Blizzard Entertainment looking for new investment!

The procurement team at Blizzard Entertainment are keeping their eye out for new ventures or potential investments that they may be able to add their portfolio.

The team currently spends more time researching any new potential investments through stocks, shares and other means, rather than calculating whether said investment is good for Blizzard. QA consultants have been brought in to attempt to reduce the amount of time the procurement team spends on gathering and representing data for potential new investments.

MVP - stocks shares and articles

1. Receive email from upper management → amend database of companies to watch/evaluate
2. Using company database, scrape stock/share info
3. Navigate to stock market websites (Nasdaq, London stock exchange etc), filter stocks for technology/gaming market (companies specified by blizzard)
4. As much company data scraped as possible (Data scrape the info every hour, add to database of info(automated)
5. Analyse the info & format into various graphs & metrics of daily changes.
6. That report is sent daily at close of play
7. The data collected each day throughout the week is then collated & analysed for a larger weekly analysis, used to forecast potential investments/partnerships.
8. Sent at the end of the week.

Questions:

1. Could you provide an overview of your day and any issues you’ve faced?

No time to analyse data, most time spent gathering it and graphing it.

Only have values once a day, would prefer regular intervals of data to map changes throughout the day for more reliable data.

Graphing data is a lengthy process.

Only has 1 hour to error check before report is sent off

Wants to move onto other projects but can’t as this process takes too long.

Would like to have a collated Weekly report, but as the daily process takes too long, there is no time to collate the raw data into a Weekly Report.

1. Could you provide a rough estimate of average timings of your basic manual processes?

Amend Database: 10mins

Scrape Info for Each Company in Monitored Database: 30mins

“Graph” the data: 3 Hours

Error Check: 1 Hour

1. How many people are involved in the current process?

Just me.

1. On average, how many potential investments (stocks, shares) do you monitor? 10 Companies per day on Average
2. Following this, could you perhaps provide a Min-Max range + any potential for fluctuations based on events e.g. E3, Product announcements.

Min = 5, Max = 20, Fluctuations - E3, Product Announcements (Apple, Samsung, Tech conferences)

1. What fields do you tend to keep track off? (Growth rates, stock value etc)

Time, Open Price($), High($), Low($), Close Price($), Current($), Change($), Change(%)

1. How often is the Executive email received in order to amend your database?

Received Daily

1. Is there a scheduled time for this email to be received?

It's normally received Mid Morning (11am) after my Executive has looked at the report.

1. Could you provide an example of a typical email case?

Absolutely! I’ll email one over ASAP

1. Are the emails received sent from the same account each time?

Yes, they come from the same dude.

1. Are the reports emailed out to one or multiple people?

I email the report to one guy

1. Following this, would you keep the reports in a local folder?

Yeah, I like to keep all the reports for around 30 days at a time - and they’re normally deleted after that time.

1. What are the current sites you use to scrape the data for your process?

New York Stock Exchange and The NASDAQ

1. Do you provide any alternatives in case the original sites are down?

Never faced this issue as we use a variety of sites, I would likely just switch to the other site if one went down.

1. The process spec shows that you filter for tech/gaming market, are there any other areas that Blizzard may want to monitor?

Tech/Gaming is our main focus

1. Please describe or provide an example of your preferred format of data analysis for the Daily Report?

Graphs. PDF.

1. Could you provide a list of systems you currently use for:

* Emails (Outlook)
* Database Software (Excel)
* Graphing / Data Analysis Software (Excel)
* Browser (Chrome)

1. When is Close of Play for Blizzard?

5pm. I often end up going at 6, because of the workload :(

1. Do you store raw data gathered? Yes
2. Are there any areas you wish you also had to improve your analysis for procurement? A Weekly report would be handy, but that isn’t our main focus and could be something to look into for the future.