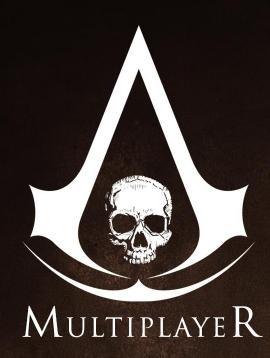
CRAFTING GOOD MONETIZATION ON THE TRADITIONAL CONSOLE





Who am I?





10 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY

GAME DESIGNER

_

PROJECT MANAGER

GAME DIRECTOR



ALL ASSASSIN'S CREED MULTIPLAYER GAMES





I'M GOING TO EXPLAIN TO YOU...



How we have introduced monetization



INTO 60\$ PVP GAMES

"You can hardly call Erudito Credits pay to win"
"So I can literally just spend a few bucks to unlock the good stuff? Sounds fine to me."

WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR FANS

WHY THIS TALK?



WHY MONETIZATION MATTERS?

ON ONE HAND...

Companion App

Online

Social features

Multiplatform

Production cost





DLC

Multi Studio production

Post-launch







ON THE OTHER HAND...



GAME PRICE = ENTRY BARRIER



F2P QUALITY RISING

WITHOUT FORGETTING THAT...





GAMERS ARE SPENDING MORE TIME ON FEWER GAMES



SO HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP PROFITABLE BLOCKBUSTER GAMES?

WITH DLCs?

■ DLC? = extra content = extra cost

Monetization?



No extra content needed (uses game content)



But must not negatively impact players' experience

THE QUESTION WE ASKED OURSELVES

How can we monetize a game already sold 60\$?



And enhance the player's experience at the same time!

THE TALK OBJECTIVES

Give you a recipe

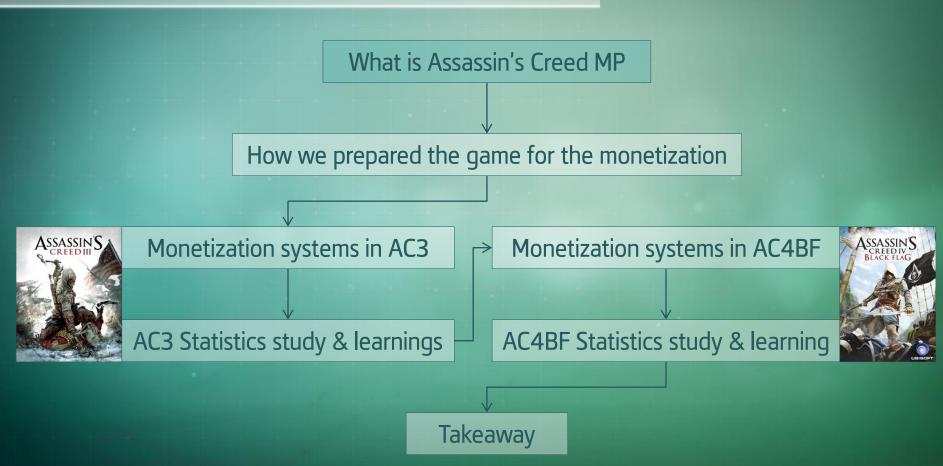
THE TALK OBJECTIVES

Share

Personal experience

Learnings

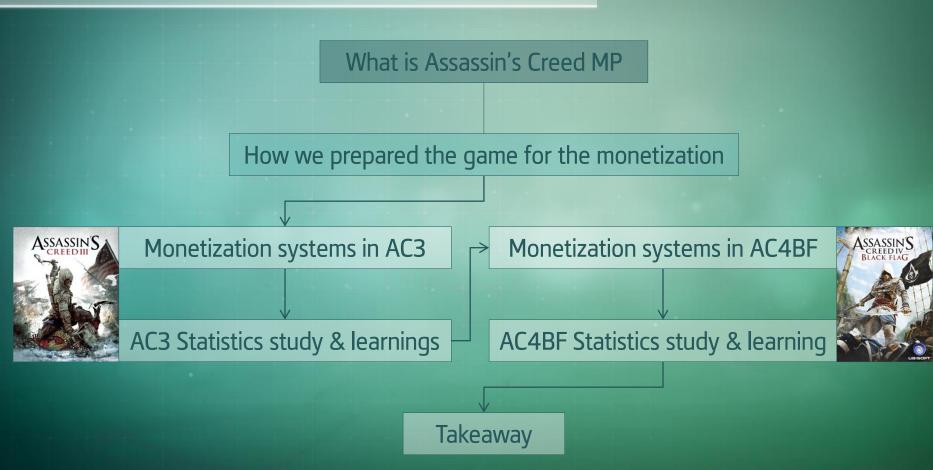
AGENDA



What is Assassin's Creed Multiplayer?



AGENDA



How did we introduce monetization?

Monetization started in Assassin's Creed III

But our 1st step was Assassin's Creed Revelations



MULTIPLAYER - AC REVELATIONS



PLAYER MOTIVATION: LEVELING & REWARD 2.0

❖ MONETIZATION

- → From an unlock system (ACB) to a currency system (ACR)
- → All in-game content is selled through a shop

❖ FIRST STEP IN AC MULTIPLAYER

- → First steps that can lead to a real currency in-game (AC₃?)
- → Way to learn items popularity and player buying behaviors



1ST STEP: ASSASSIN'S CREED REVELATIONS

Introduction of Abstergo Credits









Learn player behaviors and build the foundations of AC3

AGENDA

What is Assassin's Creed MP

How we prepared the game for the monetization



Monetization systems in AC3

AC3 Statistics study & learnings

Monetization systems in AC4BF

AC4BF Statistics study & learning

Takeaway

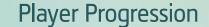


ACIII CONTENT & MONETIZATION



AC3 CONTENT DESCRIPTION

AC3 CONTENT





Abilities, Perks, Streaks

→ "Weapons"

