

City of Heroes Private Server Drama

Everything We Know

Frequently Asked Questions

So what's happened?

There's been a private City of Heroes server running for years now, but it's very small and invite only. After running for a while, it got leaked by somebody who was then banned. There are multiple rumors that the admin/mod teams of the CoH subreddit and CoHTitan were a part of it. Discussion is being heavily censored on both the CoH Subreddit and CohTitan.

A Private Server? Can I play it?

No, it has not been released publicly.

Is SEGS Involved?

No, but you should [follow the community](#) and the discord. It's a group of people who just want to be able to play the game in a nice legal way.

Is there evidence of this?

Known videos of private server gameplay:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAjyLxXFGIQ&t=266s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA7PRgiTCYM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2n6zEhLQcro&t=294s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYwzOTFCK7I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wl7e6l22Q38&t=831s>

Destroyer Stroyer's video regarding private server:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUuQDcL2FoY>

Statement from CoH Dev Ghost Falcon:

CoH Survivors

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Gilles Gilles Well, I can write an email to invite you to play Terminator online. even though there's no such a game. For

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Athena Wilson I'm not believing this guy's story from ground zero. First, he talks about asking people for their account names, in order to "vet" them. I think it's far more likely that he was trying to get their account names in order to hack their accounts, or else he was totally clueless, and was being used to harvest people's account names for the "private server" people.

People who were stupid enough to hand out their account names wouldn't be able to avoid spilling the beans. The fact that there weren't any reports of this going on "back then" makes me think it's a fantasy, not fact.

4h



Jesse Caceres Athena Wilson

Hi,

From the YouTube videos floating around and seeing some elements in them, I 100% believe that the video is from a private server.

It looks legit to me.

Disclaimer: I have no affiliation with the private server, I have no knowledge of any handoff or proprietary code or database, and have never been involved with any attempts to revive City of Heroes.

-Ghost Falcon

Former Senior Development Producer, former Business Manager, former Live Publishing Producer at Paragon Studios

4h



1

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Destiny Virtue

1 hr

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Here is what I am not going to do. I am not going to name names besides the server admin who is pretty well known now. Sorry Leandro. I am not going to disclose the new forum address or manifest information. All that will do is make other innocent people suffer who just want to continue living in that world.

This is a kinda-sorta AMA information dump. Feel free to ask whatever you like but I am going to put some info I can think of off the top of my head here in the initial post.

The monthly cost to maintain the server appears to be around \$1000, the current playerbase of around 1500-2000 account holders donate abit of \$3000 quarterly to maintain the server and pay for its upkeep. I can't quote

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What URLs did they use?

forums.paragonline.net
bugs.paragonline.net
citdev.paragonline.net
rp.paragonline.net
www.paragonline.net
cit.paragonline.net
wiki.paragonline.net
mail.paragonline.net
Paragonline.net
cod.paragonline.net

But they don't work anymore, where were they pointing?

5.152.179.240

These URLs all now redirect to the SEGS homepage.

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As shown in the leaked emails the server is absolutely invite only and you have to have a sponsor. The agreement is if you leak you, your sponsor and anyone you invited in all get their accounts banned from the server (and if this somehow comes back to you, I am sorry friend.)

I said I was not going to name names but I will say many of the very notable forum goers from back in the day have access to the private server.

The mission architect is still there and all the old content people created still exists. The most popular things on it now are fire farms designed to maximize the xp/hr generated. Just like the old days.

Speaking of xp a thing was implemented that allowed you to continue getting xp over level 50. Each time it rolled over you gained a little reward like empyrean merits.

The pay to win stuff is in a npc store called Pay to win. The stuff is like 1 mil inf. I think it is kinda funny.

The server is fairly active on the weekends. There is an in game channel called "Paragon Chat" where people hang out and organize stuff like mothership raids among other things. RWZ runs like garbage during these. Its a miracle the game ran as well as it did on sub 2012 hardware.

Logging in you have 1 server with 1000 character slots (no joke), if you had multiple accounts back in the day all your characters across all accounts would be merged into the one list.

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**City of Heroes** ► **CoH Survivors**1 min • 

Leandro Speaks!!

This email was just forward to us and obviously we have removed the person's name to protect their identity per their request.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Leandro <leandrotlz@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 15, 2019 at 10:15 AM

Subject: Re: What's going on?

