# Project Report On

## **Game Recommendation System**



Submitted in partial fulfilment for the award of
Post Graduate Diploma in Big Data Analytics (PG-DBDA)
From Know-IT (Pune)

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### **CERTIFICATE**

### TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

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Have successfully completed their project on

# **Game Recommendation System**

Under the guidance of Mr. Anay Tamhankar

And Mr. Prasad Deshmukh

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This project "Game Recommendation System" was a great learning experience for us and we are submitting this work to CDAC Know-IT (Pune).

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### 1. Abstract: -

Game Recommendation System with Spark, Python, Machine Learning, Airflow, and Data Visualization using Power BI & Tableau

In the rapidly expanding world of gaming, players are often faced with the overwhelming task of choosing from an extensive array of available games. To address this challenge, we present a comprehensive Game Recommendation System that leverages cutting-edge technologies to provide personalized game recommendations to users. The system integrates Spark, Python, Machine Learning, Apache Airflow, and Data Visualization tools such as Power BI and Tableau to create a seamless and efficient solution.

The core of our system lies in the utilization of advanced Machine Learning techniques to analyze user preferences and gaming patterns. Leveraging Spark's distributed computing capabilities, we process large volumes of gaming data to extract meaningful insights. Through collaborative and content-based filtering algorithms, we generate personalized recommendations that cater to the unique preferences of each user.

To ensure scalability and maintainability, we employ Apache Airflow for task scheduling, orchestration, and monitoring.

This allows us to automate data retrieval, preprocessing, model training, and recommendation generation, enabling real-time updates to user preferences and trends.

The effectiveness of our recommendation system is enriched by its dynamic and insightful data visualizations. Using both Power BI and Tableau, we create interactive dashboards that offer an intuitive representation of user behaviour,

game popularity, and recommendation rationale. These visualizations empower users to understand the basis of their recommendations and make informed decisions.

### 2. Introduction

In the modern era of digital entertainment, the gaming industry stands as a testament to technological advancements that have transformed interactive experiences. With a burgeoning array of games available to players across various platforms, the challenge of guiding users toward the games that best match their preferences and interests has become crucial. Recommendation systems, which have gained prominence in industries like e-commerce and streaming services, have found a natural home in the gaming world. This project delves into the development of a recommendation system tailored to the gaming domain, utilizing real-world data from Kaggle to deliver personalized game recommendations to players.

The gaming landscape is characterized by its diversity, spanning genres, game play mechanics, and visual styles. As a result, discovering games that align with individual preferences can be overwhelming, even for experienced gamers. The advent of large datasets that capture user interactions and behaviors within gaming platforms has opened the door to creating recommendation systems that effectively assist users in finding games they are likely to enjoy.

The dataset used for this project consists of two primary entities: "games.csv" and "recommendations.csv." The former provides a wealth of information about games, encompassing details such as ratings, pricing, release dates, and additional descriptive metadata. The latter entity, "recommendations.csv," presents user reviews that indicate whether a player recommends a particular game. This two-fold dataset forms the foundation upon which the recommendation system is constructed, allowing for the analysis of user behavior and preferences.

The primary goal of this project is to develop a recommendation system that leverages the aforementioned dataset to provide personalized game recommendations. By analyzing user interactions and review data, the system identifies patterns, preferences, and trends among players. The utilization of PySpark, a powerful data processing framework, further enhances the system's capabilities, enabling efficient handling of large-scale data operations.

Throughout this project, we will explore the journey from data acquisition and preprocessing to the implementation of a collaborative filtering recommendation system. Collaborative filtering relies on the principle of user-to-user similarity and item-to-item similarity, effectively suggesting games that align with a user's tastes based on the preferences of similar users. Through the integration of data analysis, machine learning techniques, and data visualization, we will unveil insights into user behaviors and preferences, ultimately offering players a curated selection of games that cater to their unique interests.

By the end of this exploration, we aim to shed light on the effectiveness of the recommendation system, its ability to accurately predict user preferences, and the potential it holds for enhancing user engagement and satisfaction within the gaming domain. Through the amalgamation of data science and gaming, this project underscores the transformative potential of personalized recommendation systems in shaping the way players discover and engage with digital entertainment.

