Drupal, NetFlix, & Chill: Adaptive Bitrate Video Streaming

Stephen Barker, Digital Frontiers Media, Inc. Dave Kopecek, Aisle 8, Inc.



The Problem

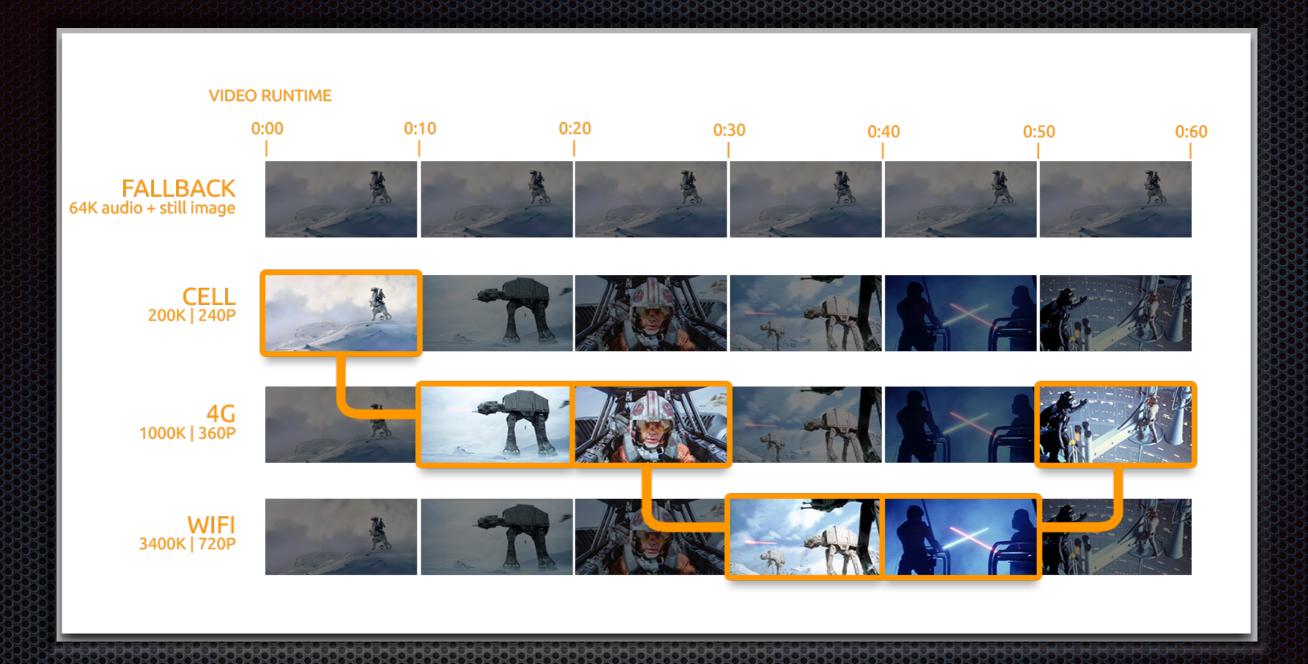
- Existing Site
- 400 HD videos
- Slow video loading/buffering/playback latency (10-11 seconds average; sometimes up to 30 seconds!)
- Stuttering video playback
- Web server disk space being exhausted
- Budget
- Two-Pronged Issue of User Experience (stutter) v. Site Maintainability





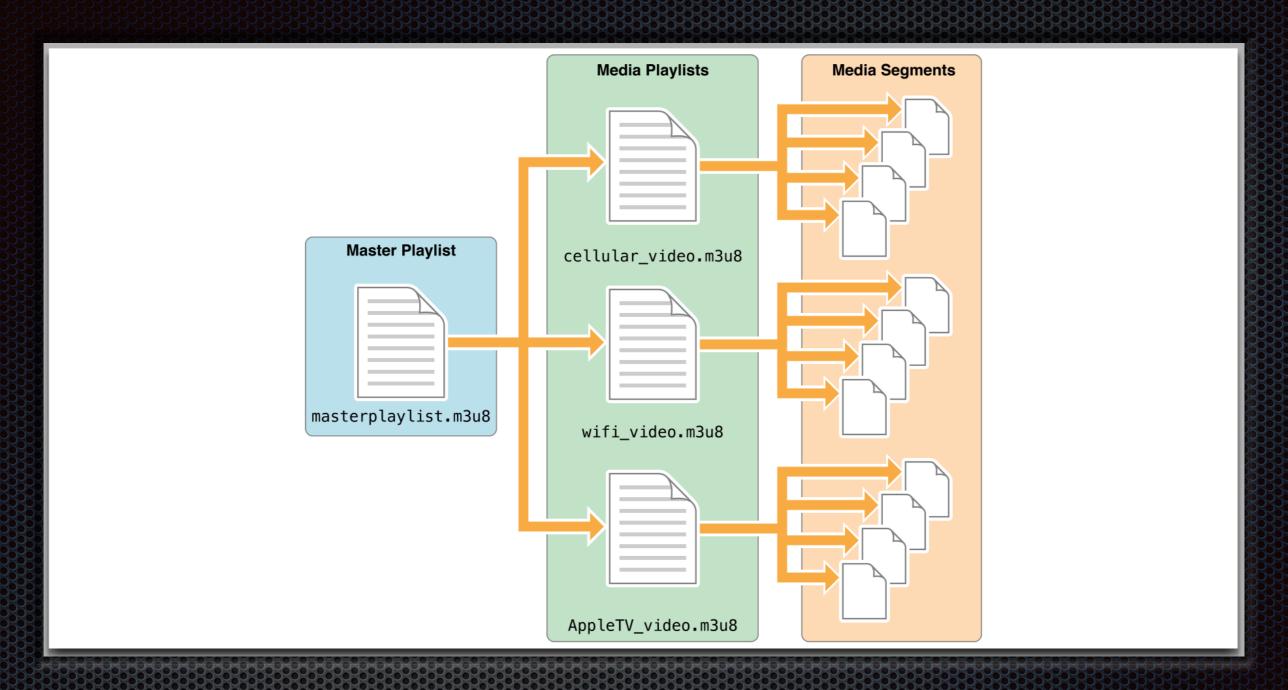
Does NetFlix hate you?





