PROJECT RESCUE · 15 NOVEMBER 2026

Project rescue checklist.

What to secure the day your developer disappears

Developer or agency stopped replying? Put the domain, hosting, code repository, app store accounts, API keys and database in your name first, then have the code reviewed before anyone builds more.

> **DO NOT WAIT** Securing the domain, code, accounts and keys accuses nobody, so do it as soon as you are worried. Deciding the project is abandoned is separate: the signs are on page 3.

Do this today

Tick each item once it is done. The worksheet on page 4 keeps track of who holds what.

01 The domain

- [ ] Look up your domain in ICANN Lookup, which shows its registration data, including its registrar.[1]
- [ ] If you are the registrant but the developer holds the login, ask the registrar for the transfer code, which it must provide within five calendar days.[2]
- [ ] If the developer is the registrant, ask them to change it to your company, even though that can block a move to another registrar for 60 days.[2]

02 Hosting and cloud accounts

- [ ] For each service the app runs on, such as hosting, cloud, email and payments, find out whose name and card it is on.
- [ ] Get an owner or admin login of your own.
- [ ] Move the billing to your card.
- [ ] For Stripe, check whose bank the payouts reach.

03 The code repository

The repository is where the code and its history live. A zip of the latest files loses the history.

- [ ] If you can read the repository, clone it with its history first.
- [ ] Ask for the repository to be transferred to an account you own. On GitHub, a transfer needs admin access.[3]
- [ ] Accept it within one day: a transfer between personal GitHub accounts expires if it is not accepted.[3]
- [ ] Then remove the old owner, who stays on as a collaborator.[3]

04 The database

Code can be rewritten. Your customers' data cannot.

- [ ] Ask for a full backup today.
- [ ] Keep it somewhere only you control.
- [ ] Get an admin login of your own.

05 API keys and secrets

OWASP says secrets that are no longer needed, or may be compromised, must be revoked.[4]

- [ ] List every key the app uses: payments, email, maps, AI models, cloud.
- [ ] Mark each one the developer could see.
- [ ] For each of those, create a new key, put it in the app, then revoke the old one, in that order, so nothing breaks.

06 App store accounts

- [ ] **Apple.** The developer's Account Holder starts the transfer with your Account Holder's Apple Account and Team ID.[5]
- [ ] Accept it within 60 days.[6] Only apps with a version released on the App Store can move.[7]
- [ ] If the Apple account is your company's, ask for the Account Holder role instead, which only goes to an employee who can sign agreements for the organisation.[8]
- [ ] **Google Play.** The developer requests the transfer with both accounts' registration transaction IDs, and you approve it. Support responds within two business days, and users, ratings and reviews move with the app.[9]
- [ ] Changing a whole Play Console account's owner takes the current owner and a seven-day hold.[10]
- [ ] **Chrome Web Store.** Google's docs point to a transfer request form.[11] If no transfer is possible, publish a new listing from your own account.

07 Automations

- [ ] If workflows run in the developer's n8n, Make or Zapier account, ask for them to be moved to yours.
- [ ] **n8n** exports workflows as JSON files.[12]
- [ ] A **Make** blueprint needs its connections made again after import.[13]
- [ ] **Zapier** copies Zaps to another account switched off, with each login to reconnect.[14]

08 The paper trail

- [ ] Save the contract, invoices, scope and messages.
- [ ] Check who the contract says owns the code: payment alone may not transfer copyright.[15, 16, 17, 18]
- [ ] On Upwork, paid work is yours to use, and you can end the contract, hire someone else and request refunds on payments from the past 180 days.[19]
- [ ] If a UK agency is in liquidation or administration, Companies House shows who is dealing with the case.[20]

> **NOT LEGAL ADVICE** Nothing here is legal advice. We are engineers, not lawyers. You do not need a lawyer to secure accounts in your name or to ask for a handover. If the developer claims the code or says they are owed money, or the agency is insolvent, talk to a lawyer before you act.

