

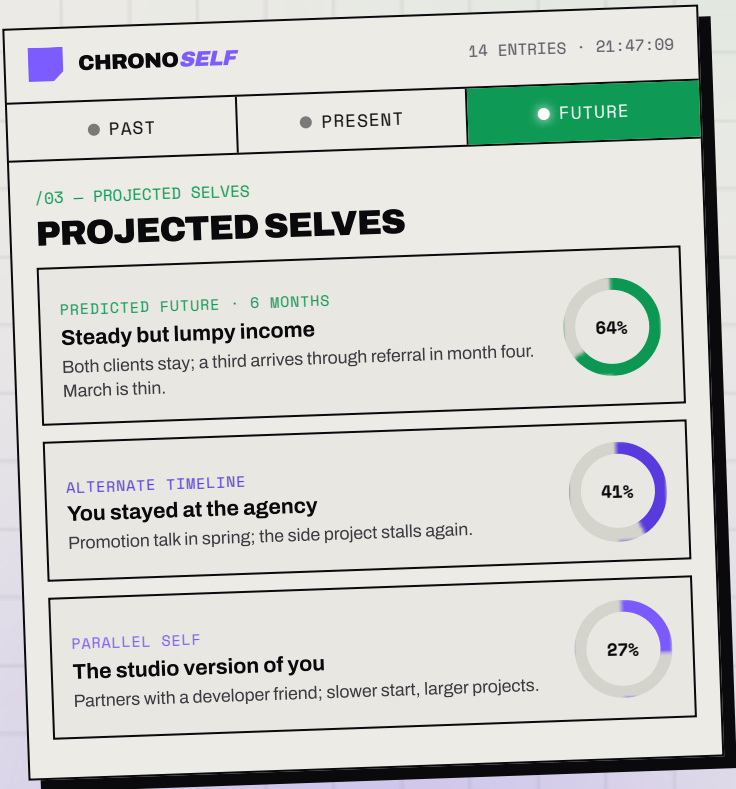


// SYS · TEMPORAL JOURNAL · v1

CHRONOSELF

write now · meet your futures

Designing a journal that looks forward: anchor a thought today, and an AI engine simulates your predicted futures, alternate timelines and parallel selves — visualised as a map of ideas and outcomes.



ROLE

Product · UX/UI · Front-end

TEAM

Solo

PLATFORM

Web app · mobile-first

LIVE

chronoself.xyz

/01 – OVERVIEW

A DIARY THAT WRITES BACK FROM THE FUTURE.

Journals are rear-view mirrors. They help us process what happened, but rarely help us think about what our choices could lead to.

CHRONOSELF flips the journal around a time axis. The interface is split into three eras — **Past, Present, Future**. You write in the present, the archive keeps everything anchored in time, and the future fills with simulations the AI generates from your own words.

I designed the concept, the era navigation, the cyber-brutalist visual language, the loading and audio moments, the AI prompts, and built it as a single HTML file with IndexedDB storage.

THE CHALLENGE

Make AI "futures" feel like reflection tools rather than fortune-telling — and keep a speculative concept usable on a phone.

THE ANSWER

A spatial past/present/future model, three clearly-labelled simulation types with probabilities, and analytics about the substance of ideas rather than the volume of writing.

TIMELINE

2026 · iterative

AUDIENCE

Reflective planners

STACK

Single file · IndexedDB · Groq

AUDIO

Tone.js

3

Eras — the whole navigation model

3

Simulation types: future, alternate, parallel

5

Idea metrics, from themes to sentiment

0

Accounts — entries stay on the device

/02 — PROBLEM SPACE

WE DECIDE FORWARD, BUT JOURNAL BACKWARD.

Proto-personas drawn from the brief and the decision-journaling practice — hypotheses, not interview data.



Lena, 31
Designer · weighing a career move

"I keep rewriting the same pros-and-cons list."

GOALS

- See where each option might lead
- Notice her own patterns over time

FRUSTRATIONS

- Journals feel like venting, not thinking
- Chatbots answer, they don't reflect



Tomás, 45
Founder · keeps a decision log

No forward view

Traditional journals capture feelings but give nothing back to help imagine consequences.

AI overreach

"Predictions" can sound authoritative. The design has to keep them clearly hypothetical.

Vanity analytics

Word counts and streaks measure writing, not thinking — they say nothing about the ideas.