GAMEPLAY ITEMS PHILOSOPHY

Horizontal progression (not a vertical one)













Unlock new different tools, not better ones



Players have to learn how to play well with them



Some are more adapted to specific modes than others

AC3 CONTENT

Player Persistency

Appearance items: Characters



Gameplay items



APPEARANCE ITEMS: EXAMPLE OF CHARACTERS



Unique character selection



CHARACTERS ARE EXCLUSIVE (ONE PER PLAYER PER SESSION)

AC3 CONTENT

Player Persistency

Appearance items: Characters



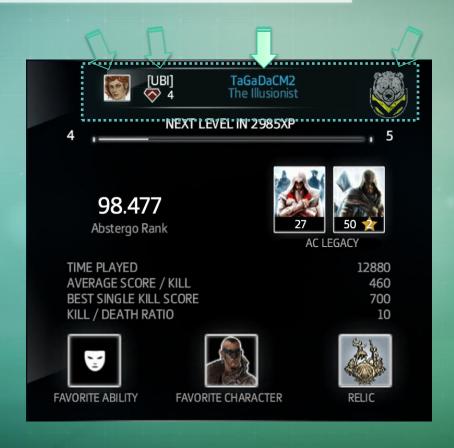
Gameplay items



Appearance items: Profile



APPEARANCE ITEMS: PROFILE





Get more ERUDITO CREDITS

ERUDITO CREDITS can be purchased by selecting GET ERUDITO CREDITS in the ABSTERGO STORE. These ERUDITO CREDITS will allow you to unlock and buy any ITEM below level 50, disregarding their UNLOCK CONDITIONS.

♠ Buy a pack of 20♥ - 80 €

Buy a pack of 50 ♥ - 120 € (20 ♥ for free)

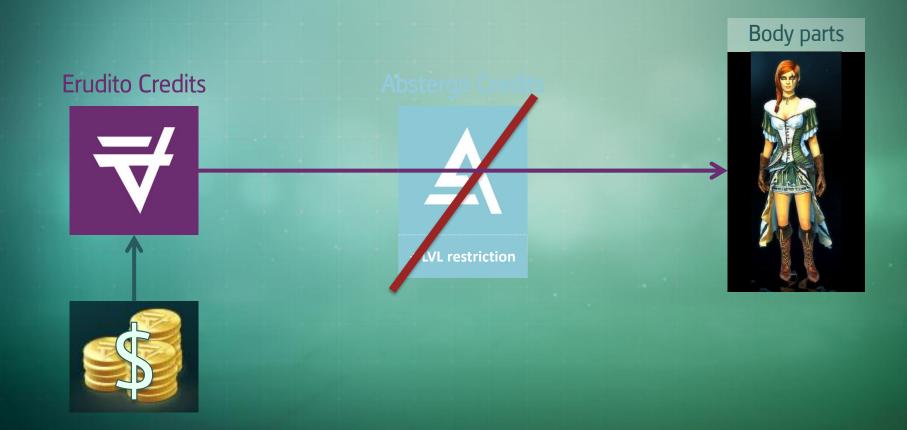
Buy a pack of 155 ♥ - 300 € (80 ♥ for free)

Buy a pack of 380 ♥ - 600 € (230 ♥ for free)

Buy a pack of 925♥ - 1200 **(**625♥ for free)

AC3 Monetization systems

ITEMS UNLOCK



ERUDITO CREDITS WITHIN STORYLINE CONTEXT











HACKS





PROVIDES

ERUDITO CREDITS WITHIN STORYLINE CONTEXT



Kotaku: "It's at least refreshing to see a game have some fun with microtransactions."



PROVIDES



HACKS









Perks

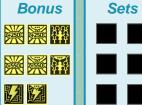
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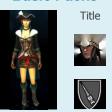
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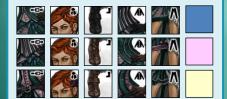




























Emblems



Prestige items





Achievements





Perks

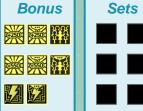
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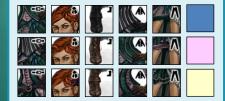
























Patron Pictures



Emblems





Titles

- Progression Challenges
- Story
- Exclusive

Achievement and Prestige items









Erudito Credits





Perks

©₀ *****





③









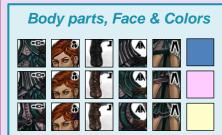






























Emblems Relics



Progression Challenges

Titles

□ Story□ Exclusive

Achievement and Prestige items



























Relics



Titles

- Progression
- Challenges
- Story
- Exclusive

Achievement and Prestige items

AC3 VS ACR PROGRESSION CURVE

Hard currency = longer progression time?

AC3 VS ACR PROGRESSION CURVE



MONETIZATION DESCRIPTION

EARN ABSTERGO CREDITS



+ Level unlock

Time investment

BUY ERUDITO CREDITS



Level unlock

Impulse Purchase

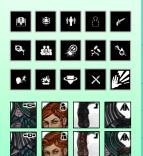
ERUDITO CREDITS PACKS

₹ ERUDITO CREDITS	Price (\$)
Pack of 20	0.99
Pack of 50	1.99
Pack of 155	4.99
Pack of 380	9.99
Pack of 925	19.99

- EC cost decreases from the smallest to the biggest offer
- Lower price packs for spare MS points/dollars in the wallet
- Higher price pack for top buyers aka "whales" (but not too high)

TEMS PRICING ₹

Prices designed to have spares after items purchases (MS points model)



GAMEPLAY AND APPEARANCE ITEMS

Tiers	Level	Price (AC)	Time to unlock	Price (EC)	Price (\$)
#1	1-10	600 (max)	40min	15	~0.75
#2	11-20	850 (max)	1h	45	~1.80
#3	21-30	1200 (max)	1h20	110	~4.50