Adaptive Bitrate Streaming





HLS Video File Structure



PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Amazon Elastic Transcoder Product Details Pricing Getting Started Developer Resources FAQs What's New? RELATED LINKS Documentation Management Console Release Notes Discussion Forum

Amazon Elastic Transcoder



Try Amazon Elastic Transcoder

Transcode up to 20 minutes of content each month for free. Read more.

Amazon Elastic Transcoder is media transcoding in the cloud. It is designed to be a highly scalable, easy to use and a cost effective way for developers and businesses to convert (or "transcode") media files from their source format into versions that will playback on devices like smartphones, tablets and PCs.

What's New with Amazon Elastic Transcoder

- Amazon Elastic Transcoder Adds Support for Closed Captioning Standard Typically Used by Digital Television
- · Amazon Elastic Transcoder Adds Support for XDCAM and FLAC
- Amazon Elastic Transcoder Adds PlayReady DRM Support for Smooth Streaming and

Get Started with AWS for Free

Create a Free Account

Or Sign In to the Console

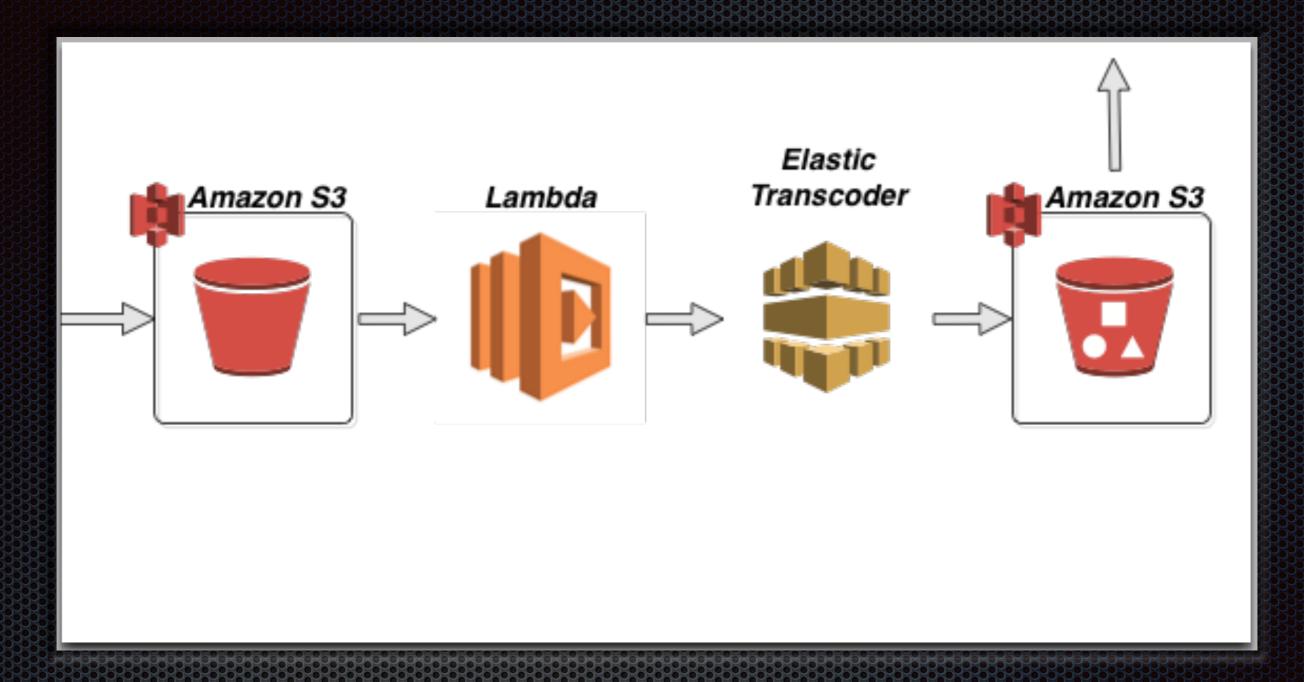
Amazon Elastic Transcoder's Free Tier includes up to 20 minutes of transcoding each month.

View AWS Free Tier Details »

Stutter Solution: Amazon Elastic Transcoder

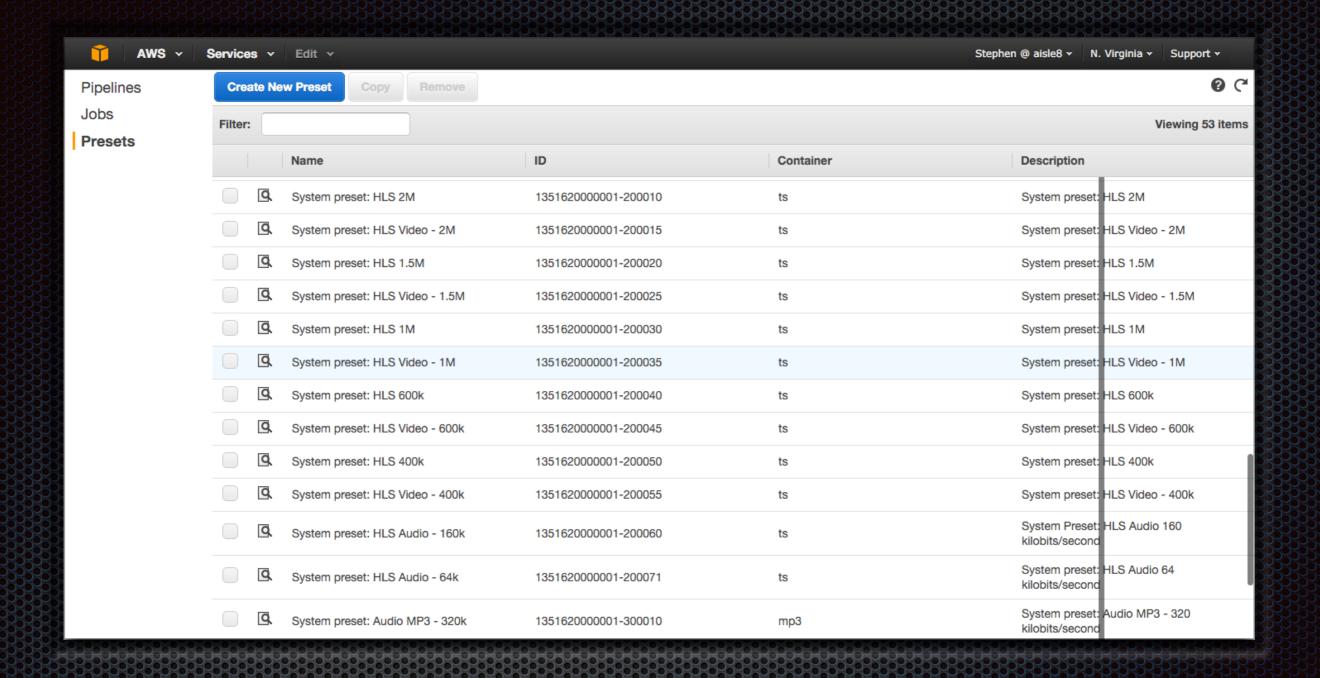


Aisle8, Inc.



