GDC

The Art of Not Reinventing the Wheel in LEAGUE Asset Pipeline

Sean Low Technical Art Director, Riot Games

GAME DEVELOPERS CONFERENCE | July 19-23, 2021



Disney Interactive

- Disney Infinity 2 & 3
- Unpublished titles

Unity Technologies

- ADAM
- Baymax Dreams
- 2019.3 New interface

Riot Games

• League of Legends: Wild Rift







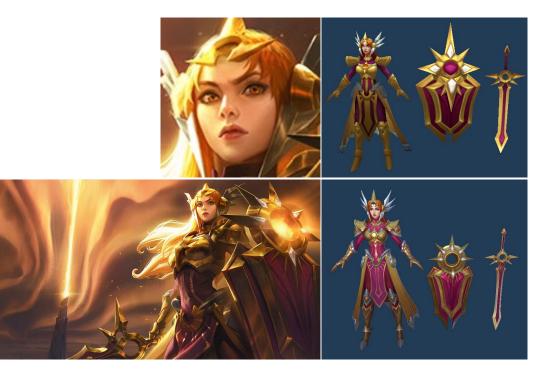




Champion Assets

Champion Asset - Leona

- Icon
- Splash Art
- In Game model
- Turntable model











Leona Champion Skin



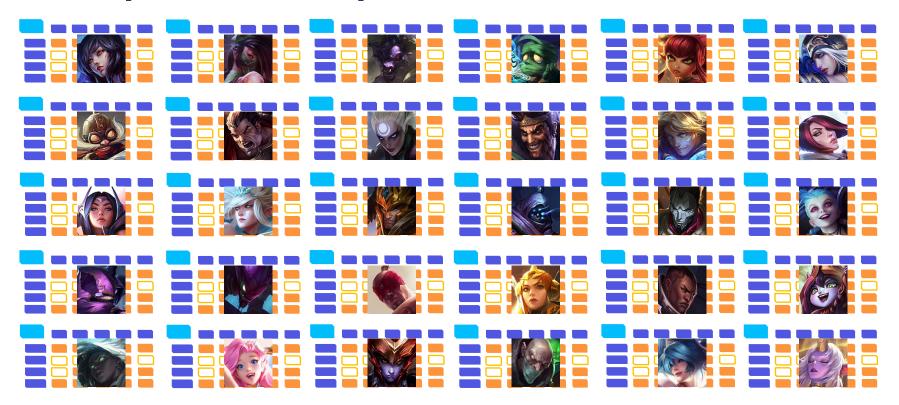
Base

Skin

Champion Asset Hierarchy



Champion Asset Dependencies



Expanded Scope

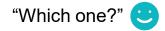
Small R&D to Global Live Mobile Game

- Asset scaled up rapidly
- Team scaled up rapidly





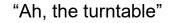
"Can I get the Ahri model?"





"I mean do you want an in game or turntable" 🙂





"Got it, just the base skin right?" 🙂



"Oh, actually I need the K/DA skin"

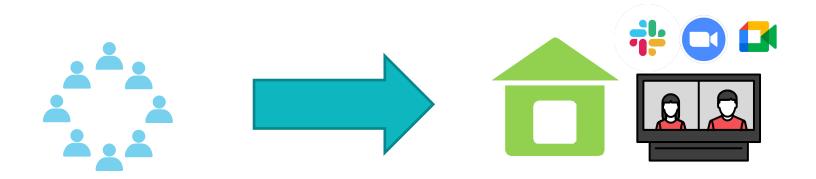
OG NEW "Ok but which one? K/DA or K/DA All Out?"





WFH Communication





Small POD of 10 people

Slack & Google Meet/ Zoom

Summary of Problems

- Complicated asset hierarchy
- Team scaled up rapidly
- WFH

Tracking state of asset is a huge pain!