ITEMS DESIGNED FOR MONETIZATION (Champion Packs & Costumes)

Item type	Price (AC)	Time to unlock	Price (EC)	Price (\$)
Costume	2500 (max)	2h50	90	~3.50
Champion Pack	20 000(max)	22h	150	~5

CHAMPION PACK SPECIFIC MECHANIC

Only 4 champions packs available per week (to get players' attention)









CHAMPION PACK SPECIFIC MECHANIC

Only 4 champions packs available per week (to get players' attention)









MONETIZATION DESCRIPTION

EARN ABSTERGO CREDITS



+ Level unlock

Time investment

BUY ERUDITO CREDITS



Level unlock

Impulse Purchase



Smart Money

BIG PACKS ****





- Sold like a DLC on Xbox 360
- Sold like an in-game item on PS3
- Price: 15\$



SPECIAL EVENTS

- Happy hour weekends (sales on EC packs: price or amount)
- In-game events XP week-end to attract players



TO RECAP: THE RULES WE ESTABLISHED

- Players are not forced to pay
 - No item exclusive to monetization (all items available in soft currency)
 - No extra grinding (easier progression curve than ACR)
- Prestige and achievement items not available through monetization
- Gameplay items designed with a horizontal progression in mind
- Monetization built within the game lore (Erudito Credits)
- Reasonable price ranges

AGENDA

What is Assassin's Creed MP

How we prepared the game for the monetization



Monetization systems in AC3

AC3 Statistics study & learnings

Monetization systems in AC4BF

AC4BF Statistics study & learning

Takeaway



AC3 STATISTICS & LEARNING

AC3 - EC CONSUMPTION





EC are mostly bought at the beginning of the game

AC3 - BIG PACKS CONSUMPTION





Big packs are mostly bought at the beginning of the game

AC3 - ITEMS CONSUMPTION



TOP ITEMS SOLD IN EC

Champion packs



Gameplay items

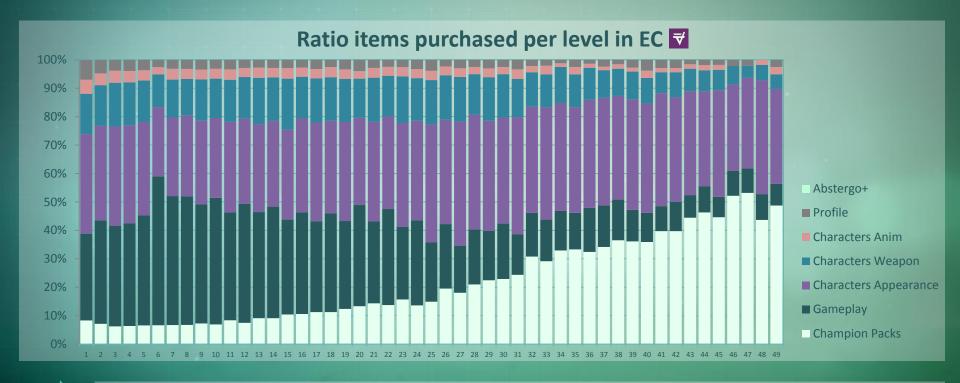


Characters Weapon



Costume events

AC3 - ITEMS PURCHASES PER LEVEL

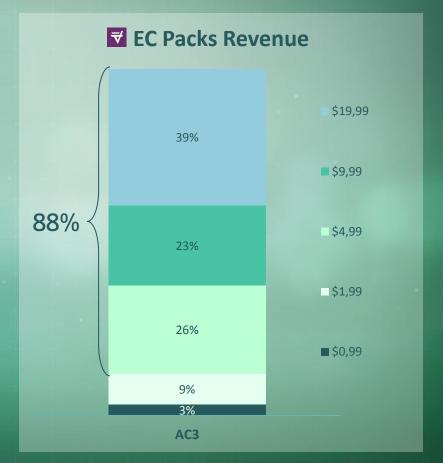




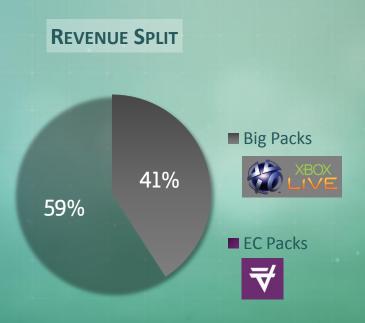
Players focus on gameplay items first then appearance ones

AC3 - MONETIZATION REVENUE - EC PACKS





AC3 - MONETIZATION REVENUE - BIG PACKS



AC3 MONETIZATION LEARNINGS & NEXT STEPS

No backlash from the fans: kept the community happy about it

Most of the purchases at the beginning of the game

What sells: Champion packs & gameplay items

Most of the revenue from the biggest EC packs

AGENDA

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AC3 Statistics study & learnings

Monetization systems in AC4BF

AC4BF Statistics study & learning

Takeaway

ASSASSIN'S CREED IV BLACK FLAG

AC4BF IMPROVEMENTS & MONETIZATION

AC4 MONETIZATION UPDATE

- Leverage on the same monetization rules
- Improve the sale of content
 - Better visibility
 - > More content
 - > Smarter distribution to increase variety purchases
- Increase the ARPPU
- Introduce new monetization systems



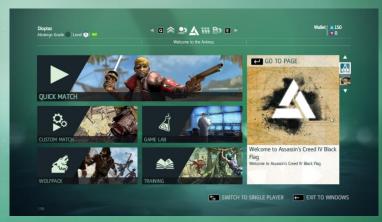
AC4BF VISIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

AC4 MONETIZATION: PRESENTATION UPDATE

Home page: new communication area to push content







3650 **▲** 20 ▼

HOME >

QUICK MATCH
CUSTOM MATCH

WOLFPACK

THE ABSTERGO STORY

TRAINING

EVENTS

UPLAY





Welcome to the Animus.













