**Origin:**

As detailed in [Validation and Accomplishments](https://spencers.dev/posts/blog/2022-01-22-validation-and-accomplishments/), my original blog was either a blogspot or in High School where I had my first hosted space. That evolved into a hosted space at my University. During and after College I used Github Pages for static HTML 5 websites. That evolved into a proper blog with Jekyll templating of posts and now it's naturally evolved into 11ty.

This blog likely would have stay deprecated except I was inspired by my coworkers who shared their blogging adventures – AND Google opening the newer `.dev` TLD which allowed me to get this amazing domain – [spencers.dev](http://spencers.dev)

**Automation:**

However, the scripts that come alongside my blog are more recent. The original architecture was developed for hosting my own game servers. The goal is to have a server (and whatever application on it) be spun up programmatically (zero manual interaction). I did not have homelab so the idea was instead of running dynamic scaling via a Cloud Hosting Platform I would dynamically scale based on manual inputs via a command server.

The control flow was somewhat as follows:

Discord commands

Create AWS bucket

Configure NGINX, Docker, Monitoring scripts, Backup jobs, etc.

Configure Cloudflare

Discord timer until teardown unless extended

This was a fun practical project. In more specifics it involved Discord API, Terraform (abstraction from Cloud API), Cloudflare API, and the actual server setup is done with naive scripts to SFTP copy and run files.

**MX:**

There are many more projects to do but one of the simpler ones that I've wanted to figure out since I deeply enjoy my [spencers.dev](http://spencers.dev) domain was to have a workspace email.

There's the super simple way which is a business account, there's the harder insecure way of running my own mail server and I'm currently using a middle-of-the-road where I use SES, S3, and Lambda.

This was a fun practical project and I can now send and receive emails from many emails on my domain but more commonly I use *spencer@spencers.dev*

**Subdomain:**

I can host many other projects on my domain. I hope to host my own game server and other utility projects and extensions as well.

However most excitingly and uniquely, in the near future I will be publishing my first alternate reality puzzle game / quest. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternate_reality_game>

I am deeply inspired by [Cicada 3301](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cicada_3301) and the like and **communal puzzles are so fun**. Whether they are ARGs, hidden easter eggs, or simply nonsensical numerology. Even though it has taken me quite a long time to develop, when it is launched it will definitely warrant its own posting. I hope to detail my journey into ARGs and puzzles, the technology behind it all, and an introduction to my sets of puzzles for the community.

Ultimately there will be game servers, fun servers, my ARG puzzle, and in the long run my own security CTF.

**Jobs:**

Similar to hosting fun servers, you can also host fun recurring jobs or webhooks to run scripts. More or less ITTT functionality but it's more enjoyable when you take the time to learn an API, build from the ground up, and don't have any concerns about authentication vulnerabilities.

Some recurring jobs I have are populating my Spotify playlists, running a reddit bot, and also running scripts based on emails. The spotify bot is super practical, populating my Spotify playlists from other playlists, curating songs from /r/listentothis, and scraping the music choices from a certain youtube channel.

A domain and running hosting is cheaper than I thought. There's so much one can do with a domain when I originally only conceptualized a static website. I would never have known and it's been a fun discovery.

We do what we must because we can.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSOJk7ggJts>

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