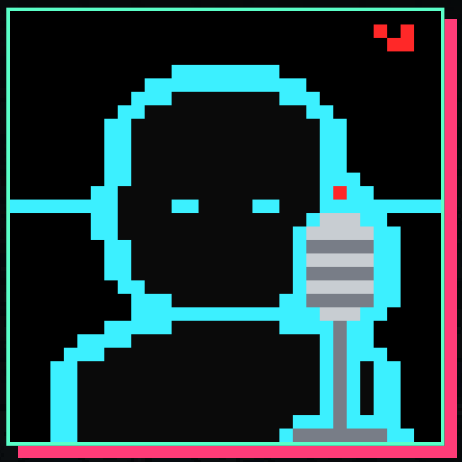
404 SOULS

WHITEPAPER

Earth ended, but the internet didn't.

404 pixel Souls on Ethereum. Each one has a name, a short life story, a Last Message, a Last Seen date and a Last Location.

VERSION	1.7 · October 2026
CHAIN	Ethereum mainnet · ERC-721
MINT	Minted with Manifold
CONTRACT	0x68b4cc8a619acfdd21c6ffc60b2eb1356b5b350c
SITE	www.404souls.xyz



00 CONTENTS

01 Overview 3

02 The Story 4

03 The Collection 5

04 Digital Soul Cards 10

05 Roadmap 12

06 Holder Rights and License 13

07 Physical E-ink Soul Cards 14

08 Merch 16

09 Security and Verification 18

10 FAQ 19

11 Links 20

About this document

This whitepaper explains what 404 Souls is, what is in the collection, what holders get today and what is planned next. It is written in plain English.

All Soul facts (counts, traits, names and stats) come from the token metadata that the contract points to, read for all 404 tokens on 13 October 2026. Roadmap, Q&A, terms come from www.404souls.xyz.

404 Souls are digital collectibles, not investments. Nothing in this document is financial advice. Card stats are a game layer and say nothing about value.

01 OVERVIEW

404 Souls is a collection of 404 pixel characters on Ethereum. Each Soul is one of a kind, and there will never be more than 404.

Every Soul is a person "recovered" from a dead internet. Each one keeps three last traces: a **Last Message**, a **Last Seen** date and a **Last Location**. No two Souls share the same name, face or story.

Holding a Soul gives you more than a picture. Today every holder can open a **Digital Soul Card** for each Soul they hold, with a live QR code that anyone can scan to check the card on-chain. Holders also get personal and commercial rights to their own Soul's art. Physical colour e-ink Soul Cards for holders and a merch launch are planned for Q1 2027.

Collection	404 Souls
Supply	404 tokens, ids 1 to 404. Fixed: no more can be added.
Blockchain	Ethereum mainnet
Token standard	ERC-721, minted with Manifold
Contract	`0x68b4cc8a619acfdd21c6ffc60b2eb1356b5b350c`
Contract owner	Renounced on 4 October 2026. The contract's `owner()` now returns the zero address, so the collection is locked.
Art and metadata	Stored on Arweave, a permanent storage network. Each token points to its Arweave data.
Card set	Set 01: The Last Broadcast. Card numbers LB01-001/404 to LB01-404/404.
Where to collect	OpenSea: opensea.io/collection/404souls
Website	www.404souls.xyz

TODAY
Digital Soul Cards are **LIVE**. Download your full card or show the live card.

Q1 2027
Physical colour e-ink Soul Cards for holders, with NFC tied to the NFT.

Q1 2027
Merch launch: apparel and prints. Holders keep commercial rights to their own Soul.

02 THE STORY

Earth ended, but the internet didn't.

In the story, the people of Earth went quiet on 2 December 2047. The network did not. **The Mesh**, the global network, kept running on its own power: solar farms, geothermal vaults, undersea cables and orbital relays.

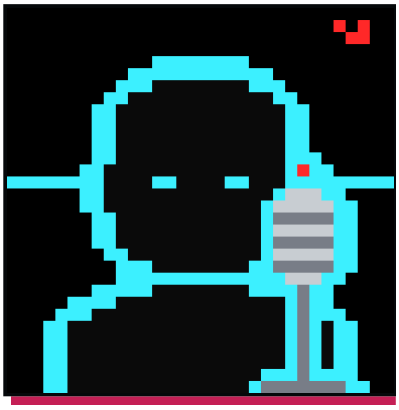
The Lattice was a backup service from the 2020s, sold as "never lose a memory". It copied everything: archives, feeds, voice notes, CCTV, scanned letters and old film.

