THONORDIC FAMILY





TWO HEADS ONE (FUNCTIONAL) MARKETING

PETR POLÁČEK & DOMINIK JÍCHA

25.05.2022



Petr

- » University of life (student)
- » Nine Rocks Games
- » Bohemia Interactive
- » LEVEL Magazine
- » Games.cz
- » Hrej.cz
- » Bonusweb
- » Secret projects



Dominik

- » MU Game Studies (vice-chairman)
- **» Game Developers Session** (volunteer leader)
- **Gamer Pie** (founder)
- » Marketing
- » Masaryk University (lecturer IM 147/148)
- » Paperash Studio (Dark Train, Czech Art Game of the Year 2016)
- » Bohemia Interactive (Vigor, 7 million players across all consoles)
- » Ashborne Games (Comanche, unannounced Strategy / RPG)

TOPICS

Petr

- » Popculture data
- » Think outside the box (when using data)
- » Don't be smart, trust the data
- » Listen to your data analyst

Dominik

- » Steam guesstimates crash course
- » Steam sales forecast model
- » Market research use case
- **»** Tools & resources

WHY THESE TOPICS?

TO SHOW HOW GAME MARKETING NEEDS TO WORK WITH NUMBERS

(...and how to use the data efficiently)

STEAM GUESSTIMATES

CRASH COURSE

Why do it?

- » If you are stepping into unknown waters, recognize who swims there.
 Who survives, floats, and drowns...
- It is better to have a guesstimate than nothing



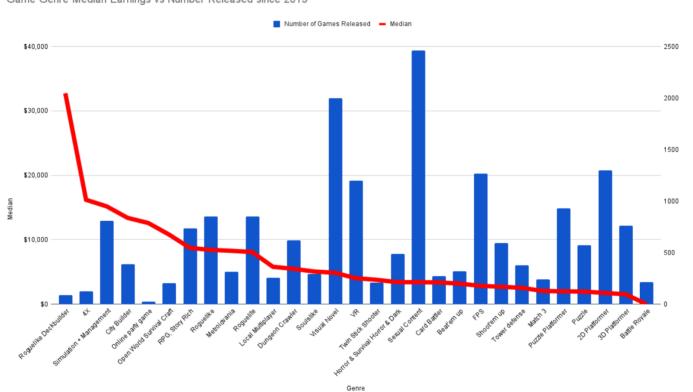


WHERE TO BEGIN?

CHECK GENRE, THEN TITLES!

(...and then, check the data)

GAME GENRE MEDIAN EARNINGS VS RELEASES 2019-



Game Genre Median Earnings vs Number Released since 2019

Source: howtomarketagame.com

REVIEW TO TITLE SALES RATIO

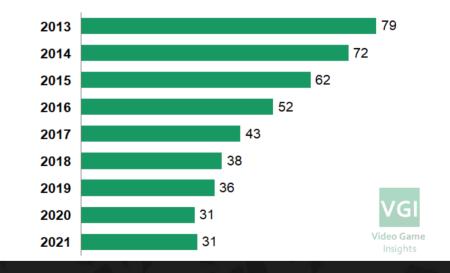
Example

- » 1000 reviews in 2013 = 7900 sales
- » 1000 reviews in 2021 = 3100 sales

Why?

- » More games by every year
- Steam UX changes
- » Now asking for a review (Steam + Devs)

Median Review Multiples for Games by Year of Release



Source: vginsights.com

WITH SOME GAMES

IT IS A LITTLE BIT MORE COMPLEX...

REVIEW TO SALES RATIO



Source: store.steampowered.com/app/292030

Before we move to another topic, let's talk about the data you want to use for your marketing, but don't know about it.

Popculture data

REVIEW TO SALES RATIO





SOLUTION? DO YEAR-BY-YEAR MATH

What does it mean "Don't be smart, trust the data?"

GUESSING REVENUES?

EVEN MORE MESSY!