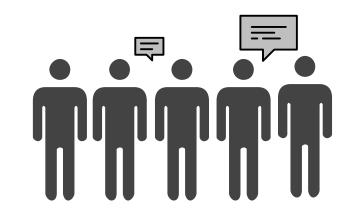


Goal & Restriction

Discovery – Survey Existing Tech

- Documentation
- Communication with SME/ Lead





Discovery – Game Logic

- Control character animation & VFX
- Serialized in .json



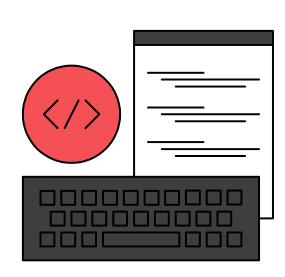






Discovery – Game Logic

- Document + individual
- Code





Discovery – Unity Asset System 🕣

1 !u! tag:unity3d.com,2011: TagString: Untagged --- *[u]* &6731287241648438541 ---[[]u!33 &1309050250983793141

	f23a2b58541a475bd3c1393052	fbx
		100
		<i>(</i>]
		.fbx.meta
	Leona_Root	
	Leona_Hips	
	Leona_Spine	
	Leona_Head	
	Leona_LeftArm	
	Leona_LeftFoot	
	Leona_LeftHandIndex1	
	Leona_LeftHandIndex2	
	Leona_LeftHandIndex3	
	Leona_LeftHandIndex4	
100024:	Leona_LeftHandMiddle1	
	Leona_LeftHandMiddle2	
100028:	Leona_LeftHandMiddle3	
	Leona_LeftHandMiddle4	
	Leona_LeftHandPinky1	
	Leona_LeftHandPinky2	
	Leona_LeftHandPinky3	
100038:	Leona_LeftHandPinky4	
	Leona_LeftHandRing1	
	Leona_LeftHandRing2	
100044:	Leona_LeftHandRing3	
100046:	Leona_LeftHandRing4	
	Leona_LeftHandThumb1	
	Leona_LeftHandThumb2	
100052:	Leona_LeftHandThumb3	
100054:	Leona_LeftHandThumb4	
	Leona_LeftLeg	
100058:	Leona_LeftShoulder	
100060:	Leona_LeftToeBase	
	Leona_LeftUpLeg	
	Leona_Neck	
100066:	Leona_Reference	
	Leona_RightArm	
	Leona_RightFoot	
	Leona_RightHand	

Prefab

.meta

Discovery – Naming Convention

- Folder names
- Files names



- Rig: L/R/C
- Anim: IN, OUT, TRANS
- VFX: HIT, BUFF





Solution

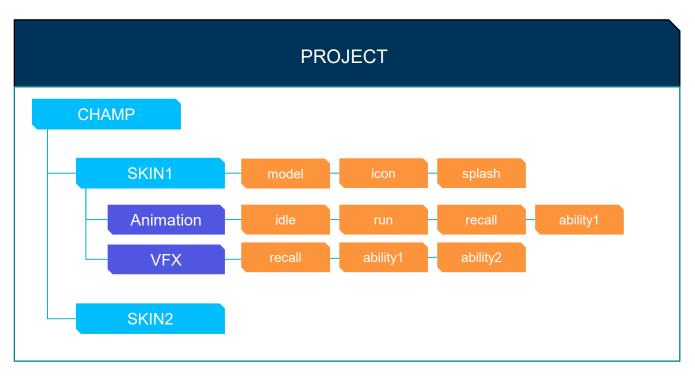
Character Asset								
СНАМР								
	PREFAB		3D FB	x		IMAGES		
CHAMP/ SKIN1								
	PREFAB		3D FB	х		IMAGES		
CH.	AMP/ SKIL	_L1						
	PREFAB		3D FB	х		IMAGES		
CHAMP/ SKILL1 - SKIN2 variant								
	PREFAB		3D FB	х		IMAGES		
.meta .json								



Asset Analysis Tool

Mesh, Material, Animation, VFX of Champions • Skins • Skills • Example of data extracted: Champ Name: Garen Attack Range: Melee Champ data Lane: Top Icon: Garen/UI/Headshot Prefab: Garen/Prefab Champ asset Model: Garen/Ingame Env: Demacia/Palace Skill 1: Decisive Strike Anim: Garen/Skill1/Anim/q Skill asset Duration: 75 frames Skin 1: Dreadknight Garen FBX:Garen/Skin1/Ingame/FBX Skin asset Vert Count: 1125

Design the Solution: Asset Analysis Tool



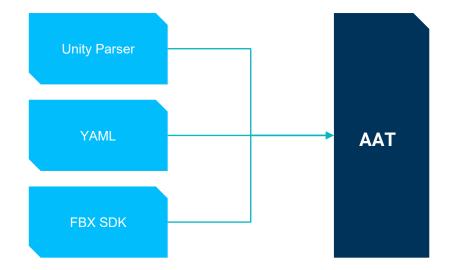
Design the Solution: API

- Easy data access point
- Flexible data formatting, manipulation

import aat

wr = aat.setup("project_depot_path")
ahri = wr.get_champ("Ahri")
ahri_skin1 = ahri.get_skin(1) # skin object
ahri_skills = ahri.get_skills() # list of skill objects

