

Handling Archival of Game & Studio Domains

Migration of Ker-Chunk.Com and Safe

Decommission of PrinceNapped.com, Ker-Chunk.co

Accountable: Molly Sheets **Date:** Jul 2, 2023

Executive Summary

Ker-Chunk Games LLC closed its doors in Summer 2020. Some games were transferred to other publishers and others were sunset; however, the main website ker-chunk.com is still a credit list of developers of sunset games. Now, 3 years later, all games are sunset including by partners. The business dissolved in April 2023.

Most billing ceased as part of wind down; however additional websites, databases, and DNS records are unfortunately still billing to AWS and WP Engine. In order to finalize winddown of the business, remaining resources need to be decommissioned, the credits site migrated for archival purposes, billing transferred, and billing to Ker-Chunk Games LLC shut down.

Timeline	Cost/Resource
1 Month	1 Weekend of Free Time

Project Requirements

- Migrate 3 domains to an archival account owned by Molly Sheets for security and decommission resources that are no longer needed
- Ker-chunk.com is hosted on WP Engine where the bill is \$300 per year and billing to a business bank account. Once migrated to AWS, decommission WP Engine account.
- Decommission Ker-Chunk Games, LLCs AWS accounts
- Keep live the archival credits list of those that worked on these games but at a cheaper cost with no dangling resources (\$20-60/year instead of \$300)

Out of Scope

- Setting up deployment pipelines - This is archival.
- Updating the websites in the future - These will never be updated if I'm being honest.

Executive Sign-Off

I agree to punish myself with this in the name of credits.

Current State

PrinceNapped.com: This domain was previously used as part of hosting the iOS game PrinceNapped on Facebook and the backend networking for the game. The game was sunset in 2020. The domain has 10+ records. Domain will be migrated and held by Molly Sheets with auto-renew kept on to avoid nefarious usage due to the game having some brand recognition in 2017. Hosted zone will be decommissioned.

Ker-chunk.co: This domain has only 3 records and is a forwarding address for ker-chunk.com. The domain will be migrated with the intent to keep the domain, but not auto-renew once expired. Hosted zones will be migrated as a test of successful programmatic execution steps and validation before migrating Ker-chunk.com's hosted zones. This domain [uses S3 for redirect](#) only. [S3 bucket names are unique across all of AWS](#). S3 bucket portion needs to also be handled. Once test is complete, hosted zone will be decommissioned. This domain will also not be used in the future.

Ker-chunk.com: This domain has 8 records. This domain will be migrated first, then its hosted zones will be migrated programmatically using AWS CLI. The goal of Ker-chunk.com is to continue to point to WP engine first while having all domains and records under the same roof where lower cost, archival infrastructure will be hosted. Once that is spun up, WP Engine will be decommissioned and the business account terminated. Similarly to princenapped.com, Ker-Chunk.com will have auto-renew maintained for a short duration to avoid nefarious usage from lapse of domain ownership. At this time the website also displays a message that the entity is no longer in business as a publisher or developer as a living record of who the team was.

WP Engine

[WP Engine](#) is used for hosting ker-chunk.com and has robust backup and management solutions that are fantastic for a growing business where website infrastructure management is not a part a business wants to own; however, Ker-chunk Games LLC is no longer active. The goal is to find a way to serve static pages of the final state as an archival record at less than \$20-60/year. This would mean that any links in press, blogs written, and developer portfolios would still point to a live credits list for a bit longer.

Serving the site as static pages in S3 would be the absolute cheapest solution; however, while no games are served through the site, the pages were initially built in WordPress on a specific theme and there are some videos and interactive functionality on the website loaded into pages.

Options for Archival Architecture

Rearchitected: Static Site Hosted in S3 (Preferred)

The preferred option is to convert all existing pages in WordPress and files displayed (pictures, videos) to instead a static site hosted in S3. Plugins that can do this work include WP2static (<https://wp2static.com/>) and Simply Static (<https://wordpress.org/plugins/simply-static/>). Most developers create static WordPress sites in order to have an end to end pipeline that decouples the frontend from the content management system for security; however, this migration is looking for a 1 time permanent conversion to archive the "Final" version of the site and host behind a CDN on top of S3 in order to never touch WordPress ever again. There is no need for an end to end publishing platform or robust CI/CD pipeline that connects the static site to WordPress as the goal is to remove WordPress entirely.

Replatform: Lightsail (Backup)

Ker-chunk.com can avoid being fully rearchitected by migrating it to an EBS backed Lightsail instance with the lowest possible storage and compute. The site is simple enough and traffic low enough today (since it's been 3 years) to where this is possible. However this still requires live updates to WordPress and managing WordPress and is not ideal.