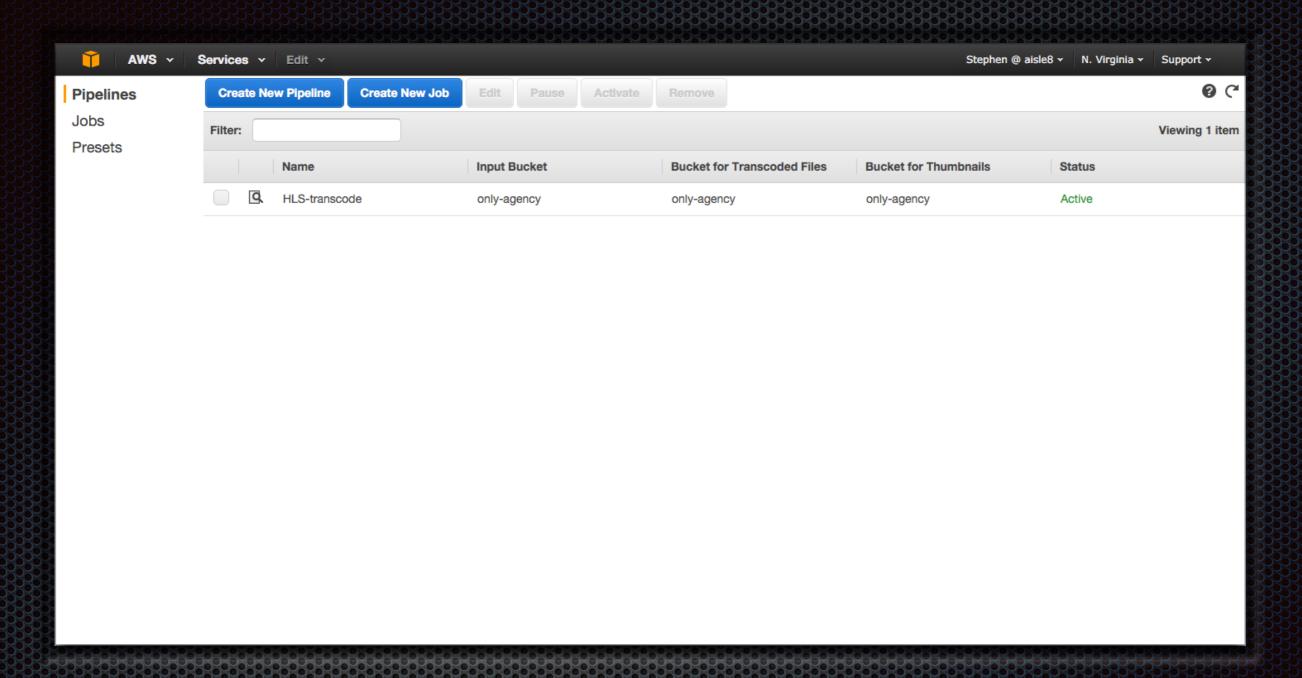
Transcoder Workflow





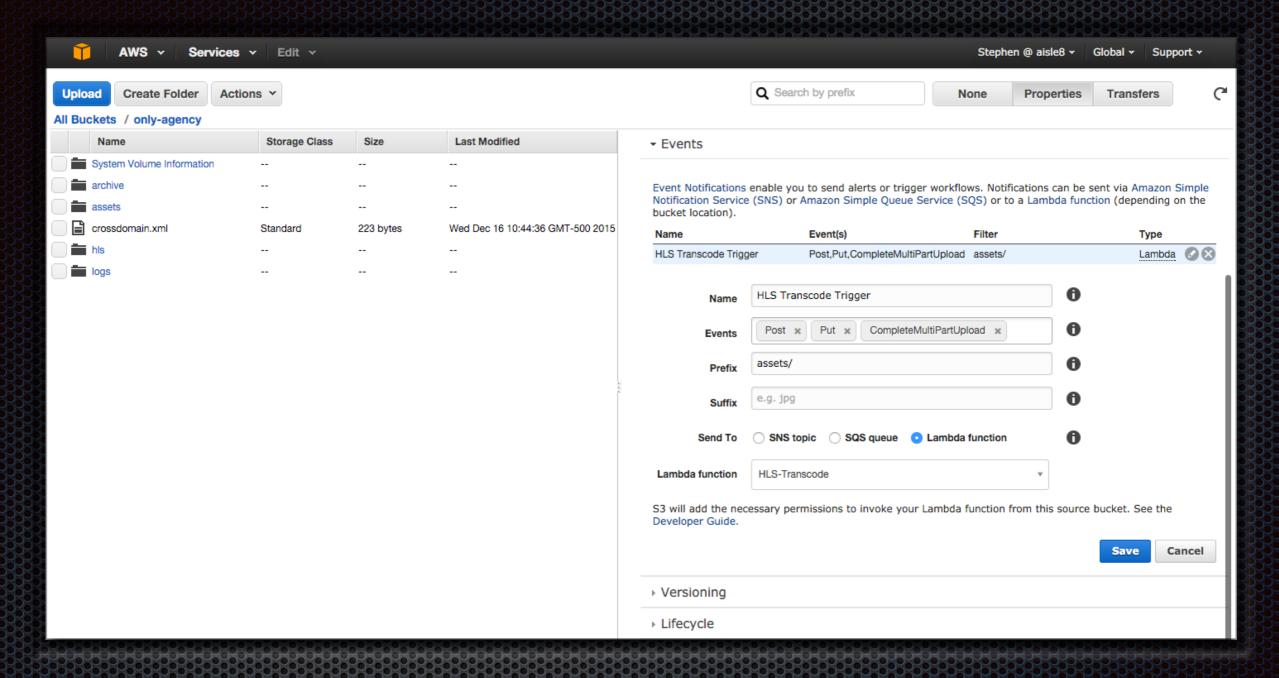
AWS Elastic Transcoder HLS Presets





Pipelines and Jobs





AmazonS3 Events





AWS Lambda

Run code without thinking about servers. Pay for only the compute time you consume.

