

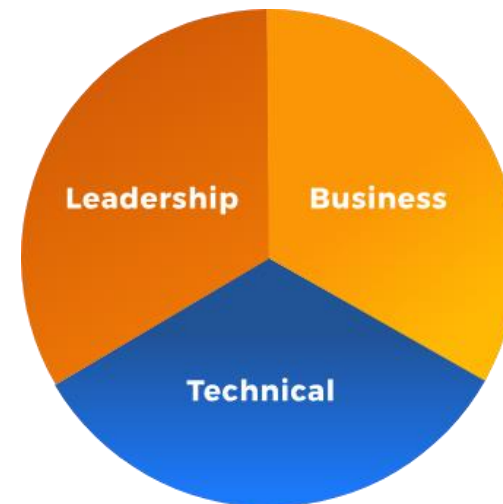
Technical Leadership Candidate Assessment

Strategic Planning and Team, Architecture, and Tech Stack Evaluation

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Introduction

This document provides a detailed explanation of the development of ideas for the case study, along with the presentation of findings and proposals. As the new Chief Technology Officer (CTO) responsible for overseeing the technology department, supporting the poker and casino games/platform in the Web3, Blockchain and Crypto technology, with 5000+ active users in the initial market launch, must address the following key areas:

- **Technology Infrastructure and Scalability:** Evaluate the current infrastructure for stability, scalability, and security, assess business needs, review the existing technology stack, explore new technologies, and conduct a feasibility study for potential tech migrations.
- **Product and User Experience:** Focus on game performance and stability, enhance the user interface and experience, and drive innovation with new features.
- **Regulatory and Compliance:** Ensure adherence to gaming regulations, secure payment processing, and compliance with GDPR and PII requirements.
- **Team and Processes:** Strengthen the technology team, adopt agile development practices, improve efficiency and collaboration, set and monitor KPIs, and benchmark DevOps processes and team performance.
- **Market and Competition:** Collaborate with other teams to analyse market conditions and competition, focus on user acquisition and retention strategies, and leverage data analytics.
- **Additional Considerations:** Address work culture shifts, implement robust monitoring and metrics, enhance customer support, prioritize fraud detection and prevention, foster partnerships, and balance business and technology needs.
- **Certification and regulatory challenges:** The rapidly evolving landscape of Web3 and Blockchain gaming introduces unique challenges related to certification and regulation.

Market Value Projections

2030:

- **Optimistic Estimate:** Based on rapid adoption of Web3, Blockchain, Crypto and favourable regulatory conditions, the market value could reach **\$50 billion** or more.
- **Conservative Estimate:** Considering potential challenges and slower adoption, a more conservative estimate would be **\$20 billion**.

2035:

- **Optimistic Estimate:** With continued growth of Web3, Blockchain, Crypto and technological advancements, the market value could reach **\$100 billion** or more.
- **Conservative Estimate:** A more conservative estimate would be **\$50 billion**.

Key Drivers of Growth

- **Decentralization, Tracability and Transparency:** Web3 poker and casino games offer a decentralized, tracability and transparent gaming experience, eliminating the need for intermediaries and ensuring fairness.
- **Provably Fair Gaming:** Blockchain technology enables provably fair games, where the outcomes can be verified by players.
- **Interoperability:** Web3 gaming platforms can facilitate interoperability between different games and ecosystems.
- **New Revenue Streams:** Blockchain-based games can explore new revenue models, such as in-game economies, NFTs, and tokenized assets.
- **Disintermediation:** Removal of intermediaries can lead to lower costs and faster transactions.
- **Borderless Transactions:** Crypto enables fast and low-cost cross-border transactions.
- **Technological Advancements, Institutional Adoption, Regulatory Clarity, User Education & Awareness, Innovation and new Business models.**

It's important to note that challenges remain in the space of Web3 and Blockchain, such as scalability, regulatory uncertainty, and security concerns. The potential benefits and continuous innovation in this space are driving significant growth and transforming the gaming sector and industries across the board.

Executive Summary

The proposals and recommendations are derived from the information collected during the assessment. Below are the key sections for the executive summary.

1. The poker and casino games have been already launched in the market, attracting over 5,000 users. To stay at the top, the player base needs to grow to over 100,000+. This can be achieved through a step-by-step approach, focusing on delivering fast, high-quality, unique, engaging, diverse, and highly responsive games. The most favourable and viable strategies ([Strategies for the business going forward](#)) in terms of cost, effort, and time, which address the current specific business problems, must be selected. Business priorities should then be set to achieve the overall goals.
2. Section [3. Tech Stack Review and Modernization](#) reviews the current technology stack of C++, Qt, QML used within the gaming industry, leading gaming companies and pioneers across other industry use this technology stack is very popular for developing fast, rapid, responsive, robust UI, cross-platform, high-performance applications. This technology is mature and have a large user base, with progressive libraries Web3.cpp, Boost.beast, JSON-RPC, ABI which enable integration with emerging technologies such as Web3, Ethereum, Blockchain, and smart contracts.
3. In recent years, the React and Node.js combination has become a popular technology stack in the gaming and web development industries. This duo is particularly well-suited for creating immersive and decentralized gaming experiences, especially for Web3 and blockchain applications. With libraries such as Web3.js, Ethers.js, and Express.js, along with tools like MetaMask integration, Truffle, and Hardhat, this stack provides strong support for Solidity development. React's component-based architecture and performance optimizations, combined with Node.js's real-time communication and scalability, make this stack a versatile choice for building both gaming and responsive web applications. ([4. React and Node.JS tech stack - phased approach for rewriting the systems](#))
4. With the current team structure handling the mobile and web3 games for both Poker and Casino is difficult. There are a few key roles that are missing to form an **agile, collaborative, self-sufficient, and high-performing game development team** to deliver **innovative** and **high-quality poker and casino games** while fostering **a positive and motivating work environment**. Missing roles with their scope and proposal for restructuring reviewed in section [Team Evaluation and Restructuring](#).
5. The assessment of development architecture, procedures, processes, agile practices, CI/CD pipe lines, codebase maintenance, and infrastructure needs, for making the engineering processes disciplined and robust is reviewed in section [Architecture Assessment and Improvements](#).
6. In the section [Strategies for the business going forward](#), various options and strategies are discussed, outlining their pros and cons, to guide a phased transition based on the business's future needs and goals. The strategies considered include continuing with the current tech stack (C++, Qt, QML), adopting React and Node.js, a hybrid approach incorporating progressive enhancement with Web Assembly (WASM, which has recently gained popularity), and the use of framework-agnostic web components. This section also includes the [additional considerations](#) for scalability and security needs.
7. The [Roadmap and implementation plan](#) section outlines the initial steps and a six-month roadmap. As a technical leader joining a new company, the plan is divided into several phases, emphasizing the importance of understanding the current landscape, building relationships, and establishing a strategic direction. Section [6.5 Risk and Mitigation Strategy](#) covers the risk and mitigation strategies that need to be addressed to successfully execute the roadmap and implementation plan in the first 6 months.

8. Section [7. Out of assignment](#), includes additional strategies beyond the scope of this assessment, focusing on key areas essential for a successful CTO. It covers topics such as emerging technologies that should be on the CTO's radar, the reporting structure for the CTO to stakeholders, staying updated on technological advancements, and a template with questions to consider before selecting a new technology to address business challenges.
9. Measuring team metrics DORA (DevOps Research and Assessment) and Cycle time, can categorize teams into **Needs Improvement, Fair, Good, and Elite**. This process highlights areas for growth and provides opportunities to elevate team performance to the next level.

These metrics helps to:

- Align development teams with business goals
- Increases agility and responsiveness
- Foster a culture of continuous improvement
- Enhances quality of engineering practices and code repositories, making it easier to achieve the above goals.

The benchmark details and values for each metrics are illustrated in the diagram [6.3.2.1 Software engineering Benchmarks](#)

10. The visualization of different strategies with respect to Cost, Effort and Time are represented as a diagram in section [Business strategies visualization w.r.t Cost, Effort and Time](#). The most favourable and viable strategies, based on the assessment's information, are Strategy 1 and Strategy 2. The choice of the strategy will depend on business priorities and the specific issues that need to be addressed. As more detailed information about the business needs becomes available, it may influence the final choice of strategy.

1. Team Evaluation and Restructuring

Given the context of managing two distinct products with different platforms and technologies, the initial team hires should focus on critical areas that ensure the **security, stability, scalability, maintainability, continuous improvement and portability** of both products.

Please note that the team restructure is dependent on the business priorities set by the stakeholders, which may be subject to change.

By evaluating the current team structure and implementing targeted changes, we can create a more **agile, collaborative, and high-performing technology team**. This will enable us to deliver **innovative** and **high-quality poker and casino games** while fostering **a positive and motivating work environment**. Restructuring should be an ongoing process. Continuous feedback, evaluation, and adaptation are crucial for building a successful team that can thrive in the ever-changing technology landscape.

1.1 Comprehensive evaluation

- **Role Clarity** - Ensuring each team member has well-defined roles and responsibilities, minimizing overlap and confusion.
- **Skill Assessment** - Conducting individual skill assessments and map them against current and future project requirements.
- **Communication and Collaboration** - Observing team dynamics to identify strengths and weaknesses in communication and cross-functional collaboration.

- **Process Efficiency** - Evaluating current development processes, including Agile practices, CI/CD pipelines, and deployment workflows, to identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies.
- **Team Morale** - Gathering feedback from team members on their current roles, work satisfaction, and challenges.

1.2 Proposed changes

- **Cross-Functional Teams** – Smaller self-sufficient teams for better collaboration, faster feedback loops, and a sense of shared responsibility.
- **Skill Development and Upskilling** - Regular training programs and encourage self-learning to keep the team's skills current and relevant.
- **Empowerment and Ownership** – Promoting Ownership, passion and care within their area of expertise, fostering a culture of trust and responsibility.
- **Agile and DevOps Practices** – Enhancing agile, kanban, DevOps principles streamlining and automating development, improving feedback loops.
- **Open Communication** – Establishing clear communication channels and open dialogue, collaboration tools, regular team meetings for information sharing.

1.3 Restructuring

- **Cross-functional team** – Instead of separate development teams having a **feature team**. A feature team is a cross-functional, self-organizing team responsible for delivering complete, end-to-end customer-centric features
- **Self-sufficient feature team** – having mixed skills eliminating dependency and time delays
- **Dedicated Innovation, Research and Development team** - To research new technologies, prototypes, and explore emerging trends.
- **Tech Lead** - to guide overall technical direction and ensure consistency across teams. When the development teams scale up then we need an architect, managing multiple Tech leads.

1.4 Timeline and Implementation

- **Communication** - Communicating the proposed changes clearly and transparently to the team, addressing any concerns and seek their feedback.
- **Gradual Transition** - Implementing changes in a phased manner, starting with pilot projects or specific teams.
- **Skill Development** - Initiating training programs and create opportunities for upskilling.
- **Monitoring, adjustment and realigning** - Continuously monitoring progress, gathering feedback, and making adjustments as needed.
- **Transiting to good agile** – Evaluating the current agile, kanban and scrum practices, refining with a systematic approach to good agile.

1.5 Risks and Mitigation

- **Resistance to Change:**
Mitigation - Clear communication, address concerns, involve team members in the decision-making process.
- **Temporary Disruption:**
Mitigation - Phased implementation, clear communication, and support from management.
- **Skill Gaps:**
Mitigation - Training programs, mentorship, and external hiring if necessary.

1.6 Potential challenges

- **Siloed Teams:** Development, QA, and Operations teams might be working in isolation, leading to delays and miscommunication.
- **Skill Gaps:** Rapid technological advancements and evolving project requirements may have created skill gaps within the team.
- **Bottlenecks:** Certain roles or individuals might be overloaded, leading to bottlenecks in the development process.
- **Lack of Ownership:** Team members might not feel a strong sense of ownership and accountability for the products they work on.
- **Communication Challenges:** Poor communication channels and lack of transparency could lead to inefficiencies and misunderstandings.