To: ***** <REMOVED@gmail.com>

Hello there,

I've reached out to people from Massively so they can post a public response later today. I don't think I should say anything until they post the response.

I'm not going into Facebook because that's a mob waiting with pitchforks, I'm not going to Titan because TonyV has made it very clear that he wants no discussion of any servers whatsoever on Titan, I'm not going to SEGS because I definitely don't want them to be roped into this, and I'm not going to Reddit because they also do not allow any discussion on private servers.



Destiny Virtue ▸ CoH Survivors



1 hour ago · 🌐

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On Mon, Apr 15, 2019 at 2:07 PM ***** *****

<REMOVED@gmail.com> wrote:

Hey Leandro, so, I'm sure you've seen all the Private Server stuff with City of Heroes going around, what is going on with it?

I mean, yeah, it's not really THAT surprising to me that there is a Private Server and to be perfectly honest, I'd love to get in on it because I really have no one who I'd wanna play with aside from my fiancée and even then, I doubt she'd wanna play so to me, playing City of Heroes/City of Villains again would be amazing, I don't talk to many people about well, anything personal so I can definitely keep this a secret.

Plus honestly, I do think you're a bit sketchy given that it looks like you've been the admin for this Private Server but at the end of the day, I really don't blame you for being sketchy, it comes with the territory, being an admin of a private server.

I really would like to know your opinion on this stuff though, and possibly garner an invite if that's alright with you.

Best Regards,

**Destiny Freedom** shared her first post.New Member · Just now · 

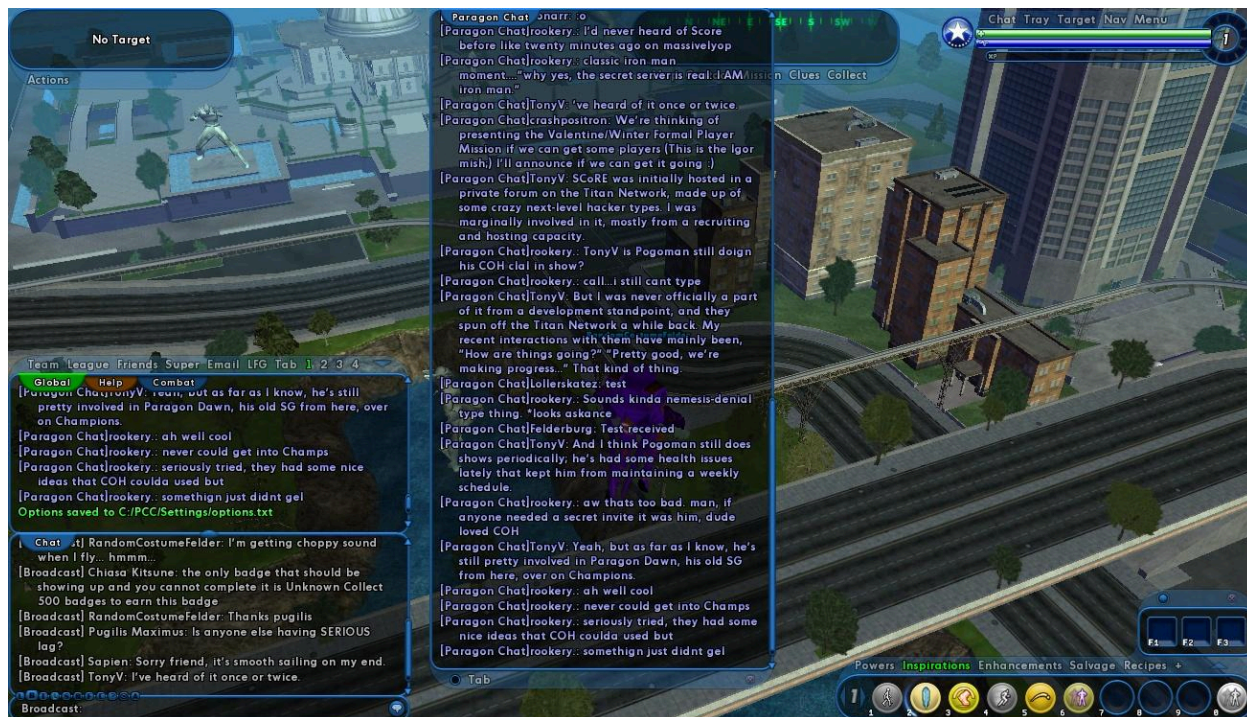
Hello! This post might get zapped by mass reporting of my facebook account just like the last one. Real mature there. The mods did not delete my post, my entire Destiny virtue account was disabled.