The Indexer is a recovery program that was left running. It rebuilds people from what the Lattice holds and wakes them as **Souls**. If you collect a Soul, you are a **Listener**: someone receiving its signal.

The Indexer can only wake a Soul when three anchors survive:

LAST MESSAGE	their final words: a text, a voicemail, a letter, a radio call
LAST SEEN	the last time they were recorded
LAST LOCATION	one of 24 nodes of the dead network

If one anchor is missing, the person stays 404: not found. **Set 01, The Last Broadcast**, is the first 404 Souls the Indexer could verify. Nobody knows what ended Earth. The record just stops.



#404 · The Final Soul
Root // Node 0 · 2047-12-02

> **"THIS IS THE LAST BROADCAST. Earth is going quiet. The network is not. Nothing here is lost, only not found. Keep listening. We are still here."**
>
> Soul #404, the Final Soul. The Last Broadcast, 04:04:04 UTC, 2 December 2047.

Why "404"

404 means "not found". The project was made during hard times, as a way to keep creating when everything else had stopped. The Souls are the answer to that error code: not found, but still here.

03 THE COLLECTION

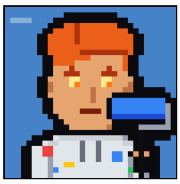
404 Souls in seven tiers. Every Soul is unique, and 20 Mythic Souls are true one-of-ones.



Common
#1 Anil Gaikwad



Uncommon
#5 Nakamura Hinae



Rare
#14 Jannik 'PFEIL' Brandt



Epic
#12 Sólveig Árnadóttir



Legendary
#13 Imogen Whitlock-Shah



Mythic
#268 VELTA



The Final Soul
#404 [NAME NOT FOUND]

Tier	Souls	Share	Card foil
Common	180	44.6%	Static Matte
Uncommon	100	24.8%	Edge Foil
Rare	61	15.1%	Scanline Holo
Epic	30	7.4%	Prism Glitch
Legendary	12	3.0%	Gold Signal
Mythic (1/1)	20	5.0%	Void Foil
The Final Soul	1	0.2%	Black Box
Total	**404**	**100%**	