## 3. About Steam Platform

Steam is a video game digital distribution service and storefront from valve. It was launched as a software client in September 2003. It provides game update automatically for valve's games, and expanded to distributing third party titles in late 2005



### 4. Problem Statement

Gaming is multibillion markets that are heavily influenced by customer interest. Our Recommendation System will suggest games based on the interest on users. Spark is used to process user data for games retrieved from stream platform. Airflow is used for data retrieval process. Data visualization and EDA (Expository data analysis) are performed using power bi/Tableau.

## 5. Technologies used

There are several technologies we used while creating this model.

Technology for basic workflow:-

Python libraries (numpy and pandas)





Technology for Data processing:-

Spark and Airflow



Apache Spark is a distributed computing framework designed to process large amounts of data in parallel across a cluster of computers.

Apache Airflow is an open-source tool to programmatically author, schedule, and monitors workflow. You can easily visualize your data pipelines for dependencies, progress, logs, trigger tasks, and success status.

Technology used for visualizations:-

Power bi/Tableau



Data visualization and business intelligence software that allows user to connect analyse, and share data in a visual and interactive way

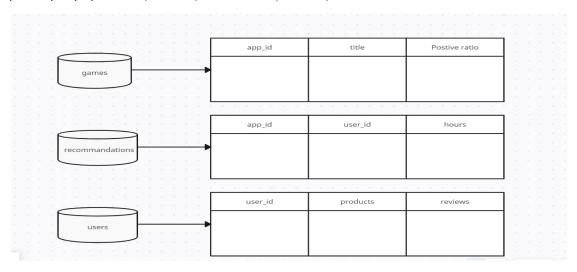
## 6.Data

### We have about 3 dataset

- 1. games.csv:- this csv consists of data especially related to games present on Steam. Api. The Data set consists of app\_id(number) primary key, title (String), Release Date(object), win (Boolean), mac (Boolean), Linux (Boolean), ratings (Category), positive ratio(number), user reviews(number), price final(number), price original(number), discount(number) and steam deck (Boolean)
- 2. recommendation.csv:-this Data establish a connection games data and users data using both primary key of games data(app\_id) and users data(user\_id) as foreign key in itself with review\_id as

its original primary key. This Data Consists of app\_id(number), helpful(number), funny(number), Date(object), is\_Recommended(Boolean), hours(number), user\_id(number) and review\_id(number) as primary key

3. users.csv: This Data set is especially related to users, how many products they brought and how many reviews they had done about different products. This data consists of user\_id(number) primary key, products(number) and reviews(number)



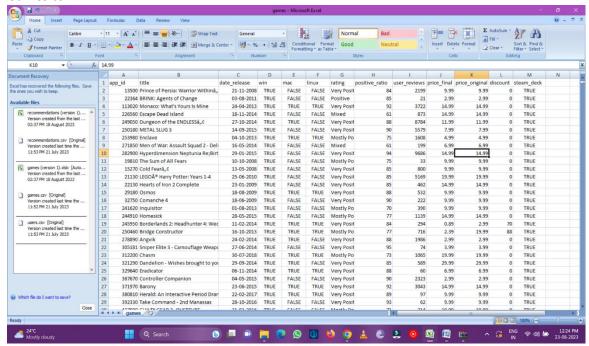
## 7.Data Pre-processing and ETL

### Now let's check our Data

Our project does not require any hard core machine learning model rather than it can be delicately perform using analysis of data on univariate, bivariate and multivariate features

So we doesn't require feature scaling and all that further process required to process the data

### 1. Games.csv:-



"title" is our secondary unique and not null column. We can define it as alternative column

"win", "mac", "Linux" and "steam\_deck" are all categorical columns so we have to fill it with mode/most frequent and for encoding we can use one hot encoder(drop=first), label encoder or getDummies(drop\_first=True).

Remaining column are "final\_price" and "original\_price" this is in continuous value so it can be filled with Mean values.