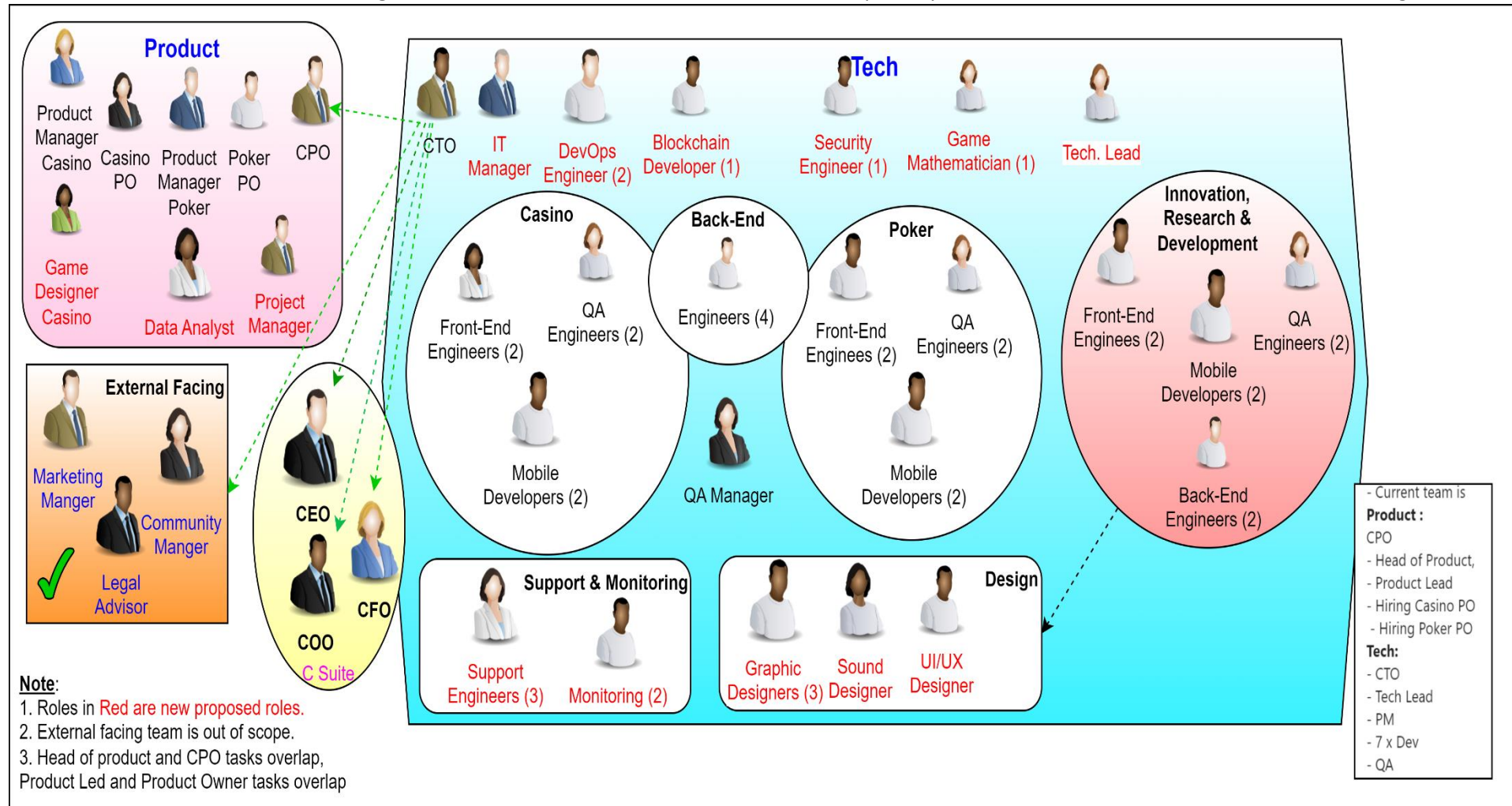


Figure 1 Overview of the proposed structure

1.7 Roles

Below are the roles that are needed to make the game development team cross-functional, robust, efficient and optimised.

1.7.1 Security Engineer (1) – *Shared resource*

Scope: Focus on securing both products, especially the decentralized crypto wallet. They should conduct regular security audits, vulnerability assessments, and implement security best practices, ensuring that the systems adhere to the rules, regulations and compliance, the applications are operating in.

Focus: Data protection, encryption, secure transactions, and regulatory compliance.

1.7.2 Game Mathematician (1) – *Shared resource*

Scope: The heart of any casino game lies in its math engine. This engine determines how bets translate into outcomes. Game mathematicians create formulas for features like bonus rounds, free spins, and jackpots. They analyse probabilities, variance, and expected values to craft engaging gameplay.

Focus: Mathematics Model, Game Balance, Player Experience, and Game flow.

1.7.3 Front-End Engineers (2/3)

Scope: Maintain and enhance the existing codebase for the poker & casino products (Android, Windows, Mac) and the crypto wallet (Android, iOS). They should be proficient in the relevant programming languages and frameworks used in these applications.

Focus: Bug fixing, new feature development, and performance optimization.

1.7.4 Back-End Engineers (2/3)

Scope: Back-end developers collaborate closely with front-end teams to integrate game logic seamlessly into the user interface. This ensures a cohesive player experience. Create clear, responsive and robust APIS to be used by client applications.

Focus: Bug fixing, new feature development, Server-Side logic, database management, Game logic implementation, Scalability, Security and Fairness, and performance optimization.

1.7.5 Blockchain expert developer (1) – *Shared resource*

Scope: Maintain and enhance the existing codebase for the decentralised crypto wallet, integrating new crypto currencies native to Android & iPhone, Supporting the Full-stack and mobile developers.

Focus: crypto wallet, crypto currency Integrations, security, Bug fixing, new feature development, and performance optimization.

1.7.6 Mobile Developers (2)

Scope: Specialize in Android and iOS development for the crypto wallet and poker/casino apps. They should focus on platform-specific features, UI/UX improvements, and OS updates.

Focus: Ensure smooth user experience across all devices and manage app store submissions.

1.7.7 DevOps Engineer (2) – *Shared resource*

Scope: Oversee the deployment pipelines, cloud infrastructure, and monitoring systems. They should ensure high availability, automated testing, and continuous integration/continuous deployment (CI/CD).

Focus: Infrastructure scalability, disaster recovery, Business continuity, and performance monitoring, high SLAs

1.7.8 QA Engineer (2)

With test automation skills

Scope: Create and execute test plans for both the crypto wallet and poker/casino products. They should work closely with developers to identify and fix bugs before release.

Focus: Manual and automated testing, ensuring product quality, robust performance, Load & performance scalability, stability, volume & configuration testing, multi-platform compliance.

1.7.9 Product Manager (1)

They ensure projects are completed on time, within budget, and meet quality standards.

Scope: Bridge the gap between technical and non-technical teams, manage product roadmaps, and gather user and product feedback. They should prioritize features and improvements based on business goals.

Focus: Strategic planning, user experience, and stakeholder communication.

1.7.10 Data Analyst (1)

Scope: Analyse user behaviour, application performance, and financial metrics. They should provide insights to guide product decisions and marketing strategies.

Focus: Data-driven decision-making, reporting, and A/B testing.

1.7.11 Game Designer / Producer (1)

Scope: Game designers are the creative masterminds behind the conceptualization and realization of a game. They blend technical skills, artistic vision, and narrative creativity to shape the game's experience.

Focus: Game mechanics, Game Economy, Player experience, Game progression, Theming and Atmosphere, Feature design.

1.7.12 IT Manager (1)

Scope: The IT Manager would oversee the entire technical infrastructure, technical strategy development, ensuring both the poker/casino products and the decentralized crypto wallet operate smoothly across all platforms (Android, iOS, Windows, Mac).

Focus: Ensure uptime, manage cloud services, oversee the deployment pipelines, and maintain hardware and software resources, manage day to day activities of the technical team, coordinating tasks, main point of contact between technical teams and other departments, aligning IT initiatives and business objectives.

1.7.13 Support, Maintenance and Monitoring (3/2) – *Shared resource*

Scope: Customer Support, Monitoring and Maintenance.

Focus: Provides assistance to players, addressing issues and inquiries. Ensures the game servers and infrastructure are running smoothly and efficiently.

1.7.14 Design Team – *Shared resource*

UI/UX Designers

Scope: User Research and Analysis, Information Architecture and Interaction Design, Visual Design and User Interface (UI) Design, Usability Testing and Evaluation

Focus: Design intuitive and engaging user interfaces, focusing on user experience. Shaping the user experience and ensuring that products are not only functional but also enjoyable and engaging to use.

Graphic Designers

Scope: Concept Art & Visual Development, User Interface (UI) Design, Marketing & Promotional Materials, Motion Graphics & Animation, 3D Modelling & Sculpting, VR and AR.

Focus: Play a critical role in shaping the visual identity and aesthetic appeal of games. Their work contributes significantly to player engagement, immersion, and overall enjoyment. Incorporating new technologies and design approaches to create even more captivating and unforgettable gaming experiences.

Sound Designers

Scope: Sound Design and Creation, Implementation & Integration, Adaptive & Interactive Audio, Procedural Audio Generation.

Focus: Develop sound effects and music to enhance the gaming experience. Shaping the audio landscape and emotional impact of games. Contribute significantly to player immersion, feedback, and overall engagement. As game development continues to advance, incorporating new technologies and design approaches to create even richer and more captivating auditory experiences.

1.7.15 Research and Development Team – *Shared resource*

Scope: Research emerging technologies, security, tackling threats, develop proof of concepts for both current and future product lines, maintain and enhance the game development framework, and take ownership of the system architecture. This includes conducting code and design reviews for framework changes, approving modifications, and introducing new, robust technologies, processes, and methodologies to improve game development efficiency. Additionally, work on integrating and exploring future technologies.

Focus: Research and development, Game development and architecture ownership, enabling the development to work with the robust and latest technologies, enhancing the efficiency of the game development teams.

1.7.16 Tech Lead – *Shared resource*

Scope: A Tech Lead in a software development team plays a crucial role in guiding the technical direction of projects and ensuring the team delivers high-quality software by guiding the overall technical direction and ensure consistency across teams. Tech Lead acts as both a technical expert and a team leader, bridging the gap between the technical and business aspects of software development.

Focus: Technical leadership, Mentorship, Code Review, Collaboration, Problem-solving, Architecture and Design, Innovation, Quality assurance, R&D.

2. Architecture Assessment and Improvements

2.1 Codebase and Architecture Review:

Objective: Assess the current state of the codebase for both products, focusing on:

- Security
- Scalability
- Maintainability
- Performance and reliability
- Compliance and adherence to best practices
- Portability
- Continuous improvement and enhancement / Modifiability

Recommendations: If the code is outdated or overly complex, suggest refactoring, modularization, or even re-platforming. For example, transitioning a monolithic architecture to microservices if scalability is a concern. Implement **DORA metrics** for increasing the codebase quality and **Cycle time metrics** engineering practices.