COMMUNITY REWARD

The performance of the Community in the last Event was impressive and you have been rewarded.

AC4 MONETIZATION: PRESENTATION UPDATE

EC purchase window updated (new visual representation and improved text)







Get more ERUDITO CREDITS

ERUDITO CREDITS can be purchased by selecting GET ERUDITO CREDITS in the ABSTERGO STORE. These ERUDITO CREDITS will allow you to unlock and buy any ITEM below level 50, disregarding their UNLOCK CONDITIONS.



A Buy a pack of 20♥ - 80 €

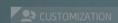
Buy a pack of 50 ♥ - 120 € (20 ♥ for free)

Buy a pack of 155 ♥ - 300 € (80 ♥ for free)

Buy a pack of 380 ₹ - 600 € (230 ₹ for free)

Buy a pack of 925♥ - 1200 € (625♥ for free)

Welcome to the Animus



ABSTERGO STORE

CHAMPION PACKS

SPECIAL OFFERS

GET ERUDITO CREDITS

GET ERUDITO CREDITS +50%

GET ERUDITO CREDITS +100%

ABSTERGO =

GET ERUDITO CREDITS

If you don't want to wait to reach a specific level or collect a certain amount of Abstergo Credits, you can get ▼Erudito Credits. ▼Erudito Credits allow you to access most unlockable items of Assassin's Creed IV Black Flag Multiplayer.



Choose your pack



AC4 MONETIZATION: PRESENTATION UPDATE

Champion packs window improved (costume & items preview)







▼ 1 | Ladyblack74 NAT

150 A

07

CUSTOMIZATION > ABSTERGO STORE > CHAMPION PACKS >





WILD BEAR

This pack is made for those who like to surprise their OPPONENTS. It contains: POISON DART, CLOSURE, DISGUISE, HOT PURSUIT, KILL BUFFER, SILENT MASS MORPH, VISION, an exclusive costume, the Excellent War Club, an exclusive PATRON PICTURE, and 'The Wild Bear' TITLE and EMBLEM.

YOU ALREADY OWN ANY ITEM WITH THIS INDICATOR

150 😽

















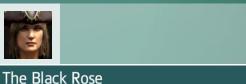


5/20









The Black Rose It's as sensual as it is lethal.

