

How playing video games could get you a better job

The gaming industry is larger than films and music combined, yet few of us are likely to put our Fortnite playing achievements on our CVs. But why not? Businesses are waking up to the skills gamers can bring to the workplace.

5 One start-up is convinced that the skills learned playing games can be applied to real-life work situations.

Do you enjoy unusual puzzle games like Portal, or tower defence games like Defense Grid? The team has found that IT¹ workers play those games more than average.

But if you prefer Civilization, Total War, or X-Com, where strategy and resource management are needed, then you might have more in common with managers.

10 Game Academy's idea is simple: analyse gamers' habits from their online gaming profile and offer courses in valuable skills that reflect their aptitudes - skills they can practise and refine in-game.

And there is already a growing acceptance that gaming skills are transferable.

Even the military is hiring gamers.

15 "The ability to assimilate information, react rapidly and co-ordinate actions while remaining calm under pressure are often qualities of people that are good at gaming," a Royal Air Force² spokesperson tells the BBC.

Those skills are part of what the RAF is looking for "in a variety of roles".

"Skills acquired through gaming can be very useful for certain domains."

20 "There are plenty of soft skills that gamers can utilise in a professional setting, such as teamwork, problem solving and strategic planning," says Ryan Gardner, a regional director with Hays recruitment.

But does that really mean your top 100 ranking in Overwatch should go down on your CV?

25 "It's about how you either make it relevant³ to the job you are applying for, or how it makes you more interesting as a potential employee," Mr Gardner says.

Two years ago, a Glasgow University study published a survey to suggest gaming could make students more successful.

By David Molloy, adapted from *BBC.com*, August 30th, 2019

¹ IT: information technology (computer science)

² Royal Air Force: *aviation britannique*

³ relevant: *pertinent*