Get started with AWS Lambda

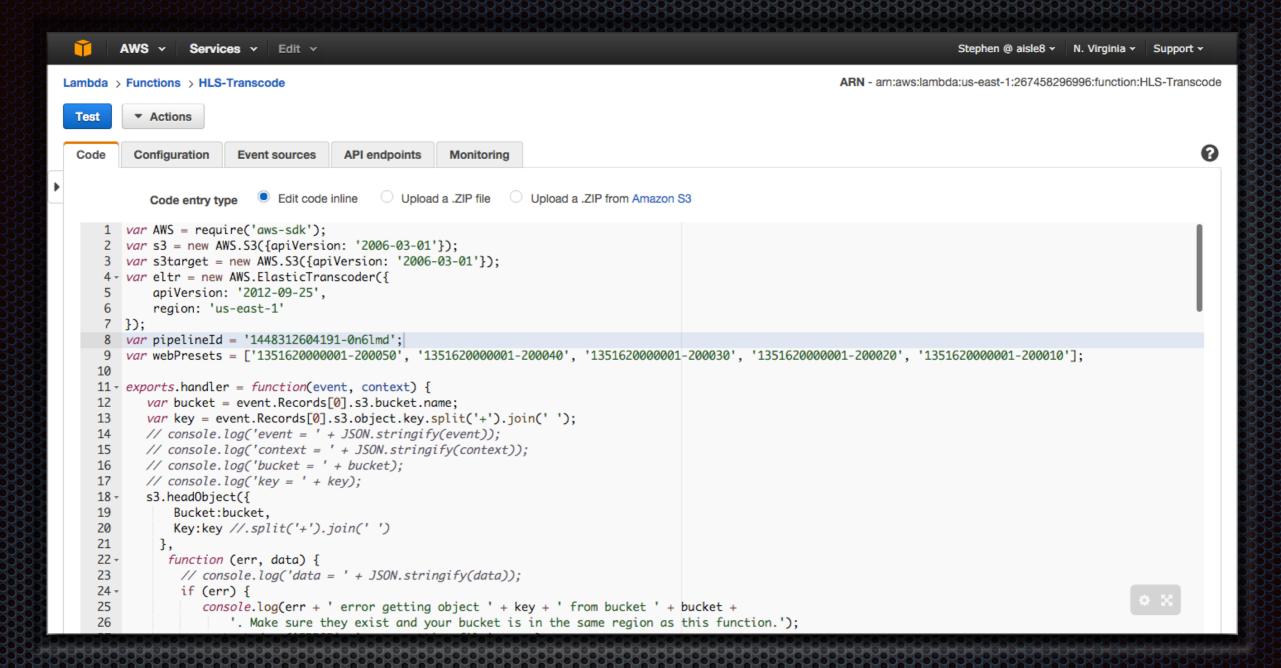
Product Details Pricing Getting Started Partners FAQs Documentation

AWS Lambda lets you run code without provisioning or managing servers. You pay only for the compute time you consume - there is no charge when your code is not running. With Lambda, you can run code for virtually any type of application or backend service - all with zero administration. Just upload your code and Lambda takes care of everything required to run and scale your code with high availability. You can set up your code to automatically trigger from other AWS services or call it directly from any web or mobile app.