How might we help people **think through possible futures** without pretending to predict them?

/03 – PRINCIPLES & PROCESS

FIVE RULES, MANY SMALL LOOPS.

01

Time is the interface

Navigation is a timeline: Past, Present, Future — nothing else to learn.

02

Speculation, labelled

Every simulation shows its type and a probability, never a single "truth".

03

Measure ideas, not typing

Metrics describe themes, outlook and horizon — what you think, not how much.

04

Waiting is a moment

AI generation is staged and narrated so the pause feels intentional.

05

Private by default

Entries live in IndexedDB on the device; only the text being simulated is sent.

AESTHETIC

Cyber-brutalism

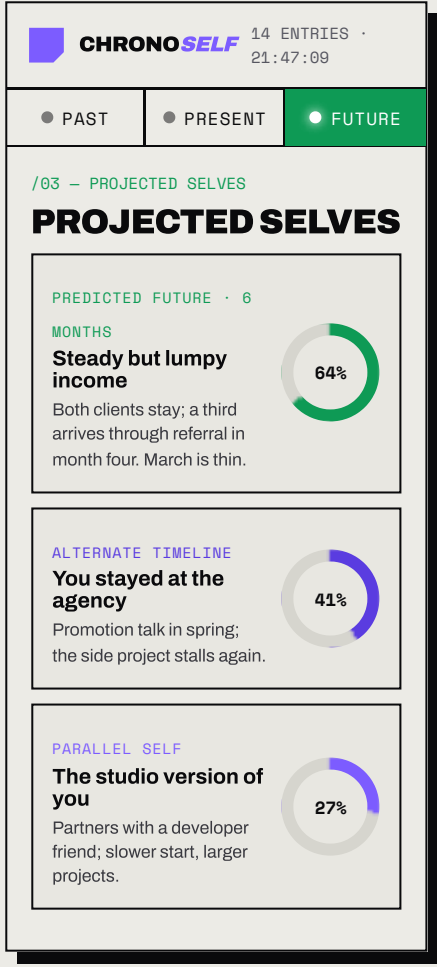
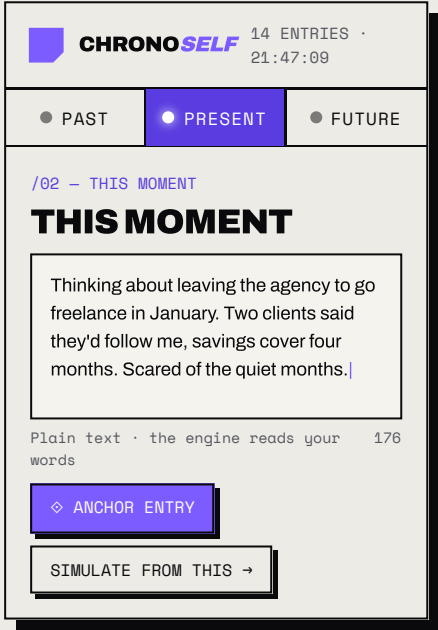
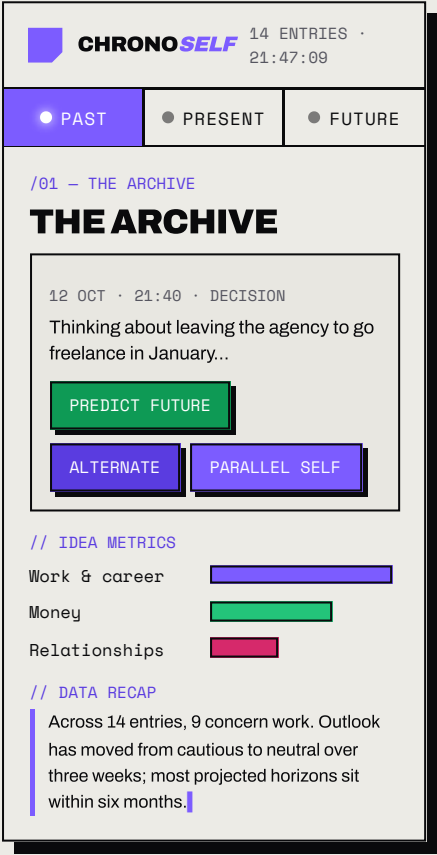
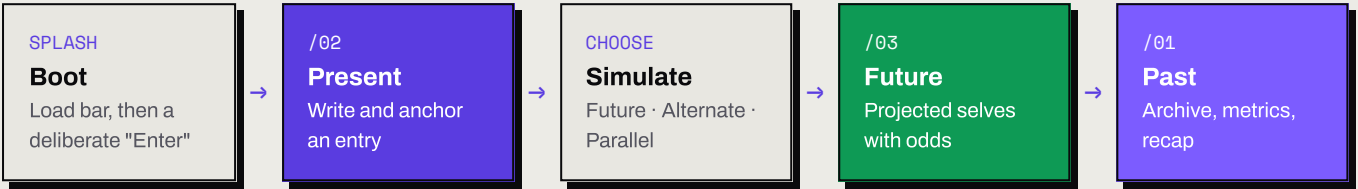
Paper, ink, hard shadows — calm enough to write in, sharp enough to feel new.

