

Mindsky – Comprehensive Design Brief (Updated)

Concept

Mindsky is a personal, local-first productivity system designed for ADHD/ASD cognitive patterns. It externalizes the user's mental landscape into a dynamic sky of living clouds. Milestones, tasks, and subtasks appear as soft, animated cloud forms. Completing work clears clouds from the sky and reveals sunlight, reflecting clarity, emotional progress, and momentum.

The system avoids rigid numbers or productivity metrics and instead uses atmospheric feedback to motivate gently. Interaction is tactile and forgiving, encouraging engagement rather than control or optimization.

Core Principles

- Emotion over numbers
- Calm, minimal, liquid UI
- Playful but structured interaction
- Reduce overwhelm and encourage engagement
- Multiple projections of the same data, never conflicting sources

World Structure

- One global sky representing the entire mental ecosystem
- One overarching goal: clear the sky
- Milestones are large cloud clusters
- Tasks orbit milestones
- Subtasks appear inside tasks during task focus

Focus Modes

Focus modes are implemented as camera zooms into the cloud itself, not abstract panels. The focused cloud remains visually identifiable as a cloud at all times.

- Focus view occupies ~80% of the viewport
- Background darkens and freezes
- Focused cloud is locked in position
- Children spawn in a circular arrangement around the focused node
- Nested focus supported (milestone → task)

Editing

- No text editing occurs directly in focus mode

- All editing is done via right-click modal
- The same modal is used across all views

Side List View (Structured Task Projection)

The Side List View is a secondary, optional projection of the same underlying task data shown in the sky view. It exists to counterbalance the atmospheric, spatial overview with a clean, systematic, data-oriented representation. It is explicitly non-chaotic and prioritizes clarity, hierarchy, and manageability over playfulness.

Purpose & Role

- Provide a structured, scannable overview of all milestones, tasks, and subtasks
- Enable sorting and filtering (including tag-based filtering) without visual noise
- Serve as an optional, low-cognitive-load alternative view
- Never replace or override the sky view

Layout & Viewport Behavior

- The list view slides in from the right side of the viewport when toggled
- On desktop: opening the list shrinks the sky viewport horizontally
- On mobile: the list opens as a full-screen overlay
- The list view is sticky until explicitly closed by the user
- The left edge of the list is resizable via drag

Toggle Button

- Located above the existing '+' add-node button
- Default icon: white filled circle with blue bulleted-list icon (three dots with lines)
- When expanded: icon changes to a right-pointing arrow tip indicating collapse
- Acts as a toggle, not a temporary drawer

Content Structure

The list mirrors the full task hierarchy and is always derived from the same data source as the sky view.

- Milestones at top level
- Tasks indented under milestones
- Subtasks indented under tasks
- Milestones and tasks are individually collapsible

- Hierarchy is preserved visually at all times

Completion Representation

- All items have a completion checkbox
- Completed items show a filled checkmark
- Visibility of completed items is controlled via a filter toggle
- Completed items are shown by default

Filtering & Sorting

- Supports tag-based filtering
- Supports completion-state filtering
- Filtering only affects the list view, never the sky view
- Sorting does not affect spatial placement of clouds

Interactions Inside the List

- Left-click: selects item only (no camera movement, no focus mode)
- Checkbox toggle: marks item complete/incomplete immediately
- Drag and drop: reorder items within the same parent
- Drag and drop across parents: reassign parent
- Right-click: opens the same edit modal used in the sky view
- ESC key closes the list view

Relationship to Sky View

- List view and sky view can be interacted with simultaneously
- Actions in the list update the sky view via shared data
- List view never moves, zooms, or focuses the camera
- List view never affects cloud layout or physics

Node Creation

- New nodes can be created by dragging from the '+' button into the list
- Creation via list follows the same rules as sky-based creation
- No inline text creation, modal is always used

Explicit Non-Goals

- No spatial representation inside the list
- No analytics or productivity metrics
- No alternative completion logic
- No conversion into a traditional task manager or inbox

Tone & Feel

Compared to the sky view, the Side List View should feel calmer, clearer, and intentionally less playful. It exists to make complexity manageable, not expressive.