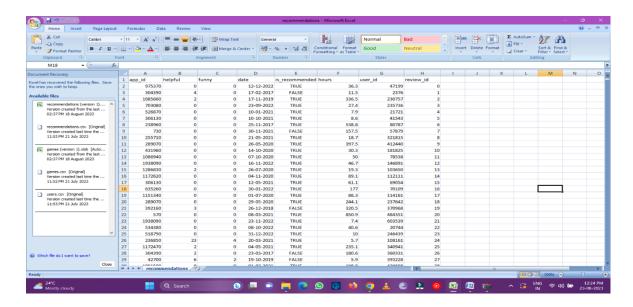
Columns such as "Date", "positive\_ratio", "user\_reviews", and "discount" are discrete so they can only fill their null values with mode/most frequent.

Last columns is "rating" which is a categorical columns with hierarchies

```
There are [['Overwhelmingly Negative','Very Negative','Mostly Negative','Negative','Mixed','Positive','Mostly Positive','Very Positive','Overwhelmingly Positive'
```

To encode them we can use ordinal encoders to encode it with given hierarchies

2. Recommendation.csv



Now the only categorical column/feature is "is\_recommended"

This Column's null value can be filled with mode/most frequent. And also can be encoded using one hot encoder(drop=first), label encoder or getDummies(drop\_first=True).

Others column's such as "helpful", "funny", "app\_id", "user\_id" are numerical and categorical rating's in nature so null values can be filled with mode/most frequent. No need of encoding hear

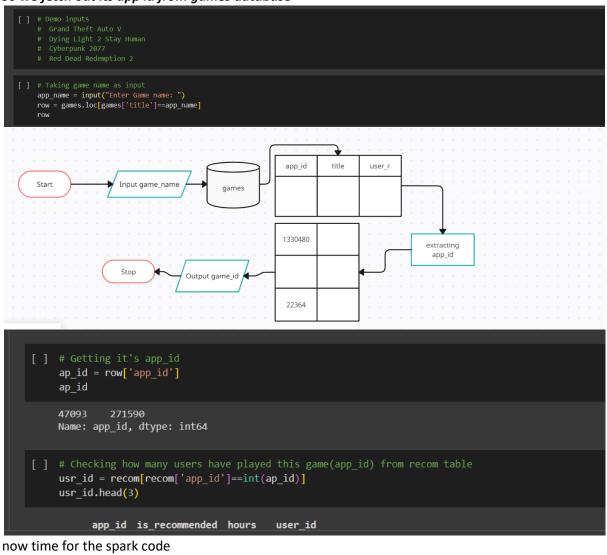
Last and remaining column is "hours" this is in continuous value so it can be filled with Mean values.

## 8. Methodology and workflow

The task being kept as simple as possible, we can show to you how a recommdation works.

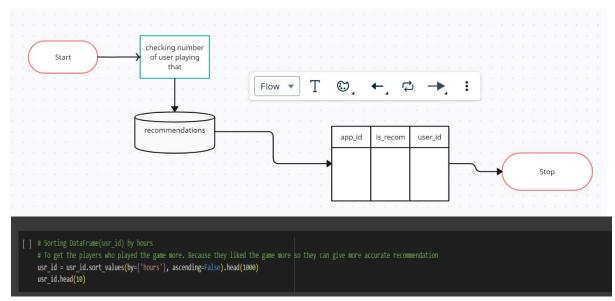
First we have the game on which we want recommendation

1. So we fetch out its app id from games database



```
[ ] # Demo inputs
    # Grand Theft Auto V
    # Dying Light 2 Stay Human
    # Red Dead Redemption 2
# Taking a input game
    input game name = input("Enter the name of the game: ")
    target app id = games.filter(games.title == input game name).collect()
    target_app_id = target_app_id[0]["app_id"]
    target_app_id
```

2. Now we looking on all the user's who had played that game earlier:-



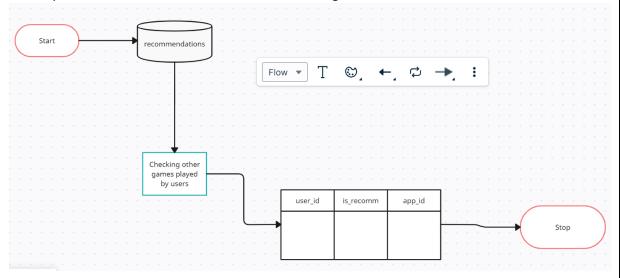
this code tell us about those users who actually invested their time in playing these games. So these can help us to differentiate between users who played that game and users who just touchdown the game.