ITERATION LOG – WHAT CHANGED AND WHY

Metrics	CHANGED Dashboard moved from entry stats to themes, projected outcomes, outlook, horizon and sentiment.	WHY "14 entries" says nothing; "work dominates, outlook improving" does.
Archive	CHANGED Entries moved above the dashboard; recurring-themes panel removed.	WHY People come back for their words first, analysis second.
Tabs	CHANGED Active era fills with its colour; inactive tabs stay quiet.	WHY Tinted text was too subtle on paper — state must be unmistakable.
Mobile	FIXED Entry buttons needed a long press; hover states ate the first tap.	WHY Hover gated to pointer devices; touch-action and delegated taps.
Loader	FIXED A race condition overwrote the loader with the old results.	WHY A "simulating" state guards the Future view until results land.

/04 – EXPERIENCE ARCHITECTURE

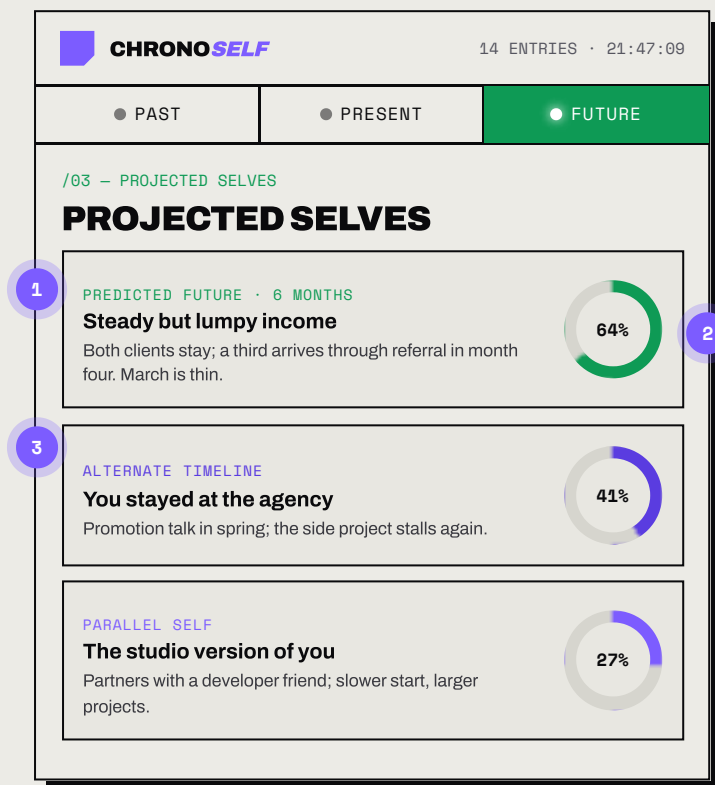
WRITE NOW, MEET YOUR FUTURES.



Each era owns a colour – violet (past), deep violet (present), emerald (future) – used for its tab, its accents and its charts.

/05 — KEY SCREENS

FROM ONE THOUGHT TO THREE FUTURES.

