

Computer Games 2013 Introduction

Dr. Mathias Lux Klagenfurt University





Agenda



- Business of Games
- Age ratings



Gaming Business



AAA Games

- Considered as premium game projects
- Big budget, broad market, high quality
- Large teams, exhaustively tested, etc.



AAA Games - Examples



- Assassins Creed III
 - Ubisoft, Action adventure
 - − 2 ½ years development
 - Big development team
- NFS: Most Wanted
 - EA, Criterion
 - Racing







Gaming Business



Indie Games

- Independent video games
- Created without (big financial) support of publishers
- Typically relies on digital distribution



Indie Games - Examples



- World of Goo (2D Boy)
 - http://www.worldofgoo.com/
 - on site, Steam, Wii Ware, Mac Games Store, ...
- Braid (Number None)
 - http://www.braid-game.com/
 - Xbox, Steam, ...
- Journey(thatgamecompany)
 - http://thatgamecompany.com/games/flower/



Gaming Business Models



Gaming-Businessmodelle gestern, heute, morgen											
		Kunden	Entwicklungskosten	Kosten Kundenerwerb	Umsatz	Trend					
	Konsole	200 Mio.	10+ Mio \$	Werbung	100 Mio. \$	→					
f	Facebook	600 Mio.	100.000+\$	1,20 \$	100+ Mio. \$	7					
	Internet	1,6 Mrd.	100.000+\$	1,40 \$	100+ Mio. \$	7					
	Mobile	4,5 Mrd.	10.000+\$	< 0,1 \$ Quelle: eigen	10 Mio.+ \$	J oint Zahlen					



Gaming Business



Roles in the Games Development Process

- Game Studio
 - creates the game
- Publisher
 - production & QA
- Distributor
 - digital, on media



Game Studio - Examples



- Harmonix
- Naughty Dog
- Bungie
- EA Sports
- Quantic Dream



Publisher - Examples



- Electronic Arts
- Capcom
- Konami
- MTV Games



Distributor - Example



- EA Distribution
- Valve
- Sony
- Microsoft
- GOG



Distribution Media



Digital distribution

- Typically means "online" distribution
 Digital media based distribution
- Blue-Ray, DVD, UMD, cartridge, etc.
 Hybrid methods
- DVD with online registration
- Codes, cards, etc.



Distribution - Steam



Created & maintained by Valve



- Supports indie games to AAA
- Includes community features
- Manages DRM (one online client)



Distribution - Xbox Marketplace



 Focus on indie, arcade and classic games



- Supports on demand downloads
- Based on virtual money (MS Points)
- Includes community features
- Manages DRM (one Xbox)



Distribution - PSN



- Focus on "smaller" games
 - indie, arcade, minis, PSP, etc.



- Supports on demand downloads
- Includes community features
- Manages DRM (one online, 2 installations)



Distribution - GOG



Provides "old" games

gog.com

- Working digital copies
- DRM free
- No community features
 - besides rating, collaborative filtering & comments

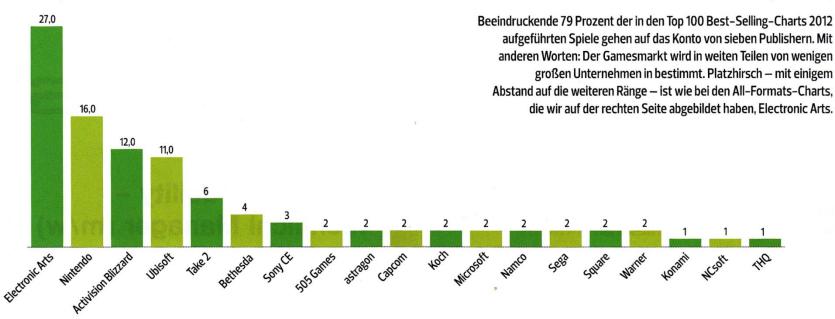


Game Business: Numbers 2012 (DE)



Anteile der Publisher an den Top 100 Best-Selling-Charts 2012*

(in Prozent)



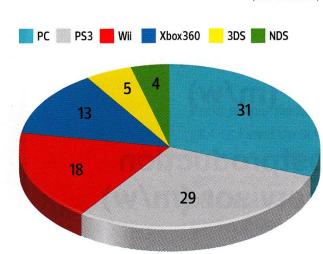


Game Business: Numbers 2012 (DE)



Anteile der Plattformen an Top 100 Best-Selling-Charts 2012*

(in Prozent)



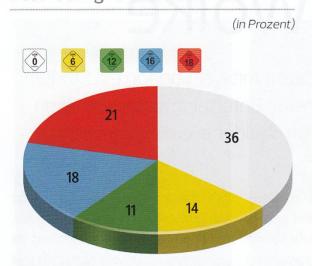
Der PC liegt auf Basis der 100 meistverkauften Spiele in 2012 knapp vor der PS3. Microsofts Xbox 360 ist abgeschlagen. PS Vita konnte keinen Titel in diesem Ranking platzieren.