Code in spark.

```
filtered_games = games.filter(games.app_id == target_app_id)
filtered_games.show()
```

3. Check in our dataset what other games all that users in our sorted and filtered dataset have played apart from the one on which we searched:-

This step show us about our user's choice on different games



### Code in python

```
# Taking user_id of these users in a variable
users = usr_id['user_id']
users

[] # Checking if recom['user_id'] isin users Series
final_df = recom[recom['user_id'].isin(users)]
final_df
```

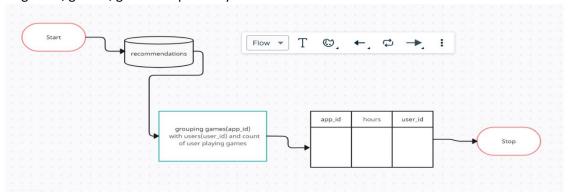
### Code in spark:

```
# Extracting user_id of these users
users = usr_id.select("user_id").rdd.flatMap(lambda x: x).collect()

# Checking if recom['user_id'] isin users Series
# Filter recommendations based on selected users
final_df = recom.filter(recom.user_id.isin(users))
final_df.show(10)
```

### 4. Grouping all games on user's choices and count the choices:-

This step help us to find out similar choices of games between the users. And gives us a relation between the games based on similar user's choices. For eg A,B,C,D,E all had played game1 and A,B,C played game 2 and B,D played game3 and A also played game4. So correlation between the game1>game2>game3>game4. So next recommended games will be game2, game3, game4 respectively



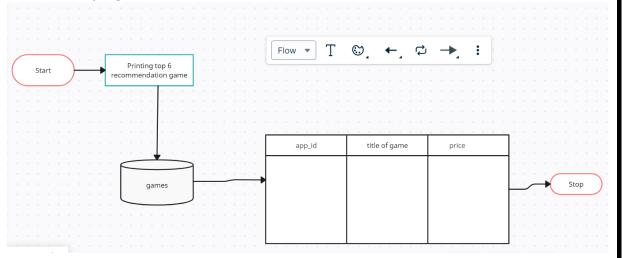
### Code in python

```
# Counting how many users have played these games
# Checing how many users have played a game & taking the top 7 games
recom_games = final_df.groupby(['app_id'])['user_id'].count().sort_values(ascending=False).head(7)
recom_games
```

### Code in Spark

```
# Counting how many users have played these games
# Checing how many users have played a game & taking the top 7 games
recom_games = final_df.groupBy("app_id").count().orderBy("count", ascending=False).limit(7).collect()
recom_games
```

5. Fetching all the name of the games from given app\_id from games dataset and recommend top n games to the main user:-



### Code in python.

```
[] # Converting series to list
    apps = list(recom_games.index)
    apps

[271590, 1174180, 252490, 377160, 218620, 1091500, 107410]

[] # First game is same as the one is in input so its not needed
    apps = apps[1:]
    apps

[1174180, 252490, 377160, 218620, 1091500, 107410]

[] for i in apps:
    output = games[games['app_id'].isin(apps)].set_index('app_id').loc[apps].reset_index()
```

### Code in spark.

```
[ ] # Extract app_id from recom_games
    apps = [row["app_id"] for row in recom_games[1:]]
    apps

[1174180, 252490, 377160, 218620, 1091500, 107410]

• output = games.filter(games.app_id.isin(apps))
    output.show()
```

By this way this how our recommendation system work now after all row suggestion and recommendation now we are in a situation in which we can apply filters according to our demand.

### 6. Apply filter's according to our choices:-

This step helps in further more filter our demands.

Which platform do we use (Windows (win), Linux, Mac os (Mac)).

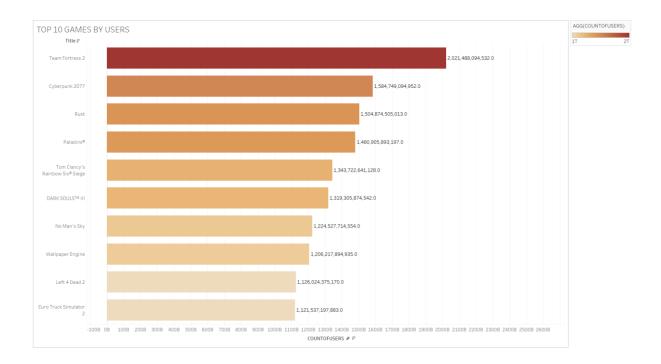
Filtering data on user's budget for purchasing that recommended game.