Design the Solution: Integration



Design the Solution: Python

- Fast don't need to launch full project
- Standalone no tech dependencies with actual project



Result

import aat

wr = aat.setup("project_depot_path")

all_champ = wr.get_all_champs()

for champ in all_champ:

champ_base = champ.get_skin(0) # return skin object

fbxstat = champ_base.ingame.get_fbx_stat() # return dict (vert count, animclips, etc)



Result

1 Skin	Path	Polycount Bone	5 NOUL	<u> </u>
5 Arcade Ahri	champion\ahri_skin04\ahri_skin04.fbx	1297	83	87
6 The Minotaur	champion\alistar\alistar.fbx	1309	43	46
7 Moo Cow Alistar	champion\alistar_skin01\alistar_skin01.fbx	1050	43	46
8 Lunar Beast Alistar	champion\alistar_skin02\alistar_skin02.fbx	1305	43	46
9 The Sad Mummy	champion\amumu\amumu.fbx	775	56	59
10 Surprise Party Amumu	champion\amumu_skin01\amumu_skin01.fbx	1339	56	59
11 Sad Robot Amumu	champion\amumu_skin02\amumu_skin02.fbx	1279	56	60
12 Infernal Amumu	champion\amumu_skin03\amumu_skin03.fbx	1420	56	60
13 Little Knight Amumu	champion\amumu_skin04\amumu_skin04.fbx	1426	56	59
14 The Dark Child	champion\annie\annie.fbx	1617	59	63
15 Frostfire Annie	champion\annie_skin01\annie_skin01.fbx	1415	59	63
16 Lunar Beast Annie	champion\annie_skin02\annie_skin02.fbx	1145	71	75
17 Red Riding Annie	champion\annie_skin03\annie_skin03.fbx	1673	70	72
18 The Frost Archer	champion\ashe\ashe.fbx	1744	69	72
19 Freljord Ashe	champion\ashe_skin03\ashe_skin03.fbx	1760	69	72
20 Queen Ashe	champion\ashe_skin04\ashe_skin04.fbx	1408	69	72
21 Marauder Ashe	champion\ashe_skin06\ashe_skin06.fbx	2004	69	72
	SG			
ΑΑΤ	6 The Minotaur 7 Moo Cow Alistar 8 Lunar Beast Alistar 9 The Sad Nummy 10 Surprise Party Amumu 11 Sad Robot Amumu 12 Infernal Amumu 13 Little Knight Amumu 14 The Dark Child 15 Frostfire Annie 16 Lunar Beast Annie 17 Red Riding Annie 18 The Frost Archer 19 Freijord Ashe 20 Queen Ashe 21 Marauder Ashe	6 The Minotaur champion\alistar\slistar.fbx 7 Moo Cow Alistar champion\alistar\skin01\alistar\skin01\bitx 8 Luara Beast Alistar champion\alistar\skin01\alistar\skin01\bitx 9 The Sad Mummy champion\alistar\skin01\alistar\skin01\bitx 10 Surprise Party Amumu champion\amumu\skin01\amumu\skin01\bitx 11 Sad Robot Amumu champion\amumu\skin01\amumu\skin01\amumu\skin03\amumu\skin03\tamumu\skin04.fbx 12 Infernal Amumu champion\amumu\skin03\amumu\skin04.fbx 13 Little Knight Amumu champion\amumu\skin01\amumu\skin04.fbx 14 The Dark Child champion\amumi\skin01\amumu\skin04.fbx 15 Frostfire Annie champion\amum\skin01\amumu\skin04.fbx 16 The Frost Archer champion\amum\skin03\annie\skin03\annie\skin03.fbx 17 Red Riding Annie champion\amum\skin03\annie\skin03.fbx 18 The Frost Archer champion\amum\skin03\annie\skin03.fbx 19 Freligord Ashe champion\ashe\skin04.ashe.skin03.fbx 10 The Frost Archer champion\ashe\skin04.ashe.skin04.fbx 20 Queen Ashe champion\ashe\skin04.she.skin05.fbx 21 <	6 The Minotaur champion\alistar\shin01\alistar_skin01\listar_skin01\fbx 1369 7 Moo Cow Alistar champion\alistar_skin01\alistar_skin01\fbx 1050 8 Luara Beast Alistar champion\alistar_skin01\alistar_skin01\fbx 1305 9 The Sad Mummy champion\amumu_skin01\amumu_skin01\fbx 1339 10 Surprise Party Amumu champion\amumu_skin01\amumu_skin01.tbx 1339 11 Sad Robot Amumu champion\amumu_skin02\amumu_skin02.tbx 1279 12 Infernal Amumu champion\amumu_skin04\amumu_skin04.tbx 1426 13 Little Knight Amumu champion\amumu_skin04\amumu_skin04.tbx 1426 14 The Dark Child champion\amumu_skin01\amumu_skin04.tbx 1426 15 Frostfire Annie champion\amumu_skin03\amumu_skin04.tbx 1426 15 Frostfire Annie champion\amumu_skin03\amumu_skin04.tbx 1415 16 Litte Knight Amumu champion\amumu_skin03\amumu_skin03.tbx 1617 15 Frostfire Annie champion\amumu_skin03\amumu_skin03.tbx 1673 16 The Dark Child champion\amumu_skin03.tbx 1678 17	6 The Minotaur champion\alistar\alistar.fbx 1309 43 7 Moo Cow Alistar champion\alistar_skin01\alistar_skin01.fbx 1056 43 8 Lunar Beast Alistar champion\alistar_skin01\alistar_skin02.laistar_skin01.fbx 1305 43 9 The Sad Mummy champion\amumu_shin01\amumu_skin01.fbx 1305 43 9 The Sad Mummy champion\amumu_skin01\amumu_skin01.fbx 1339 56 10 Surprise Party Amumu champion\amumu_skin02\amumu_skin02.fbx 1279 56 11 Sad Abot Amumu champion\amumu_skin03\amumu_skin03.fbx 1420 56 12 Infernal Amumu champion\amumu_skin03\amumu_skin04.fbx 1426 56 13 Little Knight Amumu champion\amumu_skin03.fbx 1426 56 14 The Dark Child champion\amumu_skin03.fbx 1417 59 16 Lunar Beast Annie champion\annie_skin03.nnie_skin03.fbx 1415 59 16 Lunar Beast Annie champion\annie_skin03.nnie_skin03.fbx 1673 70 18 The Fost Archer champion\ashe_skin03.she.fbx 1744