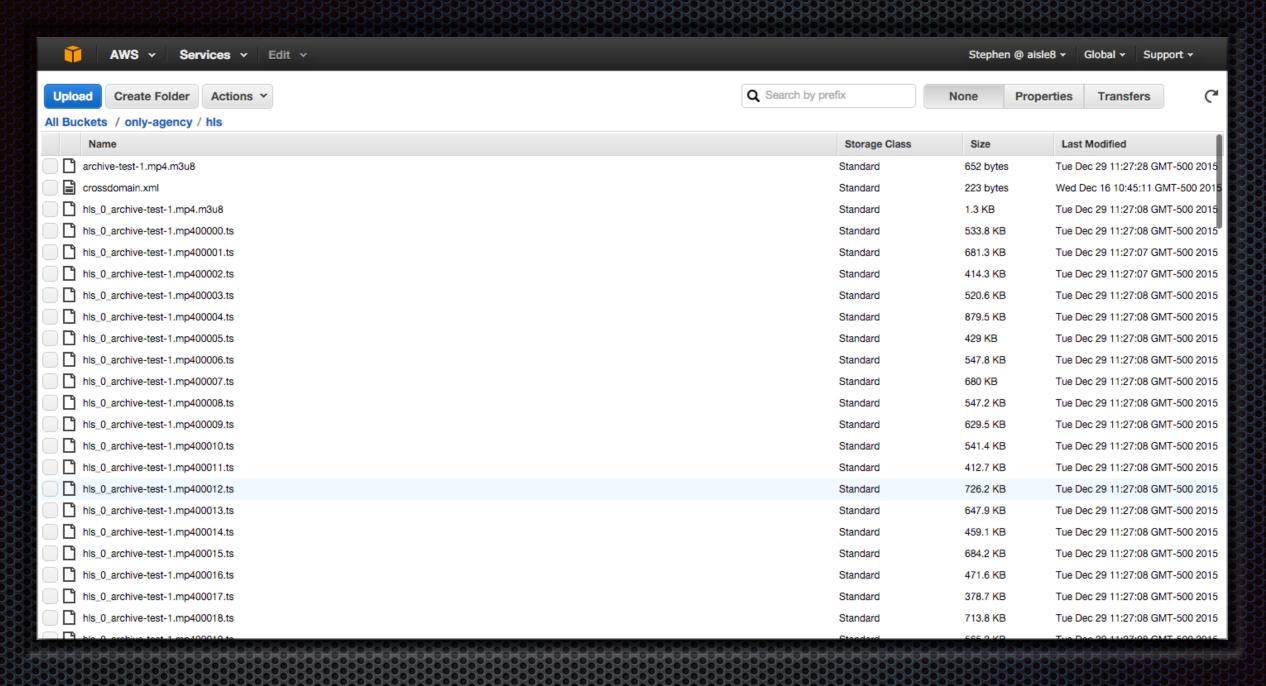
AWS Lambda





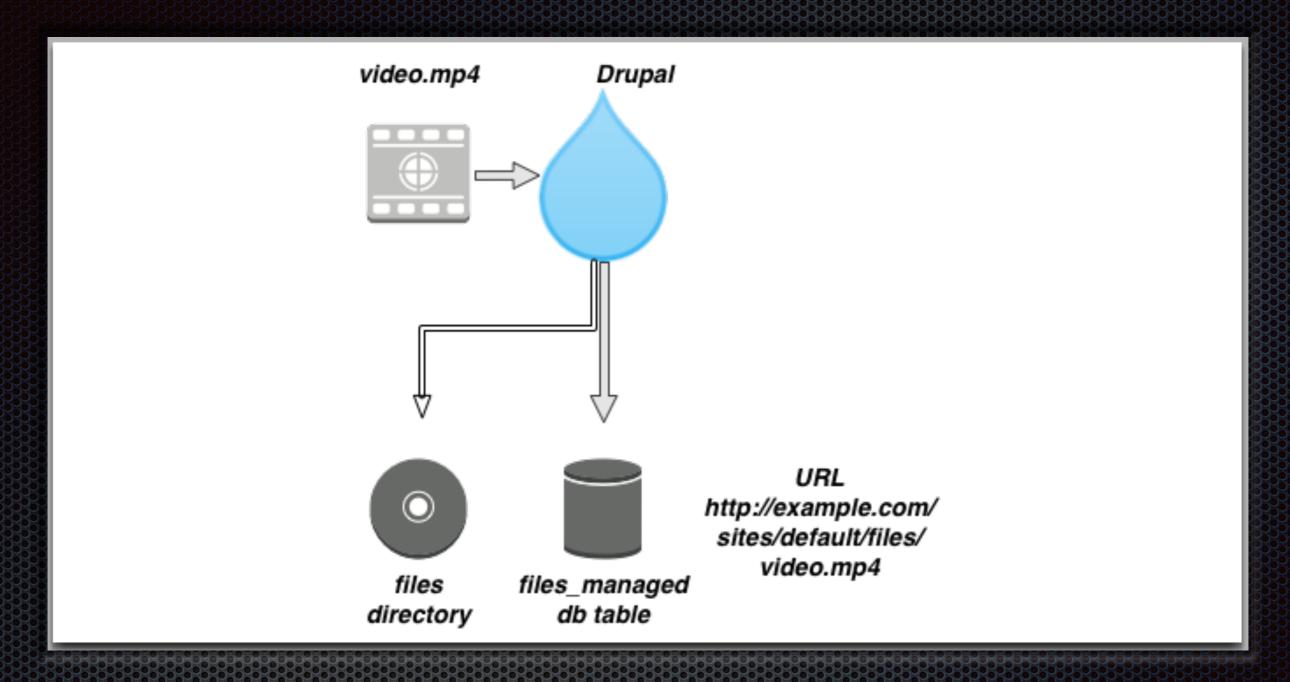
Node.js Lambda Function





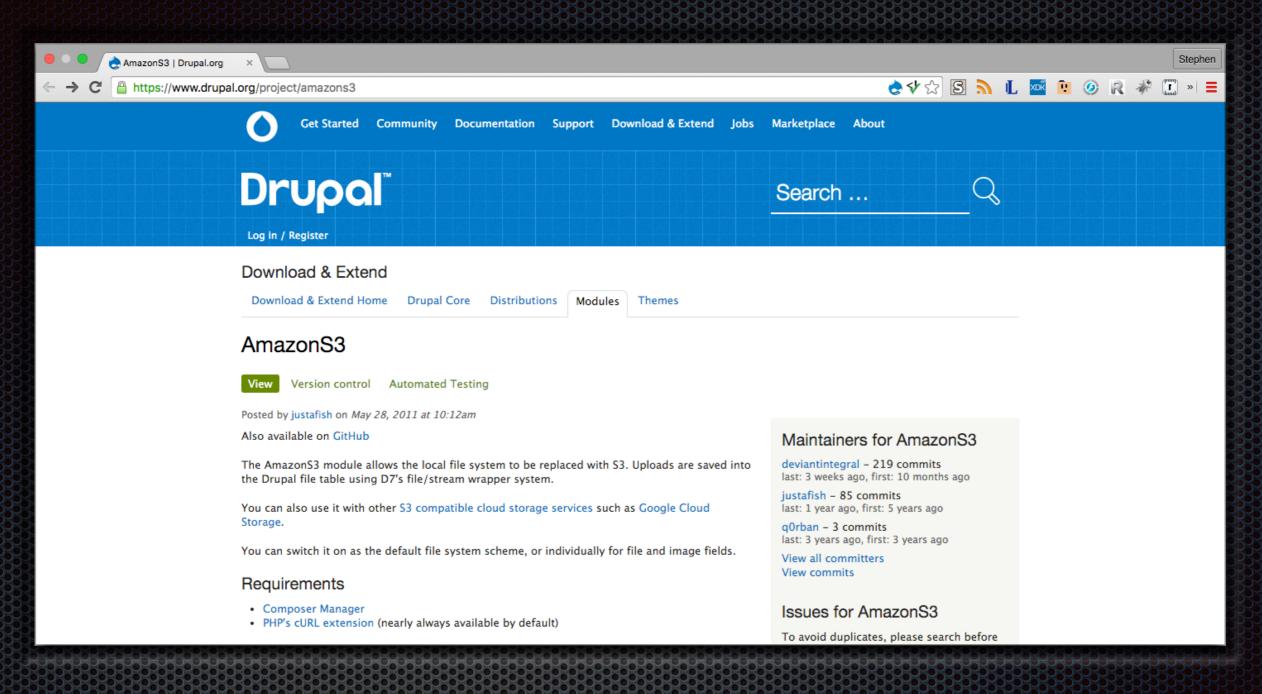
Lambda Initiated HLS Files





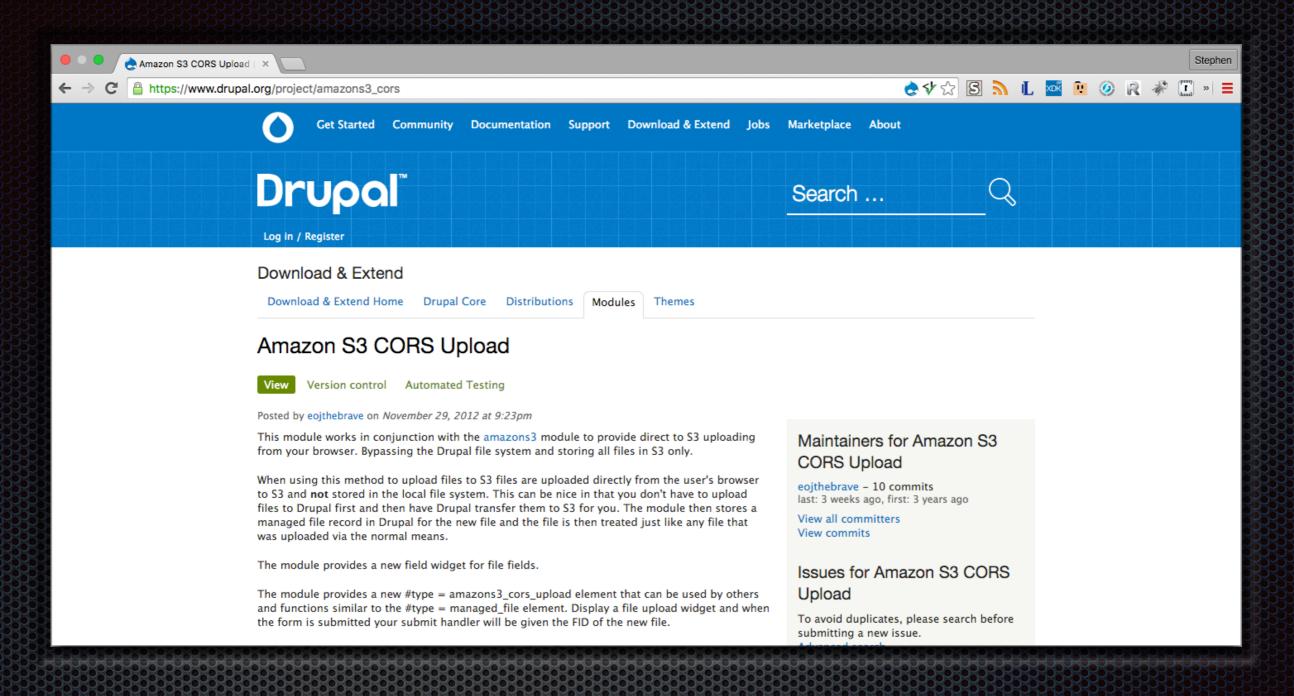
Standard Drupal File Handling





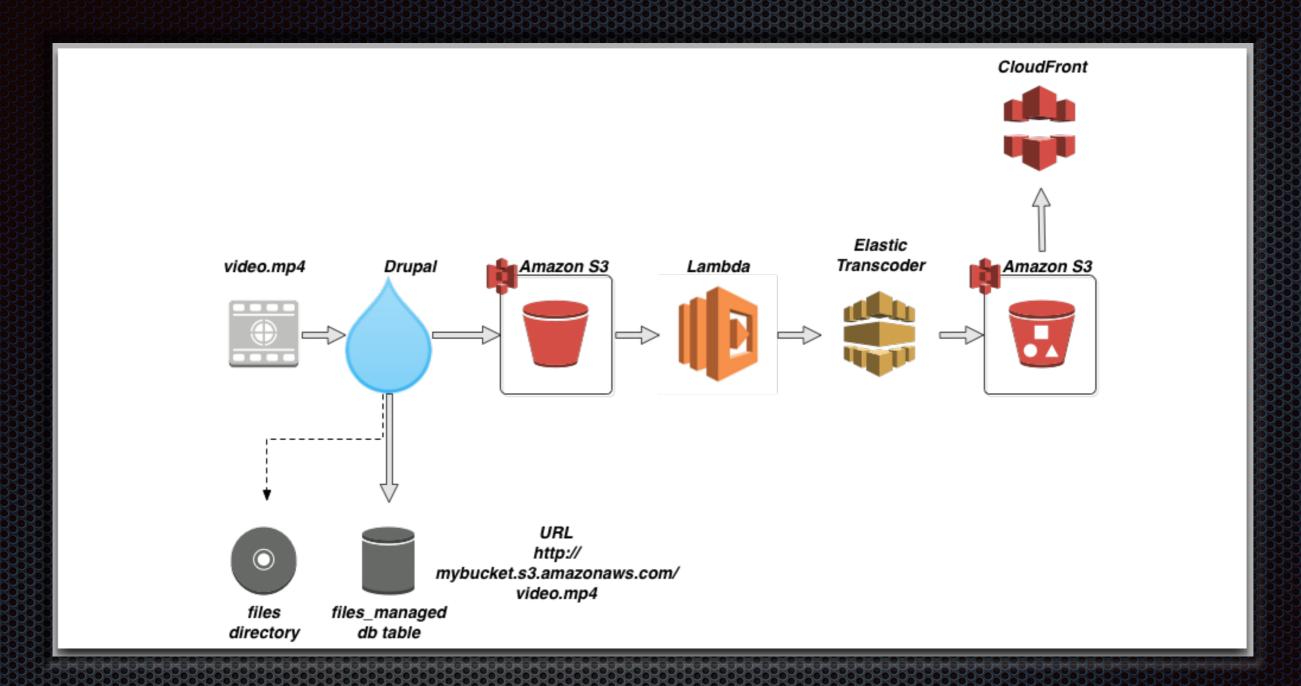
AmazonS3 Module





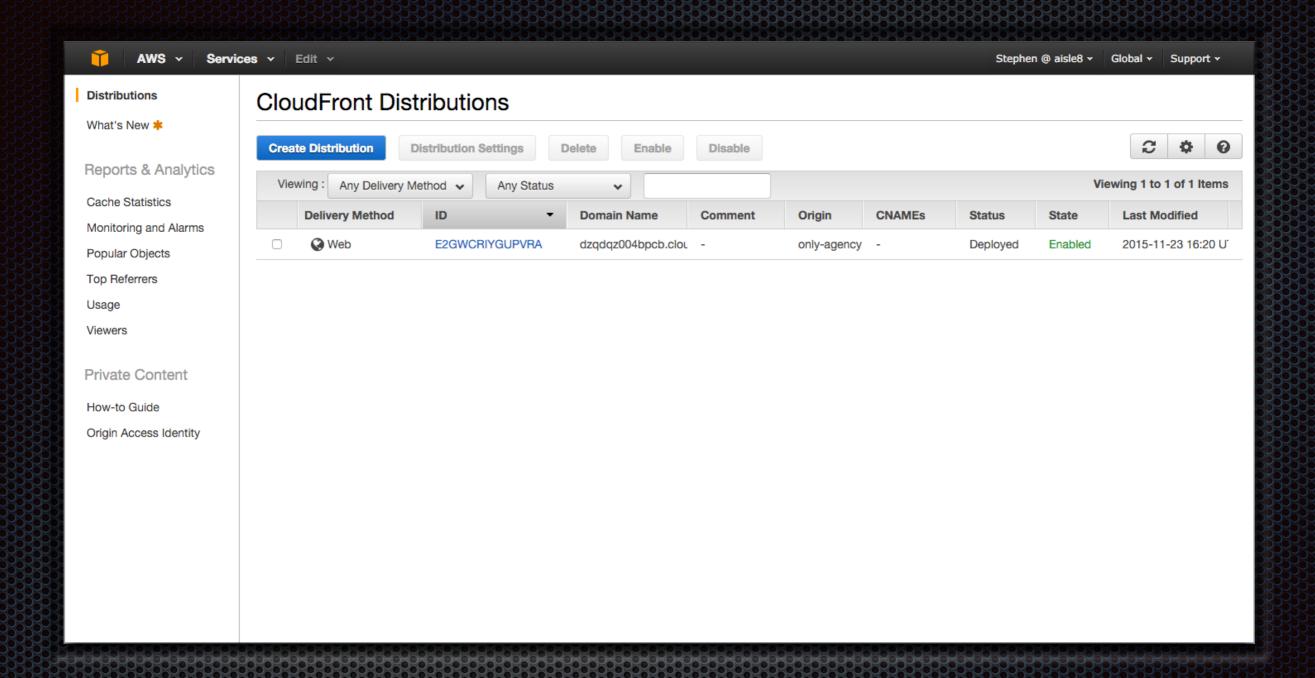
AmazonS3 CORS Upload Module





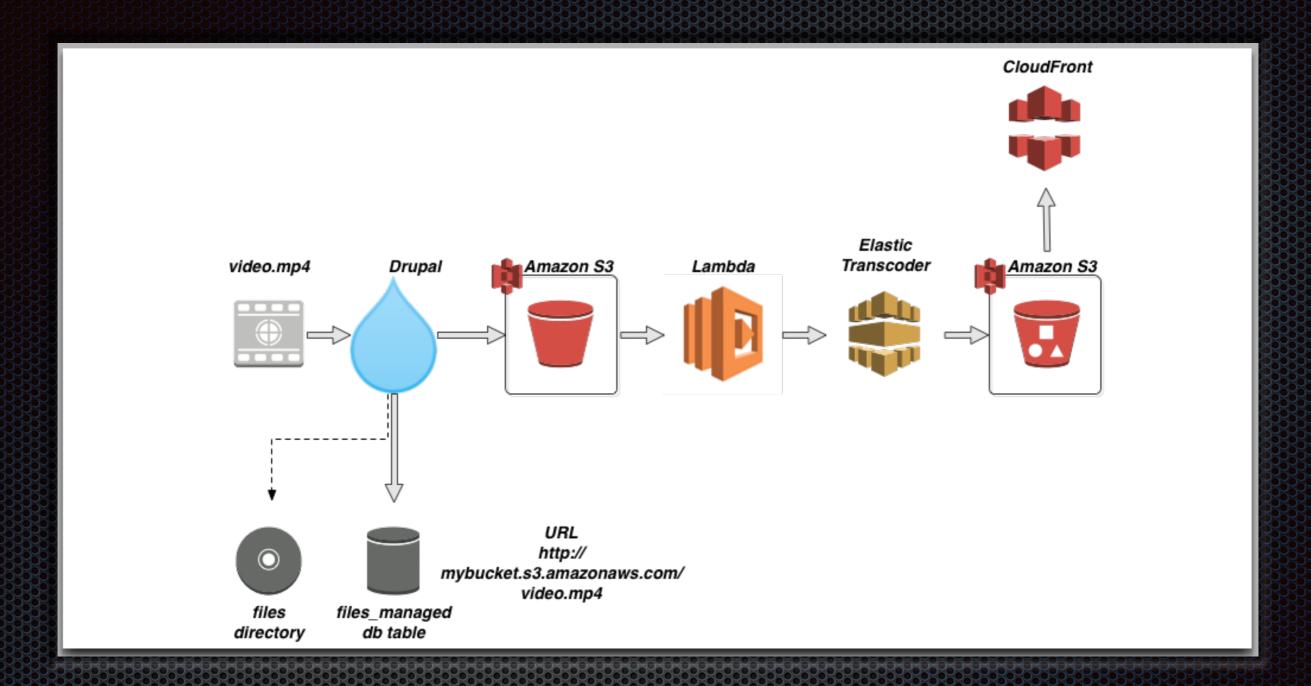
Tying It All Together





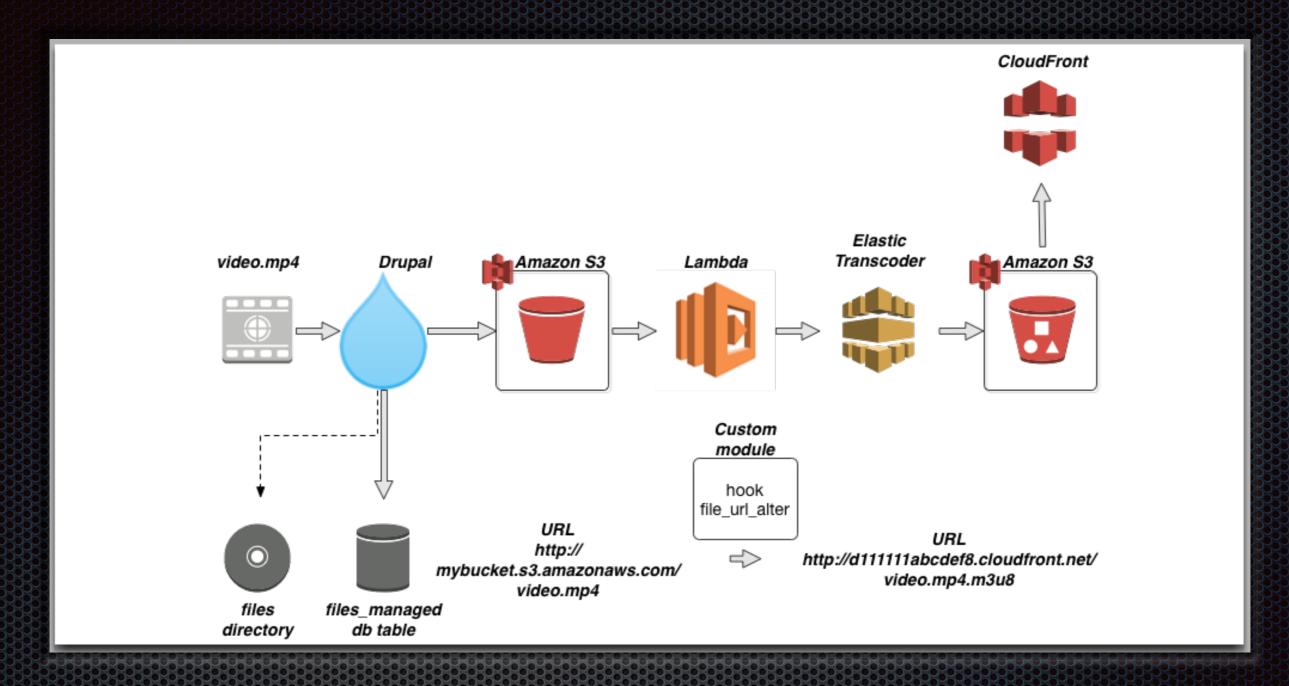
CloudFront CDN Setup in Minutes





Two URL Issues





hook_file_url_alter



```
function amazons3_cors_tweaks_file_url_alter(&$uri) {
 // Not needed for now but may be necessary in future to differentiate what should be altered if images are also placed in S3.