Game Business: Numbers 2012 (DE)

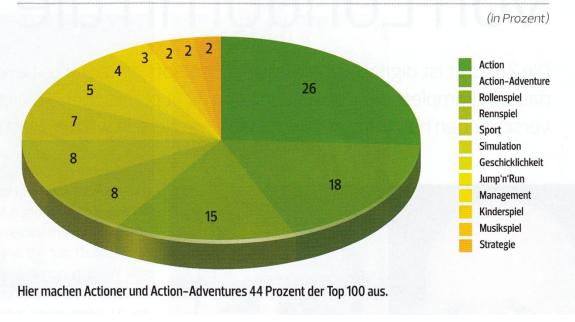


Anteile der Genres an den Top 100 Best-Selling-Charts 2012*



Der Anteil der USK-16er- und -18er-Titel zusammen hält sich mit den USK-0er-Games in etwa die Waage.

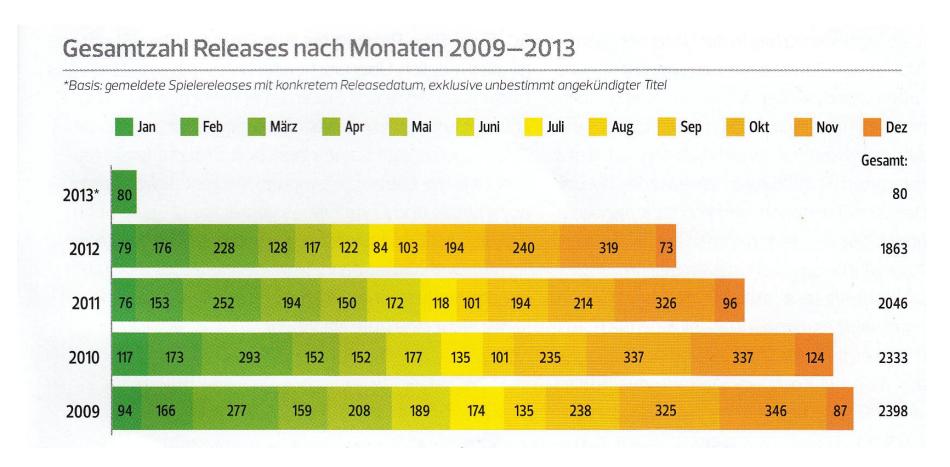
Anteile der Genres an den Top 100 All-Formats-Charts 2012**





Game Business: Numbers (DE)







Game Business



Prozentualer Anteil der Umsätze mit Spielen für PC, Konsole und mobile Endgeräte



Game Business



Absatz von Spielen für PC, Konsole und mobile Endgeräte

		2011	2012	2012 vs. 2011
PC	Verkaufte Spiele in Mio. Einheiten	24,6	24,7	0 %
	Umsatz in Mio. Euro	445	464	4 %
	Ø Preis in Euro	18,12	18,82	4 %
	Verkaufte Spiele in Mio. Einheiten	24,8	23,1	-7 %
Konsole	Umsatz in Mio. Euro	889	819	-8 %
	Ø Preis in Euro	35,84	35,5	-1 %
	Verkaufte Spiele in Mio. Einheiten	21,5	26	21 %
Mobile	Umsatz in Mio. Euro	239	218	-9 %
Endgeräte	Ø Preis in Euro	11,14	8,36	-25 %
	Verkaufte Spiele in Mio. Einheiten	70,9	73,7	4 %
Gesamt	Umsatz in Mio Euro	1574	1501	-5 %
	Ø Preis in Euro	22,2	20,36	-8 %



- Online Browser Games
 - Bigpoint.com biggest German gaming portal
 - In the top 3 gaming portals world wide
- Publisher
 - Development (bigpoint.com & selbst), licensing
- Content Provider
 - e.g. Sevengames
- Developer
 - own game studio





