Shuriken Chase

Short Game Design Document

**Game Title:** Shuriken Chase.

**Platforms:** Android – IOS & PC (intended).

**Target Audience:** Everyone who has a cell phone and is over 10 years old.

**Target ESRB Rating:** Everyone 10+ (E10).

**Release Date:** 20/07/23.

**Story:** The game follows Hikaru’s journey through various breathtaking landscapes as he embarks on a mission to recover a sacred artifact that has been stolen from his village. This artifact holds immense power and must be returned before it falls into the wrong hands. As Hikaru overcomes each level’s unique challenge and collects clues, he grows stronger and closer to recovering the sacred artifact. The game concludes with an epic showdown against the mastermind behind the theft, where Hikaru must utilize all his skills to emerge victorious and save his village from imminent danger.

**Game Flow:** Shuriken Chase is a 2D runner gamer that follows the ninja Hikaru in his adventure. Dodge enemies and obstacles with skillful leaps and acrobatic abilities, running across three bridges. Defeat powerful bosses at each level's end in an exhilarating showdown. Uncover ancient clues to find the mastermind behind the theft and collect coins to unlock new cosmetic items. Experience the seamless connection between gameplay and story as you watch the comic book style cutscenes and witness Hikaru gets closer to the truth about the villain and his clan. Keep a watchful eye on your shuriken ammunition count, managing it wisely. Can you react quickly enough to conquer the 10 dangerous levels based on Japanese environments and mythology, and emerge victorious? Prepare for fast-paced action as Hikaru swiftly maneuvers through the bridges, showcasing the true essence of a ninja's agility. Save the world, harness the artifact's immense power, and foil the mastermind's plans in this adrenaline-fueled adventure.

**Character:**

Name: Hikaru

Age: 25

Occupation: Ninja

Appearance: Hikaru is a skilled and agile ninja with a lean and athletic build. He has dark hair, tied back in a traditional ninja ponytail, and piercing brown eyes. He wears a black ninja outfit with a hood and a mask that covers his lower face. His outfit is adorned with cherry blossom motifs and lightweight armor to provide protection without hindering his movements. Hikaru carries a set of throwing stars.

Background: Hikaru comes from a long line of renowned ninja warriors. He was trained in the ancient arts of stealth, combat, and agility since childhood. Raised in a secluded village, Hikaru mastered the skills and principles of the ninja way, embodying discipline, perseverance, and loyalty.

Keywords: Skilled, Agile, Determined.

**Controls:**

Tap – Jump

Tap and Hold – Slide/Dash/Crouch

Swipe (Up/Down) – Change to upper or lower lane

Swipe (Right) – Throw shuriken

**Gameplay:**

As a runner game, Shuriken Chase is characterized by fast-paced gameplay where players control a character who continuously runs or moves forward through various obstacles and challenges. Players must navigate and react quickly to avoid obstacles, collect power-ups or bonuses, and achieve high scores by covering the longest distance and score possible. The focus is on reflexes, timing, and precision as players strive to overcome increasingly difficult levels and beat their own records.

Shuriken Chase is divided into 10 levels, each with unique environments, that will feature new background, enemies, challenges, atmosphere, and a boss at the end of the level.

Each boss has unique abilities and patterns that will require timing and precision and the use of all the skills the player has learned to that point.

The game can also use platform-specific features to improve the gameplay, such as using the touchscreen, turning the phone sideways, and shaking the mobile phone to solve minigames and puzzles.

Shuriken Chase will use mobile phone vibration to create different patterns of haptic feedback that will be useful to improve the overall experience.

**Worldbuilding:**

Cherry Blossom Garden: Set in a serene Japanese garden with blooming cherry blossom trees, tranquil ponds, and decorative bridges. The level can feature platforms made of wooden planks, stone paths, and vibrant floral scenery.

Bamboo Forest: Navigate through dense bamboo groves, jumping from one tall bamboo shoot to another. The level can have a serene ambiance with rays of sunlight filtering through the thick foliage.

Ancient Temple Ruins: Run through ancient temple ruins with crumbling pillars, moss-covered stone platforms, and hidden traps. The level can evoke a sense of mystery and adventure with intricate architecture and ancient relics.

Misty Mountain Peaks: Ascend treacherous mountain slopes shrouded in mist, leaping across rocky platforms and avoiding avalanches. The level can have a cool color palette with snowy peaks and icy obstacles.

City Rooftops: Dash across the rooftops of a bustling Japanese city at dusk, with neon signs illuminating the night sky. The level can feature a futuristic cityscape, parkour-style obstacles, and narrow ledges.

Cursed Forest: Venture into a dark and eerie forest haunted by supernatural creatures. The level can have twisted trees, glowing mushrooms, and ambient sounds that heighten the sense of danger.