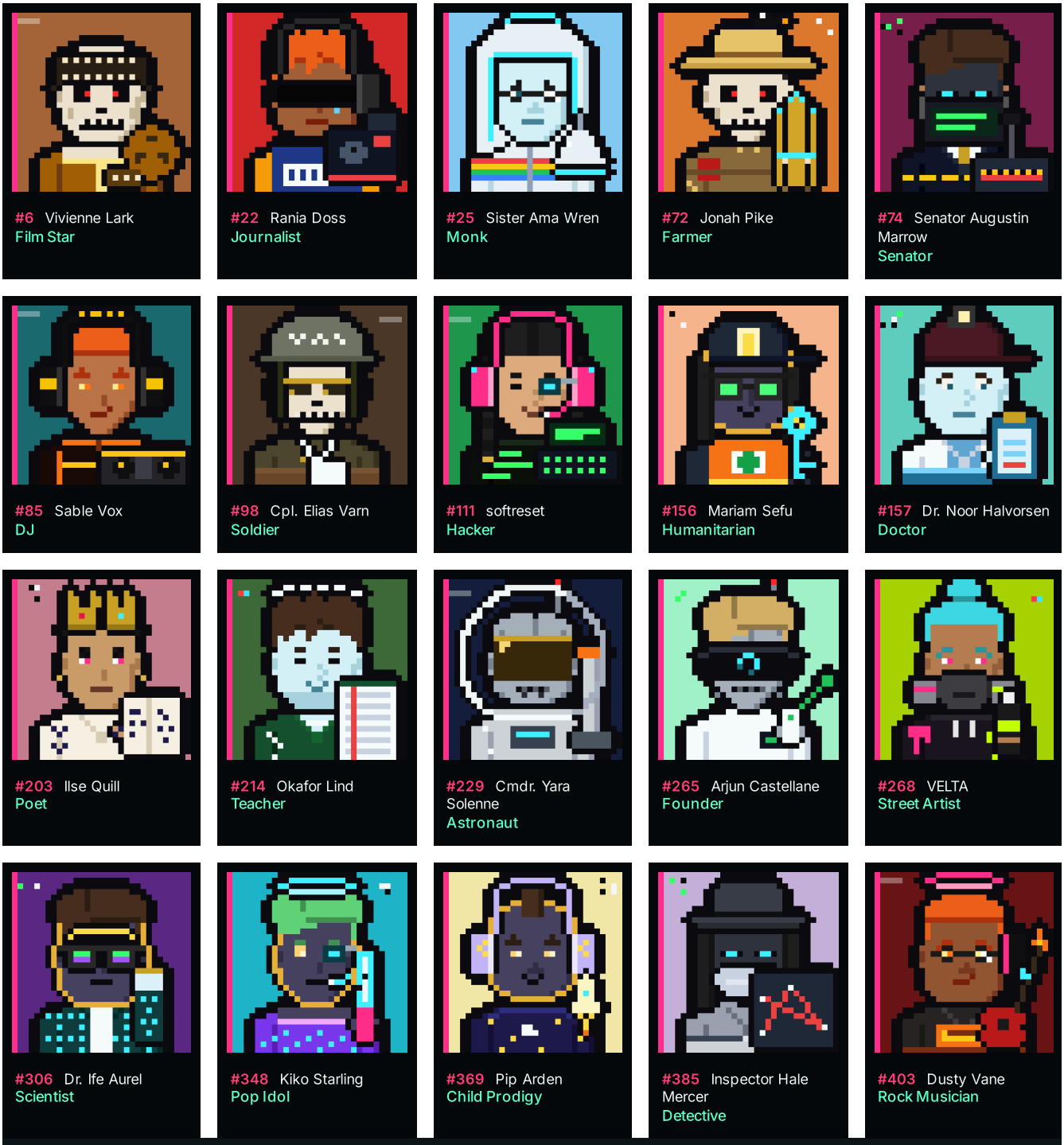
Mythic one-of-ones

Each of the 20 Mythic Souls wears three pieces that no other Soul has. In the metadata these pieces are marked "(1/1)". Soul #404, the Final Soul, also has three pieces of its own.

Which token ids became Mythic was decided by a random draw that used the hash of Ethereum block **26,119,074**, so nobody picked them. Soul #404 is always the Final Soul. The Mythic ids are:

```
6, 22, 25, 72, 74, 85, 98, 111, 156, 157, 203, 214, 229, 265, 268, 306, 348,
369, 385, 403
```

Block hash: `0x446f73734bc3e02776aedd082b19bbbd9878f73ce40048ccd2c0200421a0f59a`



Anatomy of a Soul

Every Soul's metadata has the same set of fields. They fall into four groups:

Who they were	Tier, Archetype (their old job or role), Form, Faction. The 28 Soldiers also have a Branch (Army 10, Air Force 9, Navy 9).
Their last traces	City, Last Location, Era, Last Seen, Message Type. The bio and the Last Message are in the token description.
How they look	Outfit, Headwear, Hair, Eyewear, Prop, Expression, Glitch Pattern.

Their card	Error Code, Soul Grade, Foil, Card Number, Signal, Memory, Resilience, Influence, Power, Restoration, Signal Strength.



#85 Sable Vox

A Berlin DJ who played the U-Bahn platform parties for years. On the Last Day the set started at dusk and did not stop. Sable told the crowd it would go on forever.

Last Message

"Sunrise is late, so this set is officially forever. The floor is full of people I can't see and I love every one of you."

Dossier: token 85 (from on-chain metadata)

Tier	Mythic
Archetype	DJ
Form	Burning
Faction	Drift
Last Location	Berlin Ring // U-Bahn Hub
Era	Last Day
Last Seen	2047-12-01
Message Type	Love
Outfit	Ember LED Jacket (1/1)
Headwear	Departure-Board Headphones (1/1)
Hair	Short Crop
Eyewear	None
Prop	U-Bahn Decks (1/1)
Expression	Smirk
Glitch Pattern	Block Tear
Error Code	302 MOVED
Soul Grade	S
Foil	Void Foil
Card Number	LB01-085/404
Signal	99
Memory	44
Resilience	56
Influence	65
Power	264
Restoration	86
Signal Strength	93

Traits in numbers

All counts below are taken from the metadata of all 404 tokens.

