

US Internet/Video Games & Interactive Media

Mobile AdTech Preview: Ringing in the new year with a deservedly better outlook

Estimate Change

Mobile gaming no-longer ex-growth, green shoots seen

The CY24 backdrop for gaming-focused mobile ad networks has improved slightly: Data.ai forecasts mobile gaming IAP revenues to grow 4% Y/Y in CY24 (vs. BofA +2% Y/Y, Street implied +5% Y/Y), after two consecutive years of declines. Moreover, risk appetite to launch new games, which spend the most on advertising, appeared to thaw slightly in 3Q23 & 4Q23 after troughing in 4Q22. Although 3P ests of industry ad prices (excluding APP) were down Q/Q in 4Q23, we think the slight upwards trend in engagement, a proxy for supply, and declines in AdMob prices, were primarily responsible. We view the industry's shift to RTB in 2024 is a tailwind to the mobile gaming ecosystem. On the regulatory front, we expect neither Apple nor Google privacy policy to adversely affect mobile ad networks in CY24. Nor do we believe the dismissal of the Epic vs. Apple case will have a significant effect on industry growth in CY24.

APP: more Q/Q momentum not expected by Street in 1Q24

Expectations for Q4 have risen significantly (at least six consensus estimates forecast 4Q revenues > guidance), but not on 1Q24, where no Q4 bullish analysts (on Factset), expect Q/Q growth in Software segment revenues. BofA's 1Q24 seq growth assumption is driven by rising RTB (aka Real-Time or Header Bidding) fees and the beginnings of CTV advertising, offset by a sliight in-game advertising decline due to seasonality. Our 1Q24 in-game forecast does not assume significant improvements to APP's Aladvertising engine Axon 2.0. An above consensus 1Q24 guide, if driven by expectations for Axon 2.0 improvements, would imply that AppDiscovery quarterly run-rate could continue to grow as CY24 unfolds, forcing upward revisions to CY24 consensus estimates. We would not expect new CFO Matt Stumpf to initiate CY24 guidance in his first call with investors. Commentary that APP broadened its supply or demand base (i.e. CTV and non-gaming verticals) in 4Q has the potential to raise APP's valuation multiple.

U: Strategic review before 4Q

We expect Unity's strategic review to be largely complete when the company announces results on February 26. To date, the company has announced headcount reductions (we estimate \$270mn in annual savings), seperation from Weta (we estimate \$70mn in revenue) and exiting of office leases. We believe incremental announcements regarding business sales or seperations could come before results. In aggregate, we view the strategic review as positioning Unity for higher revenue growth and profitability with greater focus on core markets. Maintain Buy.

APPS: Lack of near-term catalyst keeps stock sideways

APPS' product suite and technology capability position it well to benefit from app publishers' push towards alternative app distribution, which in our view, underpins the bull case for the stock. However, we have difficulty underwriting an inflection in revenues until the opportunity size and potential economics of the SingleTap & Hubs product become clear. Meanwhile, near-term headwinds in the core business keep us in a wait-and-see mode. We see limited downside risk to 3FQ Street/Guide, as our industry checks suggest generally upbeat advertiser sentiment & better-than expected ad spend trends. We reiterate Neutral & \$7 PO, on 8.5x (unchanged) EBITDA.

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Acronyms:

CPI: Cost per Install

3P: Third Party

RTB: Real Time Bidding

APP: AppLovin

APPS: Digital Turbine

U: Unity

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APP: 1Q24 guide may raise Street models

APP is our top pick with in our coverage for 2024. At 9x FY24 EV/EBITDA (on BofA estimates), APP trades like a mobile game developer, despite the potential to grow its core business by ~50% Y/Y in 2024. We think APP's depressed valuation is partially attributed to a lack of investor familiarity, as well as concerns that 1) the mobile gaming end market is only a low-single-digit grower, capping the growth in marketing spend that goes to Broker Ad Networks such as AppLovin and Unity, 2) Broker Ad Networks lack differentiation and sustainable edge as compared to Walled Gardens such as Meta & Google, 3) changes in the privacy landscape (i.e. Apple's Privacy Manifest, Google's cookie deprecations) could again disrupt the mobile ad ecosysm.

We expect the dissipation of the investor concerns to drive re-rating over time, and catalysts could begin to emerge at the 4Q results call on February 14th:

- Evidence of traction in non-gaming advertising, CTV advertising, as well as
 mediation services could raise Street models and investor confidence in these noncore verticals, where the opportunity size is still underappreciated. This should also
 expand APP's addressable market and dispel concerns around end market growth
 over time
- Concerns around the impact of iOS privacy policy has somewhat dissipated after <u>Apple's release of its SDK list</u>, and we think Google's deprecation of GAID is unlikely to happen in 2024 (cookie deprecation doesn't affect APP's core mobile in-app advertising business)
- Google's transition into real-time bidding on partner mediation platforms (AppLovin MAX, Unity LevelPlay, Chartboost, Digital Turbine Fairbid) by end of January could reshape the competitive landscape among both demand-side and supply-side platforms. APP as an early adoptor of real-time bidding technology could emerge as a beneficiary

We suspect a 4Q beat is already somewhat anticipated: 6 (incl. BofA) out of 12 sellside analysts have 4Q revenue forecast above the high end of guidance, with buyside expectations likely higher than the sellside. However, Street 1Q24 consensus appears conservative, implying a Q/Q decline in Software revenue in aggregate. We expect sequential growth in Software revenue in 1Q24, driven by incremental revenue from MAX RTB fees (Google bidding), as well as contribution from CTV advertising's early rollout; we model \$10mn Q/Q decline in core AppDiscovery (in-app ads) revenue driven by seasonality, conservatively assuming no further gains from Axon 2.0's model improvements, which is APP's next generation Al advertising engine.

For the Gaming segment, we forecast +3% Q/Q growth in in-app purchase revenue in 4Q23, consistent with 3P estimates, and slightly trim FY24 revenues by \$70mn assuming performance inline with industry forecasts (LSD growth in 2024).

We reiterate Buy with \$57 PO unchanged, on a SOTP framework that values the Software business at 12x FY24E EBITDA, and the Gaming (Apps) business at 5x FY24E EBITDA. Our Software multiple is inline with the valuations of Meta & Alphabet, which we see as comps for APP, and our Gaming multiple is consistsent with casual mobile gaming publishers.