Floating Islands: Run across floating islands suspended in the sky, connected by narrow pathways and magical portals. The level can have vibrant colors, floating waterfalls, and a breathtaking aerial view.

Volcanic Lava Caves: Descend into the depths of fiery lava caves, hopping over lava streams and avoiding falling rocks. The level can have a menacing atmosphere with glowing lava, stalactites, and volcanic eruptions.

Zen Garden: Explore a tranquil Zen garden with perfectly raked sand, stone lanterns, and meditative statues. The level can have a peaceful ambiance with gentle background music and platforms inspired by Zen aesthetics.

Cyberpunk Metropolis: Race through a futuristic cyberpunk cityscape with towering skyscrapers, holographic advertisements, and high-tech obstacles. The level can have a vibrant neon color palette and a fast-paced, high-energy atmosphere.

**Game Experience:**

The experience when playing Shuriken Chase, speaks about adrenaline rush, a combination of action, speed, and the captivating essence of Japanese manga and Japanese action movies.

After the company’s splash art, the player will be welcomed with a main menu. As the first thing that will be seen, it’s important that this screen speaks about the feeling described in the previous paragraph, the art, sounds, song and fonts should transmit this energy of action-japanese style. The next screens should maintain the same sensation.

The In-Game experience should match and maintain the same concept as the menus, with the addition of the feelings proposed by each level’s theme.

Sounds of Japanese instrumental such as flute, drums, gong and taiko; and sounds that resemble kung fu and fights, would be good additions to the game music and sound effects.

**Gameplay Mechanics:**

Mechanics – Objects that you can jump above to reach higher platforms, Walkable paths (lanes).

Hazards – Objects you can jump to dodge (ex: Torii Gates), Objects you can crouch/slide to dodge (ex: Stone Lantern), Holes you need to avoid or jump.

Power-Ups – Shuriken, Shuriken Pack, Shuriken Buff (Quick Shuriken, Triple Shuriken).

Collectibles – Score, Meters, Coins.

**Enemies (Cherry Blossom Garden):**

Enemy Troop: Ninja Geisha

Description: The Ninja Geisha is a formidable enemy troop in the game. These agile warriors combine the grace of a geisha with the lethal skills of a ninja. Dressed in a traditional geisha kimono, their appearance exudes elegance and mystery. Their movements are swift and calculated, showcasing their mastery of martial arts.

Design:

* Attire: The Ninja Geisha wears a stylish geisha kimono adorned with intricate patterns and vibrant colors. The kimono is modified with lightweight armor pieces, providing both protection and freedom of movement.
* Accessories: She carries a pair of razor-sharp sai daggers, concealed within her sleeves, ready to strike at a moment's notice.
* Mask: A decorative mask partially covers her face, accentuating her enigmatic presence. The mask features stylized designs, reminiscent of traditional Japanese art.
* Hairstyle: Her hair is elegantly styled, often in an elaborate updo with ornamental hairpins.
* Stance: The Ninja Geisha stands with poise and confidence, one hand resting on her hip while the other holds a sai dagger in a menacing grip.

Distinctive Traits:

* Graceful yet deadly: The Ninja Geisha's movements seamlessly transition from graceful dance-like motions to swift and lethal strikes, catching the player off guard.
* Diagonal Slice Attack: When the player comes within range, the Ninja Geisha executes a fearsome diagonal slice attack, delivering a powerful blow.
* Vulnerability to Shuriken: The player has the option to throw shurikens at the Ninja Geisha, providing an opportunity to defeat her from a distance.

Enemy Troop: Sakura Spirit

Description: The Sakura Spirits are ethereal enemies that materialize from the blooming cherry blossom trees, adding an element of mystique and danger to the game. These otherworldly entities float gracefully towards the player, driven by an unseen force and possessing a captivating yet eerie presence.

Design:

* Translucent Form: The Sakura Spirits have a semi-transparent appearance, as if they are composed of swirling cherry blossom petals or delicate wisps of energy.
* Blossom Motifs: Their essence is intertwined with cherry blossom motifs, with faint petals or glowing particles swirling around their form.
* Elegant Silhouette: They possess a flowing, elongated silhouette, reminiscent of the delicate branches of cherry blossom trees, conveying an aura of gracefulness.
* Eyes: The Sakura Spirits have glowing, luminescent eyes, capturing the ethereal nature of their being.

Distinctive Traits:

* Swift Movement: These spirits move with extreme velocity towards the player, their ethereal form gliding effortlessly through the air.
* Intangible Nature: The Sakura Spirits cannot be killed or directly harmed by the player's actions, requiring the player to avoid them or jump above them to evade their grasp.
* Intimidating Presence: As they approach, their presence creates a sense of foreboding, adding to the challenge and creating tension in the gameplay.

