eSportGuru

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Introduction

Over the last decade, the market for competitive gaming has exploded, producing an almost insatiable demand for high quality competitive multiplayer video games and highly skilled players. The competitive gaming scene, coined as “eSports,” has raked over five hundred million dollars in revenue in 2017 alone. Financial news institutions, such as the Business Insider and Forbes, have projected that eSports will become the next multibillion dollar industry within the next two years. The exponential demand for highly competitive gaming has been fueled by new emerging technologies, such as online streaming through Twitch or YouTube.

While the video game industry has always supported competitive local multiplayer options, developers didn’t have a reason to produce highly competitive multiplayer video games with an emphasis on broadcast quality presentation or production, until now. Not only have developers and publishers created these types of video games to meet consumer demands, they’ve also promoted and advertised them through sponsorships. Publishers sponsor big tournaments by adding enormous amounts of prize money as a means to maintain interest of their games, as well as to increase their popularity. Developer sponsorship draws in an enormous amount of people to play and view tournaments, simply because eSports is one of the few activities that anyone can become good in, regardless of background.

Without a doubt, this decade in video games has been be defined by rise and dominance of eSports and eSports culture. However, eSports has also been slowly creeping its way into mainstream media. For instance, ESPN has started broadcasting huge League of Legends, Dota 2, and Hearthstone tournaments, and Disney has been experimenting with broadcasting Super Smash Bros. tournaments. The fact that these companies have been testing eSports viewership and seeing favorable results is proof that eSports will find its place in mainstream entertainment, alongside traditional sports such as football or baseball.

Motivation

There are several databases on the internet devoted to eSports, however they either cover one game or a few major games in depth. For instance, gosugamers.net is a major website dedicated to providing ranking information for the top eight competitive PC games, such as Dota 2, League of Legends, and Hearthstone. While this information is highly useful to those already initiated to these games, it would be very hard for casual viewers to absorb of all their information. These websites are overloaded with statistics and rankings that would mostly make sense to people already familiar with the ranking system.

The goal of eSportGuru is to create a general but universal database for all competitive games. The general information included would be basic information over players, tournaments, teams/sponsors, and the games themselves. This would allow viewers new to eSports to quickly find general data that could serve as a stepping stone in their research over the game and its players. While the developers of eSportGuru would love to add rankings and useful statistics for each player and team, we do not have the resources to do so with the given scope; it would cost too much money to maintain.

Use Cases

Users can query our database through four main models: players, teams, games, and tournaments. If a viewer tunes into a live stream of a prestigious event for the first time they may find themselves asking questions such as: What game are they playing? How popular is that game? Is this tournament a big deal and who’s the favorite to win? What’s the prize pool and who’s on what team? The answer to these questions are not always immediately apparent from the stream itself, so the viewer can make a query on our database to find out.

If the viewer wants to find out more about a tournament, they can simply search for the tournament and will receive information about the winner of the tournament or the current standings, date(s) of the tournament, the game(s) played, as well as what teams and players were involved. For a particular game, the viewer can see when the game was released, who published it, what genre(s) it falls under, and relevant links to the game’s website. For a given team, a viewer will receive the acronym for the team, the current roster of the team, and the video game(s) the team is involved in. Lastly, the viewer can query a player and see their full name, hometown, their role (if any), current team (if any), and current video game. Furthermore, all of our models are interconnected. For example, if a viewer queries a player they’re interested in, and see that the player has a team, they can immediately click the team to find out more information. This same idea connects all four of our models.

RESTful API

The majority of our preliminary data was scraped from [pandascore.co](http://pandascore.co). Their API allowed us to request information from any game, player, team, or tournament, either requesting all of a type of model, or allowing us to request a model based on their ID in the PandaScore database. All of our models can be filtered or sorted by their respective attributes. For example, we can send a request for all players with the hometown “Los Angeles”, or we can request all players but sort them alphabetically by first or last name. This same functionality applies to all of the data models. For the games League of Legends and Dota2 in particular, PandaScore API can also return details of particular matches from a player or team, such as gold earned, heroes or champions selected, and the level and kills of each player in the match. However, the pandascore API did not provide enough information specifically about the game itself, rather than the professionals playing the game.

Another useful resource was [igdb.com](http://igdb.com). This website provided the data to populate our game models. This game database allowed us to search for game statistics based on a given ID, or allowed us to filter games by genre or by rating. The igdb database also provided sorting functionality such as ordering by popularity. It also provided much more in-depth statistics than pandscore. For example, for League of Legends we can see the MetaCritic rating, the genre and the description, as well as links to the official website and social media outlets. It also provides links to members of the community currently live streamers, reviews of the game, as well as recommendations to games that are similar.

The API we are currently developing will be similar to the PandaScore API.