FACTORS AFFECTING REVENUE

- » Discounts
- » Base price drop
- » Region pricing
- » Bundles
- » Deluxe editions

Steam gross vs. Net revenue

- » Steam cut = 30%
- » Chargebacks, taxes, refunds = 15 20%



Thing outside of the box? What?!!!

Don't repeat all the mistakes others are doing.

WHAT IF MY GAME IS NOT RELEASED?

CHECK YOUR WISHLIST!

FIRST WEEK SALES RATIO

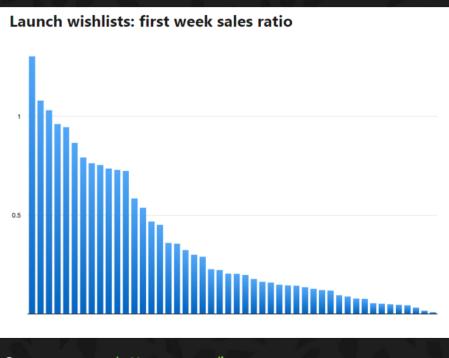
Median of 0.2 sales per wishlist for your first week on Steam.

In marketing words = 20% conversion.

Example

» 1000 wishlists = 200 sales / 1 week

Then use long-tail prediction medians



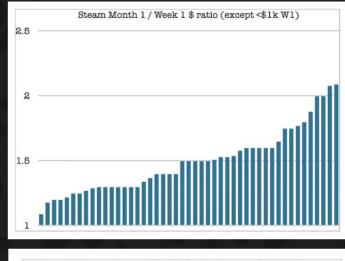
Source: <u>newsletter.gamediscover.co</u>

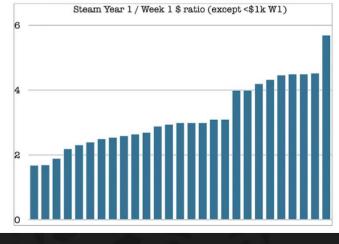
LONG TAIL REVENUE PREDICTION (GROSS)

Week 1 = 20% of Wishlist Month 1 / Week 1 \$: Median = 1.5x Year 1 / Week 1 \$: Median = 3x

Example (\$19.99 Game, 200 Sales per 1 Week)

- » Week 1 = 200x 19.99 = \$3998
- » Month 1 = \$3998 x 1.5 = \$5,997
- » Year 1 = = \$3998 x 3 = \$11,994





Source: <u>newsletter.gamediscover.co</u>

WHAT IF THEIR GAME IS NOT RELEASED?

CHECK FOLLOWERS!

FOLLOWERS VS. WISHLISTER

All Games > Strategy Games > Company of Heroes 3 Company of Heroes 3

Community Hub





Add to your wishlist Follow Igr



Bigger and better than ever, Company of Heroes 3 combines heart-pounding combat with deeper strategic choices in a stunning Mediterranean theatre of war. In Company of Heroes 3, every battle tells a story...what's yours?

REVIEWS: No user review

DEVELOPER PUBLISHER:

Relic Entertainment SEGA

pular user-defined tags for this product: rategy Wargame Action RTS RTS PvP +

FOLLOWERS VS. WISHLISTER

Follower

» all pre-release and post-release announcements and updates

» In Steam news section, email & elsewhere

» It is a fan

Wishlister

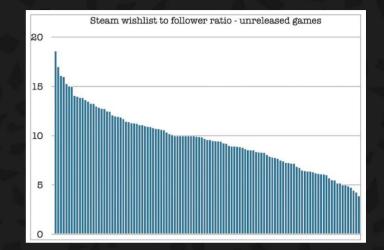
- » email when the game is released, and every time it is discounted 20% or more
- Announcements in their news feeds only after they purchase.

» It is a customer

FOLLOWERS VS. WISHLIST RATIO

- » Wishlists for unreleased Steam games are followers a median of 9.6x
- » Use SteamDB graphs for observation

Example Company of Heroes 3 62 424 followers x 9.6 = 599 270 wishlists



Source: newsletter.gamediscover.co



Source: steamdb.info

TAKEAWAY?