Enemy Troop: Zen Archer

Description: The Zen Archers are highly skilled enemies who excel in archery and precision attacks. With their unwavering focus and deadly accuracy, they pose a formidable challenge to the player. These troopers display disciplined movements and demonstrate their mastery of the bow and arrow.

Design:

* Sleek Attire: The Zen Archers wear lightweight, agile attire that allows for fluid movement. Their outfits may consist of a combination of traditional and modern elements, providing both flexibility and protection.
* Archery Stance: They have a distinct pose, with a steady and poised stance, showcasing their expertise in archery. They hold their bow with precision, ready to unleash arrows upon their target.
* Intense Gaze: The Zen Archers have sharp, focused eyes that display their unwavering concentration. Their gaze conveys a sense of determination and mastery.

Distinctive Traits:

* Bow and Arrow: The primary weapon of the Zen Archers is their bow and arrow. The bow may be designed with intricate details, while the arrows are sleek and lethal, embodying their precision and skill.
* Tactical Movement: These enemies move strategically towards the player, constantly adjusting their position to maintain an optimal shooting angle. Their movements are purposeful and calculated.
* Split-second Attacks: The Zen Archers take advantage of opportunities to unleash quick and accurate arrow shots at the player. The arrows may be imbued with a hint of spiritual energy, adding to their potency.

Boss: Moonlight Kitsune

Description: The Moonlight Kitsune is a majestic and powerful creature, a mystical nine-tailed fox that possesses extraordinary abilities. With its cunning nature and mastery over illusions and magic, it presents a formidable challenge to the player. The battle against the Moonlight Kitsune requires focus, quick thinking, and the ability to distinguish between reality and illusion.

Design:

* Ethereal Beauty: The Moonlight Kitsune exudes an ethereal beauty, with fur that shimmers like moonlight. Its graceful form and elegant movements convey a sense of otherworldly power and mystique.
* Nine Tails: The kitsune boasts nine magnificent tails, each one representing its immense magical prowess. The tails may vary in color, such as shades of silver or blue, and are adorned with ethereal wisps of light.
* Glowing Eyes: Its eyes glow with an intense, piercing gaze, reflecting its cunning and intelligence. The color of its eyes may vary, perhaps a luminous blue or a captivating golden hue.

Distinctive Traits:

* Shape-shifting Abilities: The Moonlight Kitsune can effortlessly transform its appearance, assuming different forms and sizes. It may shift between a majestic fox and a more humanoid shape, enhancing its unpredictability and versatility in combat.
* Illusions and Elemental Magic: It employs illusions and elemental magic to confuse and deceive the player. The kitsune can conjure phantom images, elemental attacks like bursts of fire or gusts of wind, and manipulate the environment to its advantage.
* Swift Tail Strikes: The boss utilizes its tails as deadly weapons, striking with incredible speed and precision. The tails may possess elemental attributes, such as being imbued with electric energy or engulfed in flames.

Battle Strategy:

* Identifying the Real Fox: The player must stay vigilant and keenly observe the Moonlight Kitsune's movements and patterns to identify the true form amidst the illusions. Accuracy is key to targeting and damaging the boss effectively.
* Exploiting Vulnerabilities: Once the real fox is identified, the player must exploit its vulnerabilities by timing their attacks and using specific strategies. This may involve disrupting the boss's illusions, utilizing environmental elements, or countering its elemental magic with the appropriate skills or tools.

Boss: Shiro Kage

Age: Unknown

Alias: The White Shadow; The Mastermind

Appearance: Shiro Kage is an enigmatic figure, often shrouded in white robes that blend seamlessly with the shadows. His face is concealed by a white porcelain mask adorned with intricate patterns, adding to his aura of mystery. Underneath the mask, his eyes are said to possess an unsettling intensity, reflecting his cold determination. Shiro Kage's movements are graceful and precise, as if he is an extension of the shadows themselves.

Background: Shiro Kage was once a prodigious ninja, trained in the same lineage as Hikaru. However, he succumbed to the allure of power and darkness, forsaking the principles of honor and loyalty. His thirst for power led him to embark on a treacherous path, where he delved into forbidden knowledge and acquired forbidden techniques. This transformation turned him into a feared and relentless adversary.

Abilities: Shiro Kage possesses a vast array of skills honed through years of training and his own dark practices. He is a master of stealth, able to move silently and blend seamlessly with the shadows. His agility is unmatched, allowing him to navigate obstacles with precision and strike with lightning speed. Shiro Kage's combat abilities are formidable, wielding a combination of deadly martial arts techniques and unconventional, shadow-based techniques.

Personality: Shiro Kage is a calculating and cunning individual, always one step ahead of his adversaries. He is driven by an insatiable hunger for power and dominance, and he will stop at nothing to achieve his goals. Shiro Kage is known for his manipulative nature, using deception and psychological warfare to sow discord and confusion. He is a master of exploiting weaknesses and exploiting the fears and doubts of others.

