

Blizzard Entertainment Grapples With Harassment, Discrimination Claims

Video Game Maker Stays Atop OC Software Firm Rankings

By KEVIN COSTELLOE

Video game maker **Blizzard Entertainment Inc.**, still the largest software company in Orange County by far, has been getting plenty of attention of late, not much of it positive.

J. Allen Brack recently left the Irvine-based company, which he had led as president, following a lawsuit filed by California officials charging its corporate parent with sexual harassment and discrimination.

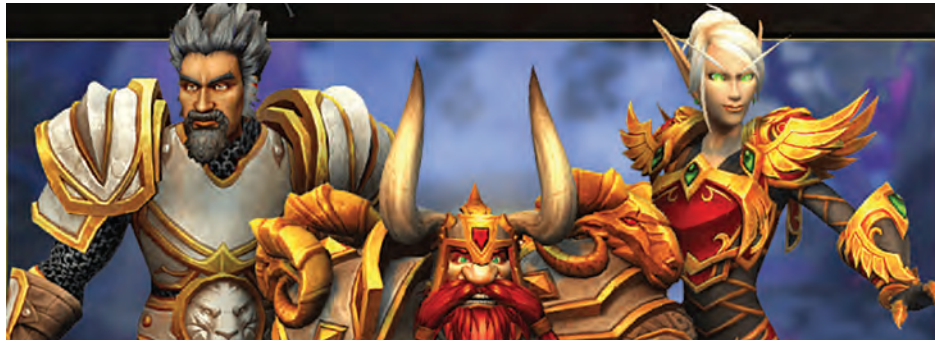
Many of the allegations focused on the Irvine unit, where workers staged a walkout on July 28.

Parent company **Activision Blizzard Inc.** (Nasdaq: ATVI) of Santa Monica acknowledged on Aug. 3 that it was facing “serious allegations regarding the company’s employment, compensation and workplace practices” and promised “swift action to ensure a safe and welcoming work environment for all employees.”

Company insiders **Jen Oneal** and **Mike Ybarra** stepped in to run the company that is a perennial in the No. 1 slot among OC’s largest software makers. Its employee headcount dipped slightly to 2,750 at midyear from 2,800 last year.

Shares in Activision Blizzard had risen about 2% over the previous 12 months to \$83.37 as of Aug. 17. They had topped \$103 a share in February.

Blizzard Entertainment, developer of such mega-hits as **Diablo** and **World of Warcraft**, outshines other local video game companies by employee count. Others based here include Santa Ana’s **Obsidian Entertainment**,



Blizzard Entertainment, maker of World of Warcraft and other blockbuster video games, tops Business Journal’s list with 2,750 OC employees

ment, and Irvine startups **Frost Giant Studios** and **Dreamhaven**.

Employment Down

The rankings are based on the size of a company’s workforce. The list is calculated from numbers obtained and compiled by the Business Journal.

Overall employment in the OC software sector fell 3.6% to about 8,100 this year from 8,371 last year, most likely due to the lingering effects of COVID-19.

Computer behemoth **IBM Corp.** with an estimated 1,200 in its **Costa Mesa** office, stayed at No. 2 on the list while the local office of Florida-based **Ultimate Software** moved up one place to No. 3 with an estimated 440 employees.

Rounding out the top five were the local unit of **Oracle Corp.** and Irvine-based **Alteryx** at No. 4 and No. 5, respectively.

Medical billing and management software firm **Kareo Inc.** of Irvine added five people to 270, climbing two places to No. 6. Kareo said

Aug. 17 it had acquired **PatientlySpeaking**, a provider of robotic process automation in medical billing.

Alteryx, Acorns

Alteryx Inc. (NYSE: AYY), a maker of data analytics software, is up 5.3% to about 1,600 employees companywide. The company has declined to provide OC figures, but the Business Journal estimates employees to remain at 350.

The Alteryx share price closed at \$71.22 apiece on Aug. 17, less than half the value it reached in October, as some would-be investors sit on the sidelines in a wait-and-see mode.