 $filter_extensions = array('css', 'js', 'gif', 'jpg', 'jpeg', 'png');
 $pathinfo = pathinfo($uri);
 $schemes = array('s3');
 $scheme = file_uri_scheme($uri);
 // Only serve shipped files and public created files from the CDN.
 if (!$scheme || in_array($scheme, $schemes)) {
   // Shipped files.
   if (!$scheme) {
     $path = $uri;
   // Using S3 scheme. Now check for the file extensions to alter different filetype URIs differently
   else if (isset($pathinfo['extension']) && !in_array($pathinfo['extension'], $filter_extensions)) {
     // Not an image or other filetype. Alter the path to accommodate the S3 transcode filepath and pattern.
     $wrapper = file stream wrapper get instance by scheme($scheme);
     $domain = $wrapper->getDirectoryPath();
     $target = 'hls' . strrchr(file_uri_target($uri), "/");
     // $target = str_replace('assets/', 'hls/', file_uri_target($uri));
     // Don't use s3 bucket directly, call cloudfront @ dzqdqz004bpcb.cloudfront.net
     $domain = 'dzqdqz004bpcb.cloudfront.net';
     $path = 'http://' . $domain . '/' . $target . '.m3u8';
   // Clean up Windows paths.
   $path = str_replace('\\', '/', $path);
   $uri = $path;
```

hook_file_url_alter (cont.)



Finishing Touches

Taking care of all existing files.

- Bulk upload all files from Drupal files directory to S3
- UPDATE file_managed SET uri = REPLACE(uri, 'public', 's3') WHERE INSTR(filemime, 'video') > 0;

Lambda cleanup functions.

- If Elastic Transcoder is succesful, then move original mp4 to an Archive bucket.
- If Elastic Transcoder fails send Amazon SNS push notification



Results