## 9. Using visualization to visualize our dataset

### Top 10 games by users

This Tableau visualization presents a comprehensive overview of the top 10 games that have been most frequently played by users. By analyzing user activity and engagement, we've identified the games that have captured the attention of our audience the most. This visualization provides valuable insights into user preferences and gaming trends.

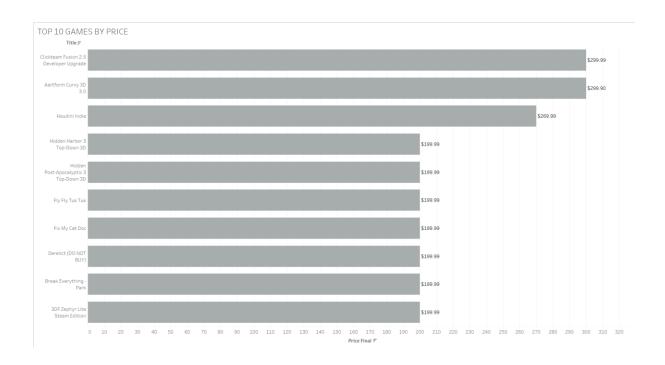
Horizontal Bar Chart: The central element of the visualization is a horizontal bar chart that ranks the top 10 games based on the number of times they've been played. Each bar represents a game, and its length corresponds to the play count.



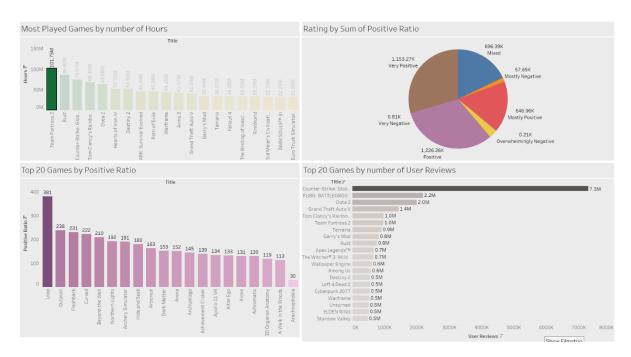
### Top 10 games by price

This Tableau visualization presents an insightful depiction of the top 10 games ranked by their pricing. By examining the price points of various games, we've identified the titles that stand out in terms of cost. The unique horizontal bar chart format provides an engaging perspective on the pricing landscape of these games.

Horizontal Bar Chart: The central element of this visualization is a horizontal bar chart that showcases the top 10 games based on their respective prices. Each bar represents a game, and its length corresponds to the price of the game.



## **Games Insights Dashboard**



Gaming Insights Dashboard, where we dive into the world of gaming data to uncover trends, player preferences, and game popularity. This interactive dashboard provides a comprehensive overview of various gaming metrics, enabling you to make informed decisions and gain valuable insights into the gaming landscape.

### 1. Most Played Games by Number of Hours:

Discover the games that have captured players' attention the most. This chart showcases the top games ranked by the total number of hours players have dedicated to playing them. Gain a clear understanding of player engagement and the games that have maintained long-lasting appeal.

### 2. Rating by Sum of Positive Ratio:

Explore the sentiment surrounding different games with our rating analysis based on the sum of positive ratios. The positive ratio is calculated by considering the proportion of positive user reviews relative to the total reviews. This chart helps you identify games that consistently receive positive feedback from their players.

### 3. Top 20 Games for Positive Ratio:

Unearth hidden gems and player favorites with the Top 20 Games by Positive Ratio chart. This chart highlights games that might have a smaller player base but enjoy an overwhelmingly positive reception. Discover titles that resonate deeply with their audiences, fostering a dedicated and enthusiastic community.

### 4. Top 20 Games by Number of Reviews:

Get a glimpse into the games that have generated significant buzz and attention. The Top 20 Games by Number of Reviews chart showcases titles that have attracted a large number of players and garnered substantial feedback. This can serve as a valuable indicator of a game's widespread appeal.