Some of the key software engineering metrics are:

| Category | Metric |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Efficiency | 1.1 Merge Frequency |
| | 1.2 Coding Time |
| | 1.3 Pull request pickup time |
| | 1.4 Pull request review time |
| 2. DORA | 2.1 Cycle Time |
| | 2.2 Deployment Frequency |
| | 2.4 Change Failure Rate |
| | 2.5 Mean Time to Recovery (MTTR) |
| | 3.1 Pull request size |
| 3. Quality and Predictability | 3.2 Rework Rate |
| | 3.3 Refactor Rate |
| | 3.4 Planning accuracy |
| | 3.5 Capacity accuracy |

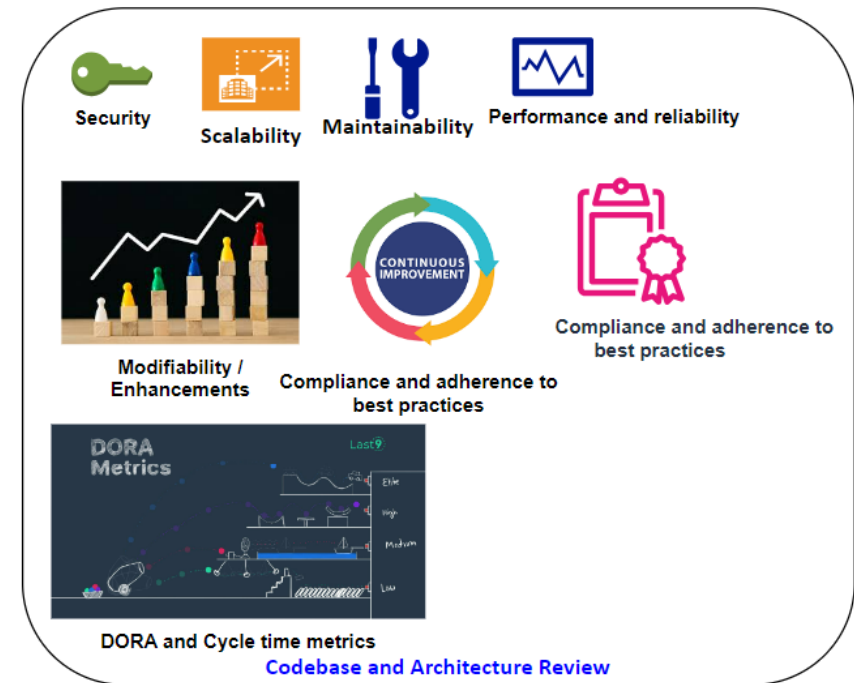


Figure 2 Codebase and Architecture review

Measuring these metrics allows teams to be categorized into **Needs Improvement, Fair, Good, and Elite**. This process highlights areas for growth and provides opportunities to elevate team performance to the next level. The benchmark details are illustrated in the diagram [6.3.2.1 Software engineering Benchmarks](#).

2.2 Security Assessment:

Objective: Conduct a thorough security review emphasising on security audit, penetration testing, PII (Personal identifiable information) and GDPR (General data protection regulation), particularly for the crypto wallet, which handles sensitive transactions and data. Security assessment of data must be divided into CIA (Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability)

Recommendations: Implement end-to-end encryption, multi-factor authentication, and regular security audits. For the poker & casino product, ensure secure payment gateways and anti-fraud measures are in place.

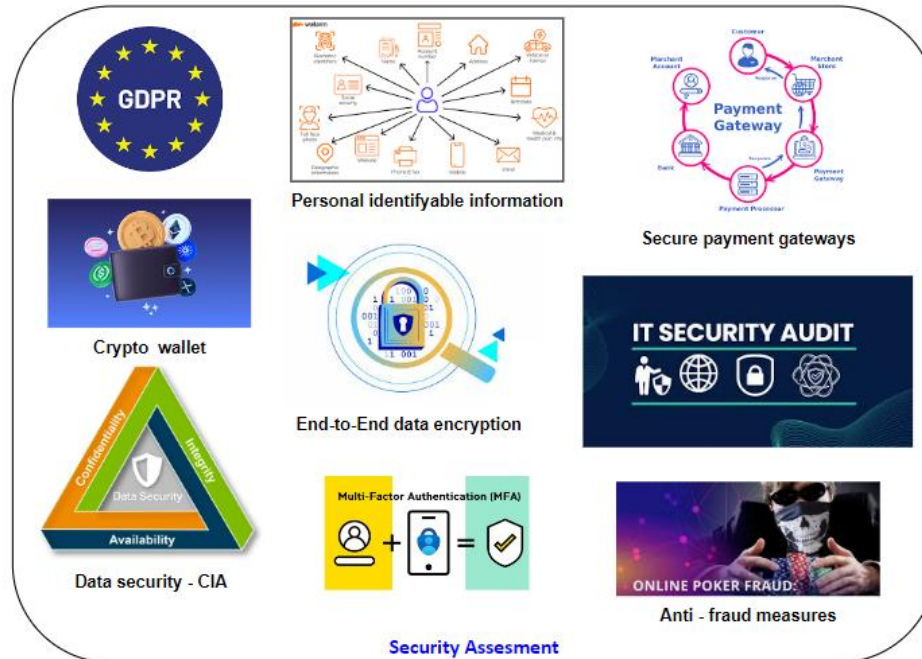


Figure 3 Security Assessment review

2.3 Infrastructure and Hosting Review:

Objective: Evaluate the current hosting environment, including cloud services, databases, and server configurations. Pay for Use (OPEX vs CAPEX), If the systems are not in the cloud, then make strategic plan to move it the cloud as soon as possible.

Recommendations: If the current infrastructure is not scalable (Vertically or Horizontally depending on the needs), consider moving to a cloud provider like AWS or Azure with auto-scaling capabilities, supporting disaster recovery, and business continuity. Also, introduce load balancers, caching mechanisms, and CDNs to improve performance. Aiming for high SLAs as the gaming industry is operational 24/7.

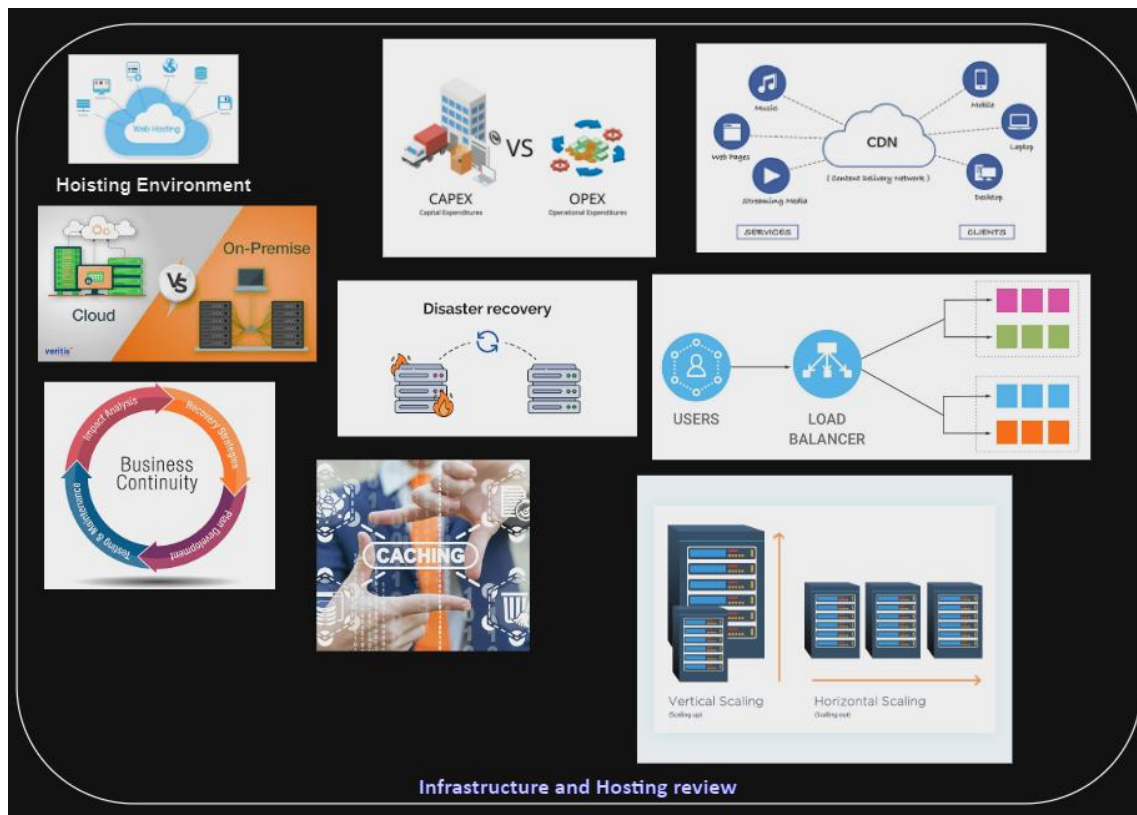


Figure 4 Infrastructure hoisting review

2.4 DevOps and CI/CD Pipelines:

Objective: Review existing DevOps practices, tools and deployment pipelines to cater for the current business needs.

Recommendations: If CI/CD pipelines are not in place, implement them to automate testing and deployments, reducing the risk of human error and increasing deployment frequency. This will require implementation of TDD, unit testing in development if these are not in place to support CI/CD. Use GitHub, Git, Bitbucket and usage of cloud computing.

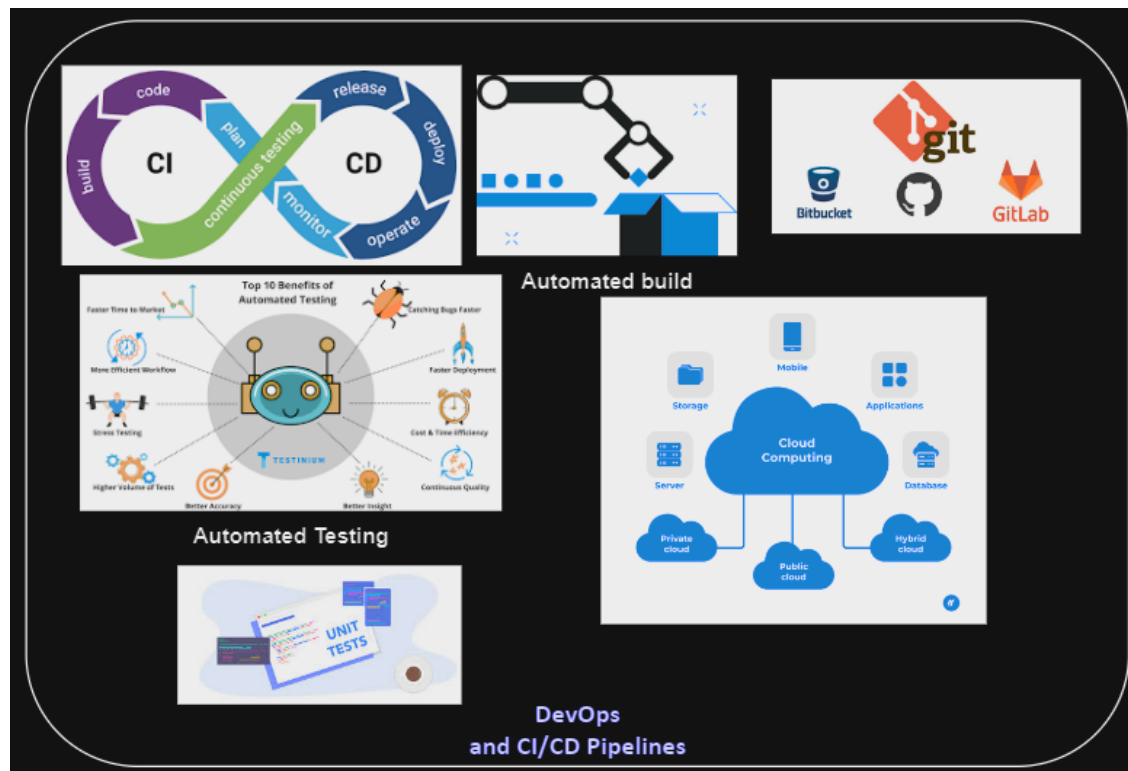


Figure 5 DevOps CI/CD Pipelines

2.5 Agile practices, Development methodologies, Code quality metrics, Engineering practices metrics

2.5.1 Objective

Review, analyse, and enhance Agile, Kanban, and Scrum methodologies to increase efficiency, directly impacting lead time, cost, and software quality, as well as the overall quality of the end product.

2.5.2 Recommendations

LinerB is a highly regarded tool for refining engineering practices and improving code quality within a repository. It offers a suite of ready-made tools and metrics that can be integrated with the code repository to monitor developer activity and elevate code quality. Key code quality metrics such as code complexity, code coverage, code churn, code duplication, and static code analysis, along with engineering practice Cycle metrics like pull request size, Coding time, Pickup time, deploy time, review time, merge conflict rate, commit frequency, and build success rate, are invaluable. Additional metrics like code review depth, test coverage growth, and defect density further support the goal of enhancing code quality and engineering practices, enabling the development of high-quality products more cost-effectively, in less time. While many companies claim to be Agile, true Agile implementation goes beyond simply adopting a set of practices. It's about nurturing a mindset and culture that prioritizes adaptability, collaboration, and continuous improvement. The specific framework or methodology used is secondary to these core principles. To thrive

in today's rapidly changing business environment, critical evaluation and fine tuning the current Agile practices and make necessary adjustments to ensure they fully embody the Agile mindset, contributing to continuous delivery of high-quality product and features. Focus on good KPIs to measure engineering practices to bring in discipline to increase the quality of work, contributing to deliver outstanding software products, controlling the time, cost and quality, moving teams from fair to Elite.