Exhibit 1: BofA APP Software Segment Line of Business (LOB) Build

We expect AppDiscovery to drive Software growth in in FY23E & FY24E, and assume incremental revenue contributions from header bidding and Wurl (CTV) in FY24E

	2022	1Q23	2Q23	3Q23	4Q23E	2023E	1Q24E	2Q24E	3Q24E	4Q24E	2024E
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Dec-24
Software Revenue	\$1,049	\$355	\$406	\$504	\$575	\$1,840	\$611	\$656	\$692	\$749	\$2,709
of which AppDiscovery (BofA Est)	\$946	\$274	\$312	\$404	\$464	\$1,454	\$469	\$494	\$519	\$544	\$2,026
of which Mobile Apps Supply		\$274	\$312	\$404	\$454	\$1,444	\$444	\$444	\$444	\$444	\$1,776
of which CTV (Wurl) Supply				\$0	\$10	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$250
of which ALX DSPs Clients (BofA Est)	\$100	\$15	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$75	\$22	\$25	\$25	\$33	\$105
of which Header Bidding (BofA Est)	\$80	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$50	\$155	\$80	\$95	\$105	\$120	\$400
of which Adjust (BofA Est)	\$111	\$29	\$29	\$29	\$29	\$116	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$35	\$126
of which Wurl SSP/CDN only (BofA Est)	\$21	\$7	\$10	\$11	\$12	\$40	\$10	\$12	\$13	\$17	\$52
of which publisher bonus adjustment	(\$210)										
Software Revenue Y/Y Growth	56%	8%	28%	65%	88%	46%	72%	62%	37%	30%	47%
of which AppDiscovery (BofA Est)	77%	14%	29%	75%	100%	54%	71%	58%	28%	17%	39%
of which ALX DSPs Clients (BofA Est)	69%	-63%	0%	0%	0%	-25%	47%	25%	25%	65%	40%
of which Header Bidding (BofA Est)							167%	171%	163%	140%	158%
of which Adjust (BofA Est)	40%	4%	4%	4%	7%	5%	5%	5%	5%	21%	9%
of which Wurl SSP/CDN only (BofA Est)			43%	57%	71%	90%	43%	20%	18%	42%	30%
of which publisher bonus adjustment											

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Company reports

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 2: Sum of the Parts Valuation for \$57 Price ObjectiveAppLovin's valuation is driven by its Software segment, which we value at 12x FY23 EBITDA

(\$ Mn)	1	Target Valuat	ion	Current SOTP			
	PO	Software	Gaming	Stock Price	Software	Gaming	
\$Value/Share	\$57	\$55	\$2	\$43	\$41	\$2	
FDSO (Mn)	379	379	379	379	379	379	
Market Cap	\$21,608	\$20,961	\$647	\$16,344	\$15,697	\$647	
Net Cash	(\$2,795)	(\$2,556)	(\$239)	(\$2,795)	(\$2,556)	(\$239)	
EV	\$24,403	\$23,517	\$886	\$19,139	\$18,253	\$886	
FY24 Revenue	\$4,187	\$2,709	\$1,477	\$4,187	\$2,709	\$1,477	
FY24 EBITDA	\$2,074	\$1,897	\$177	\$2,074	\$1,897	\$177	
EV/Revenue	6x	9x	1x	5x	7x	1x	
EV/EBITDA	12x	12x	5x	9x	10x	5x	

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Company Reports



Exhibit 3: BofA Estimates vs. Street, 2023E to 2025EWe expect 4Q beat driven by Software, and our FY24 Revenue/EBITDA estimates are well above Street