They are playing really dirty. Here is my post as it originally was.

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Here is what I am not going to do. I am not going to name names besides the server admin who is pretty

<https://mobile.twitter.com/leandrotlz/status/620835143763279872>



Transcript of rookery. and TonyV in Paragon Chat:

rookery.: I'd never heard of Score before like twenty minutes ago on massivelyop

rookery.: classic iron man moment.... "why yes, the secret server is real. I AM iron man"

TonyV: 've heard of it once or twice

TonyV: SCoRE was initially hosted in a private forum on the Titan Network, made up of some crazy next-level hacker types. I was marginally involved in it, mostly from a recruiting and hosting capacity.

TonyV: But I was never officially a part of it from a development standpoint, and they spun off the Titan Network a while back. My recent interactions with them have mainly been, "How are things going?" "Pretty good, we're making progress..." That kind of thing.

Transcriber's note: I share this to confirm that TonyV did not have substantial knowledge of the private server, and was mislead like the rest of us.

END OF ORIGINAL COPY

Misc stuff I don't really know how to label because I didn't make the original document

Anything posted here I found from the threads below

<https://boards.fireden.net/v/thread/427248758>

<https://boards.fireden.net/v/thread/458706631>

<https://boards.fireden.net/v/thread/458719301>

<https://boards.fireden.net/v/thread/458785786>

a thread from Leandro back in 2013 saying an emulator isn't possible:

<https://www.cohtitan.com/forum/index.php/topic.7599.0.html>

Proof of Leandro's abusive moderation scheme and ban system

<https://pastebin.com/8J3vcKAr>

List of names seen in server gameplay videos

<https://pastebin.com/hh03fVBR>

you can cross-reference all these names and see them active in CoH projects - all key figures and members of the community who have actively lied and engaged in deception WITH leonardo

Heres an example:

Lithy

<https://www.cohtitan.com/forum/index.php?action=profile;u=7775>

Snow Panther

<https://www.cohtitan.com/forum/index.php?action=profile;u=4982>

Mender Lithy

[No result found - likely is Lithy Alt at the top of this list]

Miss Thystle

[No result found - NPC Name as well]

Lyse

[No result found]

etc. etc.

They know, work with, support and decieve for Leonardo

You want Leo to give up the server, he won't for himself, he might for all these!

Destroyer stroyer interview on discord

<https://files.catbox.moe/av87mc.mp3>

Cr1itkal's response to the leak

<https://files.catbox.moe/qvd8jp.mp4>

Misc archived details & video evidence

<https://archive.org/details/CityOfHeroesPrivateServerIsREALTOPSECRETbRvDFKCLis>

<https://archive.org/details/BestATInTheGameCoHPrivateServerModeratorsTurningUsIntoStuff.NA7PRgiTCYM>

<https://archive.org/details/youtube-uUuQDcl2FoY>

<https://archive.org/details/youtube-uzTJud5gYK8>

<https://archive.org/details/youtube-2n6zEhLQcro>

<https://archive.org/details/youtube-DAjyLxXFGIQ>

<https://archive.org/details/youtube-nA7PRgiTCYM>

<https://archive.org/details/youtube-wI7e6I22Q38>

<https://archive.org/details/youtube-2n6zEhLQcro>


Leandro posts pictures of the ACTUAL servers

<https://www.cohtitan.com/forum/index.php?topic=9675.msg231130#msg231130>

Leandro
Elite Boss
Posts: 313

Re: New efforts!
Reply #29350 on: Today at 06:00:37 AM »

Quote from: Ironwolf on Yesterday at 09:25:48 PM
However - we know nothing of the server. It might be running on someone's PC on a cable connection.



Ascendant was the first. For those of you who know when he passed away, that will give you a rough timeframe on when we actually had functional servers. He did get to play a little before the end, on the first VM server that couldn't hold more than 20 people without crashing. His memorial in Paragon Chat is there because he was the first player we lost after the shutdown, but sadly not the last. Crom was another one of his characters.