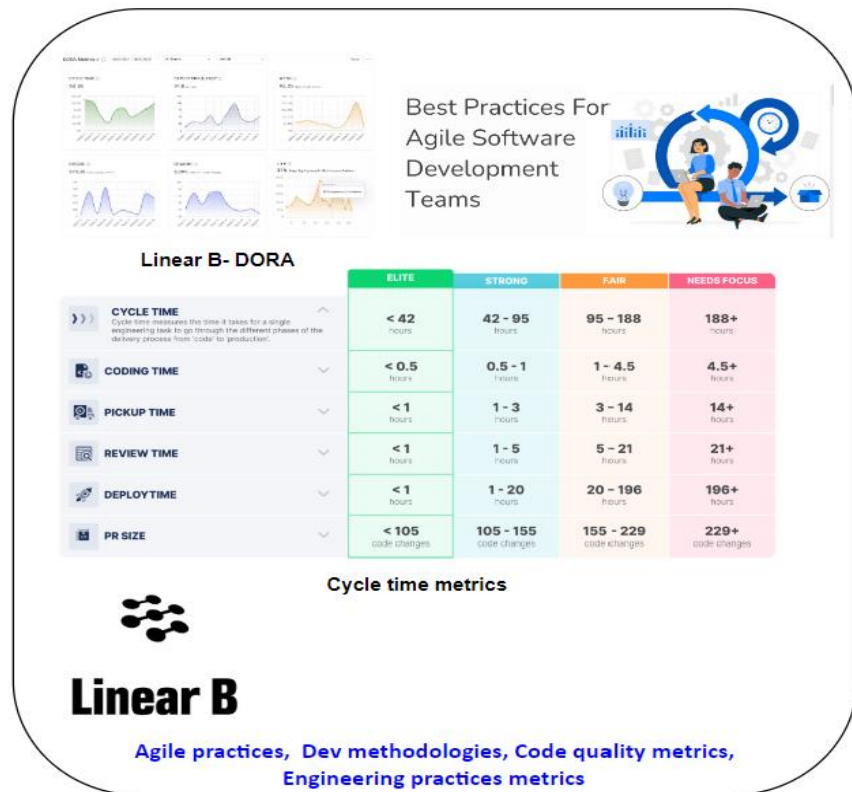


Figure 6 Agile best practices, Dev methodologies, Code Cycle time metrics

2.6 Systems, Architecture, Processes, Workflow documentation

2.6.1 Objective

Knowledge Management and Onboarding, Preservation of Institutional Knowledge, Efficient Onboarding, Reduced Reliance on Individual, minimise miscommunication, increase collaboration, Shared understanding, improved decision making, efficient maintenance and troubleshooting, improved system stability, scalability and growth, Facilitate system expansion, engineering professionalism, commitment to quality, Development team's reputation and trustworthiness, facilitating collaboration with stakeholders and clients, ensuring that the system meets the business and clients requirement needs.

Recommendations: In today's fast-paced and competitive software development landscape, the importance of system documentation and architecture documents cannot be overstated. They are essential tools for knowledge sharing, collaboration, maintenance, scalability, and building trust with clients and stakeholders. A company that invests in comprehensive and up-to-date documentation lays the foundation for long-term success. It empowers its team to work more efficiently, deliver higher-quality software, and adapt to changing market demands. Tools like confluence, Notion, Git, GitHub, Lucid chart, Draw.io, PlantUML, Miro, Swagger UI, Archi, Jira will help the technology department with the documentation to produce great software.

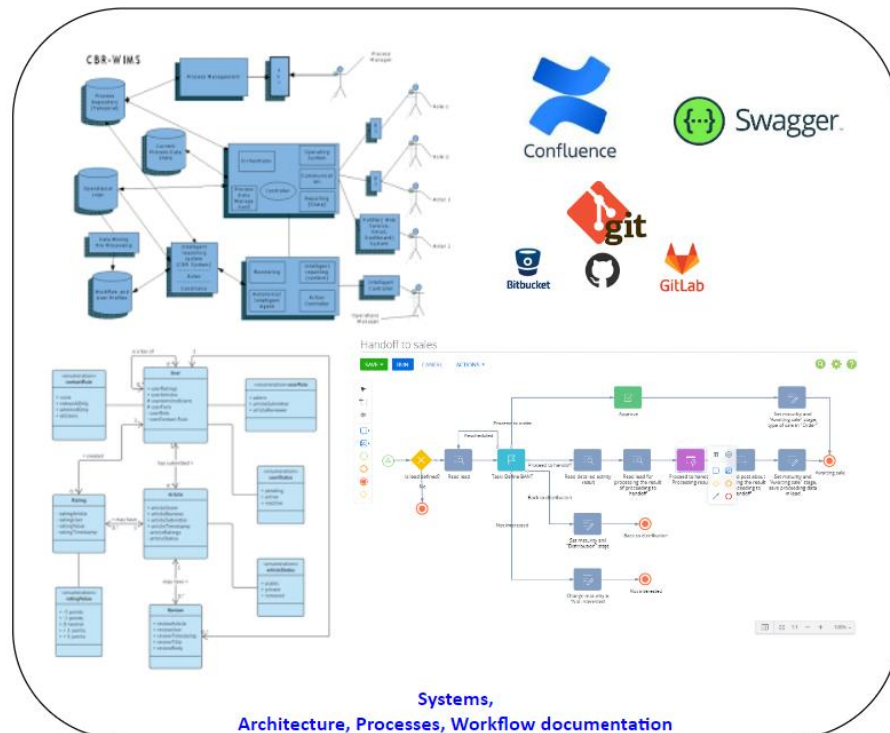


Figure 7 System, workflow, architecture documentation

3. Tech Stack Review and Modernization

The current tech stack C++, Qt, and QML used is still popular among game dev community. C++ is a foundational language in game development, especially for performance-critical components. Qt is a strong option for UI development and cross-platform applications. QML's declarative syntax and integration with JavaScript make it an excellent choice for building dynamic and visually appealing user interfaces.

The company has recently made significant investments in acquiring the Casino and Poker platforms and games. The business strategy for short to mid-term is focused on achieving a strong return on investment (ROI) by addressing the challenges associated with the current tech stack, which includes C++, Qt, and QML.



Figure 8 Tech stack review and modernization

3.1 Stack review

3.1.1 C++

- **Performance** - C++ remains the king of performance, crucial for handling complex game logic, real-time simulations, and smooth graphics rendering in demanding casino and poker games.
- **Control and Flexibility** - Its low-level control and extensive libraries give developers the power to optimize every aspect of the game for performance and efficiency.
- **Legacy Code and Expertise** - Many existing game engines and casino platforms are built on C++, making it a practical choice for ongoing development and maintenance.

3.1.2 Qt

- **Cross-Platform Compatibility** - Qt's strength in cross-platform development enables reaching a wide audience across different operating systems and devices, from desktop to mobile, crucial for the online casino and poker industry.
- **UI Development (Widgets and QML)** - Qt provides a mature and flexible UI toolkit for creating visually appealing and responsive interfaces for casino and poker games, using both traditional widgets and QML for declarative UIs.
- **Networking and Backend Integration** - Qt's networking capabilities and seamless integration with C++ allow for efficient communication with backend systems and game servers, essential for handling player data, transactions, and real-time interactions.

3.1.3 QML

- **Dynamic and Engaging UIs** - QML excels at creating visually rich and interactive interfaces with animations and transitions, enhancing the player experience in casino and poker games.
- **Rapid UI Development** - QML's declarative syntax allows for faster UI development and prototyping, allowing teams to iterate quickly on new game designs and features.

- **Responsive Design** - QML adapts well to different screen sizes and resolutions, crucial for delivering a consistent experience across various devices.

3.2 Challenges

1. C++ is a powerful but complex language, requiring a *significant investment in learning and mastering*. This naturally *reduces the pool of readily available candidates* in the location where the development teams are in.
2. While Qt has a strong following, QML expertise adds another layer of specialization, further narrowing the pool of suitable candidates.
3. Depending on your location, there might be a limited local talent pool, necessitating remote work or relocation strategies.
4. Retaining the talent and staying competitive with salary and benefits is crucial to prevent losing talent to other companies.

3.3 Industry adoption and position:

1. C++ and Qt enjoy significant popularity in the software development world and has a bright future ahead.
2. As of June 2024, C++ has even reached the #2 spot on the TIOBE Index, surpassing Java, indicating a growing trend in its popularity.
3. C++'s versatility and performance make it a preferred choice for diverse fields like game development, embedded systems, high-performance computing, and finance.
4. The vast C++ community ensures ample support, libraries, and learning resources for developers.
5. C++ and Qt are versatile technologies and are used in a wide range of industries beyond gaming like financials, automotive, healthcare, industrial automation, telecommunications, trading platforms, hedge funds, due to their performance, cross-platform support, and UI development capabilities.
6. Companies using stack C++, Qt, QML are BMW, Tesla, Audi, Adobe systems, Autodesk, Google (Chrome, backend), Microsoft (windows, office, visual studio), Mozilla, Blizzard entertainment, Ubisoft, Electric arts, Wargaming, Kunos Simulazioni. Microgaming studios, Party Poker.
7. Diverse applications from creative software, gaming to automotive systems and financial tools, C++ and Qt find applications across various domains.
8. Maturity and Stability of C++ and Qt have a long history of development and refinement, offering mature and stable platforms for building reliable software.
9. Rich Ecosystem due to the availability of numerous libraries, frameworks, and tools for both C++ and Qt further enhances their attractiveness for developers.
10. Open-source impact - Many popular open-source projects rely on C++ and Qt, showcasing their community support and impact on the software landscape. Examples are KDE plasma, LMMS, VirtualBox.

3.4 Modernization

3.4.1 Potential issues

1. **Lack of Modern C++ Features** - C++ has evolved significantly in recent years. If the team isn't using C++11 or later features (e.g., smart pointers, lambda functions, range-based for loops), they might be missing out on productivity and safety benefits.
2. **Manual Memory Management** - If the codebase relies heavily on manual memory management (e.g., new and delete), there's a higher risk of memory-related bugs.

3. **Outdated Libraries or Tools** - If any libraries or tools used haven't been updated in a while, they could be less efficient, less secure, or lack support for newer technologies or platforms.

3.4.2 Proposed Changes

1. **Embrace Modern C++** - Encourage the team to adopt modern C++ features to enhance code readability, safety, and efficiency.
2. **Considering Smart Pointers** - Transition to smart pointers (e.g., `std::unique_ptr`, `std::shared_ptr`) to help avoid memory leaks and improve code clarity.
3. **Explore Alternative UI Technologies** - If UI performance becomes a significant bottleneck, explore options like using Qt Quick with a C++ backend for more fine-grained control or considering a game engine for specific needs.
4. **Evaluate Tooling** - Regularly assess development tools and workflows to see if there are more modern alternatives that could improve productivity.
5. **Continuous Learning** - Encourage the team to stay up-to-date on new language features, libraries, and best practices through training and self-learning.