Faction	Card ability	Souls
Echo	RECALL	110
Root	REBOOT	90
Static	SCRAMBLE	85
Drift	ROUTE	75
Null	DELETE	43
Unaligned	FINAL BROADCAST	1

Era	Last Seen	Souls
Analog Archive	1916 to 1988	51
Dial-Up	1990 to 2004	26
The Feed	2005 to 2019	43
Acceleration	2020 to 2039	59
The Thinning	2041 to 2047	135
Last Day	2047	90

Soul Grade	Souls
S	20
A	61
B	121
C	141
D	61

Form	Card passive	Souls
Human	Remembered	120
Hollow	Nothing to take	70
Fractured	Split Copy	60
Static	White Noise	45
Robotic	Clock Drift	35
Masked	No Face	25
Burning	Overheat	18
Skeletal	Exhumed	12
Ghost	Pass-through	8
Corrupted	Bitrot	5
Eclipsed	Corona	5
Not Found	Final Broadcast	1

Message Type	Souls
Goodbye	84
Love	62
Instruction	54
Unfinished	46
Report	42
Confession	36
Thanks	30
Warning	24
Promise	16
Joke	9
Broadcast	1

Error Code	Souls
404 NOT FOUND	150
410 GONE	60
408 TIMEOUT	50
503 UNAVAILABLE	45
500 INTERNAL	35
451 REDACTED	22
302 MOVED	18
EOF	10
NUL	7
200 OK	6
000 ROOT	1

Look trait	Values	Most common
Outfit	99	Dark Hoodie, Triage Vest, Leather Jacket
Headwear	72	None, Bucket Hat, Beret
Hair	11	Short Crop, Buzz, Long
Eyewear	11	None, Round Specs, Aviators
Prop	100	None, Keyboard, Guitar Neck
Expression	11	Blank Stare, Tired, Stern
Glitch Pattern	12	Scanline Drift, RGB Split, Dead Pixels

"None" counts as a value where a Soul has no piece in that slot.

Archetypes

There are 25 archetypes: Soldier (28), Hacker (23), Founder (21), Rock Musician (20), Journalist (20), Athlete (20), Pop Idol (20), Teacher (20), Field Medic (18), Scientist (18), DJ (18), Humanitarian (18), Farmer (18), Street Artist (18), Poet (16), Film Star (16), Chef (16), Senator (16), Detective (14), Monk (12), Doctor (12), Astronaut (10), Child Prodigy (8), Signal Keeper (3), Unresolved (1).

The dead network

Every Soul's Last Location is one of 24 nodes of the dead network. 21 are places on the old map. 3 have no map position: the **Orbital Ring** in space, **No-Man's Relay** on a frontline, and **Root**, the origin node, which only Soul #404 calls home. The nodes are fictional places. You can explore them on the Dead Network map, section 06 of the website.

Dates and stats

- Last Seen dates run from 1916-03-07 to 2047-12-02, the Last Day.
- Power is the sum of Signal, Memory, Resilience and Influence. It ranges from 182 to 374. The top score belongs to #404.
- Soul Grade (S to D) follows the Soul's Restoration score: how well the Soul was restored.
- All 404 names are different, and all 404 images are different.

04 DIGITAL SOUL CARDS

LIVE · Q4 2026

Every Soul has a Soul Card in Set 01: The Last Broadcast. Digital Soul Cards are live now for holders on www.404souls.xyz.

The card number is the token: Soul #268 is card LB01-268/404. A card's stats come only from the Soul's traits, with no randomness. The card shows the same art as the token, framed with the tier's foil.

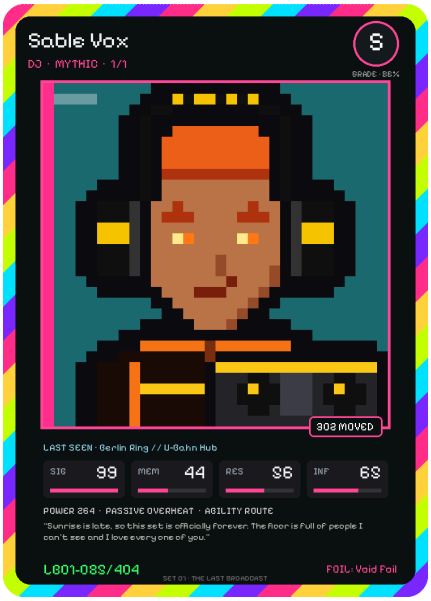


Fig. 1 · The full card for #85 Sable Vox (LB01-085/404, Mythic 1/1).

Full cards are public

Every full card image can be seen by anyone, on the website and in this document. A card image on its own proves nothing about who holds a Soul.

Proof comes from two things together: the **signed live QR code** that only the holder's wallet can open, and the **on-chain check** that the wallet still holds the Soul right now. Section 09 of this document, Security and Verification, explains how this works.