Re: JKwervo and xfunk have been banned.

Yahoo/Inbox



Leandro Pardini <leandrotz@gmail.com>
To: bfunk24100@yahoo.com



May 11, 2015 at 12:58 AM



Leandro Pardini
leandrotz@gmail.com

Secret means secret, not "secret except for my friends". There's people who have been keeping the server secret from family members while waiting for invite keys; Facebook friends are several levels of unacceptable past that. And you're a prick for telling them before you knew you could get invite keys for them regardless; instead of surprising them with something that they could enjoy, you bragged that you got in with no regard for how much you were screwing them over. There's absolutely no way you can twist this into anything good.

JKwervo can be unbanned **if** you gag it. That means you delete the post, all replies, all screenshots, everything. The only thing you are allowed to say in response to queries is "I cannot talk about it, I got my friend banned for talking about it". No names. If I find out that you told anyone else that is not in the server, in public or private, that seals a permanent ban for JK, his wife, their sponsor, and everyone else they ever invited.

Philly Girl is not the only eyes I have in the group, so kicking people was pointless. If you want to make it right to JKwervo, gag it and never speak of it again, like you should have from the beginning.

En Sun, 10 May 2015 09:48:08 -0300, B FUNK <bfunk24100@yahoo.com> escribió:

Hey if you want to ban me, that's fine, but please unban jkwervo. He was only trying to get his friends in to enjoy the game. The post i made was on our private facebook group and cannot be viewed by the public. Phillygirl screenshotted it and reported it. Everyone in the group that playedcoch wouldn't have leaked the project and would have been in line to get invites once we were able to be invited. I wasn't just out blabbing to the public, the post was private. I'm sure you understand that people are going to tell their friends about this so they can get in. But i understand the sensitive nature of the deal, but please unban jkwervo. Thanks and good luck

From: Leandro Pardini <leandrotz@gmail.com>
To: Mhjohnson33@gmail.com; jm_tuentebella@yahoo.com; bfunk24100@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2015 4:45 AM
Subject: JKwervo and xfunk have been banned.

Hello,

Xfunk does not understand the meaning of the word "secret", and as such is no longer welcome. See attached screenshots for why. This is a **PERMANENT** ban. In addition, the people he has leaked to will not be considered for future invites, due to his association.

JKwervo vouched for Xfunk, so he has also been banned. This ban **MIGHT** not be permanent if you can get Xfunk to stop his post immediately and delete everything he has already posted. If he says a single more word anywhere, I will know, and this will become a **PERMANENT** ban. In addition, your other invite has also been **PERMANENTLY** banned. None of your invites will ever be considered again.

Smoke Signal, you invited JKwervo so you are being notified of the ban.

Deadbie 37 points · 7 hours ago

Post from leaker: Hello! This post might get zapped by mass reporting of my facebook account just like the last one. Real mature there. The mods did not delete my post, my entire Destiny virtue account was disabled.

They are playing really dirty. Here is my post as it originally was.

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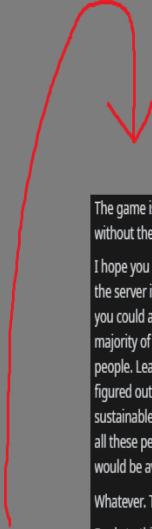
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I said I was not going to name names but I will say many of the very notable forum goers from back in the day have access to the private server.



The game is still very fun and has a magic you don't see in other modern mmo's though like I said in the introduction without the full community it feels very hollow.

I hope you all understand that I am no troll, I am purposely not giving away identifiable information of other players or the server itself. I want everyone to know that it IS out there. Your characters still exist and the game does still live. I wish you could all play with me and the others but the reality is everyone is so afraid of losing the game again. I spent the vast majority of my teen years in CoHV, I do not want to see it die, but it is not the game it used to be. Not without the people. Leandro needs to change his policies about this server. It has been over 6 years and by now he should have figured out a way to share it with everyone safely. Leandro I know you are reading this and you know this is not sustainable and this policy sure as hell is not in the spirit of the game we all love. Be more inclusive, be more honest with all these people who have clinged to their love of this game for SIX YEARS without even the faintest hint of hope that it would be available for them to enjoy again. You know it can be done safely.