“I would not characterize what we’re experiencing as a problem,” Alteryx Chief Financial Officer **Kevin Rubin** told the Business Journal on Aug. 5. “The business is going through a transformation.”

Irvine-based **Acorns Grow Inc.**, whose web

app rounds up spare change from customers and places the money in an investment account, dropped nearly 14% to 207 OC employees, but kept its spot at No. 9 (see story, page 1).

Mavenlink, a provider of software for streamlining companies’ workflows, fell one place to No. 15. **Ray Grainger**, the founder and chief executive of the Irvine-based company, nabbed a Business Journal Innovator of the Year Award in 2019.

Kofax Inc., which announced the acquisition of print management software provider **Printix** on Aug. 10 slid to No. 16, though the company’s local headcount gained nearly 5% to 151. Kofax software products speed up handling of documents and invoices.

Notables

Waterloo, Canada-based **BlackBerry** (NYSE: BB), which in 2019 purchased **Cylance**, a local provider of internet security using artificial intelligence, saw the biggest drop in employment on the list, down 37% to 189 employees in Irvine from 300 a year ago.

NextGen Healthcare Inc. (Nasdaq: NXGN) cut OC employment by 12.5% to 265, the third largest decline on the list. The healthcare software provider relocated its headquarters from Irvine to Atlanta earlier this year but maintains a local office.

Vehicle tracking and management company **CalAmp Corp.** (Nasdaq: CAMP) rose one place to No. 21. In addition, CalAmp moves up to the No. 11 slot on the Business Journal’s list of top OC Telecom and Wireless companies (see story, page 32). ■



THE LIST SOFTWARE COMPANIES



JAMES ARNOLD JR.
CFO
NextGen Healthcare Inc.



REYNOLDS C. BISH
CEO
Kofax Inc.



KRYS CARD GRONDORF
Director, Communications
Verizon Connect



NOAH KERNER
CEO
Acorns Grow Inc.



JEN ONEAL
Co-Leader
Blizzard Entertainment Inc.



DAN RODRIGUES
Founder, Chairman and CEO
Kareo Inc.