3.5 C++, Qt comparison with other popular languages

| Feature | C++, Qt | Unity | Node.js, React |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Performance | High (Native code, fine-grained control) | Good (Optimized engine, C# scripting) | Moderate (JavaScript, single-threaded) |
| Cross-Platform | Excellent (Qt's strength) | Very Good (Wide platform support) | Good (with frameworks like Electron) |
| UI Development | Flexible (Widgets, QML) | Excellent (Visual editor, UI components) | Very Good (Component-based, React's power) |
| Real-time | Excellent (Native control) | Good (Networking features) | Moderate (WebSockets, potential latency) |
| Community | Large C++/Qt community | Massive Unity community | Huge Node.js/React communities |
| Learning Curve | Steep (C++, Qt/QML) | Moderate (C# scripting, visual tools) | Moderate (JavaScript, React concepts) |
| 3D Graphics | Possible (Qt 3D, external libraries) | Excellent (Core strength) | Challenging (WebGL limitations) |
| Security | High (Control over implementation) | Moderate (Relies on engine security) | Moderate (Web vulnerabilities) |
| Scalability | High (Can scale efficiently) | Good (Cloud solutions, multiplayer support) | Moderate (Horizontal scaling with Node.js) |
| User Base | Smaller, specialized | Very Large | Massive |
| Licensing | C++: Open Source, Qt: Dual (Open Source/Commercial) | Proprietary, with free tier and revenue share | Open Source |
| Costing | C++: Free, Qt: Open-Source or Commercial fees | Free tier with limitations, revenue-based fees | Free (Open-Source libraries) |
| WebGL Support | Possible (Qt WebGL plugin, limitations apply) | Good (Built-in support) | Excellent (Native browser support) |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Mobile Development | Good (Qt, Native Performance) | Excellent (Mature mobile toolchain) | Possible (React Native, performance considerations) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|

Ultimately, the best choice depends on your project's specific needs, team expertise, and priorities. For most casino and poker games, Unity is a compelling option due to its ease of use, rich features, and large community. However, C++, Qt remains a powerful choice for performance-critical or highly customized projects where full control is desired. Node.js with React can be suitable for web-based implementations or simpler games.

4. React and Node.JS tech stack- phased approach for rewriting the systems

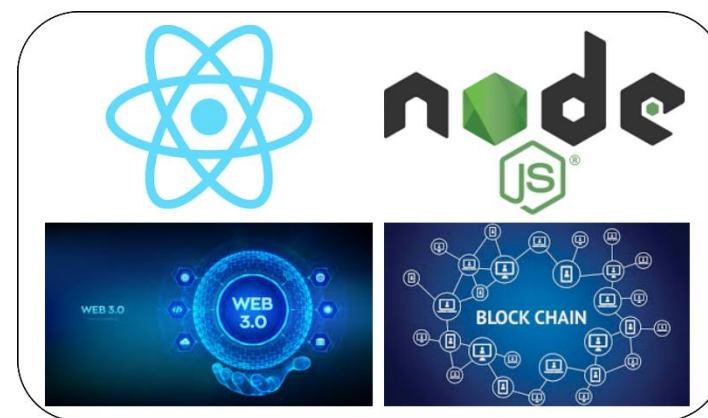
What could be advantages to switch over to the new technology stack and what benefits can React and Node.JS bring in?

4.1 Business goals

- Faster Development & Iteration
- Cross-Platform Reach and Deployment
- Web-Based Game Distribution
- Large Talent Pool
- Real-Time Capabilities
- Enhanced player engagement
- Lower barrier to entry

4.2 Business gains

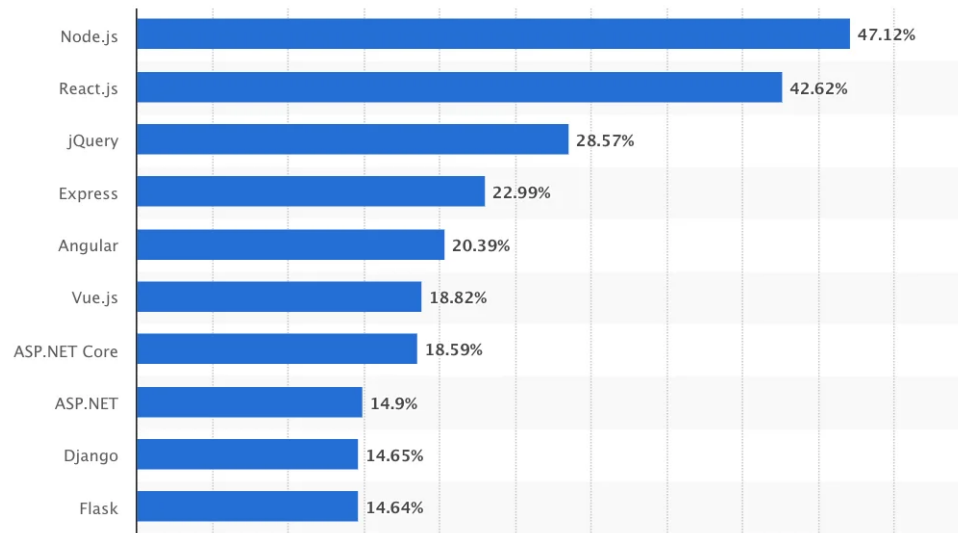
- Reduced Development Costs
- Increased Market Reach
- Agile Development
- Real-Time and responsive Interactions
- Web3 and blockchain integrations advantages
- Decentralised game economies
- Innovation and differentiation
- New revenue streams



The combination of React, Node.js, and Web3 technologies presents a compelling opportunity for game developers to create innovative, engaging, and potentially lucrative gaming experiences. While challenges remain, the potential benefits for both players and businesses are substantial. React's **Component-based architecture** allows for building complex game UIs by breaking them down into smaller, reusable parts. This modularity makes it easier to manage and maintain your code as your game grows in complexity. **Virtual DOM** for performance to optimizes rendering updates, leading to better performance, especially for games that require frequent UI changes and animations. Node.JS has robust real-time communications with its non-blocking I/O model and can efficiently handle large number of concurrent connections, and can scale up efficiently.

4.3 Considerations

- **Performance:** Carefully benchmark and optimize performance throughout the rewrite process, with particular focus on core game logic. In gaming, performance is critical. With thoughtful design, optimization, and scaling, Node.js gaming backends have proven capable of handling thousands, or even tens of thousands, of concurrent users.
- **Team Skills:** Assess the team's proficiency in React and Node.js, along with their willingness to learn. Identify any training needs to ensure the team is well-equipped for the project.
- **Third-Party Integrations:** Consider the impact of the rewrite on existing integrations with payment gateways, analytics tools, and other services.
- **Web3, Blockchain, and Crypto Wallets:** Node.js is a versatile and powerful tool for building Web3 and blockchain applications and services. Its efficiency, familiarity, and extensive ecosystem make it a popular choice among developers in this space. Integrating crypto wallets and new currencies using Node.js is relatively straightforward, due to the wide range of libraries available in the Node.js ecosystem, such as Web3.js, Ethers.js, and Bitcoin-Lib for Bitcoin wallets. These libraries offer well-documented functionalities for wallet interactions.
- **Core game logic and services:** Rewriting the core game logic (e.g., RNG, card shuffling, game rules) in JavaScript (used by React and Node.js) might lead to performance issues compared to the highly optimized C++ code. This must be carefully considered in the redesign and new architecture.
- With respect to blockchain technology scalability, user experience, regulatory landscape is still evolving.
- **Single Language for Front-end and Back-end** – Node for server-side and React front-end.
- **Scalability, effective, and fast** - Node and React allows developers to build dynamic, large, data-driven web apps that are responsive across multiple devices.



4.4 Recommendation

- **Hybrid Approach:** A hybrid approach strikes a balance between rapidly getting to market and gradually modernizing the tech stack.
- **Leveraging Technologies:** This approach allows to harness the strengths of React and Node.js for the frontend and backend while initially retaining performance-critical existing components in C++.
- **Game Logic Services:** As transitioning game logic services and APIs from C++ to Node.js, careful redesign, optimization, and evaluation for microservice architecture, for scalability, responsiveness, and performance strategies are essential.
- **Existing User Base:** With the Casino and Poker games already live and serving 5,000 concurrent users, the strategy should focus on delivering high-quality service and rich game content to these users while simultaneously scaling to support 100,000+ concurrent users.
- **Decommissioning Old Games:** Once the new game development framework with React, Node.js, and a microservice architecture is in place, formulate a strategy to decommission the old C++ games and any hybrid games developed used during the tech stack transition. This will reduce long-term support and maintenance costs.
- **Iteration and feedback:** It's crucial to plan carefully, prioritize user experience, and continuously iterate based on feedback and performance data.
- **Microservices Architecture, Disaster Recovery, and Business Continuity** - The characteristics of microservices architecture, such as loose coupling, statelessness, immutability, observability, automation, distributed databases, API gateways, load balancing, service discovery, and container orchestration, enable decoupling and deployment across multiple regions. This facilitates easier backup and restoration, thereby supporting effective disaster recovery and business continuity plans. However, disaster recovery goes beyond technology; it involves people and processes as well. By cultivating a culture of preparedness and resilience, organizations can navigate even the most challenging situations and emerge stronger.

4.5 React Frontend framework

- **Visual elements:** React is a strong choice for building interactive user interfaces, making it suitable for the visual elements of your poker and casino games.
- **User interface:** Game lobby, tables, player avatars, betting interfaces, animations, etc.
- **User interactions:** Handling clicks, drags, input forms, etc

4.6 Node.JS Back-end framework

Node.js can handle real-time communication and server-side logic, essential for Casino and poker multiplayer games, managing game state.

- **Server-side game logic:** Managing game sessions, player connections, handling bets, distributing cards, enforcing game rules, etc.
- **Real-time communication:** *Web Sockets for instant updates between players and the server.*
- **Database interactions:** *Storing player data, game history, etc. (using a database like MSSQL, MySQL, PostgreSQL or MongoDB).*

4.7 Rewrite Phases

4.7.1 Phase 1.0: Stabilize existing products and support (Short-term)

- Focus on stabilising the existing C++, Qt poker and casino games / platform as there are active users and have just received market exposure and are generating revenue.
- Optimize performance and fix critical bugs.
- Gather user feedback and identify areas for improvement.
- Continue building the games with C++, Qt until the new framework is ready to increase the user base and revenue.
- Evaluate the teams skills and readiness for React and Node.JS tech stack.
- Formulate a strategy for training, certifications and upskilling, timelines for the completion of training phase.

4.7.2 Phase 1.1: Parallel development (Short-term to mid-term) hybrid approach

- Once the teams are upskilled, kick-off the tech stack transition strategy with clear milestones, sharing the plans with the development team.
- Start building the React framework, new components, features and modules in React.
- Gradually replace parts of the frontend UI with React components.
- Keep the core game logic, server-side logic in C++, interacting with the game through the existing services and APIs.
- Build a proof of concept with a small prototype to validate the new tech stack, game idea and assess React responsiveness and performance.
- Polish, optimization, and continuously iterate on gameplay, visuals, responsiveness and performance, leveraging tools and libraries to enhance the game experience.

4.7.3 Phase 1.2: Progressive Rewrite (Long-term)

- Continue replacing more UI elements with React.
- Start building backend framework, APIs, modules and components for handling real-time communication and server-side logic and database access using Node.JS.
- and expanding the Node.js backend. Ensure that security, stability, scalability, maintainability, continuous improvement and portability are always the high priority in design.
- If Node.JS performance-critical game logic is not satisfactory, then evaluate the feasibility of rewriting performance-critical game logic in a language in modern languages like Rust or Web Assembly, which can offer better performance than JavaScript while integrating with the web stack.
- Continuously monitor performance and user experience to ensure a smooth transition.
- Once the new game development framework with React, Node.js, formulate a strategy to decommission the old C++ games and any hybrid games developed used during the tech stack transition.

4.7.4 Alternate option- separate team focusing only on rewrite and new tech stack

If there is a luxury of having a separate team focusing only on the rewrite of the new game framework with React and Node.JS then:

- The tech stack transition will speed up.

- One team focusing on the stabilize existing products and support, parallelly increasing the user base.
- One team undergoing the training and upskilling with React and Node.JS.
- The progressive transition of tech stack from C++, Qt to React and Node.JS will start earlier, thereby achieving the business goals and solving the current problems.
- The business will be ready upfront to cater for rolling out innovative and content rich poker and casino games leading to increased user base and attaining high revenue.
- With the support for security, scalability, continuous enhancement new markets and operators can be captured with ease.

This team can then be transformed to the Research and Development team in near future.

4.7.5 Other teams support

The increase in user base, and capturing new markets and operators, needs support from:

- Marketing and user acquisition
- Product management
- Customer Support and Community Management
- Sales and monetization
- Legal and compliance
- Finance and accounting

From the technology side the engineering team can guarantee that all the above teams can perform their tasks to fulfil the users and business needs efficiently.