1) GUESSTIMATE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF OTHERS

2) RECOGNIZE YOUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN TIME, AND ADJUST ACCORDINGLY

SALES FORECAST MODEL

Source: fellowtraveller.games

WHY TO DO IT?

 If you are planning an investment budget for the X years-long development, then (why the hell) you don 't have a plan on how to get it back...



MODEL SITUATION

- » \$19.99 Adventure game
- » 50 000 Wishlists
- » 5 Man team size
- 2 Years of development
- » \$330 000 Project budget

(62 500 CZK Net wage per month for each team member)



COMPARE COSTS TO NET REVENUES

ADJUST WISHLIST REGULARLY SINCE STORE PAGE GOES PUBLIC

MAKE YOUR PLANS AND MARKETING ACCORDINGLY

MAKE YOUR SALE STRATEGY

BONUS: PLAN ADDITIONAL STORES, CONSOLES, CONTENT, DLC AND EXCLUSIVITY DEALS...

_															
4	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	н		1	К	L	М	N	0
/ 0	only input into	gold cells			SCENARIOS										
	the different performance	goid cells				SCENARIOS NET REVENUE BASED ON RATIO OF 1st 30 DAYS OF SALES TO WISHLISTS AT LAUNCH									
	scenarios will auto update as				/	Current	LEVENUE BA	SED ON RAT	O OF 131 30	DATS OF SA		LISTSATLA			
	you adjust the current				wishlist ratio	20%	5%	10%	20%	33%	50%	66%	90%		
	assumptions				1 year	\$212,820	\$53,205	\$106,410	\$212,820	\$351,153	\$532,050	\$702,306	\$957,690		
	Wishlists at launch	50,000			2 year	\$369,365	\$92,341	\$184,683	\$369,365	\$609,453	\$923,413	\$1,218,906	\$1,662,144		
	Sales : wishlists ratio (first 30	20%			3 year	\$478,947	\$119,737	\$239,474	\$478,947	\$790,263	\$1,197,368	\$1,580,525	\$2,155,262		
	Month 1 Steam units	10,000		days not cale	4 year	\$555,654	\$138,914	\$277,827	\$555,654	\$916,830	\$1,389,136	\$1,833,659			
		19,99		lays not cale		\$609.349	\$152,337	\$304.675	\$609,349		\$1,523,374		\$2,742,072		
	USD price Launch discount	10%			5 year	\$609,349	\$192,337	\$304,675	\$609,349	\$1,005,427	\$1,523,374	\$2,010,655	\$2,742,072		
	% month 1 units at discount			ny sales will be			iod vs the full	a a station de la calica de						/	
												arkata daaraa	and it if you are	poot to do roc	llu well in the e
	Global price vs USD price	80%		In sales in lo	wer price poin	i markets like	china etc. inc	rease triis % i	r you are exp	ecting not to s	en m mose m	arkets. decrea	ise it il you ex	peci lo do rea	lly well in thes
	Avg price per unit on launch o														
	Avg price not discounted	\$15.99													
	Steam first 30 days gross	\$148,726						0.001			(_
	Chargebacks, tax, refunds	\$23,796			returns, and	taxes, varies t	petween ~12%	- 20%. Increa	ase it you exp	ect a lot of ret	urns (>6%) or	a lot of sales	in markets wit	n nign sales t	ax e.g. Europe
	Steam cut	\$37,479													
25	Steam first 30 days net	\$87,451	what you	u get paid											
26															
	PROMOTIONAL BOOSTS			Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24		Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
		Baseline ratio to			15.0%	7.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
		month 1													
	perform strongly will have a														
	higher baseline % but it still														
	tends to stay fairly stable month to month, only tailing														
	off slowly. The default														
.0	on slowly. The default	Regular discounts									5.0%				
		(week longs)									5.0 %				
		(week longs)													
	boost from discounts. you														
	will need to adjust these														
	based on the timing of your														
	launch for the season sales,														
	and how frequently you plan	Seasonal sales					10.0%		10.0%			10.0%		10.0%	
80	to run discounts	(summer sale etc)													
		Special sales (daily	5%-25%												
81		deals etc)													
82			Total rat	tio to month 1	15.0%	7.5%	14.5%	4.5%	14.5%	4.5%	9.5%	14.5%	4.5%	14.5%	4.5%
83															
	adjust these to actual launch														
	date and then 2 years on			Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24		Apr-24		Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
	once you have actuals,			Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	update the month 1 numbers														
	and the future months will														
5	flow from them														
56			ratio t-	team											
67			ratio to s		40.410	0.550	40.000	0.005	40.000	0.005	0.000	40.000	0.005	10.000	0.025
88		Steam	100%		13,118	6,559	12,680	3,935	12,680		8,308	12,680	3,935	12,680	3,935
89		Epic	8%	6,996	1,049	525	1,014	315	1,014		665	1,014	315	1,014	315
10	PC	MSFT	4%	3,498	525	262	507	157	507	157	332	507	157	507	157
1		Humble	2%	1,749	262	131	254	79	254		166	254	79	254	79
2		Other	2%	1,749	262	131	254	79	254	79	166	254	79	254	79
		Deluxe Edition,	1%	075	101		107		107			407		107	
-3		OST	1%	875	131	66	127	39	127	39	83	127	39	127	39
4															
15	Deele	optor monuollu													
+6	Deals	enter manually													
-/															
8		Manthly All state		400 017	45 0 10	7 . 7 .	44.000	4.000	44.000	4.001	0 700	44.000	4.004	44.000	4.001
+9 -0		Monthly - All platfo Cumulative	orms	102,317 102,317	15,348 117,665	7,674 125,339	14,836 140,175	4,604 144,779	14,836 159,615		9,720 173,939	14,836 188,775	4,604 193,380	14,836 208,216	4,604 212,820
50		cumulative		102,317	117,665	125,555	140,175	144,779	159,615	164,219	175,959	188,775	193,380	208,216	212,820