Revenue - Consolidated		2022	23Q1	23Q2	23Q3	23Q4E	2023E	2024E	2025E
BIA Affords STREET									
SIPPET	B of A (After)	2,817	715	750	864	945	3,274	4,187	4,607
Delay s. STREET 1996 1998 1998 7.0% 10096 1009									
Revenue - Consolidated YOY Growth %									
Revenue - Consolidated YoY Growth %							0.6%	9.0%	7.6%
BATA JAMPH 0.9%	GUIDE (Midpoint)					920.0			
Sept Algebrois Sister Si	Revenue - Consolidated YoY Growth %								
STREET	B of A (After)	0.9%	14.4%	-3.4%	21.2%	34.5%	16.2%	27.9%	10.0%
Delay S.TREET 28% 0.9% 9.9% 1.48%	B of A (Before)					34.5%	16.2%	30.1%	10.0%
Revenue - Software	STREET					31.9%	15.6%	17.9%	11.4%
Bod AlAffer 1,049 355 406 504 575 1,840 2,09 3,098 576ET 556 1,821 2,347 2,736 5,009							0.6%	9.9%	-1.4%
Barf Alfafer 1,049 355 406 504 575 1,840 2,709 3,038 Barf Alfafer 2,709 3,058 STRET 556 1,801 2,707 2,736 Barf Alfafer 3,4% 10% 15.4% Barf Alfafer 1,768 360 344 360 370 1,434 1,477 1,509 Barf Alfafer 1,768 360 344 360 370 1,434 1,477 1,509 Barf Alfafer 3,768 360 344 360 370 1,434 1,477 1,509 STREET (MIPLED) 371 1,435 1,493 1,544 Clube (Midgoint) 2,3% 2,3% 2,3% Barf Alfafer 5,5% 8,1% 2,7.9% 6,4.5% 8,7.8% 4,6.2% 4,7.2% 1,5.0% Barf Alfafer 5,5% 8,1% 2,7.9% 6,4.5% 8,7.8% 4,6.2% 4,7.2% 1,5.0% Barf Alfafer 5,5% 8,1% 2,7.9% 6,4.5% 8,7.8% 4,6.2% 4,7.2% 1,5.0% Barf Alfafer 5,5% 8,1% 2,5.0% 1,1.5% 2,5.0% 1,5.0% Barf Alfafer 5,5% 2,5.9% 2,5.0% 1,1.5% 6,6% 1,8.9% 2,2.0% Barf Alfafer 1,6.5% 2,8.9% 2,5.0% 1,1.9% 6,6% 1,8.9% 3,0% 2,2.0% Barf Alfafer 1,0,53 2,74 3,34 419 4,54 1,480 2,0.74 1,3.3% Barf Alfafer 1,0,53 2,74 3,34 419 4,54 1,480 2,0.74 2,3.35 Barf Alfafer 1,0,53 2,74 3,34 419 4,54 1,480 2,0.74 2,3.35 Barf Alfafer 1,0,53 2,74 3,34 419 4,54 1,480 2,0.74 2,3.35 Barf Alfafer 1,0,53 2,74 3,34 4,19 4,54 1,480 2,0.74 2,3.35 Barf Alfafer 1,0,53 2,74 3,34 4,19 4,54 1,480 2,0.74 2,3.35 Barf Alfafer 3,3.9% 4,4.5% 4,8.5% 4,5.5% 4,9.5% 5,0.7% Barf Alfafer 3,3.9% 4,4.5% 4,5.9%	GUIDE (Midpoint)					31.0%			
Barf A, Affers 1,049 355 406 504 575 1,840 2,070 3,098 576 1,860 2,070 3,098 576 1,860 2,070 3,098 576 1,860 2,074 2,736 2,736 1,860	Revenue - Software								
STREET		1,049	355	406	504	575	1,840	2,709	3,098
STREET	B of A (Before)					575	1,840	2,709	3,098
Revenue - Apps						556	1,821		
Bof A (After)	Delta vs. STREET					3.4%	1.0%	15.4%	13.2%
Bof A (Affer) 1,768 360 344 360 370 1,434 1,477 1,509 Bof A (Before) 370 1,434 1,550 1,590 STREET (IMPLIED) 371 1,435 1,454 Ozes -0.1% -1,195 -2,3% Culpic (Midpoint) -1,195 -2,3% Bof A (Affer) 55.5% 8.1% 27.9% 64.5% 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 14.3% Bof A (Before) 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 15.0% STREET 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 16.3% STREET 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 15.0% STREET 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 16.3% STREET 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 18.3% STREET 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 47.2% STREET 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 47.2% STREET 87.8% 46.2% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 49.5% 50.7% STREET 87.8% 47.2% 47.2% STREET 87.8% 47.2% 47.2% STREET 87.8% 44.5% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 49.5% 50.7% STREET 87.8% 44.5% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 49.5% 50.7% STREET 87.8% 44.5% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 48.5% 49.5% 50.7% STREET 87.8% 44.5% 48.5%	GUIDE (Midpoint)								
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Bof Al Refere 370		1,768	360	344	360	370	1,434	1,477	1,509
STREEF (IMPUED)	B of A (Before)					370	1,434	1,550	1,590
Revenue - Software YoY Growth %						371	1,435		1,544
Revenue - Software YoY Growth % Bof A (After) 55.5% 8.1% 27.9% 64.5% 87.8% 46.2% 47.2% 14.3% 15.0% 15.	Delta vs. STREET					-0.2%			
B of A (After)	GUIDE (Midpoint)								
B of A (After)	Revenue - Software YoY Growth %								
STREET	,	55.5%	8.1%	27.9%	64.5%	87.8%	46.2%	47.2%	14.3%
STREET									
Delta vs. STREET G.3% -27.4% 18.3% -2.2% GUIDE (Midpoint)									
Revenue - Apps Yo'Y Growth %	Delta vs. STREET								
B of A (After)	GUIDE (Midpoint)								
B of A (After)	Revenue - Apps YoY Growth %								
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STREET 6.4% -18.8% 4.0% 3.4% Delta vs. STREET -0.2% -0.1% -1.0% -1.3% EBITDA Non-GAAP B of A (After) 1.063 274 334 419 454 1.480 2.074 2.335 B of A (Before) 454 1.480 2.110 2.375 STREET 439 1.465 1.830 2.083 Delta vs. STREET 3.4% 1.0% 13.3% 12.1% GUIDE (Midpoint) 430.0 430.0 13.3% 12.1% EBITDA Margin Non-GAAP % 48.0% 45.2% 49.5% 50.7% B of A (After) 35.1% 38.3% 44.5% 48.0% 45.2% 49.5% 50.7% STREET 35.1% 38.3% 44.5% 48.0% 45.2% 49.5% 50.7% STREET 35.1% 38.3% 44.5% 48.0% 45.2% 49.5% 50.7% GUIDE (Midpoint) 46.7% 46.7% 46.7% 46.7% 46.7%									
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B of A (After)	FRITDA Non-GAAD								
B of A (Before)	-	1,063	274	334	419	454	1,480	2,074	2,335
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STREET 47.4% 45.0% 47.7% 48.7% Delta vs. STREET 0.7% 0.2% 1.9% 2.0% GUIDE (Midpoint) 46.7%		35.1%	38.3%	44.5%	48.5%	48.0%	45.2%	49.5%	50.7%
Delta vs. STREET GUIDE (Midpoint) 0.7% 46.7% 0.2% 0.2% 1.9% 1.9% 2.0% 2.0% EBITDA - Software B of A (After) 809 219 273 364 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 B of A (Before) 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 STREET 386 1,242 1,585 1,835 Delta vs. STREET 3.6% 1.1% 19.7% 18.2%	B of A (Before)					48.0%			
EBITDA - Software 809 219 273 364 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 B of A (Before) 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 STREET 386 1,242 1,585 1,835 Delta vs. STREET 3.6% 1.1% 19.7% 18.2%	STREET					47.4%	45.0%	47.7%	
B of A (After) 809 219 273 364 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 B of A (Before) 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 STREET 386 1,242 1,585 1,835 Delta vs. STREET 3.6% 1.1% 19.7% 18.2%							0.2%	1.9%	2.0%
B of A (After) 809 219 273 364 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 B of A (Before) 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 STREET 386 1,242 1,585 1,835 Delta vs. STREET 3.6% 1.1% 19.7% 18.2%	GUIDE (Midpoint)					46.7%			
B of A (Before) 400 1,255 1,897 2,169 STREET 386 1,242 1,585 1,835 Delta vs. STREET 3.6% 1.1% 19.7% 18.2%	EBITDA - Software								
STREET 386 1,242 1,585 1,835 Delta vs. STREET 3.6% 1.1% 19.7% 18.2%	B of A (After)	809	219	273	364	400	1,255	1,897	2,169
Delta vs. STREET 3.6% 1.1% 19.7% 18.2%			· <u> </u>						
						3.0%	1.170	1 3.7 70	10.2%



Exhibit 3: BofA Estimates vs. Street, 2023E to 2025E

We expect 4Q beat driven by Software, and our FY24 Revenue/EBITDA estimates are well above Street