4.7.6 IDE Tools

- **Visual studio code (VA)** – Light-weight & fast, Integrated terminal, large community and resources, built in support for Solidity, JavaScript and typescript, Ethereum Remix, Hardhat, Truffle, Blockchain Development Kit for Ethereum (by Microsoft), Ethcode, built-in Node.JS debugger.
- **WebStrom** - Intelligent Coding Assistance, Code Completion, Refactoring Tools, Error Detection and Quick Fixes, Built-in Node.js Debugger, npm Support, Run and Debug Configuration, React Hooks Support, Node.js and npm Integration, React Support, Version Control Integration, Testing Tools.

4.7.7 Talent

The above comparison data highlights the features that C++, Qt are strong at. C++ and Qt, while powerful and widely used, have a reputation for having a steeper learning curve compared to some other technologies. This can make finding and retaining skilled developers a challenge. companies can take proactive steps to attract, retain, and grow talent in these areas.

4.7.7.1 Attracting

- Competitive Compensation and Benefits
- Highlight Interesting Projects
- Strong Company Culture

- Flexible Work Arrangements
- Targeted Recruitment – Companies like Toptal have good resources who can be hired within 48 hours.

4.7.7.2 Retaining

- Challenging and Meaningful Work
- Career Development
- Mentorship and Knowledge Sharin
- Recognition and Rewards
- Competitive Compensation
- Staying connected to the industry

4.7.7.3 Growing

- Training and development
- Internal Hackathons and R&D projects
- Contribution to open-source
- Knowledge sharing platforms
- Fostering a supportive community
- Remote and cost-effective high skills

By implementing these strategies and fostering a positive and supportive environment, companies can attract, retain, and grow a talented pool of C++ and Qt developers, ensuring long-term success in their projects and endeavours.

5. Rust tech stack option compared to C++

As C++ has a steep learning curve, the new modern language Rust required the same effort to learn. The new modern Rust language is gaining popularity and have limited people with the skill sets. When compared to C++, Rust is as equal or safer than C++ when it comes to performance, safety, and concurrency making it compelling option for teams looking for modern and reliable technology stack. Rust can be a powerful tool for creating engaging and secure gaming applications and services.

5.1 Aspects of game development referencing Rust

- **Game Logic:** Rust's performance allows for efficient handling of complex game logic, calculations, and simulations, crucial for ensuring fair and responsive gameplay.
- **Random Number Generation:** Rust's strong type system and libraries for secure random number generation help ensure the randomness and fairness of casino games.
- **Networking and Communication:** Rust's concurrency model and networking libraries enable efficient handling of real-time communication and multiplayer interactions, vital for online casino games.
- **Security:** Rust's focus on memory safety and its lack of null pointers and data races contribute to more secure code, reducing the risk of vulnerabilities and exploits that could compromise the integrity of a casino game.

- **Backend Services:** Rust's performance and efficiency make it a great choice for building scalable and reliable backend services to handle player accounts, transactions, and other critical data.

While Rust might be less common in game development compared to languages like C++ or C#, its growing ecosystem and benefits make it an increasingly attractive option, especially for projects where performance, safety, and maintainability are priorities.

5.2 Factors to consider when using Rust for casino game development

- **Learning Curve:** Rust has a steeper learning curve compared to some other languages, so teams might need to invest in training or onboarding.
- **Libraries and Frameworks:** While Rust's ecosystem is growing, it might still have fewer game-specific libraries and frameworks compared to more established languages.
- **Community and Resources:** The Rust community is active and helpful, but it might be smaller compared to communities for more established game development languages.

Overall, Rust is a capable language for developing casino and poker games, and its advantages in performance, safety, and concurrency make it a compelling option for teams looking for a modern and reliable technology stack. If you're willing to invest in learning Rust and leverage its strengths, it can be a powerful tool for creating engaging and secure casino game experiences.

6. Roadmap and implementation plan

The first steps and roadmap for a technical leader joining a new company can be broken down into several phases, focusing on understanding the current landscape, building relationships, and establishing a strategic direction.

6.1 0 to 1 month (4 weeks) – Adapting, learning and understanding phase

6.1.1 Immersion and Learning

- Meet with key stakeholders (CEO, executives, team leads) to understand the company's vision, goals, and challenges
- Meeting with HR to familiarize with the policies and procedures
- Setting up weekly meeting with the key people. Setup meeting and immediate feedback loop with the direct manager.
- Exploring deeply into deep into existing technical documentation, architecture diagrams, and codebases to gain a comprehensive understanding of the technology landscape. At the same time identify the loopholes and missing information that can affect a new comer, to fix it
- Conduct a technical audit to assess the current state of systems, identify pain points, and uncover potential risks or opportunities
- Familiarizing with the company culture, communication styles, and decision-making processes

6.1.2 Building relationship

- Meeting the teams and key team members to know their skills, challenges and aspiration
- Meeting the heads of other departments (finance, marketing, sales, HR, legal, product management, IT) to build rapport and to understand their pain points and needs from the technology point of view and how it can support their goals.

- Check the communication channels and improve it, if it's not optimised to foster trust within the technology teams and across the organisation.

6.2 2 to 3 months – Strategic planning and aligning phase

6.2.1 Technology vision and strategy

- Analyse the existing strategy (improvise/Create a new one).
- Define a clear technology vision aligned with the company's overall business goals.
- Create a strategic roadmap highlighting the key initiatives, priorities and timelines.
- Publish and communicate the technology vision and roadmap effectively to stakeholders, execs and department heads, securing their buy-in and support.

6.2.2 Team and process evaluation

- Assess the current team structure, roles and responsibilities, workload, delivery effectiveness.
- Assess the hiring needs and restructuring.
- Evaluate existing development processes, tools, workflows, information sharing, sprint backlogs, user stories, prioritization, appreciations, feedbacks, reporting, KPIs, OKRs, development methodologies, training, mentoring and identify opportunities for optimization and modernization.

6.2.3 Low hanging fruits and immediate impact

- Identify areas of quick improvements, fine tuning, optimization, to demonstrate immediate value gain trust and build credibility.
- Check the technical debt, security vulnerabilities, that can cause significant risks to products, reputation loss to the company.

6.3 3 to 6 months – Execution, evaluation and improving phase

6.3.1 Roadmap implementation

- Finalize the technology roadmap by securing buy-in and support from teams, stakeholders, and relevant executives, ensuring the milestones are achievable.
- Coordinate timelines with impacted teams, prioritizing initiatives based on business impact and aligning them with the technology vision and the organization's broader goals.
- Document the roadmap on Confluence, schedule regular meetings to share progress, and adjust plans as needed to stay focused and on track towards the objectives.
- Track progress with key personnel and the project manager, ensuring milestones are met.
- Collect ongoing feedback from teams and individuals affected by the implementation of the technology roadmap.
- Evaluate the improvements, business impact, and cost savings achieved with each completed milestone.
- Communicate successes and key insights company-wide to motivate the team and those responsible for execution.

6.3.2 Empowering and developing the team

- Dedicate time to mentoring and nurturing the team, providing opportunities for professional growth.

- Collaborate with HR to create a clear and transparent career development path, outlining the skills, experience, and timelines required to advance from one role to another.
- Promotions and rewards should be actively sought by employees, while management should recognize contributions and provide timely rewards to boost morale and motivation. Employees should have a clear understanding of their potential career trajectory within the company over a five-year period.
- Cultivate a culture of honesty, openness, collaboration, creativity, innovation, first-principle thinking, constructive criticism, and continuous learning. Encourage a mindset of "fail fast and learn."
- Empower team members to take ownership, be passionate about their work, manage their deliverables, and make decisions confidently within their areas of expertise.
- Promote a culture where failure is seen as a step on the path to success, and learning from it is valued.
- Implement DORA metrics and Cyclic metrics to improve the quality of code base and repository and to make the engineering practices better. Identify the development team category and setup clear goals to attain the next level using cycle time metrics.

6.3.2.1 Software engineering Benchmarks

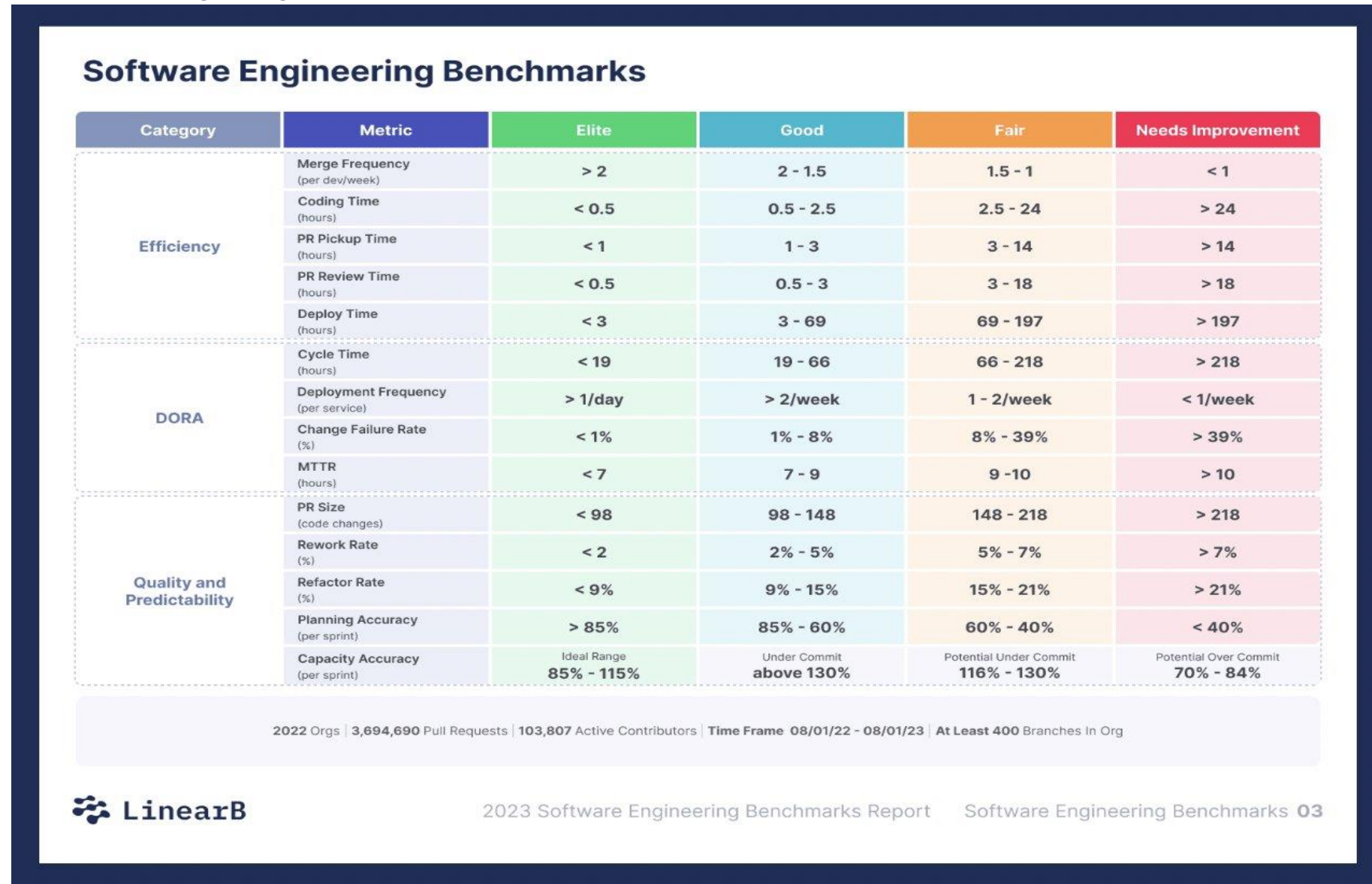


Figure 10 Cycle time metrics to categorize the teams

6.4 6 months and greater – the ongoing process

6.4.1 Innovation and exploration

- Stay ahead of the curve by continuously monitoring emerging and rapidly evolving technologies, particularly in Web3, Blockchain, AI, and automation where the landscape shifts quickly.
- Empower your R&D team and keep senior developers and the R&D team informed about these advancements, providing them with dedicated time to evaluate, research, and test Proof of Concepts (POCs).
- This empowers them to effectively implement new technologies, ensuring your product is ready for a timely market launch, reaping the advantages of the new technology.