Any other qualitative lessons?

В	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	К	L	М	Ν	0
Title	Base Price	Est. Steam Sales	Est. Steam Net Revenue (median)	Steam Reviews	Steam Score	Metacritic	How Long toBeat (main)	How Long to Beat (main + extra)	Playtime (median)	From announcement to Release (years)	Average Deal	Average Total
	49.99	238,108	\$5,237,092.00	7000	72%	75%	24	33	9	2	36.68€	41.59€
Company of Heroes 2	59.99	3,890,960	\$50,574,115.00	78609	78%	80%	15	21	4	1	12.56€	17.01€
	49.99	296,010	\$4,572,697.00	5960	75%	70%	20	35	27	1	18.41€	22.29€
	34.99	1,772,480	\$6,981,342.00	28471	90%	68%	67	220	13	1	11.07€	16.46€
	29.99	336,000	\$2,846,625.00	6131	59%	68%	20	44	25	3	13.90€	17.54€
	14.99	140,880	\$539,250.00	1922	67%	-			3	1	4.27€	7.20€
	29.99	112,080	\$1,416,403.00	3206	85%	74%	19	21	8	1	23.15€	25.36€
	59.99	3,748,320	\$32,812,583.00	67428	85%	88%	33	46	27	1	22.79€	31.60€
	29.99	2,815,748	\$33,721,134.00	65178	91%	84%	10	20	9	2	18.53€	22.81€
This War of Mine	19.99	4,721,840	\$11,807,527.00	69838	94%	83%	11	17	4	0.5	7.79€	12.22€
	39.99	7,804,720	\$129,502,964.00	133.122	91%	83%	44	236	34		20.28€	24.58€
	38.17€	2,352,468	\$25,455,612	30352	81%	77%	26	69	14	1	17.22€	21.70€
	34.99€	1,772,480	\$6,981,342	7000	85%	78%	20	34	9	1	18.41€	22.29€

