lemonade
Beyond Clicks

ENTERPRISE CASE STUDY / KERRY CONSULTING

From 50 seconds to 3 seconds

How Lemonade restored website performance, secured third-party API connections and gave the maintenance team better visibility into faults and unauthorised changes.



Kerry Consulting website showcase from the published project.

4-MONTH PROJECT / WORDPRESS / VPS HOSTING

01 / THE BRIEF

Fix the slow site. Reduce the exposure.

The website needed faster page loads, stronger protection for its custom code and integrations, and clearer information for the team maintaining it.

Performance

Page loads reached up to 50 seconds, and the published PageSpeed Insights baseline was 10 out of 100. Redundant plugins and scripts added overhead.

Security

Legacy malware and vulnerabilities in the custom theme needed to be addressed. The website also depended on API connections to third-party systems.

Operational visibility

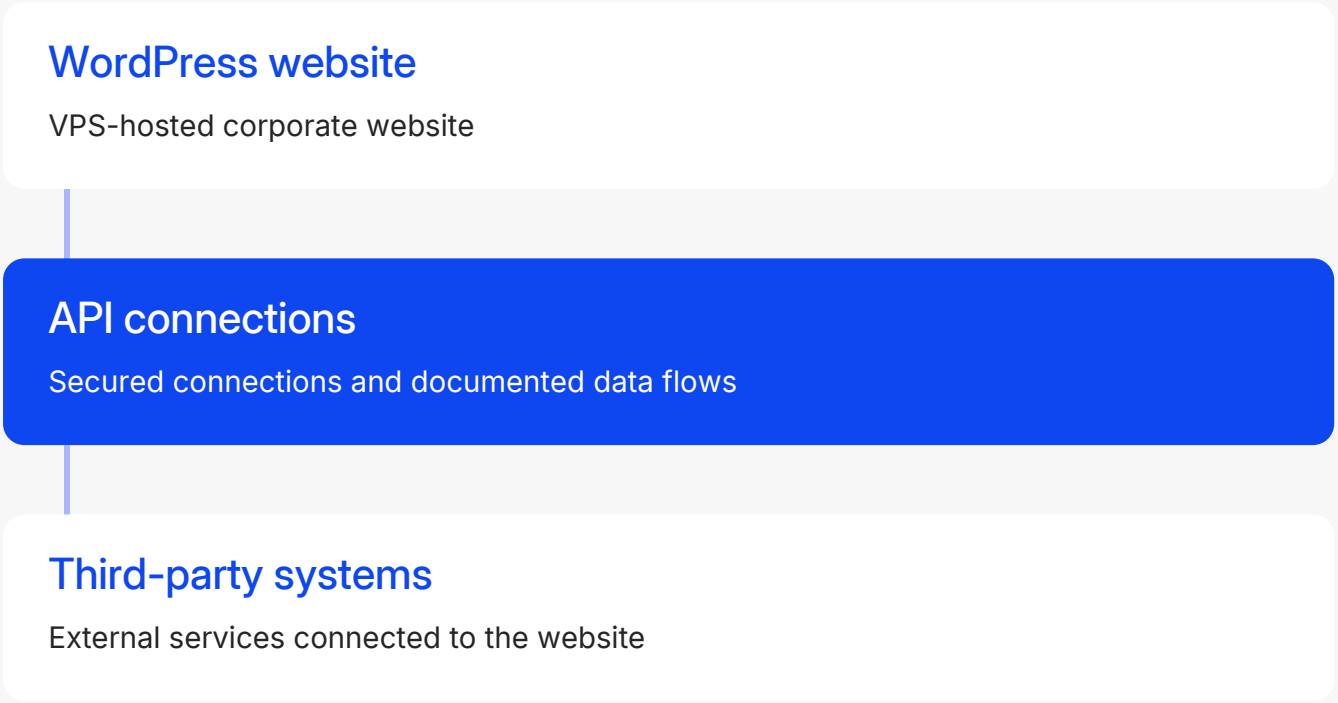
The maintenance team needed documentation for those integrations and a way to spot errors, unexpected content changes and new administrator accounts.

THE DELIVERY PLAN

Remediate vulnerable code, secure integrations and access, remove performance bottlenecks, then document and monitor the live system.

Secure the connections the website relies on

Lemonade secured the API connections between WordPress and third-party systems. The WordPress site is hosted on a virtual private server (VPS).



Schematic of the integration scope.

WHAT THE HANDOVER CAPTURED

The team documented the systems involved, how data moved between them and how credentials should be managed. This gave maintainers a starting point when an integration failed.

Protect the site at several layers

Lemonade addressed vulnerable code, added controls at the website boundary and tightened how administrators access WordPress.

Code and perimeter

Removed legacy malware, patched custom theme code and deployed a web application firewall (WAF).

Browser security headers

Content Security Policy limits which resources a browser can load. HSTS enforces HTTPS in supporting browsers. X-Frame-Options restricts where the site can be embedded.

Administrator access

Enabled two-factor authentication (2FA), role-based access controls and audit logging to make administrative activity traceable.

SOC 2 ALIGNMENT

Access and accountability measures were aligned with relevant SOC 2 Trust Services Criteria. This describes the controls applied to the website and does not claim certification or an independent audit.

Spot failures and unexpected changes

The team added checks that go beyond whether the website loads, so faults and suspicious changes can be investigated.

Application errors and health checks

Tracked application error codes and ran health checks to help surface failures.

Defacement and content injection

Monitored for unexpected changes to public pages and unauthorised content added to the website.

Administrator account creation

Monitored newly created administrator accounts so the team could investigate accounts it did not recognise.

FROM ALERT TO ACTION

The handover included integration documentation, credential management standards, maintenance procedures and escalation steps.

A faster website with clearer operational controls

The performance figures below come from the published Lemonade project. The security work is described by the controls delivered.

PINGDOM PAGE LOAD

50 s to 3 s

94% lower reported load time

GOOGLE PAGESPEED

10 to 80

Reported score out of 100

What changed behind the numbers

Lemonade removed redundant plugins and non-essential scripts, refactored legacy code and reduced scripts loading across the site. The same project secured third-party API connections and added monitoring for errors and unexpected website changes.

Need help securing a business website?

Talk to Lemonade about WordPress performance, integrations and ongoing maintenance.

Discuss your website with Lemonade

Read the published Kerry Consulting project