Motivation: Shiro Kage's motivation lies in his desire to harness the power of the sacred artifact. He believes that with its power, he can reshape the world according to his own vision, free from the constraints of morality and honor. His ambition knows no bounds, and he sees himself as a ruler and a conqueror, seeking to establish himself as the ultimate force in the realm.

Conflict with Hikaru: Shiro Kage sees Hikaru as a threat and a reminder of his own past. Their clash represents the clash of light and darkness, tradition and corruption. Shiro Kage aims to eliminate Hikaru and seize the sacred artifact for himself, while Hikaru is determined to stop him and protect their lineage and the world from falling into darkness. Their confrontations are intense battles of skill, wits, and ideology, culminating in a climactic showdown that will determine the fate of the sacred artifact and the world itself.

**Cutscenes:**

The cutscenes will play between levels, they’ll tell what’s happening in the story, and present locations and foes. They’ll be displayed in format of comic book pages, when the player taps on the screen, the focus will change to the next panel. Some panels may contain animations to display movement. And the panels will contain sound and music to add to the experience and appear less static.

Example Cutscene Screenplay – Cherry Blossom Garden.

Panel 1:

Scene Description: A full-page panel displaying a beautiful Japanese landscape with blooming cherry blossom trees in the foreground. The tranquil ponds and decorative bridges can be seen in the distance.

Size: Full-page

Photo Composition: The composition highlights the serene beauty of the Cherry Blossom Garden.

Caption (Top): "In a peaceful land..."

Panel 2:

Scene Description: A close-up shot of Hikaru, our main character, standing atop a wooden plank platform in a ninja pose. Cherry blossom petals float gently in the air around him.

Size: 1/3 of the page (left-hand side)

Photo Composition: Focus on Hikaru, showcasing his determination and readiness.

Hikaru (Thought): "I am Hikaru, a skilled ninja from a long line of warriors."

Panel 3:

Scene Description: Hikaru in action, leaping across stone paths with agility and grace. The vibrant floral scenery of the Cherry Blossom Garden surrounds him.

Size: 2/3 of the page (right-hand side)

Photo Composition: Show Hikaru mid-leap, capturing his nimbleness and showcasing the scenic background.

Caption (Bottom): "He embarks on a perilous quest..."

Panel 4:

Scene Description: Hikaru landing on another wooden plank platform, surrounded by tranquil ponds. Rays of sunlight filter through the cherry blossom trees.

Size: 1/2 of the page (top)

Photo Composition: Focus on Hikaru, showing his skillful landing and the serene ambiance.

Hikaru (Thought): "To retrieve the sacred artifact stolen from our village."

Panel 5:

Scene Description: Hikaru running along a wooden plank pathway, with vibrant cherry blossom trees on both sides. He displays his agility and speed.

Size: 1/2 of the page (bottom)

Photo Composition: Show Hikaru in motion, emphasizing his speed and the beauty of the

Cherry Blossom Garden.

Caption (Top): "His first challenge awaits..."

Panel 6:

Scene Description: Hikaru jumping across a gap between two wooden planks, with a tranquil pond beneath him. The distant decorative bridges can be seen in the background.

Size: 1/3 of the page (left-hand side)

Photo Composition: Show Hikaru mid-jump, highlighting his acrobatic prowess.

Hikaru (Thought): "The Cherry Blossom Garden conceals both beauty and danger."

Panel 7:

Scene Description: Hikaru landing on a stone platform, decorated with cherry blossom petals. Moss-covered pillars and hidden traps hint at the adventure ahead.

Size: 2/3 of the page (right-hand side)

Photo Composition: Focus on Hikaru, showing his landing and the intricate architecture of the bridges of the cherry blossom garden.

Caption (Bottom): "The Cherry Blossom Garden hold secrets..."

Panel 8:

Scene Description: Hikaru in a crouched position, with his hand on the hilt of his katana. His eyes narrow, signifying his focus and determination.

Size: 1/2 of the page (top)

Photo Composition: Focus on Hikaru's intense expression, highlighting his readiness for what lies ahead.

Hikaru (Thought): "I will reclaim the sacred artifact and restore honor."

Panel 9:

Scene Description: Hikaru swiftly traversing a mist-kissed cherry blossom garden, leaping over stone pathways and navigating through delicate pink petals.

Size: 1/2 of the page (bottom)

Photo Composition: Show Hikaru in motion, emphasizing the cherry blossom garden and the challenges he faces.

Caption (Top): "The Cherry blossom garden awaits..."

Caption (Bottom): "Will Hikaru overcome the dangers and save his village?"

End of Cutscene