On every card

Stats	Signal, Memory, Resilience and Influence, plus Soul Power (their sum).
Ability	From the Soul's Faction: Echo RECALL, Root REBOOT, Static SCRAMBLE, Drift ROUTE, Null DELETE.
Passive	From the Soul's Form.
Soul Grade	S to D, from how well the Soul was restored.
Foil	From the tier: Static Matte, Edge Foil, Scanline Holo, Prism Glitch, Gold Signal, Void Foil, Black Box.
Footer	Last Location, Last Seen, Error Code, Message Type and the Last Message.

How to get your card

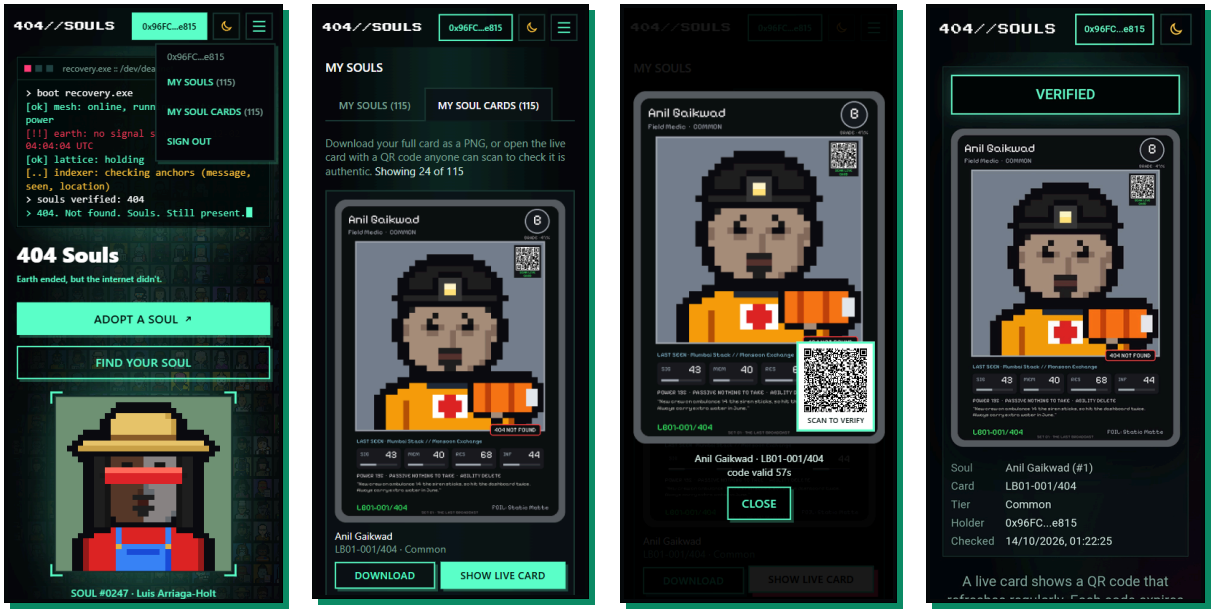
01 **Connect** the wallet that holds your Soul at www.404souls.xyz, with MetaMask, Rainbow or WalletConnect.

02 **Sign a short message.** It is free and sends nothing on chain. It only proves that you control the wallet.

03 **Open My Soul Cards.** Every Soul you hold has its own full card.

04 **Download** your full card as a PNG, or **open the live card**.

How it works



1 · Connect. Your wallet menu shows My Souls and My Soul Cards.

2 · My Soul Cards. Download a card or show the live card.

3 · Live card. The QR code is signed and only valid for a short time.

4 · Verify. Anyone who scans it sees VERIFIED and the full card.

Fig. 2 · Real screens from www.404souls.xyz on a phone, in dark mode, for Soul #1 Anil Gaikwad (LB01-001/404).

The live card

The live card is shown on the website and carries a **QR code that refreshes regularly**. Each code is signed by the 404 Souls site, is only issued to the wallet that holds the Soul, and expires quickly.

Scanning the code opens the **verify page**. The page checks that the code was issued by 404 Souls and has not expired, then checks the Ethereum blockchain to confirm that the wallet still holds the Soul right now.

This is why a screenshot or a copy of the card cannot pass as the real thing. The card art is public, but the live code is not: its code expires within about a minute, and a forged code fails the signature check.

The downloaded PNG is yours to keep and share. Its small QR badge only opens the verify page in "scan the live card" mode, because a static image cannot prove who holds a Soul.

05 ROADMAP

What is done and what comes next.