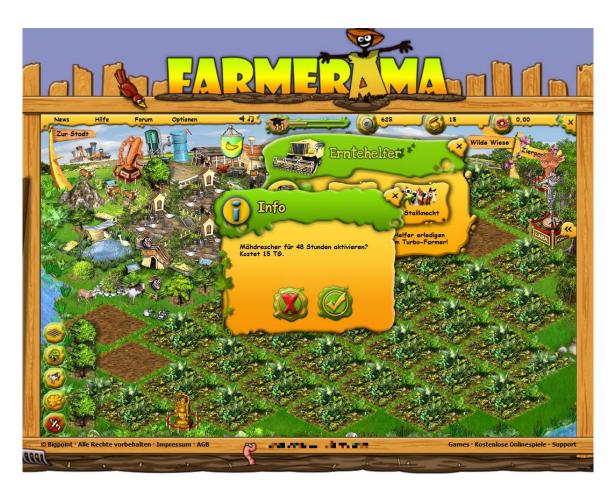


- 54 browser games
 - with 2013-03-11
- More than 300 million registered users
 - with 2012-12-04, http://bigpoint.net/press/
- Selling virtual goods
 - Micropayment





















(c) 2011 Bigpoint GmbH | Impressum | AGB | Status & Vorteilspakete | Support | Promocode aktivieren | Tulpgulden tauschen









Business Model: Gameloft



- Publisher and developer
 - mobile games
 - console games



- Develops for
 - Java, Brew, Symbian
 - WiiWare and DS, HTML5, Smart TVs
 - Microsoft's Xbox LIVE Arcade, PC, Mac
 - Apple's iPod, iTouch and iPhones



Business Model: Gameloft



- 28 studios
- 5,000 developers
- 1,000 cell phones models supported
- 208.3 million € sales in 2012



Business Model: CryTek



- "From AAA Retail to AAA Online"
- Product: Box vs. Service
- Gamers: Who will pay?
- Process: Gold Master vs. Open Beta+



AAA Online: Product Characteristics



- Communication is key issue
 - The community is always right
 - responsiveness
- Iterate forever (almost)
- Path to fun is critical
 - Instant fun vs. learning curve
- Virtual goods vs. boxed game



AAA Online: Gamers



- SHEEP (90-95 of 100)
 - Love shiny content, enjoy game horizontally
 - Do not dig deep into levels, features or difficulty
 - Make up the community both in demographic and size
- WOLVES (4-9 of 100)
 - Fans, dig vertically into game & appreciate depth
 - Enjoy online games in the same way as box buyers
 - Spend money to save time, not to dress up
- WHALE (0-1 of 100)
 - Wealthy, spends \$\$\$ per month to show off
 - Wants to get everything quick, spends also to speed up
 - Buys everything contributes most to avg. revenue / user (ARPU)





Where to go?



According to C. Yerli:

- Almost every AAA retail game can be transformed into a F2P game, in-game economics
- If not from scratch F2P, establish hybrid solutions now
- The minimum: Prepare your retail release for a follow up F2P release



Agenda



- Business of Games
- Age ratings
- Game Taxonomies



Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB)



- For interactive entertainment industry
 - North America
 - Non-profit, self-regulatory
- Goals
 - Assignment of ratings
 - Enforcement of adverting guidelines
 - Help in ensuring online privacy practices





ESRB Ratings Process (1)



- Ratings Process
 - in final stages of development
 - prior to a game being released
- Publishers submit
 - responses to ESRB questionnaire
 - supplementing with lyric sheets, scripts, etc.





Pan European Game Information (PEGI)



- European "ESRB"
- Fully supported by the European Union
- Focus on protection of minors
 - Does not rate challenge or educational value





PEGI Ratings

















Unterhaltungssoftware Selbstkontrolle (USK)



- German institution
 - based on the law on protection of minors
 - very strict in Germany (e.g. mail order)
- Games w. USK rating are sold in AT & CH
 - Although PEGI is used there
 - Just one version with German translation





USK & BPjM



- Games considered "jugendgefährdend"
 - Are not rated by the USK but by the "Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Medien"
 - Get on a list of media harmful for minors
 - Cannot be advertised in stores and media or sold to minors

Criteria

"... vor allem unsittliche, verrohend wirkende, zu Gewalttätigkeit, Verbrechen oder Rassenhass anreizende Medien sowie Medien, in denen (1) Gewalthandlungen, insbesondere Mord- und Metzelszenen selbstzweckhaft und detailliert dargestellt werden oder (2) Selbstjustiz als einzig bewährtes Mittel zur Durchsetzung der vermeintlichen Gerechtigkeit nahe gelegt wird."



Assignment



- Build a group
 - 3 people is great, 4 is too many
- Implement a PONG game
 - Based on craftyjs
 - Use the code provided by the tutorium
- AND: Readings ...
 - "Player Acting"Game Developer Magazine 20 (03)