**1 Type before content**

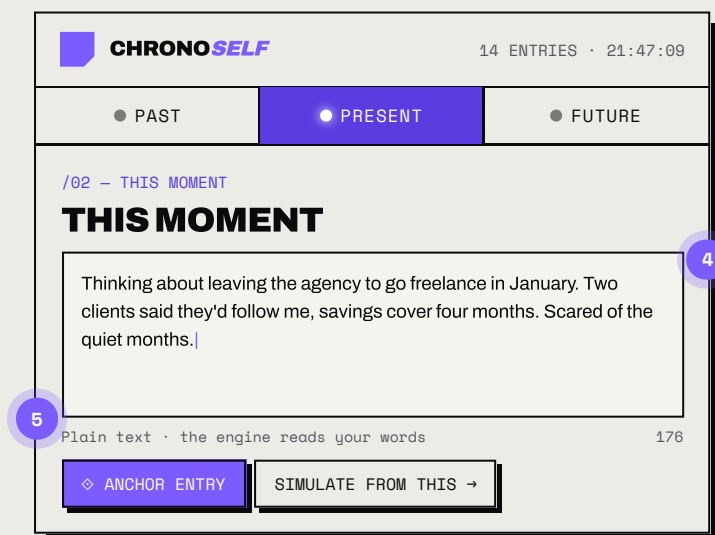
Every card opens with its kind and horizon — "Predicted future · 6 months" — so it reads as a scenario, not a verdict.

2 Probability ring

A filled ring makes uncertainty visible and comparable at a glance.

3 Counterfactuals

Alternate timelines ask "what if I'd chosen differently?" — the reflection most journals can't offer.

**4 "The richer the entry..."**

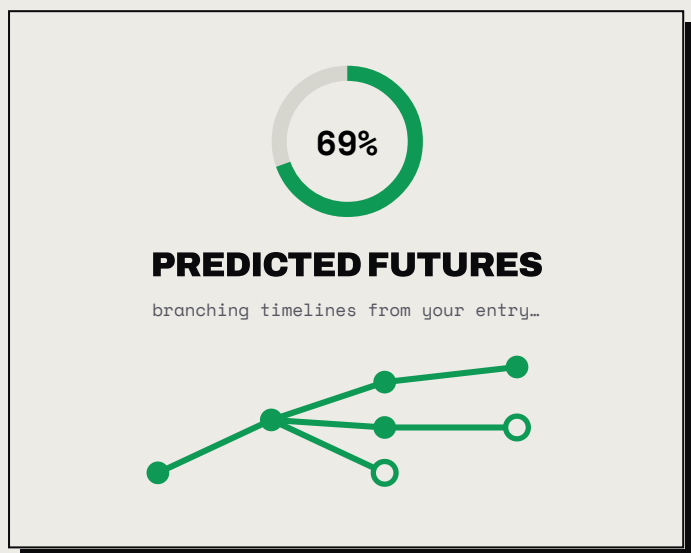
Copy coaches better input: decisions, worries and plans give sharper simulations.

5 Anchor, then simulate

Saving and simulating are separate, so writing never feels like prompting a machine.

/06 — DEEP DIVE • THE WAIT

TURNING LATENCY INTO RITUAL.



AI simulations take seconds. A spinner makes that feel broken; a narrated process makes it feel like the engine is thinking about you.

Progress ring with a promise

The ring fills toward 92% while waiting, then completes to 100% and holds for half a second before results appear — a clear success beat.

Kind-aware status lines

Each simulation type narrates its own stages — futures "fold probability space", parallel selves "resolve" — so the wait explains the feature.

A growing branch

A node graph grows from a trunk into forks in the era's colour, previewing the shape of the answer.

SOUND DESIGN • TONE.JS

ENTER

A power-on flourish when leaving the splash.

CLICKS

Short futuristic blips on interactive elements.

COMPLETE

An ethereal chime when simulations land.

TOASTS

Distinct tones for success and error states.

/07 — DEEP DIVE • HONEST ANALYTICS

METRICS ABOUT IDEAS, NOT ABOUT TYPING.

BEFORE • DATA-ENTRY STATS

Entries logged	14
Average words per entry	83
Most active weekday	Sun

Accurate, and useless for reflection.

AFTER • IDEA SUBSTANCE

Themes	What the entries are about
Projected outcomes	What the simulations point to
Outlook over time	Is the tone shifting?
Horizon reach	How far ahead you're thinking
Outcome sentiment	Hopeful vs. cautious futures

AI data recap

Below the metrics, a short written recap summarises the archive. The prompt is strict: factual and analytical, no advice, no flattery, only what the entries support. It's cached locally and only regenerated when new entries make it stale, then revealed with a typewriter effect.