	BUY IN EC	639	₹
4	BUY	30000	A





AC4BF CONTENT UPDATE

AC4 CONTENT UPDATE























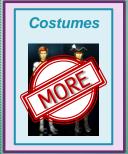


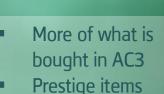


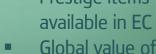












Global value of monetization doubled









Exclusive

Achievement and Prestige items



AC4 CONTENT UPDATE









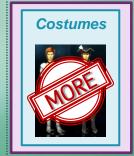










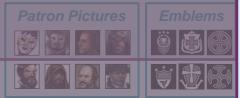


Prestige items available in EC

More of what is

bought in AC3

Global value of monetization doubled



Relics



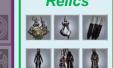
Titles

Story

Exclusive

Achievement and Prestige items





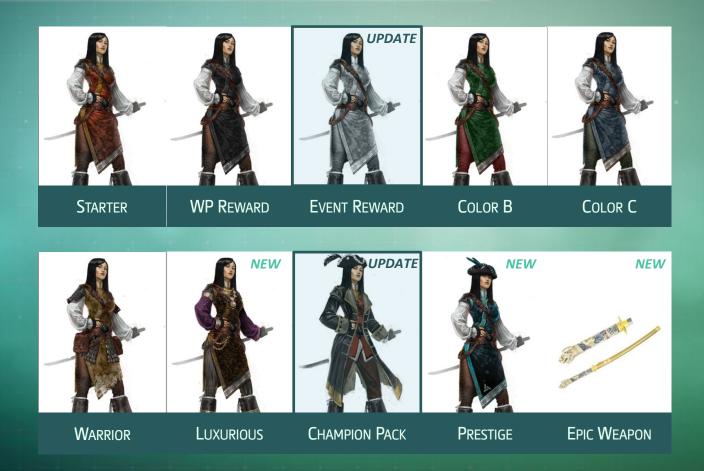


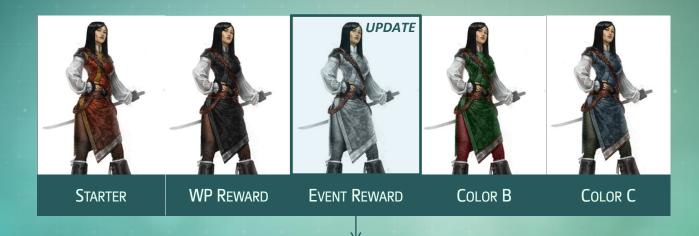
AC4 - New Character Customization

Costumes don't override body parts customization anymore

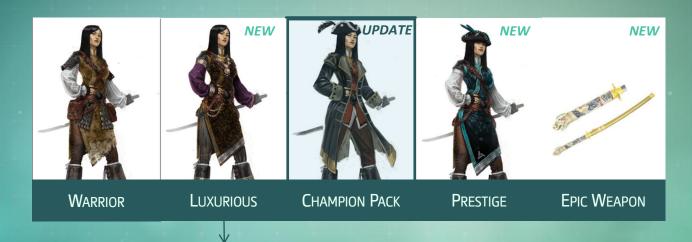




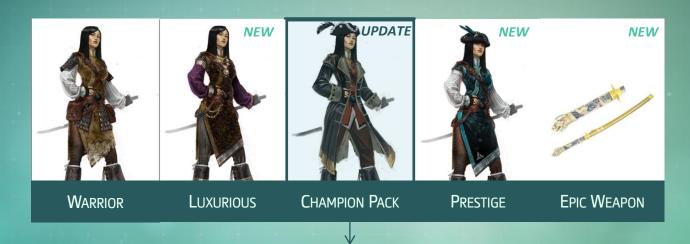




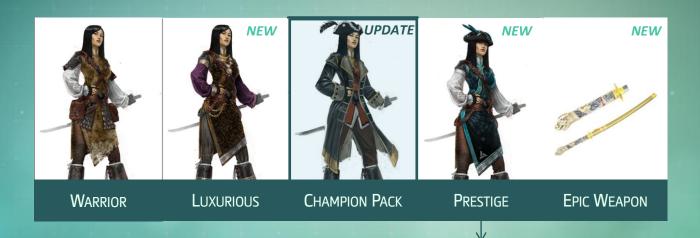
- Unlocked during community events (4 by 4)
- Reward for the event's challenge
- If not earned, sold after the event
 - ➢ 6990 AC △
 - ▶ 199 EC



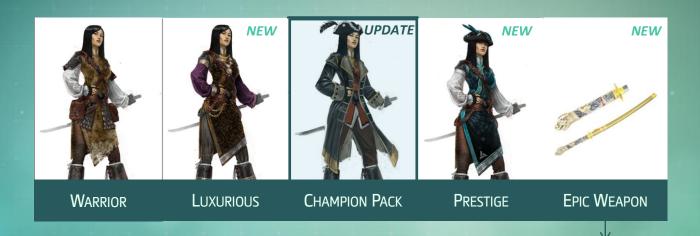
- High priced costume to brag
 - > 50 000 AC 🛕
 - > 859 EC ₹



- All Champion packs available right away
- Price doubled compared to AC3
- But 4 packs are half-price every week
 - > 20 000 AC 🔺
 - > 319 EC ₹



- New Prestige costume
 - > 9900 AC 🔼
 - > 399 EC ₹



- New Prestige weapon
 - > 8900 AC 🔼
 - > 319 EC ₹



AC4BF ARPPU INCREASE

AC4 MONETIZATION: ERUDITO PACKS UPDATE

AC3			
₹ ERUDITO CREDITS	Price (\$)	% Free	
Pack of 20	0.99	0%	
Pack of 50	1.99	25%	
Pack of 155	4.99	55%	
Pack of 380	9.99	90%	
Pack of 925	19.99	131%	



AC4			
₹ ERUDITO CREDITS	Price (\$)	% Free	
Pack of 250	4.99	0%	
Pack of 700	9.99	40%	
Pack of 2000	24.99	60%	
Pack of 4500	49.99	80%	
Pack of 10000	99.99	100%	

- Raised anchor point and pricing + bigger gaps (leverage our whales)
- More controlled free offer (less exponential)

AC4 MONETIZATION: ITEMS PRICING UPDATE

Bigger EC numbers





PRICES EVOLUTION FROM AC3 TO AC4

Item type	AC3	AC4	Changes
Gameplay & Appearance items	15 to 110 EC (from ~0.75\$ to ~4.5\$)	39 to 319 EC (from ~0.80\$ to ~5\$)	No changes
Items designed for Monetization (Champion Packs & Costumes)	150 to 200 EC (from ~5\$ to ~7\$)	119 to 849 EC (from ~2.5\$ to ~12\$)	Bigger range Higher priced items

Big packs: Price evolved from 15\$ to 25\$ (more items)





AC4BF New Monetization system

AC4 - ABSTERGO+ STATUS



Subscription-based consumable







Follow me



XP boost

You will benefit from an extra 25% XP for each of your Game sessions



Abstergo # XP aura

Accompanying players will receive an extra 10% XP for that session



Discount on Crafting

You will save 50% of your AC every time you craft an Ability



Abstergo # icon

This icon will be displayed next to your Player name



Improve your experience now!

Abstergo delivers an enhanced version of the Assassin's Creed IV Black Flag Multiplayer experience. This prestigious service will provide you different advantages and will distinguish yourself among the Abstergo community.

Improve your experience now by choosing one of the available offers.

	BUY IN EC	239	₹
H	BUY	5990	A



AC4 - ABSTERGO+ STATUS

- Gives in-game advantages and comfort
 - ➤ Abstergo+ status: title + icon
 - > 25% XP Boost
 - > 10% Aura XP Boost
 - Crafting price -50%



ABSTERGO# DAYS	Time to unlock in AC 🔼	EC ₹	PRICE (\$)
3	4h45	199	~5
7 (1 week)	5h45	239	~5
30 (1 month)	13h15	599	~10
90 (3 months)	24h45	1199	~25
180 (half year)	35h15	1799	~25
365 (1 year)	42h45	2399	~50



AC4BF Post-Launch Strategy

AC4 – New Post-Launch Strategy

New Costumes released post-launch





Midnight Costumes

AC4 – EXTRA COSTUMES





3 batch of 7 costumes + Tied to gameplay Events + Usual communication





AC4 – MIDNIGHT COSTUMES







Midnight Costumes

21 costumes in a row + Calendar Twist (no event) + Strong communication

AC4 – CHARGED DLC





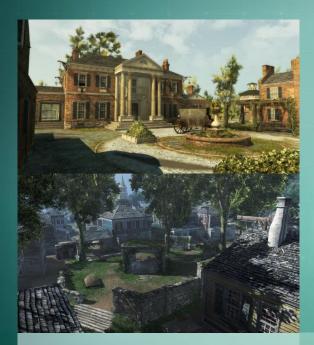
2 DLC of 3 characters

Very low price (2,99\$)