6.4.2 Focus areas

- **Communication and Transparency** – Maintaining an open communication with stakeholders, ensuring they understand the technology strategy and its progress.
- **Negotiations** – Always update the stakeholders upfront with the true picture if something is not going with the plan, always have Plan B and C and negotiate the right strategy with the stakeholders, to realign the roadmap.
- **Adaptability** – Always be prepared to adjust the roadmap and priorities based on changing business needs or unforeseen challenges.
- **Continuous Improvement** - Foster a culture of Openness, accepting criticism, continuous improvement, Ownership, Passion and Care within the technology team, encouraging feedback, learning, and adaptation.

6.5 Risk and Mitigation Strategy

- **Disruption to current operations** - Carefully plan and communicate changes, conduct thorough testing before deployment, and have rollback plans in place.
- **Resistance from the team** - Foster open communication, actively seek feedback, address concerns, and provide training and support for new technologies or processes.
- **Technical challenges** - Conduct thorough research and POCs, leverage external expertise if needed, and prioritize initiatives based on feasibility and risk.
- **Budget constraints** - Prioritize initiatives with the highest ROI, seek creative solutions, and negotiate with stakeholders if necessary.
- **Talent shortage** - Invest in recruiting and retention efforts, provide opportunities for growth and development, and consider outsourcing or partnering for specific skills if needed.
- **Resistance to Change** - Mitigation is to clearly communicate, address concerns, involve team members in the decision-making process.
- **Temporary Disruption** - Mitigation is to Phased implementation, clear communication, and support from management.
- **Skill Gaps** - Rapid technological advancements and evolving project requirements may have created skill gaps within the team. Mitigation is implementing Training programs, mentorship, and external hiring if necessary.
- **Siloed Teams** - Development, QA, and Operations teams might be working in isolation, leading to delays and miscommunication. Mitigation strategy is to make them cross-functional team with more collaboration.

- **Overload Bottlenecks** - Certain roles or individuals might be overloaded, leading to bottlenecks in the development process. Mitigation strategy is to have a proper resource planning, with the project manager, reprioritising tasks, hiring new resources, process optimisation, setting up realistic expectations, negotiations.
- **Lack of Ownership** - Team members might not feel a strong sense of ownership and accountability for the products they work on. Mitigation strategy is to define clear roles and responsibilities, transparent goals, open communications, empowerment and autonomy, delegate authority, constructive feedback, recognition and rewards, provide opportunities for growth.

6.6 Final words

- In the first 6 months, understanding the organisation, unique challenges and opportunities
- Building strong relationships and gaining trust are crucial in the early stages
- Focusing on delivering quick wins to demonstrate value and gain momentum, delivering tangible results
- Collaborating closely with the teams, and implementing strategies that align with your business goals
- Balancing short-term needs with long-term strategic goals
- Fostering a collaborative and supportive environment within the technology team, and across teams
- There is a lot of responsibility to support the existing product, to increase the user base and to lead the transition of the existing tech stack to the new tech stack.

7. Out of assignment

7.1 Emerging technologies under CTOs radar

As the CTO of a poker and casino game development company, several key emerging technologies should be on the radar:

7.1.1 Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

- **Enhanced Player Experience:** AI can be used to create more realistic and adaptive game opponents, tailor game experiences to individual player preferences, and provide personalized recommendations.
- **Fraud Detection and Prevention:** AI-powered systems can detect patterns and anomalies in player behaviour, helping to identify and prevent cheating, collusion, and other fraudulent activities.
- **Game Analytics and Optimization:** Machine learning algorithms can analyse vast amounts of gameplay data to gain insights into player behaviour, improve game design, and optimize monetization strategies.

7.1.2 Blockchain and Cryptocurrency

- **Secure and Transparent Transactions:** Blockchain technology can ensure the integrity and transparency of in-game transactions, providing players with greater trust and security.
- **Decentralized Gaming Platforms:** Blockchain-based platforms enable the creation of decentralized casinos and poker rooms, offering increased player autonomy and control.

- **NFT Integration:** Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) can represent unique in-game assets, allowing players to own, trade, and collect valuable digital items.

7.1.3 Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)

- **Immersive Gaming Experiences:** VR and AR have the potential to revolutionize the casino and poker experience, offering players a more realistic and interactive environment.
- **Social Gaming:** VR and AR can enable more engaging and social gameplay experiences, fostering a sense of community and interaction among players.

7.1.4 Cloud Gaming

- **Accessibility and Scalability:** Cloud gaming allows players to access high-quality casino and poker games on various devices without the need for powerful hardware, expanding the potential user base and reducing barriers to entry.
- **Reduced Development Costs:** Cloud gaming can streamline development and deployment processes, potentially reducing costs and time to market for new games.

7.1.5 5G and Edge Computing

Even with 6G technology around the corner with trials around 2028, we need to be ready to embrace the technology.

Low-Latency Gaming: 5G networks and edge computing offer the potential for ultra-low latency gameplay, crucial for delivering smooth and responsive experiences in real-time multiplayer casino and poker games.

7.1.6 Metaverse and Virtual Worlds

Integrated Gaming Experiences: As the metaverse concept evolves, casino and poker games could become integrated into larger virtual worlds, offering players a more immersive and social gaming experience.

7.1.7 Beyond Technology

Responsible Gambling: As the CTO, it is also important to consider the social and ethical implications of technology, especially regarding responsible gambling measures and player protection.

By staying informed about these emerging technologies and their potential impact on the industry, the CTO can ensure that his/her company remains competitive and innovative, offering players the most engaging and secure gaming experiences possible.

7.2 Reporting structure for CTO to stakeholders

7.2.1 Weekly Status Reports

Content: Updates on product development, feature releases, and any critical issues or blockers. Include key metrics like DAUs, WAUs, MAUs, retention rates, and incident reports.

7.2.2 Monthly Performance Reports

Content: Detailed analysis of application performance, uptime, and user engagement metrics. Include comparisons with previous months and identify trends. OPEX reports on the cloud that can vary month by month and the infrastructure cost, subscriptions.

7.2.3 Quarterly Strategic Reports

Content: Long-term planning, including roadmaps for both products, budget forecasts, and hiring needs. Present risks, opportunities, and potential pivots.

7.2.4 Security and Compliance Reports

Frequency: Quarterly or as needed.

Content: Findings from security audits, compliance checks, user experience management, and recommendations for mitigating risks.

7.3 Staying on top of technological advances

As a CTO in the iGaming and crypto space, staying on top of technological advances is paramount to maintaining a competitive edge and making informed decisions for your company. Here's a multifaceted approach I would adopt:

7.3.1 Active Learning & Exploration

- **Dedicated Time for Research:** I would allocate specific time each week to read industry publications, white papers, and research reports on the latest advancements in iGaming and crypto technologies.
- **Online Courses and Webinars:** Participate in online courses and webinars to deepen understanding of emerging technologies and their potential impact on the industry.
- **Technical Conferences & Meetups:** Attend industry conferences and meetups to network with other professionals, learn from experts, and gain insights into the latest trends and developments, such as GDC, ICE London, or blockchain-specific events.
- **Hands-on experimentation:** Allocate time to explore and experiment with new technologies in a sandbox environment, fostering a deeper understanding of their capabilities and limitations.

7.3.2 Leveraging Networks & Resources

- **Industry News and Publications:** Regularly read relevant industry news sources, blogs, and newsletters to stay abreast of emerging trends, regulatory changes, and technological breakthroughs.
- **Social Media and Online Communities:** Follow thought leaders, influencers, and companies on social media platforms and participate in online communities and forums to engage in discussions and share insights.
- **Advisory Boards and Consultants:** Utilize the expertise of advisory boards and consultants to gain access to specialized knowledge and insights on emerging technologies.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Foster partnerships and collaborations with other companies and research institutions to stay at the forefront of technological innovation.

7.3.3 Internal Practices

- **Encourage a Culture of Learning:** Foster a culture of continuous learning and development within the technical team, encouraging them to share knowledge and explore new technologies.
- **Knowledge Sharing Sessions:** Organize regular brown bag knowledge-sharing sessions or tech talks where team members present their findings on new technologies or industry trends.
- **Hackathons and Innovation Challenges:** Encourage experimentation and innovation through hackathons and challenges, allowing team members to explore new ideas and technologies in a creative and collaborative setting.

7.3.4 Focused Areas

- **Blockchain & Cryptocurrency:** Stay abreast of developments in blockchain technology, smart contracts, decentralized finance (DeFi), and the evolving regulatory landscape surrounding cryptocurrencies.
- **Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning:** Understand the applications of AI & ML in fraud detection, personalization, and game development.
- **Cloud Computing & Edge Computing:** Keep up with cloud computing trends and the potential of edge computing for enhancing gaming experiences and data processing.
- **Virtual Reality (VR) & Augmented Reality (AR):** Explore the advancements in VR and AR and their potential impact on immersive gaming and interactive experiences.
- **Cybersecurity:** Continuously monitor cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities and stay informed about the latest security practices and technologies to safeguard user data and maintain the integrity of the platform.

7.4 Questions to be answered before choosing a new technology to solve the business problem

This template is few years old, but very effective. I have used this for a couple of tech stack evaluation and transition projects.

When rewriting a product with a new technology or switching over to new technology, several crucial questions need to be answered by the business to ensure the right choice is made. These questions can be grouped into the following categories:

7.4.1 Strategic Alignment

7.4.1.1 Business Goals

- What are the primary business objectives driving the decision to rewrite the product? (e.g., improve performance, scalability, security, user experience, or reduce costs)
- How will the new technology help achieve these business goals?
- Are there alternative approaches to achieve the same goals without a complete rewrite?

7.4.1.2 Market and Competitive Landscape

- How will the new technology impact the product's competitiveness and market positioning?
- Will it enable the company to enter new markets or target new customer segments?
- Are competitors adopting similar technologies?

7.4.2 Technical Feasibility and Impact

7.4.2.1 Technology Fit

- Is the new technology a good fit for the product's requirements and use cases?
- Does it address the existing pain points and limitations of the current technology stack?
- What are the potential risks and challenges associated with adopting the new technology?

7.4.2.2 Team Skills and Expertise

- Does the team have the necessary skills and expertise to work with the new technology effectively?
- If not, what training or hiring will be required?
- How will the new technology impact the team's productivity and morale?

7.4.2.3 Impact on Existing Systems

- How will the rewrite affect the integration with other systems and third-party services?
- Will there be any data migration or compatibility issues?
- What is the potential impact on existing customers and their data?

7.4.3 Financial and Resource Considerations

7.4.3.1 Cost-Benefit Analysis

- What are the estimated costs of the rewrite, including development, testing, deployment, and potential downtime?
- What are the expected benefits and return on investment (ROI)?
- How long will it take to recoup the investment?

7.4.3.2 Resource Allocation

- Do we have the necessary resources (budget, personnel, time) to complete the rewrite successfully?
- How will the rewrite impact other ongoing projects and priorities?
- What is the opportunity cost of investing in the rewrite versus other potential initiatives?

7.4.4 Risk Management and Mitigation

7.4.4.1 Risk Assessment

- What are the potential risks associated with the rewrite, such as technical challenges, delays, or unforeseen issues?
- How will these risks be mitigated or managed?
- What is the contingency plan if the rewrite encounters significant obstacles?

7.4.4.2 Transition Strategy

- How will the transition from the old to the new system be managed?
- Will there be a parallel run or a phased rollout?
- How will customer impact be minimized during the transition?

7.4.5 Long-Term Vision

7.4.5.1 Scalability and Maintainability

- Will the new technology support future growth and scalability?
- Is it easy to maintain and update, or will it create additional technical debt?
- Does it align with the company's long-term technology vision?

7.4.5.2 Innovation and Adaptability

- Does the new technology enable innovation and allow the company to adapt to future market trends and technological advancements?
- Will it provide a competitive advantage in the long run?

By carefully considering these questions and conducting a thorough analysis, the business can make an informed decision about whether to rewrite the product with a new technology and choose the most suitable option for achieving its strategic goals.

8 Strategies for the business going forward

The key elements to focus to accomplish the business goals are Clear and Specific Goals, Strategic Planning, Effective Execution, Performance Measurement and Tracking, Adaptability and Agility, Strong Leadership and Communication, Customer Focus, Financial Management, Technology and Innovation, Risk Management.