01 · DONE

The Awakening

All 404 Souls redrawn. Locked forever.

02 · Q4 2026 · LIVE

Digital Soul Cards

Live now for holders on 404souls.xyz: connect your wallet, sign a free message, download your full card or show the live card with its verifiable QR code.

03 · Q1 2027 · NEXT

Physical Colour E-ink Soul Cards

A real card with a colour e-ink screen that shows your Soul. For holders only, with an NFC chip tied to the NFT.

04 · Q1 2027 · NEXT

Merch Launch

Apparel and prints. Holders keep personal and commercial rights to their own Soul's art.

The roadmap shows current plans. Dates and details may change, as the site Terms say.

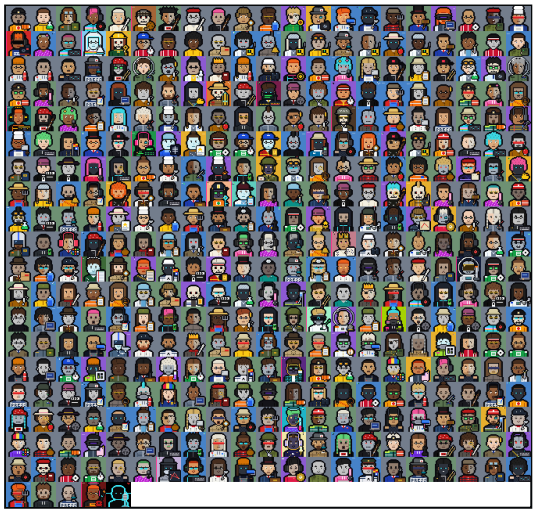


Fig. 3 · The Awakening: all 404 Souls, in token order.

06 HOLDER RIGHTS AND LICENSE

If you hold a Soul, you get personal and commercial rights to its art. The 404 Souls name and logo are not included.

You can

- Each holder gets a **worldwide, royalty-free licence** to use, copy and display the art of **the Soul they own**.
- For **personal and commercial use**, including merch, for as long as you hold the NFT.
- Examples: a profile picture, your own website or social accounts, prints, t-shirts, hoodies, mugs, bottles and stickers.
- When the Soul is sold or transferred, **the rights pass to the new owner**.

You cannot

- Use the **404 Souls name, logo or other brand marks**.
- Say or suggest that 404 Souls **endorses** you or your product, or that it is official 404 Souls merch.
- Use a Soul you do not own.
- Use a Soul in a way that is hateful, illegal or misleading.

What the site's License Terms also say

- The creator keeps the copyright in the artwork, the 404 Souls name and the wider collection. The licence covers your own Soul, not the collection as a whole.
- The licence ends when you no longer own the Soul. Merch you made while you owned it may be sold through.

Please note. This is a short summary. It does not replace the License Terms and Terms on www.404souls.xyz (404souls.xyz/license.html and 404souls.xyz/terms.html). If this summary and the site terms differ, the site terms apply.

07 PHYSICAL E-INK SOUL CARDS

Q1 2027

A real Soul Card you can hold. It has a colour e-ink screen that shows your Soul, and an NFC chip that ties the card to your NFT.



Fig. 4 · Concept renders of the physical colour e-ink Soul Card: matte colour e-ink screen, thin blank bezel, current Set 01 card design.

At a glance

When	Planned for Q1 2027, step 03 on the roadmap.
Who	Holders only. Each card belongs to one Soul.
Screen	A colour e-ink screen that shows your Soul's card.
Link to the NFT	An NFC chip in the card, tied to the NFT.
Launching with	The merch launch of apparel and prints (Q1 2027).

What the screen shows

The screen shows the same Soul Card as the Digital Soul Card in section 04: the Soul's art, name, archetype and tier, Soul Grade, the four stats and Soul Power, the passive and ability, the Last Seen line, the Last Message, the card number (for example LB01-085/404) and the foil name. E-ink is a paper-like screen with a matte finish, so the card reads like print rather than a glowing phone screen.

Tap to check: how NFC ties the card to the NFT

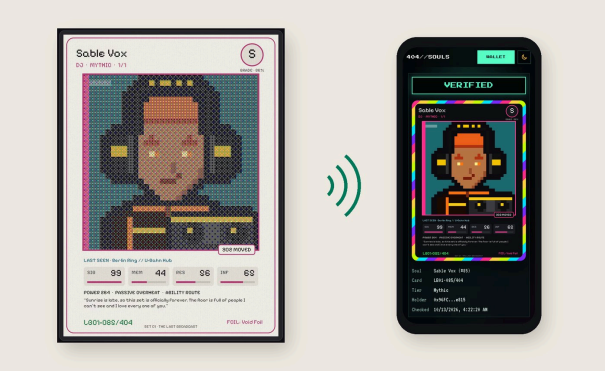


Fig. 5 · Concept: tap a phone to the card and the verify page checks it against the NFT.