Same HD MP4 Source Uploaded Simulated 2G (250kbps) Playback

30 sec. after playback started: 4 sec. played

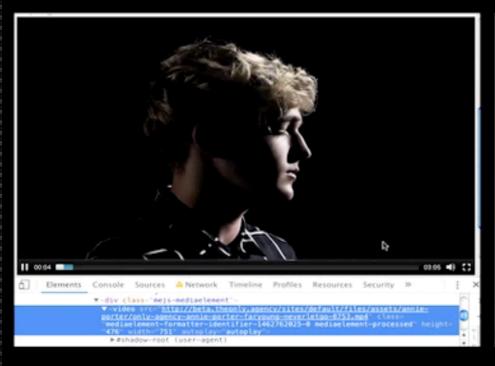
Stutter #5 @ 1 min. 5.07 sec.

Playback after 39.27 sec.

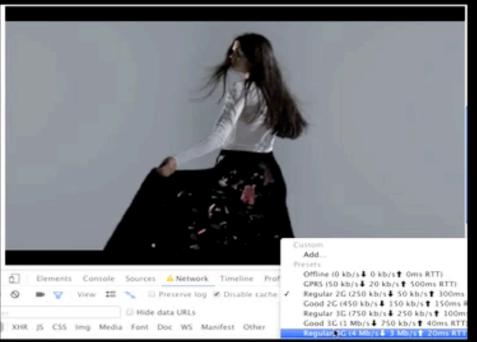
30 sec. after playback started: 30 sec. played

No Stutters

Playback after 49.13 sec.



Single MP4 Encoding



Dynamically Selected HLS Stream



Results

- Both New and Existing Videos now served via fast Amazon CloudFront CDN!
- End User Experience No stuttering video playback or video stoppage!
- Maintainer Experience No change from standard Drupal node creation. Single video upload.
- ZERO web server disk space used and nearly infinite
 S3 expandability!
- Super cheap and easy to maintain!





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