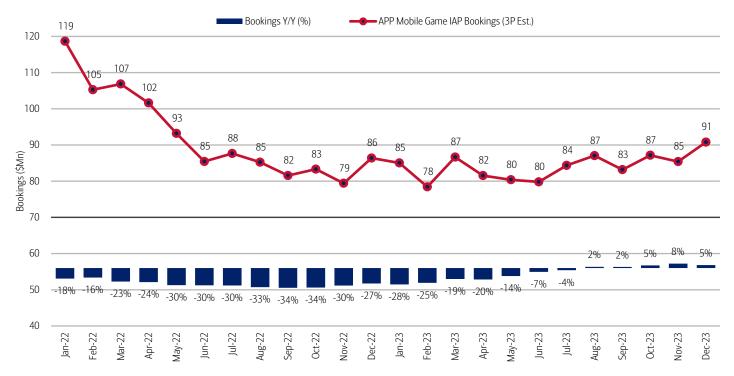
	2022	23Q1	23Q2	23Q3	23Q4E	2023E	2024E	2025E
EBITDA - Apps								
B of A (After)	255	55	61	55	54	225	177	166
B of A (Before)					54	225	213	207
STREET					52	223	214	216
Delta vs. STREET					3.7%	0.9%	-17.3%	-23.2%
GUIDE (Midpoint)								
EBITDA Margin % - Software								
B of A (After)	64.2%	61.6%	67.1%	72.2%	69.6%	67.6%	70.0%	70.0%
B of A (Before)					69.6%	67.6%	70.0%	70.0%
STREET					69.5%	68.2%	67.5%	67.1%
Delta vs. STREET					0.1%	-0.6%	2.5%	2.9%
GUIDE (Midpoint)								
EBITDA Margin % - Apps								
B of A (After)	14.4%	15.3%	17.7%	15.3%	14.5%	15.7%	12.0%	11.0%
B of A (Before)					14.5%	15.7%	13.8%	13.0%
STREET					14.0%	15.5%	14.3%	14.0%
Delta vs. STREET					0.6%	0.2%	-2.3%	-3.0%
GUIDE (Midpoint)								

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Visible Alpha, Company Reports

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Exhibit 4: Mobile IAP Bookings (3P Ests) Y/Y Growth, APP Top Games, Jan '22 - Dec '23

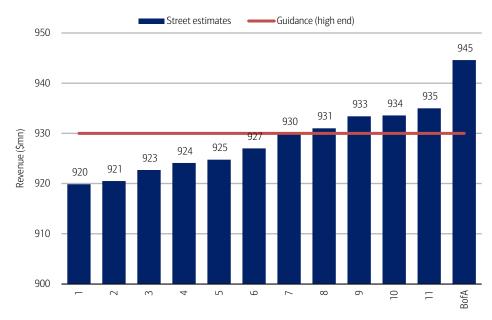
APP mobile IAP bookings (3P Ests) grew +5% Y/Y in December, and were up sequentially on seasonal strength; Q/Q growth was +3%



Source: Sensor Tower, BofA Analysis of 250+ APP mobile games



Exhibit 5: 12 Sell Side Analyst Estimates of 4Q23 Total Revenues, as of Jan 21, 2024 Half of the 12 sellside 4Q23 Revenue estimates that we track are above high end of guidance



Source: FactSet, BofA Global Research



APPS: catalysts needed to re-rate stock

The Ignite software's system level integration with carrier phones allows it to install apps directly onto devices, in a much more frictionless way (one-click install through SingleTap) than sideloading (web to app), which is commonly used by most publishers looking to bypass the Google Play Store. This unique technology capability positions APPS well to benefit from publishers' push into alternative app distribution, particularly as tech partners to Big Tech (e.g. Meta, Microsoft). However, the opportunity remains hard to underwrite as its alternative app store product (Hubs) is still in the early stage of rollout, making it difficult to assess the product fit, opportunity size, or potential economics. We expect the stock to stay in holding patterns in the interim because 1) core business growth remains pressured due to near-term headwinds (weak device activation trends, business consolidations), and 2) SingleTap (licensing product) and Hubs have yet to show significant traction.

Meanwhile, we see limited downside risk to 3FQ guidance and Street estimates, as our industry checks suggest generally upbeat advertiser sentiment & better-than expected ad spend trends. We slightly trim our FY25 Revenue/EBITDA forecasts now modeling lower revenue contribution from SingleTap (licensing) & Hubs (~\$20mn).

Exhibit 6: BofA Forecasts vs Street, FY24E - FY25E

We expect 3FQ Revenue/EBITDA inline with guidance

	FY23	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24E	4Q24E	FY24E	FY25E
Net Revenues							
B of A (After)	666	146	143	146	139	574	640
B of A (Before)				146	139	574	665
STREET				146	138	574	627
Delta vs. STREET				0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	2.2%
GUIDE				147	-	-	-
Net Revenues YoY Growth %							
B of A (After)	-10.9%	-22.4%	-18.1%	-10.0%	-1.0%	-13.7%	11.5%
B of A (Before)				-10.0%	-1.0%	-13.7%	15.7%
STREET				-10.2%	-1.2%	-13.9%	9.2%
Delta vs. STREET				0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	2.3%
GUIDE							
On-Device Solutions Revenue							
B of A (After)	420	98	99	100	99	396	450
B of A (Before)				101	103	401	479
STREET				97	99	394	437
Delta vs. STREET				3.1%	-0.3%	0.7%	3.0%
ODS Revenues YoY Growth %							
B of A (After)	-16.4%	-17.2%	-8.7%	3.8%	2.2%	-5.7%	13.5%
B of A (Before)				4.9%	6.3%	-4.5%	19.4%
STREET				0.7%	2.5%	-6.3%	11.0%
Delta vs. STREET				3.1%	-0.3%	0.6%	2.6%
App Growth Platform Revenue							
B of A (After)	253	49	46	48	41	184	199
B of A (Before)				47	37	179	194
STREET				50	40	185	196
Delta vs. STREET				-4.8%	1.9%	-0.9%	1.6%
AGP Revenues YoY Growth %							
B of A (After)	-3.6%	-32.3%	-32.3%	-29.5%	-8.6%	-27.4%	8.1%
B of A (Before)				-31.0%	-17.5%	-29.3%	8.8%
STREET				-26.0%	-10.3%	-26.7%	5.5%
Delta vs. STREET				-3.5%	1.7%	-0.6%	2.6%
Non-GAAP Gross Margin %							

Exhibit 6: BofA Forecasts vs Street, FY24E - FY25EWe expect 3FQ Revenue/EBITDA inline with guidance