A	В	С	D	E	F	G	н	1	J	К	L	М	N	0	Р	Q
Title	US	GB	CN	RU	DE	FR	СА	PL	AU	NL	SE	TR	KR	BR	JP	Others
Company of Heroes 2	13.3	4.7	9.5	7.3	11.5	3.2	3.4	4.3	2.7	2						37
	18.9	6.8	7.3	12.9	7.3	2.9	3.6	4	2.9	1.7						31.3
7	30	10.4	6.2	5.1	5.4	2.9	4.7		5.3		1.4		1.7			26.3
	13.7	3.3	31.8	11.1	9.3	2.7	2.4	3.4	1.8			4.3				23.8
This War of Mine	14.6	3.9	23.1	9.5	4.2	2.7	2.9	3.2					2.8	3.8		
	18.9	7.4	6	6.8	7.8		3.9	5.2	2.5		2.6	5.2				33
Average	18.23	6.08	13.98	8.78	7.58	2.88	3.48	4.02	3.04	1.85	2.00	4.75	2.25			30.28
Median	16.75	5.75	8.4	8.4	7.55	2.9	3.5	4	2.7	1.85	2	4.75	2.25			31.3



MAKE THE "REALITY CHECK"
COMPARE COSTS TO REVENUES
ADADT ACCORDINGLY
IF YOU ARE WAY BELOW/ABOVE – LOOK FOR HELP

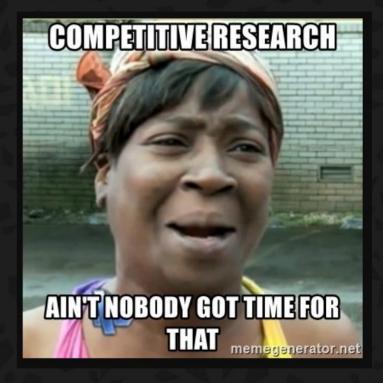
COMPETION MARKET RESEARCH

Because numbers are not everything

For example...

WHY TO DO IT?

- If you spent two months on the design document, then (why the hell) you don 't spend two weeks researching of how, where, when, and why others succeed and failed.
- » Learn to swim from them, then dive for your pearls...





UNANNOUNCED STRATEGY / RG GAME

	WHERE TO RELEASE?							DO WE MEET REALITY WITH OUR EXPECTED REVENUES?				IS A GAME GENRE STILL LIVING?			WHERE IS OUR MARKET?	
										/		~	1			
A Title	B Platform	C Stores	Retail	E	F	G Emotion tone / feeling	H Artstyle	Release	Base Price	Est. Steam Sales	All-time peak	M Release peak	N Avg. players Last 30 days	O Est. Steam Net Revenue (median)	Est. Steam Top Markets	
Company of Heroes 2	PC, los	Steam, Humble, Fanatical, Amazon, Gamesplanet (FR, DE, UK)		Strategy	WW2	Epic War Stories, Multiplayer	Realistic	6/26/2013	59,99 (05.04.2013) 39,99 (03.12.2013) 34,99 (11.11.2015) 29,99 (04.07.2016) 19,99 (01.02.2017)	3 890 960	161,908 (December 2018) Free to Keep Weekend	20,747 (June 2013)	7,614.7	\$50,574,115	US = 13.30979452 DE = 11.53506849 CN = 9.505479452 RU = 7.324452055 GB = 4.787123288 PL = 4.394246575 CA = 3.451027397 FR = 3.282054795 AU = 2.738972603 NL = 2.040273973 other = 37.63294521	
This War of Mine	PC, PS, Xbox,los, Android, Nintendo Switch	Steam, PS, Xbox, MS store, Nintendo Switch, GOG, Apple Store, Google Play, Epic, Origin, Humble, Fanatical, Gamesplanet (FR, DE,UK), Greenmangaming, and others	PC, PS, Xbox, Nintendo Switch	Simulation, Strategy	Modern War	Civilian War survival	Grey-colors realistic stylized	10/14/2014	19.99	4 721 840	9,343 (June 2017)	7,489 (November 2014)	1,474.7	\$11,807,527	CN = 23.09164384 US = 14.64691781 RU = 9.583835616 DE = 4.206986301 GB = 3.941575342 BR = 3.855479452 PL = 3.256643836 CA = 2.976917808 KR = 2.834551724 FR = 2.77 other = 28.85335616	