Focusing on these key elements and ensuring they are aligned with the overall business vision, can significantly increase the chances of achieving the goals and driving long-term success, in less time. Business goal accomplishment is an ongoing process and it requires continuous effort, adaptation, and a commitment to excellence.

The choice of technology depends on the organization's existing resources and the goals they aim to achieve.

8.1 Business Goals:

8.1.1. Maintain and Expand User Base

Retain the existing 5,000+ players and grow the player base to over 100,000+ concurrent players.

8.1.2. Deliver High-Quality Games

Launch responsive, high-quality poker and casino games with unique themes that offer players an exceptional and memorable gaming experience.

8.1.3. Optimize Game Release Cycle

Reduce lead times in the game release cycle by leveraging modern technologies, embracing open source, and adopting lean development practices to enhance quality, revenue, and profit margins.

8.1.4. Address Skill Shortages

Mitigate the issue of scarce skills in the current tech stack by adopting a popular, market-leading tech stack. This will enable the organisation to hire skilled talent at competitive labour costs in less time.

8.1.5. Simplify Technology Stack

Minimize the number of technologies used in our game development platform to reduce the learning curve and improve maintainability, saving time and resources.

8.1.6. Adopt a Robust Technology Framework

Implement a strong, versatile technology framework that supports both front-end and back-end development. The framework should meet high standards for security, scalability, portability, disaster recovery, business continuity, and innovation, while delivering engaging and profitable gaming experiences.

8.1.7. Support Creativity

Ensure the game technology provides comprehensive support for the product team, allowing them to bring their creative ideas to life without limitations.

8.1.8. Enhance IT and DevOps Efficiency

Equip IT and DevOps teams with robust technology that enables seamless automation, high SLAs, prompt monitoring, and support, ensuring games go live smoothly and can handle high traffic loads with ease.

8.1.9. Foster Innovation and Rapid Prototyping

Enable quick prototyping and validation of proof of concepts (POCs) to respond to market changes, introduce new features, and enhance the platform.

8.1.10. Ensure Configurability and Integration

Develop a highly configurable games that allows for rapid integration and disintegration with different aggregation platforms.

8.1.11. Creating a great work culture

A culture that encourages experimentation and innovation, learning, growth, openness, rapid failure and learning, high agility, and the freedom to say "NO", shared responsibility, respectful disagreement, recognition, share information, celebrate success, view failures as learnings, are essential for fostering a dynamic, happy, challenging, engaging and productive work environment. This will lead to high employee retention, acquisition and cross collaboration.

8.2 Proposed Strategies to achieve the business goals

8.2.1 Strategy 1 # Adopting the current technology stack of C++, Qt and QML

Pros

As mentioned, [in SECTION 3](#) of this document, reviewing the technology,

- The combination of C++, Qt, and QML provides a powerful toolkit for game development, offering performance, cross-platform capabilities, and UI flexibility
- C++ remains essential for core game logic and performance-critical systems
- Qt and QML excel at UI development, particularly for dynamic and cross-platform interfaces
- These technologies have a good community and support, with rich set of tools and libraries, along with a huge user base
- Mature ecosystem and Open source
- Many top gaming companies and companies across the industry are going strong with C++, Qt, QML technology stack

Cons

- Finding the people with the above skills can be difficult and time consuming based on the locations
- The salary for C++ programmers is high compared to other skills
- C++ libraries for Web3 and blockchain are relatively new and may have limitations for fast evolving Web3 and Blockchain technologies
- Huge learning curve for new comers
- Cost of development is high
- Effort to achieve the business goals is moderate

8.2.2 Strategy 2 # React and Node.JS technology stack

Referring to [SECTION 4](#) the combination of React, Node.js, and Web3 technologies presents a compelling opportunity for game developers to create innovative, engaging, and potentially lucrative gaming experiences. Node.js provides robust native support for Web3 and blockchain development through various libraries and frameworks. While challenges remain, the potential benefits for both players and businesses are substantial. The strategy is explained in SECTION 4.

Pros

- Cross-platform compatibility
- Large community and ecosystem
- Rapid development
- Scalability
- Real-time capabilities
- Dynamic content
- Single Language for Front-end and Back-end

Cons

- Performance limitations for graphics-intensive games
- Security challenges
- Steeper learning curve
- limited access to native devices

8.2.3 Strategy 3 # Moving to Rust technology stack

Referring to [section 6](#) ,

Pros

- Rust is a modern language that offers performance comparable to C++
- It is memory safe compared to C++, concurrency, fast growing ecosystem
- Open source
- Emerging native libraries for Web3 and Blockchain.

Cons

- Finding the people with the above skills can be difficult and time consuming based on the locations.
- The salary for Rust programmers is high compared to other skills.
- Rust libraries for Web3 and blockchain are relatively new and may have limitations for fast evolving Web3 and Blockchain technologies.
- Huge learning curve for new commers.
- Rust goes very well with Flutter for front-end development, so huge learning curve for Flutter.

- Cost of development is high.
- Effort to achieve the business goals is high.

8.2.4 Strategy 4 # Hybrid Approach: Progressive Enhancement with WebAssembly (WASM)

WebAssembly is still a relatively new technology, its adoption by major gaming studios and companies indicates its growing potential in the gaming industry. Many renowned gaming companies have adopted WASM, including Microgaming, EA sports, Robolox, EPIC technologies, Zynga, Unity technologies.

Strategy

- Keep core game logic in C++ for performance.
- Compile C++ to WASM for browser execution.
- Use React/Node.js or other modern frameworks for UI, user management, Web3 interactions, and blockchain integration.

Pros

- Leverages existing C++ codebase, minimizing disruption.
- High performance for computationally intensive game logic.
- Enables modern UI/UX development with popular frameworks.
- Facilitates Web3 and blockchain integration with JavaScript ecosystem.

Cons

- Increased complexity with multiple technologies.
- Requires expertise in WASM compilation and integration.
- Potential performance overhead for communication between WASM and JavaScript.
-

8.2.5 Strategy 5 # Framework-Agnostic Web Components

Strategy

- Develop UI components using Web Components standard (custom elements, shadow DOM, etc.)
- These components can be integrated with ANY frontend framework (React, Vue, etc.) or even vanilla JavaScript
- Keep core game logic in C++ (potentially compiled to WASM) or explore other performant languages like Rust

Pros

- Maximum flexibility for future frontend choices
- Reusable components across different projects
- Encapsulation and isolation of component styles and behaviour

Cons

- Web Components ecosystem is still maturing
- Can be more verbose than using framework-specific components

- Requires careful design to ensure accessibility and cross-browser compatibility

8.2.6 Strategy 6 # Explore Emerging Game Engines with Web3 Support

Strategy

- Evaluate game engines like Unity or Unreal Engine which are adding Web3 and blockchain capabilities.
- These engines offer tools for 2D/3D game development, physics, asset management, etc.

Pros

- Streamlined game development workflow
- Visual tools and potential for cross-platform deployment
- Growing support for Web3 features within the engines

Cons

- Can be overkill for simpler games or UI-heavy applications
- May require learning a new engine and its scripting language (C# for Unity, Blueprint/C++ for Unreal)
- Licensing costs can be a factor

8.3 Additional Considerations

8.3.1 User Experience (UX)

- Regardless of tech stack, prioritize UX for both new and existing users
- Web3 interactions should be intuitive and seamless

8.3.2 Scalability

- Choose a tech stack that can handle the anticipated growth to 100,000+ users

8.3.3 Talent Acquisition

- Consider the availability of developers skilled in your chosen technologies

8.3.4 Security

- Web3 and blockchain applications require robust security practices to protect user assets and data.

8.3.5 Community and Ecosystem

- Evaluate the strength of the community and available tools/libraries for your chosen technologies, especially in the Web3/blockchain space.

8.3.6 Recommendation

- The hybrid approach with WASM offers a good balance between leveraging existing code, performance, and flexibility for future growth.
- It allows you to adopt modern frontend practices while retaining the performance benefits of C++.

- However, thoroughly evaluate all options and consider prototyping to make an informed decision.

Remember, the ideal tech stack will depend on the specific games, team expertise, and long-term vision of the company.

8.4 Business strategies visualization w.r.t Cost, Effort and Time

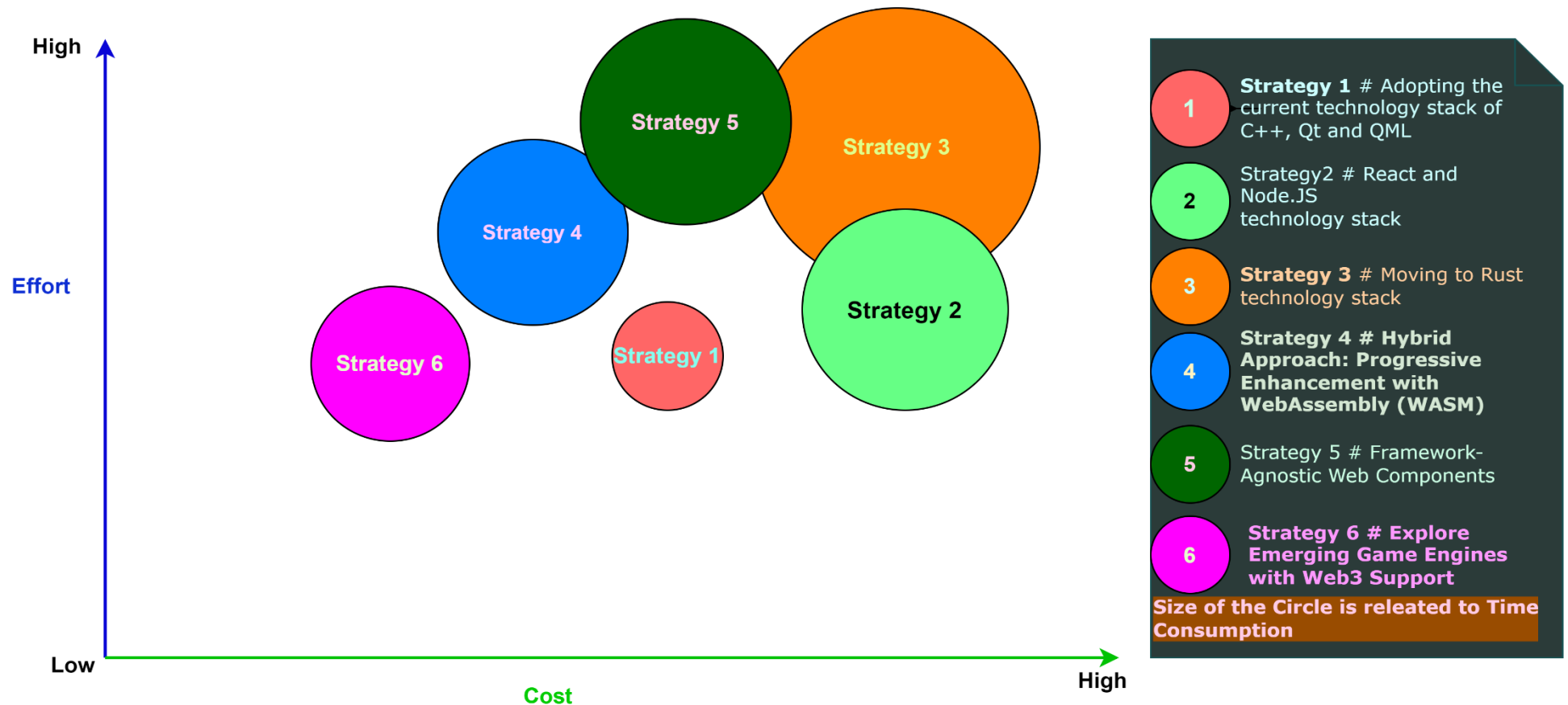


Figure 11 Business strategies visualization w.r.t Cost, Effort and Time

The most favourable and viable strategies, based on the assessment's information, are Strategy 1 and Strategy 2. The choice of the strategy will depend on business priorities and the specific issues that need to be addressed. As more detailed information about the business needs becomes available, it may influence the final choice of strategy.