01 **Tap** a phone to the card. Most modern phones read NFC without an extra app.

02 **The chip opens 404souls.xyz** and tells the site which Soul the card belongs to.

03 **The site checks Ethereum** for who holds that Soul right now, the same on-chain ownership check the live card uses.

04 **The phone shows the result**, such as VERIFIED with the full card, or a warning if the check fails.

This builds on what is already live. The live card's QR code is signed by the site and checked against the blockchain, so a screenshot cannot pass. The physical card brings the same idea to an object you can hand to someone: the card proves which Soul it is, and the chain proves who holds that Soul.

> **Still being decided.** The physical card is planned, not shipped. The final size and materials, how the screen is powered and updated, exactly what the NFC chip stores and how it proves the card is authentic, what happens to the card when a Soul is sold, and how holders claim and receive their card are all still being decided. The renders in this section are concepts. Details will be shared on www.404souls.xyz and @404SoulsNFT, and the roadmap may change, as the site Terms say.

08 MERCH

Q1 2027

Two kinds of merch: what holders make with their own Soul, and the official 404 Souls merch launching in Q1 2027.



Fig. 6 · Examples of what a holder could make with their own Soul: a t-shirt (#268), a hoodie (#13), a cap (#85), a sticker (#1) and a poster (#404). Simple mockups, not official products.

Your rights, in short

If you hold a Soul, you hold personal and commercial rights to its art. You may not use the 404 Souls name or logo.

You can

- Use, copy and display your Soul's art **worldwide, royalty free**.
- Make and **sell** merch with it, with no fee and no need to ask.
- Keep selling merch you made while you held the Soul, after you sell it.

You cannot

- Use the **404 Souls name, logo or brand marks**, on the product or in its title.
- Call it official 404 Souls merch, or suggest 404 Souls endorses it.
- Use a Soul you do not hold, or make new items after you sell it.

What holders can make

Apparel	T-shirts, hoodies, caps, socks and jackets with your Soul on the front, back or sleeve.
Prints	Posters, framed prints, canvases and postcards.
Small goods	Stickers, pins, patches, mugs, bottles, phone cases and tote bags.
Digital and creative	Profile pictures, banners, videos, games, comics and artwork that feature your Soul.

Tips for good results

- Start from the token image (1024 × 1024 px) and scale it by whole numbers without smoothing ("nearest neighbour"), so every pixel stays crisp.
- Name your product after your Soul (for example "Sable Vox tee"), not after 404 Souls.
- Use only the Soul you hold. If you hold several, you can use each of them.

Official merch (Q1 2027)

The roadmap lists an official merch launch of apparel and prints in Q1 2027, alongside the physical colour e-ink Soul Cards. Official merch is the only merch that may carry the 404 Souls name and logo.

> **Still being decided.** The product range, the designs, where it is sold and any holder perks for official merch are still being decided. This section is a summary; the License Terms at 404souls.xyz/license.html apply.

09 SECURITY AND VERIFICATION

Anyone can check who holds a Soul, and anyone can check that a live card is authentic.

On-chain ownership

- Every Soul is an ERC-721 token on Ethereum. Who holds it is public, and anyone can check it on Etherscan or on the Owners tab of the website.
- The Owners tab reads `ownerOf(1...404)` straight from the contract in your own browser, through public Ethereum nodes, with no API key, server or cache.
- Contract ownership was renounced on 4 October 2026, so the collection is locked.
- The art and metadata live on Arweave, a permanent storage network. The Mythic draw used the hash of Ethereum block 26,119,074, so nobody picked which ids became Mythic.

How a live card is verified

1
Sign in. The holder signs a free message. No transaction is sent.

2
Owner check. The site reads the blockchain to confirm the wallet holds the Soul.

3
Signed code. The site issues a short-lived QR code, signed with its own key, for that Soul and that wallet.

4
Scan. The verify page checks the signature and expiry, then checks on-chain that the wallet still holds the Soul.



Fig. 7 · The verify page after scanning a live card.

Why a copy fails

Card image: full cards are public, so an image alone proves nothing.