S VS. PRESS PTION?	HOW S PERCIE		TLE?	WHICH LOCALIZATION		CAPACITIE COSTS?	S &	PUBLIS SUPPC		GAMEPLAY LENGHT EXPECTATIONS?	
A	Q	R						X How Long to	Y	Z	
Title	Reviews	Score	Metacritic	Game Tags	Languages	Developer	Publisher	Beat (main + extra)	(median)	Multiplayer	
Company of Heroes	2 78609	78%	80%	World War II 1598x RTS 1423x Multiplayer 807x Tactical 730x Historical 650x War 606x Miltary 562x Singleplayer 517x	English French German Italian Polish Russian Spanish - Spain	Relic Entertainment (279 Linkedin Employees)	SEGA, Feral Interactive	21	4	Yes	
This War of Mine	69838	94%	83%	Survival 2430x War 1355x Atmospheric 1197x Singleplayer 1049x Strategy 1027x Simulation 910x Choices Matter 900x Crafting 837x Base Building 715x Story Rich 709x Indie 700x Resource Management 694x Management 680x Emotional 672x Realistic 670x Post-apocalyptic 663x Drama 651x	English French German Polish Russian Italian Portuguese - Brazi Spanish - Spain Japanese Korean Turkish Simplified Chines		11 bit studios	5 17	4	No	

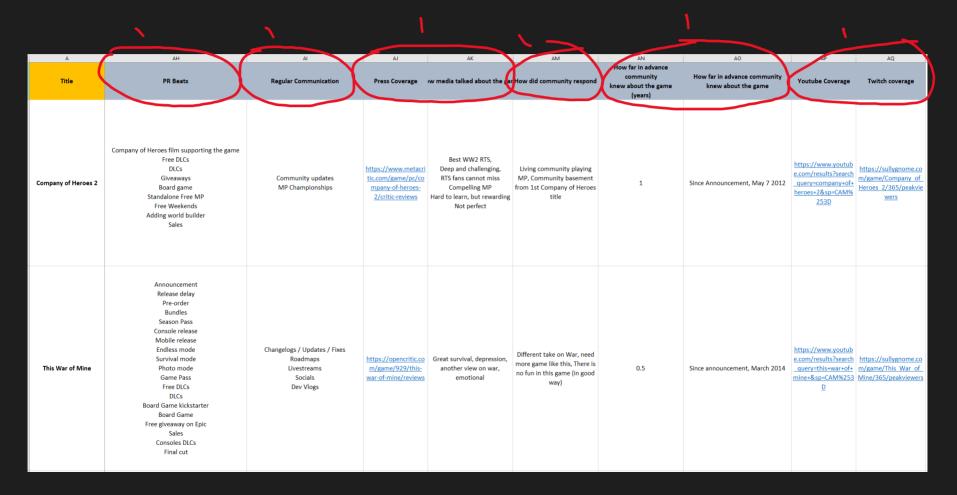
Stealth 638x Psychological 637x 2.5D 636x