	FY23	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24E	4Q24E	FY24E	FY25E
B of A (After)	49.0%	47.1%	46.8%	47.0%	46.1%	46.8%	47.5%
B of A (Before)				47.0%	46.1%	46.8%	48.2%
STREET				47.1%	46.1%	46.8%	47.3%
Delta vs. STREET				(0.1%)	0.0%	(0.0%)	0.3%
Non-GAAP Operating Margin %							
B of A (After)	22.0%	15.0%	15.9%	16.7%	14.7%	15.6%	18.9%
B of A (Before)				16.7%	14.7%	15.6%	19.3%
STREET				17.5%	15.5%	16.5%	18.3%
Delta vs. STREET						(1.0%)	0.6%
Non-GAAP Adj. EBITDA							
B of A (After)	163	27	28	29	25	108	138
B of A (Before)				29	25	108	146
STREET				29	25	108	127
Delta vs. STREET				1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	8.5%
GUIDE				29	-	-	-
Non-GAAP Adj. EBITDA Margin %							
B of A (After)	24.5%	18.4%	19.3%	19.7%	17.9%	18.9%	21.6%
B of A (Before)				19.7%	17.9%	18.9%	21.9%
STREET				19.6%	17.8%	18.8%	20.3%
Delta vs. STREET				0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	1.3%
GUIDE							

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Visible Alpha

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Exhibit 7: BofA vs. Consensus, Valuations & Price ObjectiveOur Price Objective of \$7/share represents a 31% upside from current valuation, and is driven by 9x EV/EBITDA multiple on the average of FY24 & FY25 EBITDA

Digital Turbine Valuation	n Work	sheet							
(\$ in millions, except per share amounts)									
	BofA T	arget Val	uation	BofA M	arket Val	uation		et Conse	nsus
(Mn)	FY24E	FY25E	Avg	FY24E	FY25E	Avg	FY24E	FY25E	Avg
Upside/Downside Price Objective		31.1% \$7.00							
Share Price					\$5.34			\$5.34	
Diluted Shares Outst. Market Value	104.7 \$733	104.7 \$733	104.7 \$733	104.7 \$559	104.7 \$559	104.7 \$559	104.7 \$559	104.7 \$559	104.7 \$559
Net Cash	(\$325)	(\$325)	(\$325)	(\$325)	(\$325)	(\$325)	(\$325)	(\$325)	(\$325)
Enterprise Value	\$1,058	\$1,058	\$1,058	\$884	\$884	\$884	\$884	\$884	\$884
EV/EBITDA	9.8x	7.6x	8.6x	8.2x	6.4x	7.2x	8.2x	6.9x	7.5x
EBITDA (BofA/STREET)	\$108	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$127	\$118
FCF Yield	8.5%	14.1%	11.3%	11.2%	18.5%	14.8%	9.8%	16.6%	13.2%
FCF (BofA/STREET)	\$63	\$103	\$83	\$63	\$103	\$83	\$55	\$93	\$74
FV/Sales	1.8x	1.7x	1.7x	1.5x	1.4x	1.5x	1.5x	1.4x	1.5x
Sales (BofA/STREET)	\$574	\$640	\$607	\$574	\$640	\$607	\$574	\$627	\$600
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				Ç3 10	Ç307	Ç57 I	ÇÜZI	+000

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Bloomberg, FactSet, Visible Alpha



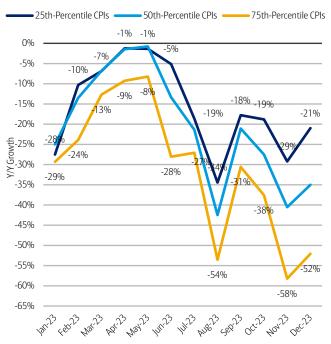
Pricing December: iOS lower, Android remained at trough

Cost per Install (CPI) and cost per 1000 impressions (CPM) are important indicators because they reflect the expected lifetime value of the gamers who install a game based on an ad served through an ad network.

- In November 2023, Google started to transition into real-time bidding on both AdMob as well as partner mediation platforms (AppLovin MAX, Unity LevelPlay, Chartboost, Digital Turbine Fairbid), a process that would complete by January 2024.
 We expect this change to result in ad pricing improvements over time as real-time bidding introduces more competition into ad auctions, though some near-term volatility is expected as the ecosystem adjusts to the transition.
- CPI (3P estimates) of US Android apps were sequentially stable in December but remained at trough levels seen in 2023. Average pricing on Android has fallen significantly since June 2023, with AdMob driving most of the decline.
- CPI (3P estimates) of US iOS apps fell low-teens sequentially in December, driven by broad-based declines across platforms except AdMob. Overall in 2023, average pricing on iOS appears to have stabilized after two years of steep declines, particularly for less expensive installs.

Exhibit 8: Cost per Install Y/Y Growth, US Android Apps (all categories)

Average Android CPIs (3P ests) were about flat sequentially in December, with Y/Y comps improved from November levels

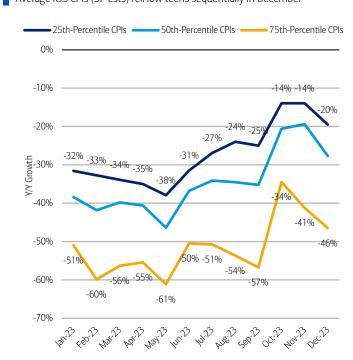


Source: Data.ai

 $Note: major\ networks\ included\ are\ AdMob,\ UnityAds,\ ironSource,\ Chartboost,\ Vungle,\ AdColony,\ InMobi$

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Exhibit 9: Cost per Install Y/Y Growth, US iOS Apps (all categories) Average iOS CPIs (3P ests) fell low teens sequentially in December



Source: Data.ai

 $Note: major\ networks\ included\ are\ AdMob,\ UnityAds,\ ironSource,\ Chartboost,\ Vungle,\ AdColony,\ InMobi$



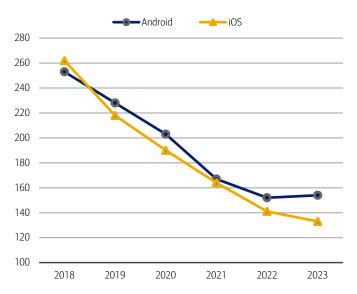
New launch: early signs of rebound, but no inflection yet

New game launches are important growth drivers of ad network revenues because publishers tend to spend the most on adertising at launch in an effort to scale users that can make the game profitable. Moreover, most mobile games see their revenue flatten or decline after a few years in operation, making new game launches critical to the financial success (and ongoing advertising spend) of any publisher with a portfolio.