Send one handover message

Then send one polite, specific message with a date in it. It gives the developer an easy way back, and you a dated record.

TEMPLATE A handover request you can copy

```
Subject: Handover of [project]

Hi [name],

I have not heard from you since [date], so I am arranging a handover. By [date], please:

1. Transfer the code repository, with its history, to [your GitHub account].
2. Give me owner access to the hosting, the database and [other services].
3. Start the app transfers to my accounts: Apple Account [email] and Team ID [ID];
   Google Play registration transaction ID [ID].
4. Send a database backup, a list of every API key, and what is unfinished or broken.

If something has gone wrong on your side, tell me and we can agree a plan.

[Your name]
```

Is the project abandoned, or just late?

Late is normal in software. Abandoned leaves a pattern you can check without asking anyone. For each sign, tick the side that matches what you see.

Sign	Just late	Probably abandoned
Messages	☐ Slow, but they come and answer you	☐ Silence everywhere, or “almost done” for weeks
The code	☐ New commits keep landing	☐ No commits since the last payment
Dates	☐ A missed date comes with a new one	☐ Dates pass with no new one
Test version	☐ The staging link shows progress	☐ The link is down or unchanged
Money	☐ Invoices follow visible work	☐ Requests for money before more work
Accounts	☐ Hosting and services are paid	☐ Renewal and suspension emails reach you

Rule out one thing: Upwork notes that less than 24 hours of silence across time zones may just be the time difference.[19] Securing your accounts accuses nobody, so do it as soon as you are worried.

Sources, read 15 November 2026

Every outside fact in this checklist comes from these pages. Nothing here is legal advice.

1. ICANN Lookup, the registration data lookup tool. lookup.icann.org
2. ICANN: FAQs for Registrants: Transferring Your Domain Name. www.icann.org/resources/pages/name-holder-faqs-2017-10-10-en
3. GitHub Docs: Transferring a repository. docs.github.com/en/repositories/creating-and-managing-repositories/transferring-a-repository
4. OWASP Cheat Sheet Series: Secrets Management Cheat Sheet. cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Secrets_Management_Cheat_Sheet.html
5. Apple, App Store Connect Help: Initiate an app transfer. developer.apple.com/help/app-store-connect/transfer-an-app/initiate-an-app-transfer
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19. Upwork Help Center: How to resolve issues with your freelancer, updated 27 October 2026. support.upwork.com/hc/en-us/articles/23344415143699-How-to-resolve-issues-with-your-freelancer
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About Eazetech

Eazetech is an agentic AI studio in Lahore, Pakistan, founded by Babar Ali. We take over unfinished apps, automations, Chrome extensions, AI agents and MCP servers. Every take-over starts with a short review of the code, the accounts and the work left, and ends in a fixed quote in writing, before any other work.

The full guide: eazetech.co/services/project-rescue

Who holds what

One row for each account or key the app depends on. Write whose name it is in and who holds the login today, then tick done once it is yours.

Project _____ **Date** _____

Account owner: whose name and card the account is on.

Done: in your name, with an owner or admin login of your own and the billing on your card.

Login holder: who holds the login today.

Done, for a key: a new key is in the app and the old one is revoked.

Asset	Account owner	Login holder	Done
Domain, at the registrar			☐
Hosting			☐
Cloud			☐
Email			☐
Payments, and whose bank the payouts reach			☐
Code repository, with its history			☐
Database, and a backup only you control			☐
API key: payments			☐
API key: email			☐
API key: maps			☐
API key: AI models			☐
API key: cloud			☐
Apple developer account			☐
Google Play developer account			☐
Chrome Web Store developer account			☐
Automations: n8n, Make or Zapier			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐

FOR THE HANDOVER MESSAGE

Your GitHub account _____ **Apple Account email** _____

Apple Team ID _____ **Date in the message** _____

Google Play registration transaction ID _____