Delverent Dene

Lesson Learned

Understand Your Playground

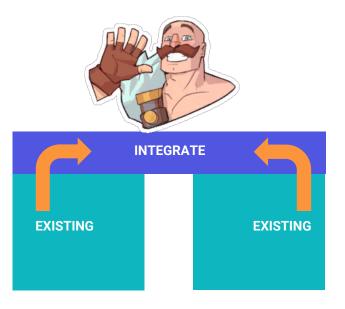
- Existing Data (ready-to-use & not)
- Existing Tools (custom & generic)



Playground during pandemic

Understand Your Playground

- Build upon foundation
- Faster, integrated
- Upfront communication cost, worth it



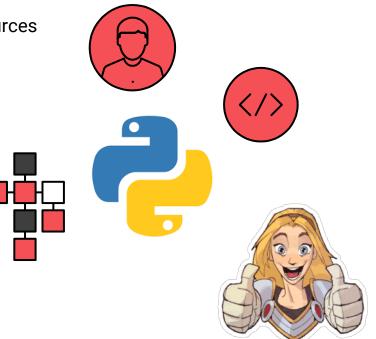
Future Proofing

- Long term supports
- Flexible, adjustment/ pivot if need to
- Minimal dependencies



Future Proofing

- Low barrier in learning curve/ more potential resources
- Publicly available support/ resources
- Less dependencies



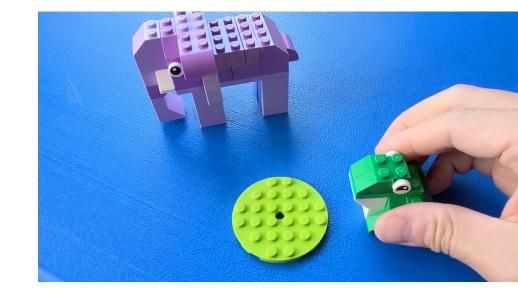
Start Small Start Fast (fail fast ?)

- Prototype show result
- Modularize easier to reuse, pivot
- Extension layers



Start Small Start Fast (fail fast ?)

- Prototype show result
- Modularize easier to reuse, pivot
- Extension layers



Partnership > Ownership







THANK YOU!