THE LIST SOFTWARE COMPANIES

► NEXT WEEK'S LISTS
Architecture Firms, Engineering Firms

RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

Rank	Company	Company logo	OC employees	Companywide employees	Parent company	Partial list of products	Year founded	Top local official(s)	
Prev. Rank	•Address		•yearly % change	•yearly % change	•Corporate headquarters			•Title •Phone/fax	
1 (1)	Blizzard Entertainment Inc. 1 Blizzard Way Irvine 92618-3628 Website: blizzard.com		2,750 -2%	4,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Activision Blizzard Santa Monica	Online video games, esports leagues	1991	Jen Oneal/Mike Ybarra co-leaders (949) 955-1380/(949) 737-2000	
2 (2)	IBM Corp. 600 Anton Blvd., Ste. 300 Costa Mesa 92626-7221 Website: ibm.com		1,200 ⁽¹⁾ NA	345,900 -2%	IBM Corp. Armonk, N.Y.	AI and hybrid cloud technology and services	1911	Arvind Krishna CEO (714) 472-2237	
3 (4)	Ultimate Software 5 Hutton Centre Drive, Ste. 130 Santa Ana 92707-8738 Website: ultimatesoftware.com Email: ultiproinfo@ultimatesoftware.com		440 ⁽¹⁾ NA	6,191 ⁽¹⁾ NA	UKG Inc. Weston, Fla.	Human resources, payroll, benefits, talent management, talent acquisition, time and labor management, learning, surveys, analytics	1990	John Stauffer VP, Ultimate Kronos Group (949) 214-2710	
4 (3)	Oracle Corp. 17901 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 800 Irvine 92614-5241 Website: oracle.com Email: oraclesales_us@oracle.com		424 NA	133,000 -1%	Oracle Corp. Austin	Cloud technologies, applications, databases, servers, storage	1977	Anders Maudal area VP, sales, Western U.S. & Canada (650) 506-7000	
5 (5)	Alteryx Inc. 3345 Michelson Drive, Ste. 400 Irvine 92612-7683 Website: alteryx.com		350 ⁽¹⁾ NA	1,596 5%	Alteryx Irvine	Data collaboration, preparation, data blending, analytics, modeling and deployment	1997	Mark Anderson/Dean Stoecker CEO/executive chairman (888) 836-4274/(714) 516-2410	
6 (8)	Kareo Inc. 3353 Michelson Drive, Ste. 400 Irvine 92612-5611 Website: kareo.com Email: lindsey.keefner@kareo.com		270 2%	549 13%	Kareo Inc. Irvine	Kareo Billing (practice management), Kareo Clinical (electronic health record), Kareo Engage (patient engagement), Kareo BillCo Edition (medical billing company software), Kareo Telehealth	2004	Dan Rodrigues founder/chairman/CEO (888) 775-2736/(949) 209-3473	
<div data-bbox="88 1398 2016 1658" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>withum⁺ More Than CPAs. Trusted Advisors Offering Smart Business Solutions Learn more at withum.com/more-than-cpas</p> </div>									
7 (6)	NextGen Healthcare Inc. 18111 Von Karman Ave., Ste. 800 Irvine 92612-7110 Website: nextgen.com Email: ir@nextgen.com		265 -13%	2,578 -4%	NextGen Healthcare Inc. Atlanta	Enterprise and cloud-based electronic health record and practice management software and services for ambulatory medical/dental practices; platform includes mobile, analytics, population health, RCM and interoperability capabilities	1974	James Arnold Jr. CFO (949) 255-2600/(949) 255-2605	
8 (10)	Sage North America 7595 Irvine Center Drive, Ste. 200 Irvine 92618-2963 Website: sage.com		220 ⁽¹⁾ NA	2,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Sage Group Atlanta	Business management software, services	1981	Nancy Harris managing director, Sage North America (866) 996-7243	
9 (9)	Acorns Grow Inc. 5300 California Ave. Irvine 92617-3230 Website: acorns.com		207 -14%	350 17%	Acorns Grow Inc. Irvine	Financial wellness system that enables users to save and invest	2014	Noah Kerner CEO (949) 478-5064	
10 (11)	Spireon Inc. 16802 Aston St. Irvine 92606-4832 Website: spireon.com		200 ⁽¹⁾ NA	450 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Spireon Inc. Irvine	Provides cloud-based GPS vehicle tracking and fleet management solutions for businesses and consumers	2002	Kevin Weiss CEO (800) 557-1449	
11 (7)	BlackBerry 400 Spectrum Center Drive, Ste. 900 Irvine 92618-5019 Website: blackberry.com Email: mediarelations@blackberry.com		189 -37%	3,497 -4%	BlackBerry Ltd. Waterloo, Ontario	Enterprise intelligent security software and services in the areas of cybersecurity, safety and data privacy solutions	1984	Monica Lee senior director/HR business partner/US employee relations (519) 597-7273	
12 (12)	MobilityWare Inc. 440 Exchange, Ste. 100 Irvine 92602-1390 Website: mobilityware.com Email: support@mobilityware.com		175 ⁽¹⁾ NA	177 ⁽¹⁾ NA	MobilityWare Inc. Irvine	Mobile games	1990	Dave Yonamine founder (949) 788-9900/(949) 453-2001	

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; wnd: would not disclose
Note: To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of press time. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and thoroughness of the list, omissions and typographical errors sometimes occur. Unless otherwise noted, the information on this list was provided by the companies themselves. List may not be reprinted without permission of the editor. Photos show the first top official listed.
⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate

Researched by Meghan Kliever





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THE LIST SOFTWARE COMPANIES

▶ NEXT WEEK'S LISTS Architecture Firms, Engineering Firms

▶ From page 28

RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

Rank	Company	OC employees	Companywide employees	Parent company	Partial list of products	Year founded	Top local official(s)	
Prev. Rank	•Address	•yearly % change	•yearly % change	•Corporate headquarters			•Title •Phone/fax	
	Company logo							
13 (15)	ETAP 5 Oldfield Irvine 92618-2840 Website: etap.com Email: sales@etap.com	160 ⁽¹⁾ -1%	275 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Operation Technology Inc. Irvine	Modeling, design, analysis, optimization, monitoring, control, and automation software for electrical power systems; control hardware; distribution and outage management systems; data collection and synchronization mobile app	1986	Farrokh Shokooh/Shervin Shokooh CEO, president/COO (949) 900-1000/(949) 462-0200	
14 (16)	Quest Software Inc. 4 Polaris Way Aliso Viejo 92656-5356 Website: quest.com	155 ⁽¹⁾ NA	3,270 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Francisco Partners and Elliott Management Corp. Aliso Viejo	Database operations management, data protection, endpoint systems management, identity and access management, and Microsoft platform management	1987	Patrick Nichols CEO (949) 754-8000	
15 (14)	Mavenlink Inc. 6501 Irvine Center Drive Irvine 92618-2137 Website: mavenlink.com Email: info@mavenlink.com	152 -11%	413 0%	Mavenlink Inc. Irvine	Collection of operational management, resource optimization, business intelligence, integration and workflow automation software	2008	Ray Grainger/Sean Crafts/Steve DeSantis founder, CEO/founder, chief growth officer/CFO (949) 336-7610	
16 (13)	Kofax Inc. 15211 Laguna Canyon Road Irvine 92618-3146 Website: kofax.com Email: info@kofax.com	151 5%	1,921 1%	Thoma Bravo Irvine	Intelligent automation, robotic process automation, cognitive capture, process orchestration, advanced analytics, mobility and engagement, and AP automation	1985	Reynolds C. Bish CEO (949) 727-1733/(949) 727-3144	
17 (17)	Microsoft Corp. 3 Park Plaza, Ste. 1600 Irvine 92614-8541 Website: microsoft.com Email: mtcirv@microsoft.com	150 ⁽¹⁾ NA	182,268 12%	Microsoft Corp. Redmond, Wash.	Business, consumer software	1974	wnd (949) 263-3000/(949) 252-8618	

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Architecture Firms, Engineering Firms

RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

Rank	Company	OC employees	Companywide employees	Parent company	Partial list of products	Year founded	Top local official(s)	
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	Company logo							
18 (19)	Verys LLC 1251 E. Dyer Road, Ste. 210 Santa Ana 92705-5660 Website: verys.com Email: mike@verys.com	142 4%	227 32%	Verys LLC Santa Ana	Web design, custom development, consulting, cloud services	2012	Mike Zerkel president (949) 751-6085	
								
19 (20)	MSC Software 5161 California Ave., Ste. 200 Irvine 92617-8002 Website: mscsoftware.com Email: info-msc@mscsoftware.com	130 ⁽¹⁾ NA	1,450 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Hexagon AB Irvine	Computer-aided engineering simulation software	1963	Roger Assaker CEO (714) 540-8900	
								
20 (21)	Melissa 22382 Avenida Empresa Rancho Santa Margarita 92688-2112 Website: melissa.com Email: info@melissa.com	126 6%	181 9%	Melissa Rancho Santa Margarita	Data quality solutions including global address, email, phone and identity verification to reduce fraud and waste, improve business insight and analytics, and ensure KYC/AML compliance; other solutions include postal presorting, NCOA/list hygiene and consumer/business/property owner mailing lists	1985	Raymond Melissa CEO/president (949) 858-3000/(949) 589-5211	
								
21 (22)	CalAmp Corp. 15635 Alton Parkway, Ste. 250 Irvine 92618-7328 Website: calamp.com	114 4%	953 -8%	CalAmp Corp. Irvine	CalAmp iOn, CalAmp Telematics Cloud, iOn Vision, iOn Tags, SC iOn, Here Comes The Bus, Bus Guardian, LoJack, LoJack Connect, SmartDealer, CrashBoxx	1981	Jeff Gardner CEO/president (949) 600-5600/(805) 856-3857	
								
22 (23)	Verizon Connect 15505 Sand Canyon Ave. Irvine 92618-3114 Website: verizonconnect.com	100 0%	3,500 0%	Verizon Communications New York	Fleet tracking and management software platform	2015	Krys Card Grondorf director, communications (949) 389-5500/(866) 422-4096	
								

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