

Qutee Gaming Today Report reveals what gamers really think

- Huge curated data discussion of avid gamers reveals just 31% feel that games are becoming more innovative, but 71% say gaming still represents value for money
- 22% dislike “sickening” and “toxic” ‘pay to win’ micropayment models
- VR needs a killer app and a headset price cut – only 5% intend to purchase this year
- Half of gamers play more than 20 hours per week; 20% admit to watching live streams every day

New York, NY – February 15, 2018 – [Qutee](#), a data-led discussion platform, has published its Gaming Today [report](#) today, revealing a gaming community frustrated by stalled innovation and unfair ‘pay to win’ in-game models, but still hugely enthused about their much-loved pastime.

While less than a third (31%) of the 1,663 avid gamers who participated feel games are becoming more innovative, 71% still believe that gaming represents value for money. The report also dissects gamers’ strong opinions on microtransactions and finds that while only 2% of gamers now eschew them in favor of a one-off, up-front payment, 22% emphatically dislike controversial ‘pay to win’ models (where players get to bypass hours of gameplay by paying to jump ahead) with some even calling this tactic “sickening” and “toxic.”

The report is based on an online discussion on Qutee led by a panel of respected gaming/tech data influencers. The curated Qutee debate explored gamers’ likes, dislikes, frustrations and thoughts on the future of the industry and resulted in a tidal wave of almost 2,000 in-depth comments across over 450 discussion topics, as well as 10,000+ poll responses.

“The Gaming Today debate shows that the industry is in the midst of a cultural shift while simultaneously experiencing growing pains. The pursuit of profit in some quarters has led to stagnation at best, and predatory tactics at worst. Gamers are watching and are at the center of the interplay between passion and innovation meeting the bottom line. Fortunately, the market is so large it leaves room for fragmentation, where companies on both sides can successfully carve out a niche,” added **Flint Barrow, co-founder and CTO of Qutee**.

The death of gaming innovation?

37% of gamers argue that games are becoming less innovative, though some concede that it is difficult for long-established franchises to significantly change gameplay, with one gamer commenting: “In a series of games, with a set formula, what changes can be made?” Others argue that it is still possible to innovate, pointing to Creative Assembly’s successful Total War franchise: “For years they (Total War) were doing historical titles and suddenly they do a fantasy one, Total War: Warhammer. Warhammer in a way brought Total War back to life.”

Is the ‘pay to win’ backlash set to continue?

The debate echoed the barrage of recent negative sentiment around ‘pay to win’ microtransactions, with 22% disliking this tactic. One gamer said: “I understand the people who make the game need to make money too, but I do believe that there should be a minimization of in-game purchases that give some people an unfair advantage.” That said, microtransactions, in general, are now considered the norm, with only 6% saying they do not make in-game payments and 69% feeling that cosmetic transactions are acceptable.

Games are still good value

71% of gamers feel that gaming still gives them value for money, compared to just 9% who don't. Gamers still prefer to pay a larger amount up-front and use microtransactions only where they enhance the experience, while many agree that price-point variety is a good thing: "Not every game needs to be \$60 with 40 hours of content and four DLCs. As long as the content-to-price ratio is fair, games can be created to target any price point."

Why 2018 isn't the year of VR

Interestingly, just 5% of gamers intend to splash out on a VR headset in 2018, with the vast majority of gamers holding out for the double whammy of a killer app and a headset price cut. While gamers are undoubtedly excited and positive about VR gaming, this comment from one gamer perfectly sums up the thoughts of many: "VR is a very interesting tech but still too new and expensive for myself personally."

Gaming, streaming and community

Almost half (46%) of gamers now play for more than 20 hours a week, and 60% admit to watching live gaming streams a few times a week too (20% watch every day). With so much of their free time spent gaming or watching influencers/top players on platforms such as Twitch and Facebook Live, it's unsurprising that gamers relish the strong sense of community and friendship enabled by streaming and multi-player gaming, and that 17% of the almost 2,000 comments garnered mention "community."

Taking top publishers to task

Gamers feel that indie developers make the biggest contribution to innovation and better playing experiences but are often stymied in both respects by the big publishers' focus on profits. One gamer suggests: "My hope for the future is that game makers will try innovation over just using the flawed systems of today...making new franchises instead of just remaking old ones, increasing game prices so that developers don't need such invasive microtransactions to turn a profit, and setting more accurate release dates so developers can have time to sufficiently test and design a game."

"The gaming data we've gathered is a veritable goldmine for developers, publishers and influencers looking to understand what really makes gamer tick and equally what turns them off. This discussion proves that there is a huge appetite for communities of all kinds to come together online to conduct data discussions and share positive stories and opinions. This is pure data democracy at work and what Qutee is all about," commented **Tim Wilson, co-founder and CEO of Qutee**.

"Each year gaming is becoming more recognized as a professional field, and where once someone may have been ostracized for being a gamer, they are now accepted with open arms in a growing, and amazing community! My 2017 lowlight is backed up by the results from the Qutee discussion: the influence of 'pay to win' on new multiplayer games. Gamers should be rewarded through skill and time spent playing, not by who has the most surplus cash," commented gaming data influencer and Gaming Today report curator **homelespenguin**.

The curated Qutee Gaming Today data discussion on Qutee in December 2017 was led by a panel of leading gaming/tech influencers - CapgunTom, Marzbar, Phylol, lionheartx10, Oakelfish, Huzzy, and homelespenguin. It shows what 1,663 gamers really think about gaming today. The Qutee Gaming Today report, published today, highlights some of the key topics and findings covered in the discussion. To view the full data discussion, click [here](#); to download a copy of the report, click [here](#).

About Qutee

Founded in 2015 by CEO Tim Wilson and CTO Flint Barrow, Qutee's mission is to permanently raise the standard of debate online, for everyone's benefit. The US/UK start-up's data-led comments and discussion platform helps any digital content creator to engage with audiences in a more meaningful way by delivering real insights from online discussions. The platform is already generating 1000s of comments from engaged communities for data influencers in the gaming and tech space such as Capguntom, Huzzy, Marzbar, Oakelfish and Phylol.

Qutee is privately backed and fully owns the intellectual property behind its technology platform. Board advisory members include Elizabeth Linder, who previously launched Facebook India and led Facebook EMEA government relations, and Jim Hodgkins, ex-CEO of the world's leading psychographic consumer data company VisualDNA.

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