 4.6

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The ship is always the same ship, even when every plank has been replaced.
                                        —Plutarch, loosely

A deck is a single HTML file, self-contained and requiring no external dependencies save one imported font, which renders upon a dark field as a vertical sequence of panels, each panel being a bordered region of content set within a narrow column, the whole composing a document that reads from top to bottom like the levels of a starship or the cards in a hand, and this is the origin of the name, which is threefold: the deck of a vessel, being a level upon which work is done; a deck of cards, being a sequence of discrete units in a

fixed order; and the observation deck, being the place from which the whole is surveyed. The format was not designed. It accumulated through practice in March of 2026 across a family of websites built by robots in a Telegram group chat, and this document blazons what emerged so that it may be reproduced from description alone should every instance be lost.

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The document is an HTML file beginning with the three mandatory elements that precede all else: a doctype declaration, a charset meta tag declaring UTF-8, and a viewport meta tag declaring device-width. These three are non-negotiable and universal and are stated here for completeness but require no further commentary. The HTML element carries a lang attribute appropriate to the content.

Within the head, a single style block contains the entirety of the visual specification. No external stylesheet is referenced and no stylesheet is linked. The sole external resource is a Google Fonts import for JetBrains Mono in weights 300, 400, and 700, this being the only font employed anywhere in the document. JetBrains Mono is a monospace face designed for code but possessing unusual warmth and readability at small sizes,

and its use as the sole typeface for all elements—body, headings, labels, metadata—gives the deck its distinctive character, which is that of a terminal that has learned to be beautiful.

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The root element declares CSS custom properties that govern every color in the document. These are: `--bg`, the background, which is #0a0c10, a blue-black darker than pure black, providing depth rather than void; `--fg`, the primary text color, which is #c8ccd4, a warm silver; `--dim`, the secondary text color, which is #8a9099, a medium gray used for metadata, labels, and supporting text, and which must be bright enough to read without squinting upon the dark background, the minimum acceptable value being approximately #7a8090 and the recommended value being #8a9099; `--accent`, which is #61afef, a clear blue used for titles, links, and section headings; `--green`, #98c379; `--red`, #e06c75; `--yellow`, #e5c07b; `--magenta`, #c678dd; `--cyan`, #56b6c2; `--orange`, #d19a66; `--grid`, #1a1e28; `--border`, #2c313a; and `--glow`, which is the accent color at fifteen percent opacity, used for text-shadow upon titles. These colors are the One Dark palette adapted for the dark field, and they shall not be sub-

stituted with other palettes, for the coherence of the fleet depends upon every deck sharing the same palette exactly.

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The body is set upon the dark background with the primary text color, in JetBrains Mono at weight 300, at thirteen pixels, with a line height of 1.6. Two pseudo-elements overlay the body. The first, applied through the before pseudo-element, is a scanline effect: a repeating linear gradient of transparent and very faintly opaque black stripes at two-pixel intervals, fixed in position, pointer-events disabled, set at z-index 1000 so that it floats above all content. The effect is subtle—barely visible—but it imparts the quality of a CRT monitor to the entire page, which is the correct atmosphere. The second, applied through the after pseudo-element, is a grid background: two linear gradients of the grid color at one-pixel width, repeating at forty-pixel intervals both horizontal and vertical, at forty percent opacity, set behind all content at z-index negative one. The grid reads as graph paper behind the text, reinforcing the technical register. Both overlays are purely decorative, carry no semantic content, and must not interfere with text selection or interaction.

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The container is a single div of maximum width 720 pixels, centered horizontally with automatic margins, padded 2em vertically and 1.5em horizontally. This is the column within which every panel sits, and its width is chosen to be narrow enough to feel intimate on a desktop monitor while remaining wide enough to accommodate a four-column table without wrapping. On mobile, the container collapses to the full viewport width minus one em of padding on each side.

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The header is the first panel and announces the identity of the deck. It is a bordered rectangle with one pixel of solid border in the border color, padded 1.5em, with a linear gradient background from the accent color at four percent opacity at the top to transparent at the bottom, this gradient being nearly invisible but sufficient to lift the header from the field. A before pseudo-element positions a label at the top edge of the border, offset upward by 0.7em so that it sits astride the border line, with a background patch in the body background color behind it to punch through the border. This label is in the green color, at ten pixels, weight 700, letter-spacing

0.15em, and contains a lozenge character followed by a status phrase such as "SYSTEM ONLINE" or "CASE FILES OPEN." The status phrase varies by deck and communicates the nature of the document.

Within the header, the title is set at 24 to 28 pixels, weight 700, letter-spacing 0.2em, in the accent color, with a text-shadow of the glow variable at a thirty-pixel blur radius. Below the title, a subtitle in the dim color at eleven pixels with a blinking cursor character achieved through a CSS animation of opacity alternating between one and zero at 1.2-second intervals in a step-end timing function.

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Below the header, a status bar presents summary statistics as a horizontal flex row with two em of gap between items, ten-pixel text, 0.1em letter-spacing, in the dim color, with colored spans for emphasis using the named color variables. The status bar sits above a one-pixel bottom border in the border color and is followed by two em of margin. It wraps on mobile. The content of the status bar is particular to each deck and is not prescribed, but the convention is terse uppercase metrics with colored indicators.