We track the number of newly launched games among the top 1500 grossing gaming apps on iOS and Android respectively to gauge the pace and success of new game launches. An acceleration in the pace of new launches could suggest 1) an increase in risk appetite by publishers, 2) an increase in VC/private market funding in mobile gaming, and 3) user targeting may be improving, lowering the bar for scaling new games, both of which could indicate higher industry growth going forward, a positive for Mobile AdTech platforms such as AppLovin, Unity, Vungle, and Digital Turbine. Our analysis suggests that new launches within top games have declined consistently since 2018, reaching a new low in 2023. However, there are early signs that new launches have been picking up since 3Q23. Overall, our data does not indicate an inflection in mobile gaming industry growth driven by new launches. We look for more clues if the rebound since 3Q23 marks a turning point.

Exhibit 10: Number of New Launches Among Top 1500 Game Apps by Revenue, US iOS & Android, YTD (thru December)

The number of new launches among top gaming apps have consistently declined since 2018; new launches continued to fall in 2023 on iOS, but appeared flat on Android



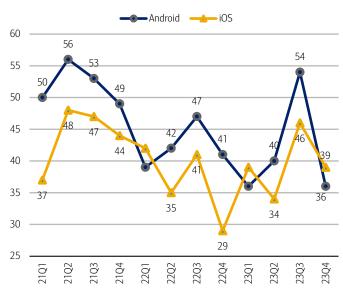
Source: SensorTower, BofA Global Research

Note: New launch defined as a game that was released in the year

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Exhibit 11: Number of New Launches Among Top 1500 Game Apps by Revenue, by Quarter, US iOS & Android

The number of new launches per quarter has showed early signs of rebound since 3Q23, particularly on iOS



Source: SensorTower, BofA Global Research

Note: New launch defined as a game that was released in the quarter

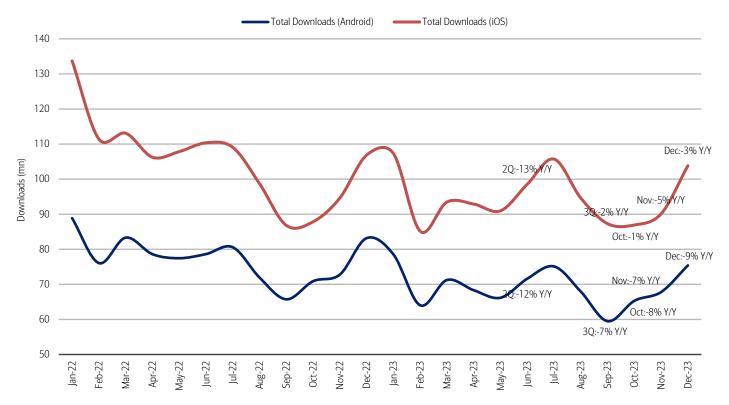


Volumes: Y/Y comps stable, but up M/M

The volume of downloads of mobile game apps is an indicator of volume of paid installs through mobile ad networks. Mobile game install volumes appeared to have trended sideways since August '22, though Y/Y declines have slowly moderated since early 2023 as comps eased. Summer seasonality appeared more pronounced than last year, with sequential upticks in June & July and normalizations in August & September. In December, game downloads ticked up on seasonal strength, extending the uptrend since October; Y/Y comps remained roughly stable. Overall, 4Q seasonality appears consistent with that in 2022.

Exhibit 12: Monthly Total Downloads of Top US Mobile Games

Total downloads of US top mobile games were still lower Y/Y in December, with Y/Y comps stable; total downloads in 4Q overall fell single digits Y/Y



 $\textbf{Source:} \ \mathsf{Sensor} \ \mathsf{Tower}, \mathsf{BofA} \ \mathsf{analysis} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{500} \ \mathsf{top} \ \mathsf{gaming} \ \mathsf{apps} \ \mathsf{on} \ \mathsf{Android} \ \& \ \mathsf{iOS} \ \mathsf{respectively}$

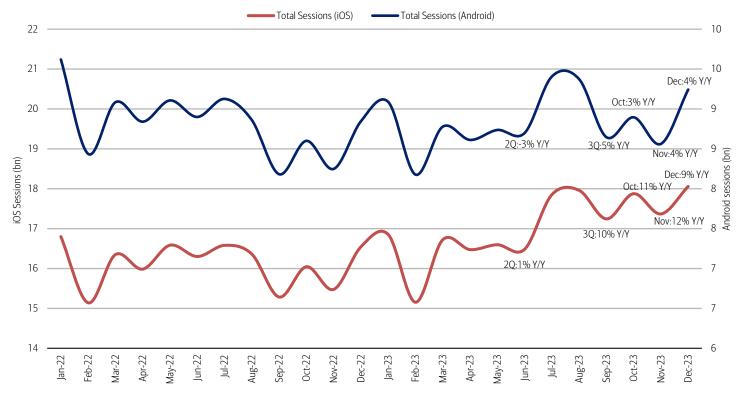


Engagement: positive Y/Y since July, iOS trending up

Engagement with mobile games (total times an app is opened) is an important indicator of the supply of impressions available for ad networks to serve ads to. According to 3P estimates, player engagement on top iOS games seems to have slowly trended upwards since July 2023. On Android, aggregate player engagement appears stable since 2022. In December, player engagement ticked up M/M on seasonal strength. Y/Y comps have inflected to positive since July, up mid-single-digits/low-teens Y/Y on Android/iOS. Overall, 4Q seasonality did not deviate with that in 2022.

Exhibit 13: Monthly Aggregate Engagement with Top US Mobile Games

Overall player engagement ticked up M/M in Decmeber on seasonal strength, Y/Y comps were roughly stable sequentially; overall engagement were flat sequentially in 40



Source: Sensor Tower, BofA analysis of 500 top gaming apps on Android and iOS Note: Aggregate engagement based on total player sessions on top 500 iOS & Android gaming apps



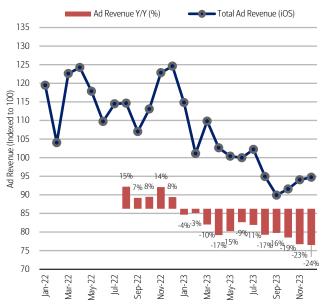
In-game ads: Not showing secular growth

In-game advertising is still very small (BofA est. of \$10-\$15bn) as compared to the \sim \$100bn in-app spending within mobile games. But some AdTech firms have pointed to in-game mobile advertising as a secular growth opportunity; with IAP under pressure, publishers should attempt to monetize the > 95% of mobile gamers that do not spend in game.