Whether you're a game developer looking to understand player preferences, a marketer seeking trends for promotional efforts, or an enthusiast interested in exploring gaming landscapes, our Gaming Insights Dashboard equips you with the data-driven knowledge you need. Interact with the charts, drill down into specific game details, and extract meaningful insights to drive your gaming-related decisions.

## 10. Future Scope

While the current project has provided valuable insights and recommendations, there are several avenues for future enhancements and extensions that can further enrich the recommendation system and its impact on the gaming industry:

- 1. Integration of User Preferences: Incorporate user-provided preferences, feedback, and reviews to refine the recommendation system. This personalization can enhance the accuracy of recommendations and cater to individual tastes.
- 2. Advanced Machine Learning Techniques: Explore advanced recommendation algorithms, such as matrix factorization, deep learning, or hybrid methods that combine multiple approaches. These techniques can improve prediction accuracy and adapt to a wider range of user behaviors.
- 3. Real-time Recommendations: Implement a real-time recommendation system that adapts to users' changing preferences and behaviors in real-time, providing instantaneous suggestions as players explore different games.
- 4. Diversity in Recommendations: Develop strategies to ensure diversity in recommendations, preventing over-recommendation of certain genres and introducing users to a wider array of gaming experiences.
- 5. Content-based Recommendations: Extend the system to incorporate content-based recommendations, taking into account attributes such as game themes, mechanics, and narratives. This approach can cater to users who have unique preferences not solely dependent on collaborative filtering.
- 6. Interactivity and Personal Dashboards: Develop interactive dashboards where users can customize their preferences and explore recommended games based on various criteria, enhancing their engagement and control over the recommendations.
- 7. Leverage Natural Language Processing (NLP): Integrate NLP techniques to analyze user reviews and comments, extracting sentiment and insights to further inform the recommendation system.
- 8. Continuous Learning and Adaptation: Implement mechanisms for the recommendation system to learn from user interactions over time, adapting to changing preferences and trends in the gaming industry.
- 9. Localized Recommendations: Customize recommendations based on cultural preferences, language, and regional gaming trends, ensuring a more tailored experience for diverse global audiences.

Incorporating these future enhancements and extensions can elevate the recommendation system's capabilities, making it more accurate, user-centric, and adaptable to the evolving landscape of the gaming world. By embracing innovation and technological advancements, the project's impact can be magnified, ultimately enhancing player experiences and shaping the future of gaming recommendation systems.

### 11. Conclusion

In the realm where technology and entertainment intersect, the gaming industry stands as a vibrant playground for innovation and creativity. The journey of this project has illuminated the transformative potential of data science and recommendation systems within this dynamic landscape. By diving into the depths of gaming data, we've ventured beyond the surface to uncover patterns, preferences, and insights that have the power to shape user experiences and redefine engagement.

The heart of this endeavour lies in the collaborative filtering recommendation system that has been meticulously developed. Through the intricate interplay of data acquisition, pre-processing, analysis, and modelling, this system has emerged as a conduit between players and their virtual adventures. By leveraging the collective wisdom of users who have tread similar paths, the recommendation system bridges the gap between discovery and delight, offering tailored experiences that resonate with individual gaming inclinations.

The results and findings of this project are not mere numbers and visualizations—they represent a gateway to a richer, more immersive gaming ecosystem. The top recommended games and the user engagement insights they unveil paint a picture of player preferences, shedding light on genres, narratives, and game play styles that captivate the gaming community. This revelation holds significance not only for players seeking their next adventure but also for developers crafting the stories that unfold on screens around the world.

The journey doesn't end here. The project's implications ripple beyond its confines, with implications for game developers, marketers, and the broader gaming community. By embracing the findings and insights presented here, stakeholders can refine their strategies, create content that resonates, and cultivate experiences that leave players craving more.

In the grand tapestry of the digital age, where technology enriches every facet of life, the collaboration between data and entertainment is a beacon of innovation. This project stands as a testament to the art of applying data-driven methodologies to craft personalized experiences that captivate, enthral, and inspire. As players embark on their virtual quests, armed with recommendations tailored to their tastes, this project's legacy lives on, shaping the way we explore, engage, and find joy in the world of gaming.