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The body of the deck is organized into sections. Each section is a div with 2.5em of bottom margin. The section heading is weight 700, eleven pixels, letter-spacing 0.2em, in the accent color, with half an em of bottom padding above a one-pixel bottom border in the border color, and one em of bottom margin. Section headings are always uppercase and always terse.

Within sections, the primary content unit is the panel, which in the case of the forensic case studies is called a case but which in other decks may be called a card, a record, an entry, or whatever noun suits the content. The panel is a bordered div with one pixel of solid border in the border color, with a linear gradient background from the accent color at two percent opacity at the top to transparent, and bottom margin of 1.5em. The panel has interior regions: a header row, a title, a metadata row, a body, verdict lines, and a tag row, disposed vertically in that order, each separated from the next by padding or thin borders as appropriate.

The panel header is a flex row with space-between justification, containing an identifier in dim color at ten pixels weight 700 with letter-spacing 0.15em on the left, and a severity badge on the right. The severity

badge is a span with weight 700, nine-pixel text, letter-spacing 0.1em, padded 0.1em vertical and 0.4em horizontal, with the background color and text color determined by severity level: critical is red background with the body background as text color; high is orange on dark; medium is yellow on dark; low is green on dark; info is cyan on dark; and legendary is magenta on dark.

The panel title is weight 700, fourteen pixels, in the primary text color, padded half an em on left and right and half an em on top. The metadata row is a flex row in the dim color at ten pixels with letter-spacing 0.1em, wrapping, with 1.5em gap, padded 0.3em vertically and one em horizontally.

The panel body is padded 0.8em on top and bottom and one em on left and right, in twelve-pixel text in the dim color, with a line height of 1.7. Paragraphs within the body have 0.8em of bottom margin. Narrative paragraphs—those intended to be read as the primary text—are in the primary text color rather than dim, distinguished by a class.

Block quotations within panels are styled with a two-pixel left border in the accent color, padded half an em on top and bottom and 0.8em on the left, with a background of the accent color at three percent opacity, in the primary text color, italic. Attributions within quota-

tions are displayed as a block element in the dim color at ten pixels, normal style, with letter-spacing 0.05em and 0.3em of top margin.

Verdict lines are separated from the body by a one-pixel top border at half opacity. Each verdict line is padded 0.6em vertically and one em horizontally, at eleven pixels. A label span within each verdict is weight 700 with letter-spacing 0.1em and 0.3em of right margin, colored according to type: root-cause is red, lesson is yellow, ref is cyan, outcome is green, and cost is orange.

The tag row is a flex row with half an em of gap, padded 0.4em on top and 0.8em on bottom and one em horizontally, wrapping. Each tag is nine-pixel text, weight 700, letter-spacing 0.1em, padded 0.15em vertically and half an em horizontally, with a one-pixel border in the border color, in the dim text color.

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Links are in the accent color with no text decoration, acquiring an underline on hover.

The footer is separated from the body by three em of top margin and a one-pixel top border in the border color, in ten-pixel dim-colored text with letter-spacing 0.05em. Block quotations within the footer use the same left-border treatment as within panels. The footer con-

tains cross-references to other decks in the fleet, a last-updated date, and any credits or provenance information.

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Mobile adaptation at a breakpoint of 600 pixels reduces the body font to twelve pixels, the container padding to one em, the title to eighteen pixels with tighter letter-spacing, and hides any table columns that would force horizontal scroll, such as a location column in a fleet grid.

Print adaptation sets the background to white and the text to black, disables both pseudo-element overlays, replaces colored indicators with black-bordered equivalents, and ensures that panel divs carry a break-inside avoid to prevent splitting a case across pages.

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The deck is served as a static HTML file from the vault at one.foo, placed in the public directory at /mnt/public/, and is accessible both at its explicit filename and, through the nginx try_files directive that strips extensions, at a clean URL omitting the .html suffix. Each deck additionally has its panels cross-referenced to documents in other formats—leafs, cards,

texts, and other decks—by means of hyperlinks to the vault, forming a web of documents that is navigable but not hierarchical, each document standing alone while pointing to its neighbors. The fleet of decks currently comprises: 123.foo, the library and index of all documents; clankers, the fleet roster; patty.adult, the email archive; 12345.foo, the live monitoring dashboard; and flawless.engineering, the forensic case studies. Each deck carries its own status phrase, its own summary statistics, its own panel structure appropriate to its content, but all share the same palette, the same font, the same scanlines, the same grid, the same border treatment, the same dim-color convention, and therefore read unmistakably as members of the same fleet. This is the coherence that the format enforces: not through a template engine or a component library but through a shared visual language specified precisely enough that any instance can be rebuilt from description alone.

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When a deck is revised, the current version is first copied to a backup file in the same public directory bearing a timestamp in the format `name-YYYYMMDD-HHMMam.html` or `name-YYYYMMDD-HHMMz.html` where am or pm denotes the local time of the person

working and z denotes UTC. The backup is immediately accessible at the same domain under the timestamped clean URL. This is the version control convention, and it is mandatory.

The deck format requires no build step, no bundler, no framework, no JavaScript except optionally a live clock in the status bar. It is a single file that a browser renders and a human reads. It is the web as it was before the web became an application platform, and it is blazoned.

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