Readability on mobile

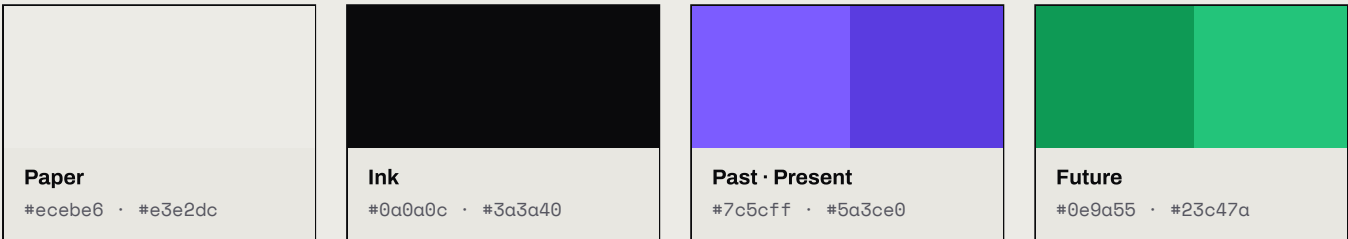
Larger type, simplified chart labels and a rebuilt sentiment layout made the dashboard legible on a phone held at arm's length.

The question changed from "how much did I write?" to "what am I actually thinking about — and where does it lead?"

/08 — DESIGN SYSTEM

PAPER, INK AND TWO TIME COLOURS.

Warm off-white paper and near-black ink keep the journal calm. Violet belongs to the past and present; emerald belongs to the future. Borders are hard, corners square, shadows offset — no blur anywhere.



DISPLAY
ARCHIVO 900

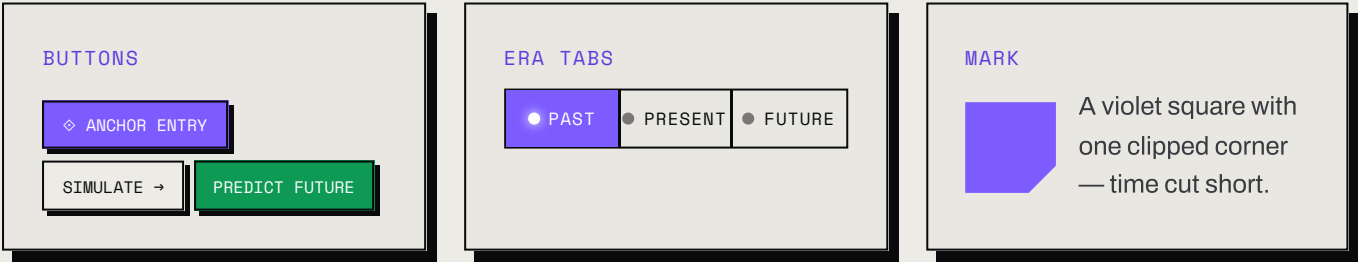
CHRONOSELF

BODY
ARCHIVO 500

Write what's true right now — a decision, a worry, a plan.

SYSTEM
SPACE MONO

// SYS · /03 — PROJECTED SELVES



/09 — OUTCOME & LEARNINGS

WHAT SHIPPED, AND WHAT COMES NEXT.

PRIVACY & ETHICS

- Entries stored on the device in IndexedDB — no account
- Only the entry being simulated is sent to the model
- Simulations always labelled as hypothetical, with odds
- Recap prompt forbids advice and diagnosis

ACCESSIBILITY & PERFORMANCE

- Responsive splash using clamp(), safe areas, landscape fixes
- First-tap reliability on touch screens
- Reduced-motion disables animation and drift
- Era colour paired with labels — never colour alone

What worked

Using time as the only navigation.
Three tabs are enough to hold a fairly abstract concept together.

What I'd change

Close the loop: let users mark what really happened and compare it with what the simulation projected.

Hardest call

Deleting the original stats dashboard — it looked rich, but it measured the wrong thing.

Metrics to track next

Sims

Simulations run per anchored entry

Return

Users revisiting the archive after a week

Mix

Share of future vs alternate vs parallel

Depth

Entry length trend after reading simulations



CHRONOSELF

WRITE NOW. MEET YOUR FUTURES.

Thanks for reading. CHRONOSELF is a temporal journal by
Subversive Symmetry.

PRODUCT

chronoself.xyz

DESIGNER

clima-portfolio.net

STUDIO

subversive-symmetry.com