3P data does not suggests that in-game mobile ad revenue is experiencing secular growth (see Exhibits 5 and 6). Moreover, hypercasual games, which make up the most significant part of the in-game advertising have been hurt by the downward trend in CPMs since 1022.

Exhibit 14: Total Ad Revenue (Indexed) of Top 1500 Ad Monetizing Games (iOS, US Only)

Total ad revenue across top iOS games grew 1% M/M in December, but still 24% lower Y/Y $\,$



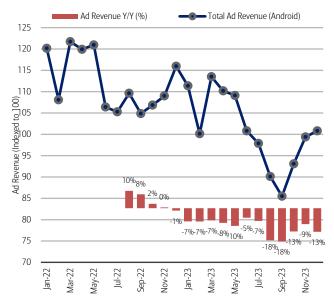
Source: data.ai

Note: Ad revenue includes a subset of ad networks and excludes social media and OTT. Included networks are: AdColony, AdMob, AppLovin, ironSource, UnityAds, Vungle

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Exhibit 15: Total Ad Revenue (Indexed) of Top 1500 Ad Monetizing Games (Android, US Only)

Total ad revenue across top Android games has rebounded since October, up 1% M/M in December, but still down 13% Y/Y



Source: data.ai

Note: Ad revenue includes a subset of ad networks and excludes social media and OTT. Included networks are: AdColony, AdMob, AppLovin, ironSource, UnityAds, Vungle



Exhibit 16: Stocks mentionedPrices and ratings for stocks mentioned in the report

BofA Ticker	Bloomberg ticker	Company name	Price	Rating
APP	APP US	AppLovin	US\$ 41.14	C-1-9
APPS	APPS US	Digital Turbine	US\$ 5.35	C-2-9
U	UUS	Unity	US\$ 33.14	C-1-9

Source: BofA Global Research



Price objective basis & risk

AppLovin (APP)

Our \$57 PO is based on our SOTP framework valuing APP's Software segment at \$55 and the Gaming Segment, including both in-game advertising and in-game consumer spend, at \$2/share. Our Software valuation is 12x FY24 EBITDA, 2x higher than META, which we see as the most important barometer of the overall health of the mobile ad ecosystem and an important valuation anchor. Our Gaming segment valuation is based on an enterprise value that is 7x FY24 Gaming Segment EBITDA , slightly higher than Mobile Game Publisher peers.

Upside risks to our PO are new dovish monetary policy and regulation that would reduce Apple's or Google's control over their own mobile ecosystems. Downside risks to our PO include a recession, and a tightening of financial conditions brought about by the Fed. Policies by Google and Apple, pertaining to their mobile platforms, that would debase broker ad networks' value proposition are also downside risks, and a major resurgence of Facebook on iOS would also negatively affect APP stock.

Digital Turbine, Inc (APPS)

Our \$7 PO is based on 8.5x valuation multiple on the average of FY24E & FY25E EBITDA, below that of AppLovin, but roughly inline with other smaller adtech players (not mobile focused). Upside risks to our PO include faster-than-expected ramp in SingleTap and Hubs business, as well as a re-acceleration in the AGP business. Downside risks to our PO include: 1) adverse macroeconomic conditions that could lead to a decline in ad dollars, 2) consolidation of ad channels, which could disproportionately hurt tier 2 ad platforms, 3) longer-than-expected enterprise sales cycle (due to adverse macro) that could lead to delayed product uptake and monetization, and 4) significant churn of business as related to platform integrations (Fyber and AdColony)

Unity (U)

Our \$55 PO is based on a 11.1x 2024E EV/Revenue multiple (0.8x growth adjusted). Our growth adjusted multiple is a discount to the design software peer group. We believe a discount multiple is warranted based on lower revenue visibility and profitability, partially offset by Unity's entrenched competitive position and various levers for growth.

Downside risks to our PO are slower than expected recovery in Unity's monetization tool, increased competition, greater than expected churn rate, and greater than expected pull back in ad spend and mobile gaming usage.

Analyst Certification

I, Omar Dessouky, CFA, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.



US - Enterprise Software Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY	Company	DOIA HEREI	bioomberg symbol	Analyse
DUT	00	FCLIT	FCUTUC	Miles all Fred
	8x8	EGHT	EGHT US	Michael J. Funk
	Adobe	ADBE	ADBE US	Brad Sills
	Alarm.com	ALRM	ALRM US	Michael J. Funk
	Amplitude, Inc.	AMPL	AMPL US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	BILL	BILL	BILL US	Brad Sills
	CCC Intelligent Solutions	CCCS	CCCS US	Michael J. Funk
	Dropbox	DBX	DBX US	Michael J. Funk
	Dynatrace	DT	DT US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Elastic NV	ESTC	ESTC US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	GitLab Inc.	GTLB	GTLB US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Global-e Online Ltd.	GLBE	GLBE US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	HubSpot	HUBS	HUBS US	Brad Sills
	Informatica Inc.	INFA	INFA US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Intapp Inc.	INTA	INTA US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Intuit	INTU	INTU US	Brad Sills
	JFrog Ltd	FROG	FROG US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	MeridianLink, Inc.	MLNK	MLNK US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Microsoft Corporation	MSFT	MSFT US	Brad Sills
	MongoDB Inc	MDB	MDB US	Brad Sills
	nCino, Inc.	NCNO	NCNO US	Adam Bergere
	NICE Ltd.	NICE	NICE US	Michael J. Funk
	NICE Ltd.	NCSYF	NICE IT	Michael J. Funk
	PagerDuty	PD	PD US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	PowerSchool Holdings, Inc.	PWSC	PWSC US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	RingCentral	RNG	RNG US	Michael J. Funk
	Salesforce.com	CRM	CRM US	Brad Sills
	ServiceNow	NOW	NOW US	Brad Sills
	UiPath	PATH	PATH US	Brad Sills
	Unity	U	U US	Michael J. Funk
	Weave	WEAV	WEAV US	Michael J. Funk
	Workday Inc.	WDAY	WDAY US	Brad Sills
	Zeta Global	ZETA	ZETA US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
NEUTRAL				
	Autodesk	ADSK	ADSK US	Michael J. Funk
	Bentley Systems	BSY	BSY US	Michael J. Funk
	BigCommerce Holdings, Inc.	BIGC	BIGC US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Coveo	YCVO	CVO CN	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Datadog Inc	DDOG	DDOG US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	DocuSign	DOCU	DOCU US	Brad Sills
	Freshworks, Inc.	FRSH	FRSH US	Adam Bergere
	HashiCorp	HCP	HCP US	Brad Sills
	Jamf	JAMF	JAMF US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Lightspeed Commerce Inc.	LSPD	LSPD US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Lightspeed Commerce Inc.	YLSPD	LSPD CN	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Oracle Corporation	ORCL	ORCL US	Brad Sills
	Paycom	PAYC	PAYC US	Adam Bergere
	Paylocity	PCTY	PCTY US	Adam Bergere
	Shopify, Inc.	SHOP	SHOP US	Brad Sills
	Snowflake	SNOW	SNOW US	Brad Sills
		VEEV	VEEV US	Brad Sills
	Veeva Systems, Inc. Zoom Video Communications			
	Zoom video Communications ZoomInfo	ZM	ZM US	Michael J. Funk
	20011111110	ZI	ZI US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
UNDERPERFORM				
	AvidXchange, Inc.	AVDX	AVDX US	Brad Sills
	Blackbaud, Inc.	BLKB	BLKB US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	BlackLine, Inc.	BL	BL US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	C3.ai	Al	AI US	Brad Sills
	Confluent	CFLT	CFLT US	Brad Sills
	CS Disco, Inc.	LAW	LAW US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Enfusion, Inc.	ENFN	ENFN US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Everbridge	EVBG	EVBG US	Koji Ikeda, CFA
	Five9	FIVN	FIVN US	Michael J. Funk
	Guidewire Software, Inc.	GWRE	GWRE US	Michael J. Funk