+

Extra Monetization

AC4 – Free DLC



3 Extra Maps



Night versions



New Deathmatch areas

All Unlocked through Events

AC4 – OTHER POST-LAUNCH UPDATES









Content sales

AGENDA

What is Assassin's Creed MP

How we prepared the game for the monetization



Monetization systems in AC3

AC3 Statistics study & learnings

Monetization systems in AC4BF

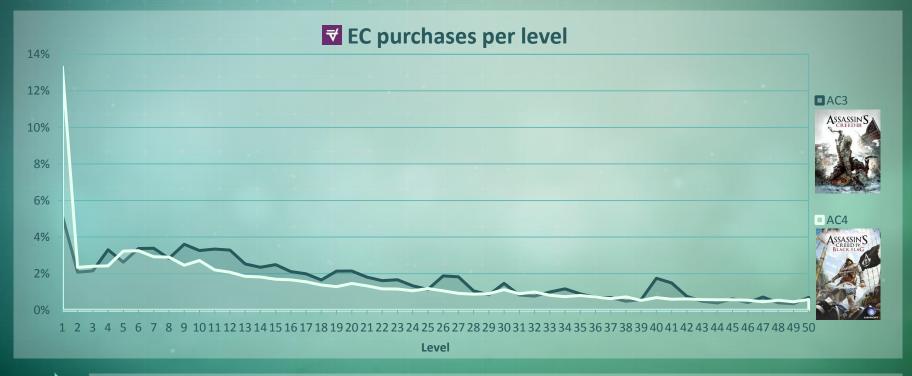
AC4BF Statistics study & learning

Takeaway



THE ACIVBF STATISTICS

AC3 VS AC4 - EC CONSUMPTION





EC are even more purchased at the game's beginning compared to AC3

AC3 VS AC4 - BIG PACKS CONSUMPTION

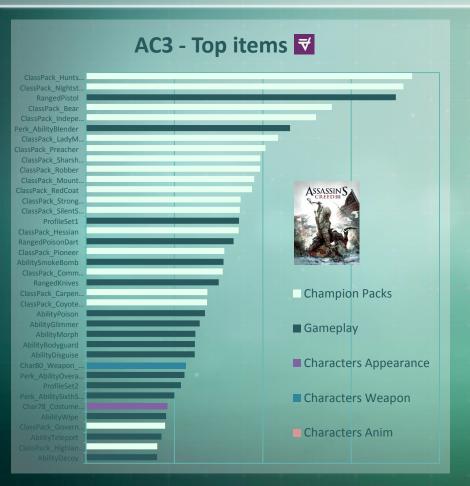


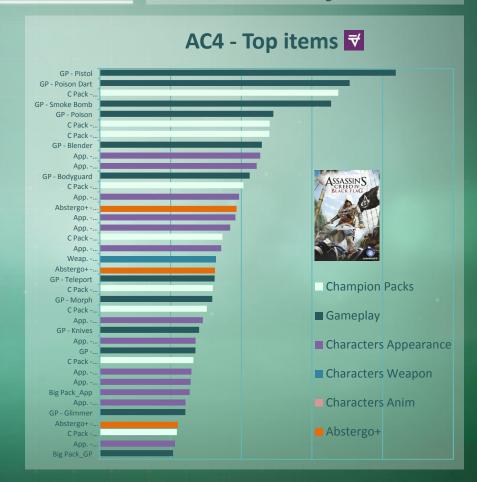


Big Packs are even more purchased at the game's beginning compared to AC3

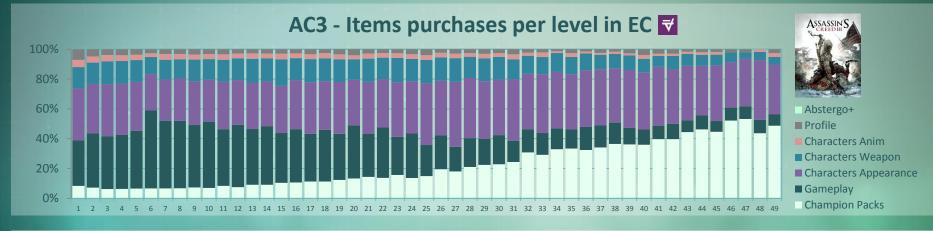
AC3 VS AC4 - ITEMS CONSUMPTION IN EC

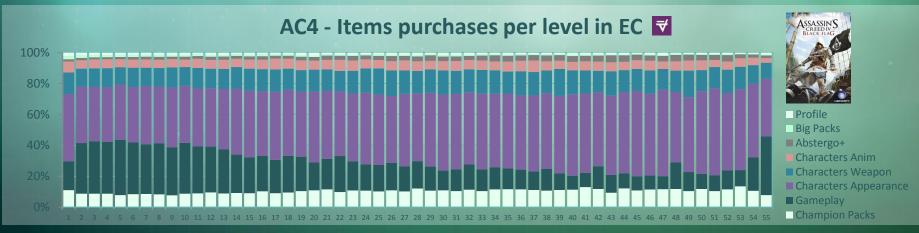
More variety in AC4!