Whatever. That part of this rant/ama is over.

Reply to this post if you have a specific question you would like me to answer. I will be working for awhile today so I may not be able to answer right away but I will do my best to be honest without threatening the integrity of the server. If this post disappears you all know what happened. I will have a copy to send to people still active on this group and others. If you want to ask me something privately or if you are a person on the server who wishes to beat me down just pm me.

<https://twitter.com/leandrotlz/status/1063634788823764998>



Leandro Pardini

@leandrotlz

Follow



This saturday, Nov. 17th at 2PM EST I'll be hosting a [#CityOfHeroes](#) Twitch stream to reveal new map downloads for Paragon Chat, including an almost final version of Kallisti Wharf. Demon Hunter will be there to talk about map editing. Don't miss it! [twitch.tv/events/xJk-RP-...](#)



7:27 PM - 16 Nov 2018

17 Retweets 55 Likes



2



17



55



Tweet your reply



Richard Roberts @MadeOfTeeth · 16 Nov 2018



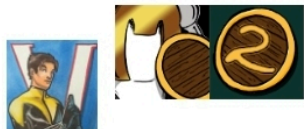
Replying to @leandrotlz

...wait, what? How is anyone streaming City of Heroes?!



1





Tony Vazquez




I want to make this point crystal clear: What has happened over the past day has greatly decreased your odds of ever getting the play the game again. And regardless of what you choose to believe, it's not Leo who's to blame for that.

As for you losing respect for me...

¯_ (ツ) _ /

I've suffered worse.





Aaron Victoria

15 hours ago


I'm glad this finally came out. I was offered to join the server in 2016 because of my work on Valiance. The person that offered me to join opened with telling me all these crazy illegal details, and I told him I didn't want to be involved with it as I didn't want to potentially do harm or damage to Valiance. And this person is a close personal friend that was part of the project, so I know that he wouldn't have offered me to join if it wasn't real. It was such an emotional moment for me as well man. Anyone that knows me knows that I started Valiance as an homage to my little brother who passed away a few years before it's closing. He was a huge fan, brought me into the game, and it was how we connected while I was in the military stationed away from home. For

Read more

16

REPLY

Hide replies ^




Damir Begonja

11 hours ago

So what these people were doing is straight up illegal and they kept it tight lipped within a certain circle of people?

1

REPLY




Aaron Victoria

11 hours ago

@Damir Begonja As the story was explained to me, yes. The unauthorized distribution of company property, without express consent is very much illegal. I was told that the reason for the secrecy was to avoid exposing the individual responsible for the provision of the server's source code. The way it was told to me sounded as though the person could face legal repercussions if any leak was to become public. In the Massively OP topic the individual interviewed seems to have validated everything my friend said when offering me a spot on the server.

1

REPLY




Damir Begonja

11 hours ago

@Aaron Victoria did they actually say they were working towards to getting this out in the open somehow or were they trying to keep it hidden to themselves for as long as possible?

1

REPLY




Aaron Victoria

11 hours ago

@Damir Begonja They have to keep it hidden. As long as nobody can find it, the original handler is safe. There is no reason to risk prosecution by making this public.

1

REPLY



Damir Begonja


10 hours ago

@Aaron Victoria but what was the point? It seems like a select group of people worked together to have the game running for themselves. A lot of people miss the game terribly. I understand not getting the guy who gave them the possibility of playing the full game into the trouble but it seems these people only cared about having access to the game all to themselves.

Read more

2

REPLY




Aaron Victoria

6 hours ago

@Damir Begonja I think it all came down to people wanting to play. Positive game even says here that if he had the opportunity to play he'd jump in. Much love to him, and I wouldn't condemn anyone for it because it will make them happy. That's why we're all pushing these successors is to find happiness following the pain we've been dealt.

1

REPLY




Damir Begonja

6 hours ago

@Aaron Victoria My big issue with this is that mine and everyone's characters are essentially being held hostage unless you get a private invite.

1

REPLY



Aaron Victoria

5 hours ago

@Damir Begonja Yea I agree fully Damir. My friend also confirmed that he was able to access his original account, so somehow they legitimately have that database. It is definitely disturbing to me.

1

REPLY

Leaker shows up on August 10, 2018. No one believes him.