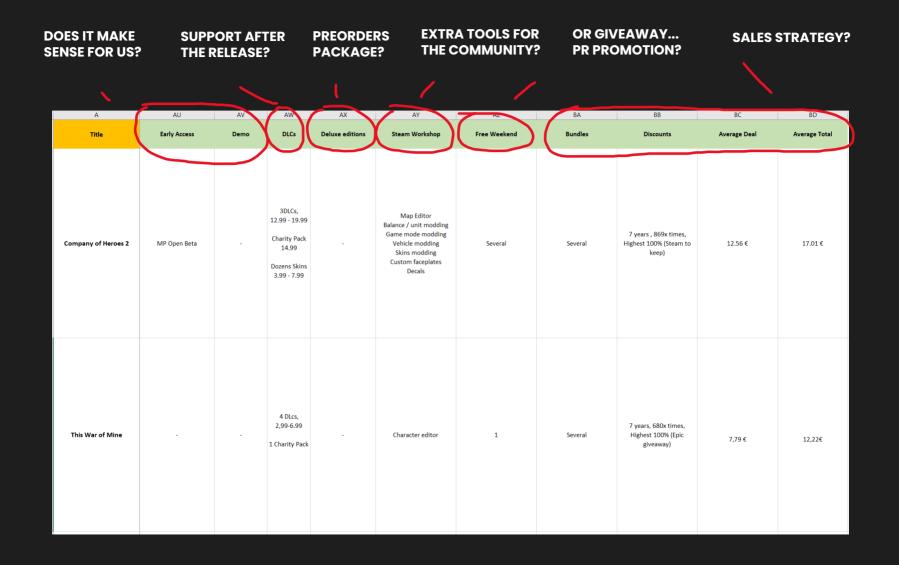
KEY BRAND MESSAGING & ASSETS?

STEAM PAGE DESCRIPTION ANALYZE & INSPIRATION

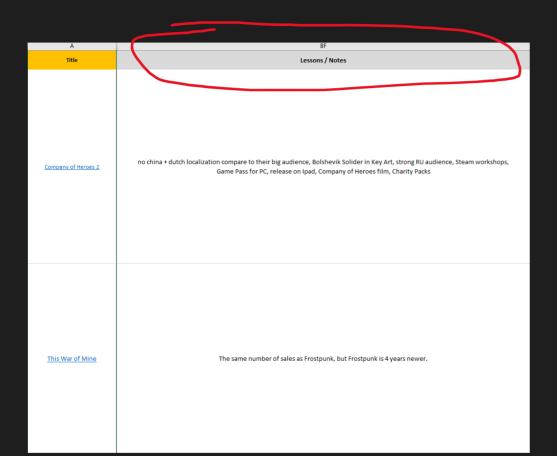
A	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF
Title	Talking points / Marketing Assets	Log Line	Short description	Main features	Key words
Company of Heroes 2	War Epicness, History, Singleplayer, Multiplayer, different armies and their skills gameplay / in-game cinematic trailer with text-overs film trailers for dlcs Military Vlogs with consultatns	Experience the ultimate WWII RTS platform with COH2 and its standalone expansions. This package includes the base game, which you can then upgrade by purchasing The Western Front Armies, Ardennes Assault and/or The British Forces.	You are a commander of the Soviet Red Army, entrenched in brutal frontline warfare to free Mother Russia from the Nazi Invaders. It is 1941 and the beginning of what will become the bloodiest conflict of World War II resulting in more than 14 million casualties. Witness the struggles of the Red Army from near defeat through their incredible triumph over Germany in the most challenging and costly theatre of the war, the Eastern Front. Your military tactics hold the power to tip the very balance of this conflict. Engage in tactical combat that will define you as a military leader and wield the might of the Soviet Empire as you smash your way to Berlin.	eiminate all enemy opposition. Stunning Visuals - Relic's next generation cutting- edge engine provides graphic quality and a physics driven world that is unprecedented in an RTS. Environmental Strategy - Real-time physics and a	War, Army, Conflict, Soviet, Military
This War of Mine	Moral choices, War, Civilian survival Cinematic teaser with music-over Gameplay trailer with commenty Final cut trailer with textover Screenshots Atmosperic Showcasing UI moral decisions Showcasing core gameplay mechanics	In This War Of Mine you do not play as an elite soldier, rather a group of civilians trying to survive in a besieged city; struggling with lack of food, medicine and constant danger from snipers and hostile scavengers. The game provides an experience of war seen from an entirely new angle.	In This War Of Mine you do not play as an elite soldier, rather a group of civilians trying to survive in a besieged city; struggling with lack of food, medicine and constant danger from snipers and hostile scavengers. The game provides an experience of war seen from an entirely new angle. The pace of This War of Mine is imposed by the day and night cycle. During the day snipers outside stop you from leaving your refuge, so you need to focus on maintaining your hideout: crafting, trading and taking care of your survivors. At night, take one of your civilians on a mission to scavenge through a set of unique locations for items that will help you stay alive. Make life-and-death decisions driven by your conscience. Try to protect everybody from your shelter or sacrifice some of them for longer-term survival. During war, there are no good or bad decisions; there is only survival. The sooner you realize that, the better.	Inspired by real-life events Control your survivors and manage your shelter Craft weapons, alcohol, beds or stoves – anything that helps you survive Make decisions - an often unforgiving and emotionally difficult experience Randomized world and characters every time you start a new game Charcoal-stylized aesthetics to complement the game's theme	war, survive, civilian, shelter, food, soldiers