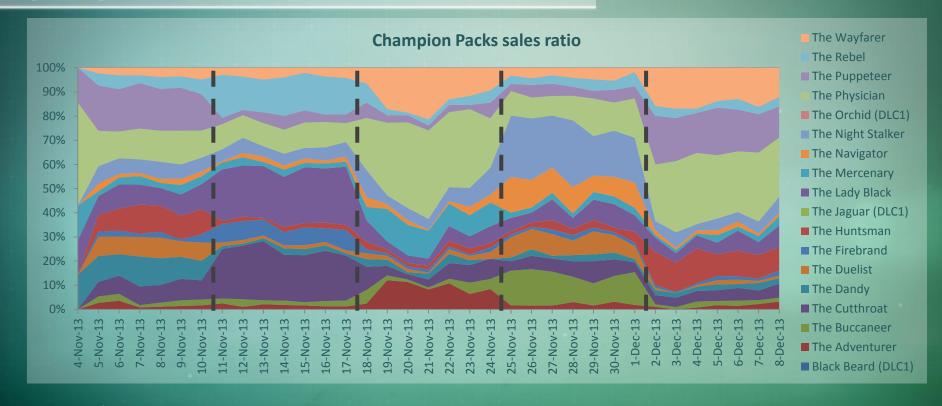


AC3 VS AC4 - ITEMS PURCHASES PER LEVEL





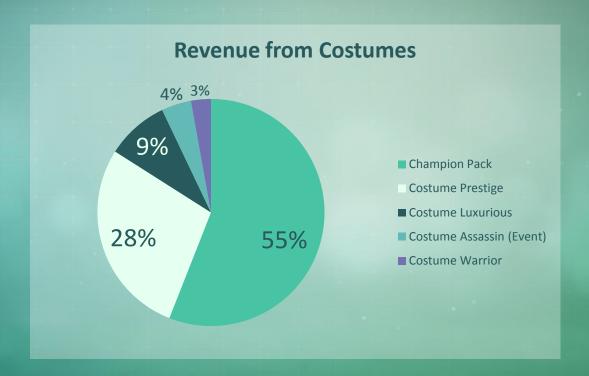
AC4 - CHAMPION PACKS NEW TURNOVER





Turnover works well and full price packs sell as well

AC4 – LUXURIOUS COSTUMES UNDERPERFORMED

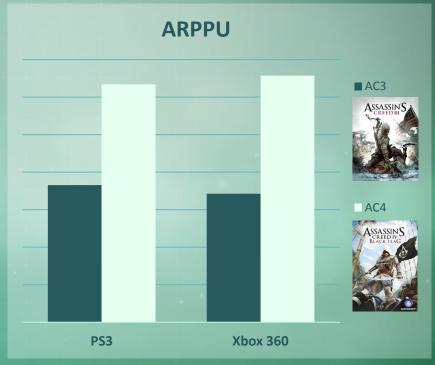




Prestige costumes performed better than Luxurious ones

AC3 VS AC4 - Conversion rate & ARPPU

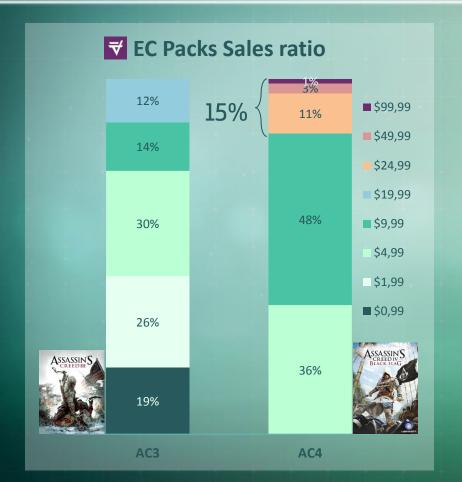


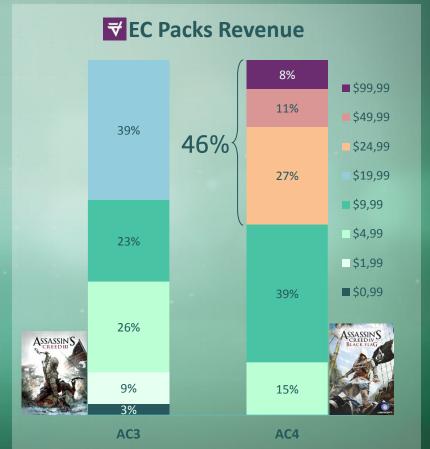




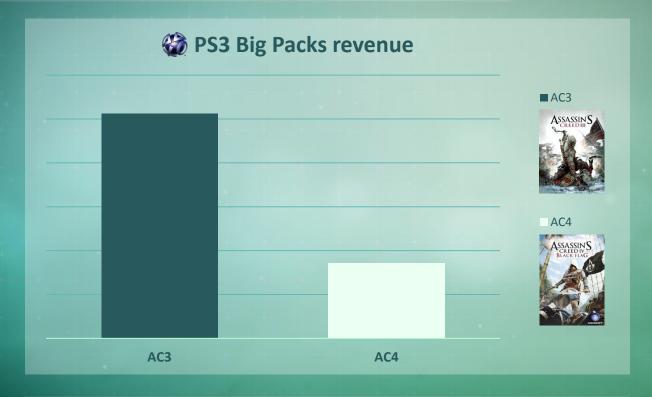
Conversion rate lower while ARPPU almost doubled