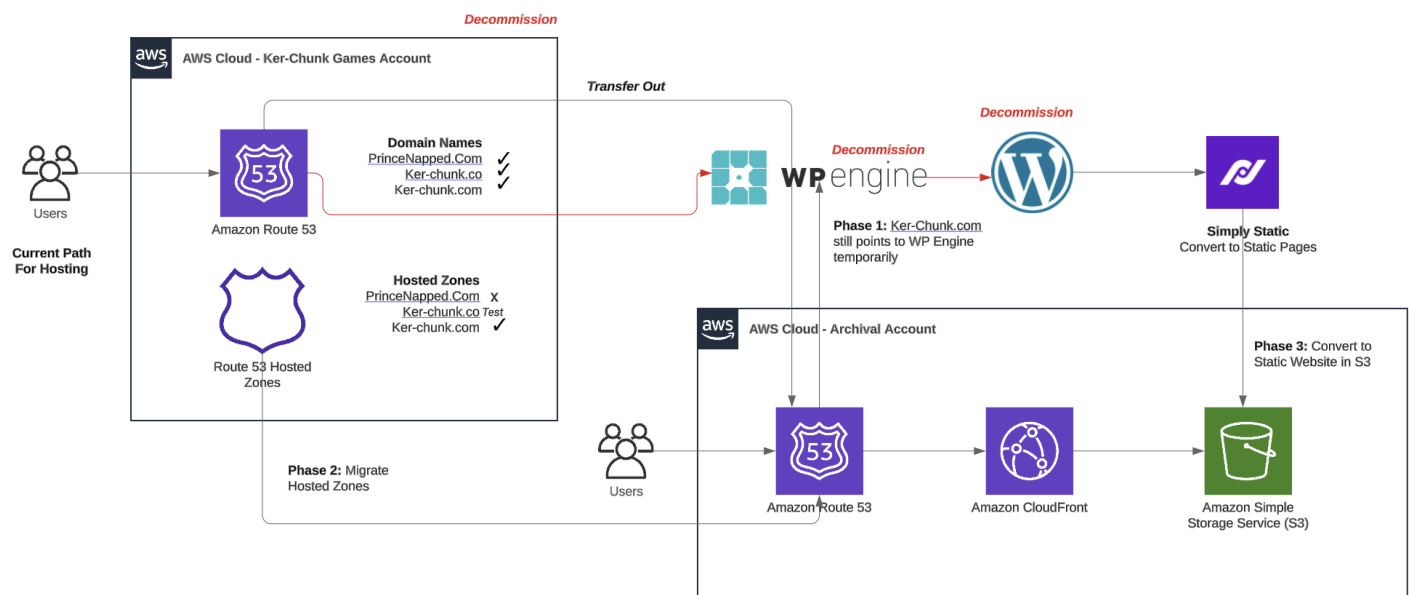
This would be used in the event the plugin Simply Static and WP2static above do not achieve the end goal easily once attempting to set it up in an effort to quickly get off WP engine and consolidate the resources. This would also be used if there is an upfront price for any plugin that does not financially make sense.

Decommission: Full Termination (Backup)

This option means decommissioning ker-chunk.com's hosting completely and only holding the domain to avoid potential bad-actor usage. This would mean there is no public record of a credits list and all links to that domain from any external sources will break. While this would also mean absolutely zero personal costs to Molly Sheets, she has been on a mission for 9 years to keep the credits live. The IGDA recently shared that the situation for [game credits is still bleak](#). While Ker-chunk.com does not keep an accurate record of every project worked on for the business, it does maintain several credits and thank yous. This option will only be used as a last resort due to time and money and has always been on the table.

Migration & Decommission Plan

AWS Architecture - Archival Websites Migration & Archive to Static S3



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Phase 1 [30 Minutes] - Cleanup and Transfer Out Validation

- Delete all remaining EBS, EC2, and RDS snapshots stored in Ker-Chunk Games, LLC AWS account
- Migrate ker-chunk.co and princenapped.com in the AWS console from Route53 in one AWS account to another AWS account using [Transfer Out > To Another AWS Account](#)
- Accept both domains via Requests in the receiving AWS account
- Decommission hosted zone for princenapped.com by deleting all records & hosted zone

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- Test to ensure ker-chunk.co still forwards to ker-chunk.com in hybrid account status

Phase 2 [1 Hour] - Migrate Ker-Chunk.co & Ker-Chunk.com Hosted Zones

- Migrate hosted zone and all records for ker-chunk.co to new AWS account [using CLI](#)
- Test to ensure ker-chunk.co still forwards to ker-chunk.com
- Migrate ker-chunk.com records (8 records) using CLI to new Hosted Zone
- Migrate ker-chunk.com via Transfer Out > [To Another AWS Account method in Route53](#)
- Ensure ker-chunk.com is still live and pointing correctly to website hosted in WP Engine

Phase 3 [2-4 Days or 1 Weekend] - Simple Rearchitect of Hosting

- Setup either S3 (preferred / cheapest) static site backend as an archival site using Simple Static Site addon or Lightsail hosted WordPress (cheaper than WP Engine, still able to be updated if required)
- Setup new CloudFront connection with records in Route53 (optional)
- Ensure ker-chunk.com points to this cheaper backend so credits stay live
- Close old AWS account

Optional Follow-up

- Post-mortem on SEV 1 Party
- Cost comparison of new backend to old backend after a few months

Resources

- [Amazon Route53 Account to Account Domain Transfer](#)
- [Cancel WP Engine Plan](#) - 30 Days Notice of Termination Required to avoid Billing
- [Simple Static Site Generator for WordPress](#): “Simply Static is a static site generator that converts your existing WordPress website to a static website that you can host on your server, a static hosting provider, or a CDN. It drastically improves the performance of your website and minimizes security risks as it removes the connection between your traditional server and your static website.”
- [WP2Static](#)
- [Hosting a Static WordPress Site on S3](#)
- [Configuring Amazon S3 for Static Website Hosting](#)