US - Enterprise Software Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Twilio	TWLO	TWLO US	Michael J. Funk
	Vertex, Inc.	VERX	VERX US	Brad Sills
RSTR				
	Splunk	SPLK	SPLK US	Brad Sills

US - Internet Coverage Cluster

nvestment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
JY				
	Alphabet	GOOGL	GOOGL US	Justin Post
	Alphabet	GOOG	GOOG US	Justin Post
	Amazon.com	AMZN	AMZN US	Justin Post
	AppLovin	APP	APP US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	DoorDash	DASH	DASH US	Michael McGovern
	DoubleVerify Holdings, Inc.	DV	DV US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	Electronic Arts	EA	EA US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	Expedia	EXPE	EXPE US	Justin Post
	Integral Ad Science Holding Corp.	IAS	IAS US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	LegalZoom	LZ	LZ US	Michael McGovern
	Match Group	MTCH	MTCH US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Meta Platforms Inc	META	META US	Justin Post
	Pinterest	PINS	PINS US	Justin Post
	RH	RH	RH US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Roblox Corp. Class A	RBLX	RBLX US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	Squarespace, Inc.	SOSP	SOSP US	Michael McGovern
	Uber	UBER	UBER US	Justin Post
	Udemy Inc	UDMY	UDMY US	·
	Vivid Seats	SEAT	SEAT US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
		SEAT W	W US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Wayfair			Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Wix.com	WIX	WIX US	Michael McGovern
EUTRAL				
	ACV Auctions	ACVA	ACVA US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Airbnb	ABNB	ABNB US	Justin Post
	Beyond Inc	BYON	BYON US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Booking Holdings Inc	BKNG	BKNG US	Justin Post
	Bumble	BMBL	BMBL US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Digital Turbine, Inc	APPS	APPS US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	Duolingo	DUOL	DUOL US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	eBay	EBAY	EBAY US	Justin Post
	Etsy, Inc.	ETSY	ETSY US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Instacart	CART	CART US	Justin Post
	Magnite, Inc.	MGNI	MGNI US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	Snap	SNAP	SNAP US	Justin Post
	Take-Two Interactive	TTWO	TTWO US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	Zillow	ZG	ZG US	
		ZG Z		Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Zillow	L	Z US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
IDERPERFORM				
	Chewy Inc	CHWY	CHWY US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Lyft, Inc.	LYFT	LYFT US	Michael McGovern
	Opendoor Technologies	OPEN	OPEN US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Peloton	PTON	PTON US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Playtika	PLTK	PLTK US	Omar Dessouky, CFA
	Redfin Corp	RDFN	RDFN US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	Shutterstock	SSTK	SSTK US	Curtis Nagle, CFA
	SHALLCISLOCK	JJ 11\	22111 02	cardo Hugic, CIA



Disclosures

Important Disclosures

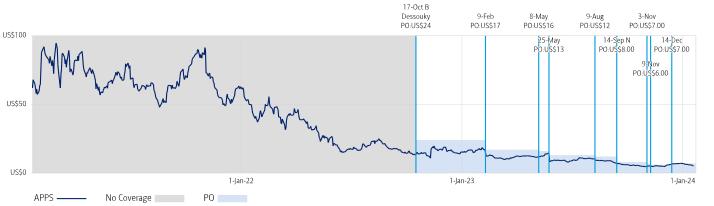
AppLovin (APP) Price Chart



B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

The Investment Opinion System is contained at the end of the report under the heading "Fundamental Equity Opinion Key". Dark grey shading indicates the security is restricted with the opinion suspended. Medium grey shading indicates the security is under review with the opinion withdrawn. Light grey shading indicates the security is not covered. Chart is current as of a date no more than one trading day prior to the date of the report.

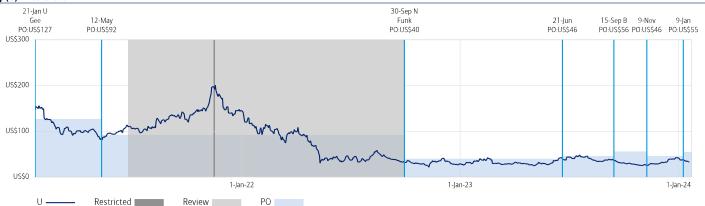
Digital Turbine (APPS) Price Chart



B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

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Unity (U) Price Chart



B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

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U

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Media & Entertainment Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	35	53.85%	Buy	15	42.86%
Hold	15	23.08%	Hold	8	53.33%
Sell	15	23.08%	Sell	7	46.67%

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Technology Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	215	53.09%	Buy	111	51.63%
Hold	97	23.95%	Hold	45	46.39%
Sell	93	22.96%	Sell	24	25.81%

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

R1 Issuers that were investment banking clients of BofA Securities or one of its affiliates within the past 12 months. For purposes of this Investment Rating Distribution, the coverage universe includes only stocks. A stock rated Neutral is included as a Hold, and a stock rated Underperform is included as a Sell.

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Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster⁸²

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Jnderperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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