AC3 VS AC4 - EC PACKS SALES & REVENUE

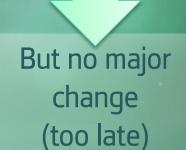




AC3 VS AC4 - BIG PACKS REVENUE



We lowered the Big Pack prices to 15\$

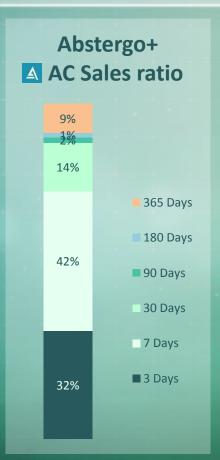


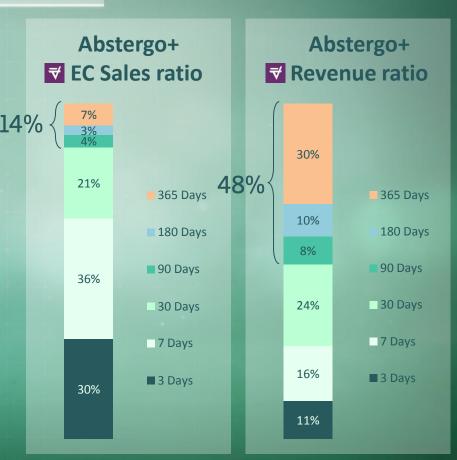


• AC4 Big Pack = $\frac{1}{3}$ revenue of AC3 Big Packs

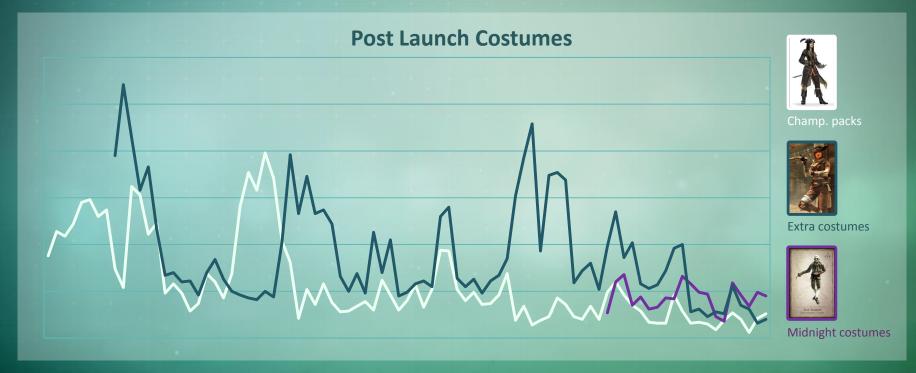
AC4 - ABSTERGO+ SALES & REVENUE







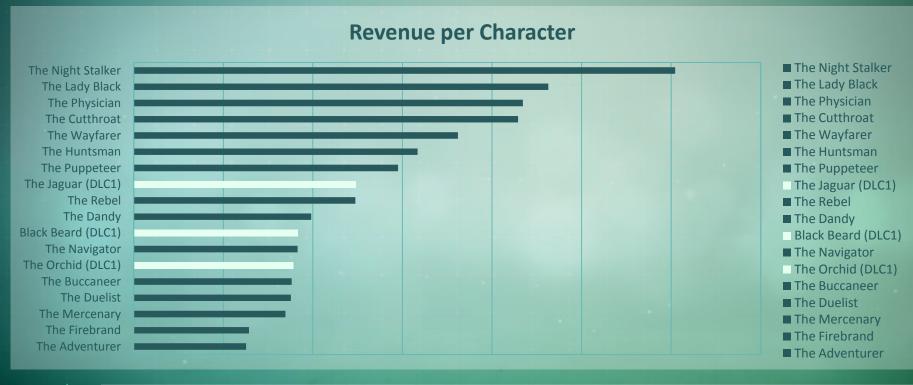
AC4 – Post Launch costumes





Event related costumes performed better than the ones with a strong communication

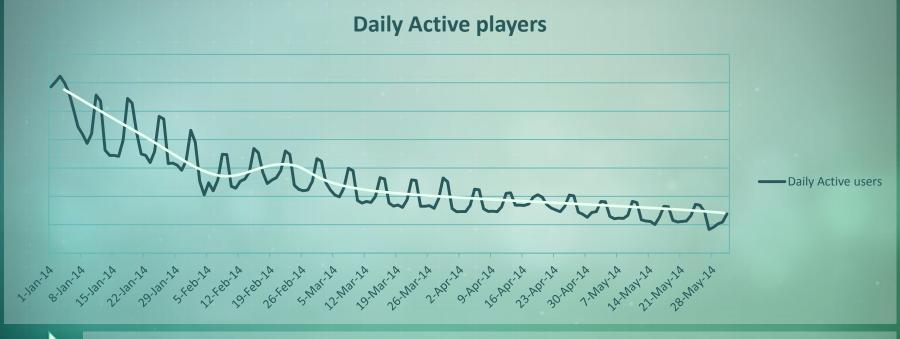
AC4 – DLC Monetization successful





Monetization on DLC characters worked well

AC4 – New Post-Launch Strategy Results



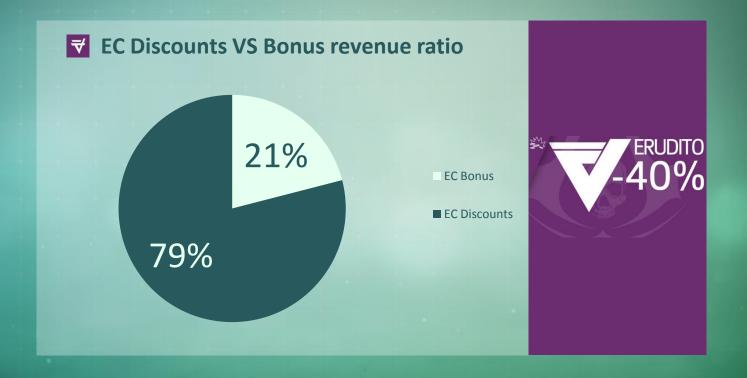


January churn stopped and peak of returning players in February



Feb to May represented 1/3 of total revenue since launch

AC4 – EC PACKS: DISCOUNT VS BONUS



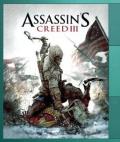


EC packs Discounts generated more revenue than EC packs Bonus events

AGENDA

What is Assassin's Creed MP

How we prepared the game for the monetization



Monetization systems in AC3

AC3 Statistics study & learnings

Monetization systems in AC4BF

AC4BF Statistics study & learning

Takeaway



Conclusion

TAKEAWAY

- Build your monetization within your game lore and DNA/design
- Don't force to pay
 - No item exclusive to monetization (all items available in soft currency)
 - No extra grinding
- Keep items outside the monetization (pride, rewards, events, etc.)
- Have sustainable content and release a part of it for free
- Support monetization with in-game events

TAKEAWAY

- Avoid too aggressive pricing (price must be aligned with the content)
- Find the best discount method for your game by testing them
- Things we haven't explored but worth a look:
 - Gifting between players
 - User generated items
 - > Real consumables
 - > Think about a gameplay item to help the newcomers