Anonymous

Fri 10 Aug 2018 05:43:22 No.427250909

Report

Quoted By: >>427251279 >>427251317 >>427252842

>>427250293

There is a private server. Its the pet project of they guy who runs Paragon Chat. Its a bitch to get on board. It uses tequila, like paragon chat. The devs managed to image the server, so they can recall your old account and characters. They also have been adding new power sets and archetypes (bio armor, staff, fire melee for stalkers, Vindicator AT)

Someone who already has an account needs to vouch for you to get in. They frequently move their forums around. If you post anything remotely mentioning the private server or the head Mod on plebbit, you get shadowbanned instantly by a bot.

Good luck.

Anonymous

Fri 10 Aug 2018 05:46:21 No.427251075

Report

>>427248758

Why do you do this to me?

Anonymous

Fri 10 Aug 2018 05:47:33 No.427251159

Report

Quoted By: >>427253776

>>427250457

You'd think with the popularity of superhero shit these days someone would be all over that.

Anonymous

Fri 10 Aug 2018 05:49:22 No.427251279

Report

Quoted By: >>427251858

>>427250909

I mean that sounds nice and all, but it's all a load of bullshit. They would've had to create copies for every server in City of Heroes and if something like that did exist someone at some point would've leaked information about it onto the greater web.

Plus they would need access to the actual source code of City of Heroes in order to properly add new shit.

View Same

Google

100%

Source:WAQ

1531020091772.png, 5KB, 579x365

Anonymous

Fri 10 Aug 2018 05:50:05 No.427251317

Report

>>427250909

that's terrible, I understand the secrecy but damn that game would be poppin' if it was public.

View Same

Google

100%

Source:WAQ

1490500413632.jpg, 539KB, 1400x700

Anonymous

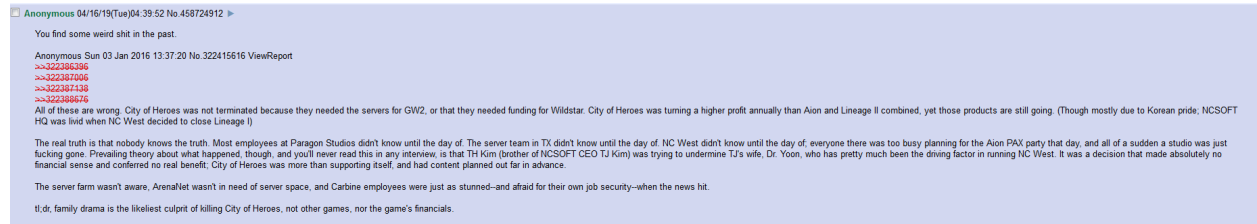
Fri 10 Aug 2018 05:58:46 No.427251858

Report

>>427251279

People do not just lie on the internet, my anonymous friend.

More info from old threads:



“Anonymous Sun 03 Jan 2016 13:37:20 No.322415616 ViewReport

>>322386396

>>322387006

>>322387138

>>322388676

All of these are wrong. City of Heroes was not terminated because they needed the servers for GW2, or that they needed funding for Wildstar. City of Heroes was turning a higher profit annually than Aion and Lineage II combined, yet those products are still going. (Though mostly due to Korean pride; NCSoft HQ was livid when NC West decided to close Lineage I)

The real truth is that nobody knows the truth. Most employees at Paragon Studios didn't know until the day of. The server team in TX didn't know until the day of. NC West didn't know until the day of; everyone there was too busy planning for the Aion PAX party that day, and all of a sudden a studio was just fucking gone. Prevailing theory about what happened, though, and you'll never read this in any interview, is that TH Kim (brother of NCSoft CEO TJ Kim) was trying to undermine TJ's wife, Dr. Yoon, who has pretty much been the driving factor in running NC West. It was a decision that made absolutely no financial sense and conferred no real benefit; City of Heroes was more than supporting itself, and had content planned out far in advance.

The server farm wasn't aware, ArenaNet wasn't in need of server space, and Carbine employees were just as stunned--and afraid for their own job security--when the news hit.

tl;dr, family drama is the likeliest culprit of killing City of Heroes, not other games, nor the game's financials.”

**If you read up to this point, please
consider making a copy of this and**

**sharing it wherever you can, thank you
for your time.**