ANY OTHER QUALITATIVE LESSONS?



HOW SHOULD WE OPTIMIZE A GAME FOR TARGET AUDIENCE?

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS	
Viadows macOS SteamOS + Linux	
Minimum:	Recommended:
Memory: 2GB RAM	Memory: 4GB RAM
Processor: 2Ghz Intel Core2 Duo or equivalent	Processor: 3Ghz Intel i5 quad core or equivalent
Graphics: 512MB Direct3D 10 capable video card	Graphics: 1024 MB Direct3D 11 capable video card
(GeForce 8800 GT or Radeon HD 2900XT)	(GeForce GTX 470 or Radeon HD 5850)
OS: 32bit Vista	OS: 64bit Windows 7 and above
Internet: Broadband Internet connection	Internet: Broadband Internet connection
Hard Drive: 30GB free Hard disc space	Hard Drive: 30GB free Hard disc space

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Windows macOS SteamOS + Linux

MINIMUM

OS: Windows 7/8/10 Processor: 2.4 GHz Dual Core Memory: 2 GB RAM Graphics: GeForce GTX 260, Radeon HD 5770, 1024 Graphics: NVIDIA GTX 660 or better, Radeon HD MB, Shader Model 3.0 Sound Card: DirectX compatible

RECOMMENDED

OS: Windows 7/8/10

Processor: 2.5+ GHz Ouad Core

Memory: 4 GB RAM

7950 or better, Shader Model 3.0 DirectX: Version 9.0c Sound Card: DirectX compatible



CHECK YOUR MARKET
LEARN FROM OTHERS

3) LOOK FOR THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NUMBERS AND YOUR RESEARCH

TOOLS & RESOURCES

WISDOM

newsletter.gamediscover.co howtomarketagame.com

DATABASES

newsletter.gamediscover.co (plus program) vginsights.co steamspy.com steamdb.info steam250.com isthereanydeal.com steamcharts.com gamedatacrunch.com howlongtobeat.com togeproductions.com/SteamScout/steamAPI.php?appID =532290

TIPS & TOOLS

notion.so/maplethistles/Tools-Tips-31f7f638ce2b4aa4a9f6bdc7bacbaca2

STATISTICS wepc.com/news/video-game-statistics

TAKEAWAY

STEAM GUESSTIMATES CRASH COURSE

- 1) GUESSTIMATE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF OTHERS
- 2) RECOGNIZE YOUR SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN TIME, AND ADJUST ACCORDINGLY
- **STEAM SALES FORECAST MODEL**
- 1) MAKE THE "REALITY CHECK"
- 2) COMPARE COSTS TO REVENUES
- 3) ADADT ACCORDINGLY
- 4) IF YOU ARE WAY BELOW/ABOVE LOOK FOR HELP
- **MARKET RESEARCH USE CASE**
- 1) CHECK YOUR MARKET
- 2) LEARN FROM OTHERS
- 3) LOOK FOR THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NUMBERS AND YOUR RESEARCH

THONORDIC FAMILY