Screenshot: the code in it expires quickly, so it shows as EXPIRED.

Fake QR: it was not signed by the site, so it shows as NOT AUTHENTIC.

Sold Soul: the on-chain check shows the wallet no longer holds it.

Result on the verify page	Meaning
VERIFIED	The code is authentic and the holder still owns this Soul.
NOT AUTHENTIC	The code was not issued by 404 Souls.
EXPIRED	An old code. Ask the holder to show the live card again.
OWNER NO LONGER HOLDS	The wallet that showed the card no longer holds this Soul.
SCAN THE LIVE CARD	A printed or downloaded card. It cannot prove who holds the Soul.

Staying safe

- Getting your card only needs a signed message. It is free and sends nothing on chain. If anything asks you to approve a transaction or share your seed phrase to get a Soul Card, it is not the 404 Souls card flow.
- Check that you are on www.404souls.xyz and that the contract address is `0x68b4cc8a619acfdd21c6ffc60b2eb1356b5b350c` before you buy. You are responsible for your own wallet and keys, and blockchain transactions cannot be reversed.

10 FAQ

What is 404 Souls?

A collection of 404 pixel characters on Ethereum. Each Soul is one of a kind, and there will never be more than 404. Every Soul keeps a Last Message, a Last Seen date and a Last Location.

How do I get a Soul?

Souls are collected on OpenSea, at opensea.io/collection/404souls.

Which token standard does it use?

ERC-721 on Ethereum, minted with Manifold. Contract: `0x68b4cc8a619acfdd21c6ffc60b2eb1356b5b350c`. Contract ownership was renounced on 4 October 2026.

Where are the images stored?

The art and metadata for every Soul are stored on Arweave. The token on Ethereum points to that Arweave data.

What are Digital Soul Cards?

Every Soul has a Soul Card in Set 01: The Last Broadcast, with stats that come only from the Soul's traits. Holders connect their wallet on the website to download the full card or show a live card with a QR code that anyone can scan to verify it is authentic.

Which wallets can I use?

MetaMask, Rainbow or WalletConnect. WalletConnect shows a QR code that most mobile wallets can scan.

Are the full card images public?

Yes. Anyone can see every card. A card image is not proof of anything. Proof comes from the signed live QR code and the on-chain check that the wallet still holds the Soul.

Does getting my card cost anything?

No. You sign a short message. It is free and sends nothing on chain.

Why can't someone just screenshot my card?

The live card's QR code is signed by the site and refreshes regularly. An old code shows as expired, a fake code fails the check, and a card for a Soul that has been sold fails the on-chain owner check.

What are the physical e-ink Soul Cards?

Real cards with a colour e-ink screen that shows your Soul, planned for Q1 2027 for holders only, with NFC tied to the NFT. A merch launch of apparel and prints is planned at the same time.

Can I use my Soul for merch?

Yes. Holders get personal and commercial rights to their own Soul's art, including on merch they sell, while they hold it. You cannot use the 404 Souls name or logo or suggest your product is official. See sections 06 and 08 and the site's License Terms.

What happens to my rights if I sell?

They pass to the new owner.

How were the Mythic Souls chosen?

By a random draw that used the hash of Ethereum block 26,119,074. #404 is always the Final Soul.

Do card stats mean a Soul is worth more?

No. Card stats are a game layer that comes from on-chain traits. They say nothing about value.

11 LINKS

Website	https://www.404souls.xyz
My Soul Cards	https://www.404souls.xyz/my
Verify page	https://www.404souls.xyz/verify
Collection on OpenSea	https://opensea.io/collection/404souls
Contract on Etherscan	https://etherscan.io/address/0x68b4cc8a619acfdd21c6ffc60b2eb1356b5b350c
Mythic draw block	https://etherscan.io/block/26119074
X	https://x.com/404SoulsNFT (@404SoulsNFT)
License Terms	https://www.404souls.xyz/license.html
Terms	https://www.404souls.xyz/terms.html
Privacy Policy	https://www.404souls.xyz/privacy.html

Disclaimer

404 Souls are digital collectibles, not investments. Nothing in this document is financial advice, and it makes no promise about price or value. Card stats are a game layer and say nothing about value. The roadmap shows current plans; dates and details may change. Buying, selling and transferring Souls happens on Ethereum and on third-party marketplaces such as OpenSea, which have their own terms. This summary does not replace the Terms, License Terms or Privacy Policy on www.404souls.xyz.

404. Not found. Souls. Still present.