



## World of Warcraft(R) Subscriber Base Reaches 11.5 Million Worldwide

### Wrath of the Lich King(TM) expansion fuels growth with record first-month sales of more than 4 million

IRVINE, Calif., Dec 23, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. today announced that *World of Warcraft*<sup>(R)</sup>, its award-winning subscription-based massively multiplayer online role-playing game, is now played by more than 11.5 million subscribers worldwide. This new high was reached following the November 13 release of the game's second expansion, *Wrath of the Lich King*<sup>(TM)</sup>.

Within its first 24 hours of availability, *Wrath of the Lich King* sold more than 2.8 million copies, making it the fastest-selling PC game of all time. In addition to winning a number of editor's choice awards from major gaming publications, the expansion has now gone on to sell more than 4 million copies in its first month, setting a new record for monthly PC-game sales. Both sales records were previously held by *World of Warcraft*'s first expansion, *The Burning Crusade*<sup>(R)</sup>.\*

"We're pleased to welcome the new and returning players who have helped *World of Warcraft* reach these new milestones, and we appreciate the enthusiasm and support that the game's global community has continued to show," said Mike Morhaime, CEO and cofounder of Blizzard Entertainment<sup>(R)</sup>. "We look forward to providing all of them with an excellent entertainment experience for a long time to come."

"Not only is *Wrath of the Lich King* still doing well, the base *World of Warcraft* game and the *World of Warcraft Battle Chest*<sup>(R)</sup> are performing better than last year," said Bob McKenzie, senior vice president of merchandising at GameStop. "That type of traction is very impressive for a game that is going into its fifth holiday season and speaks to the enthusiastic player base Blizzard Entertainment products have."

To keep pace with the continued growth of *World of Warcraft* as well as development on other Blizzard Entertainment games, the company is currently hiring for numerous open positions. More information on available career opportunities can be found at [www.blizzard.com/jobs](http://www.blizzard.com/jobs). More information about the latest *World of Warcraft* expansion is available at the official *Wrath of the Lich King* website: [www.worldofwarcraft.com/wrath](http://www.worldofwarcraft.com/wrath).

### World of Warcraft's Subscriber Definition

*World of Warcraft* subscribers include individuals who have paid a subscription fee or have an active prepaid card to play *World of Warcraft*, as well as those who have purchased the game and are within their free month of access. Internet Game Room players who have accessed the game over the last thirty days are also counted as subscribers. The above definition excludes all players under free promotional subscriptions, expired or cancelled subscriptions, and expired prepaid cards. Subscribers in licensees' territories are defined along the same rules.

### About Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.

Best known for blockbuster hits including *World of Warcraft*<sup>(R)</sup> and the *Warcraft*<sup>(R)</sup>, *StarCraft*<sup>(R)</sup>, and *Diablo*<sup>(R)</sup> series, Blizzard Entertainment, Inc. ([www.blizzard.com](http://www.blizzard.com)), a division of Activision Blizzard (NASDAQ:ATVI), is a premier developer and publisher of entertainment software renowned for creating some of the industry's most critically acclaimed games. Blizzard Entertainment's track record includes eleven #1-selling games and multiple Game of the Year awards. The company's online-gaming service, Battle.net<sup>(R)</sup>, is one of the largest in the world, with millions of active users.

\*Based on internal company records and reports from key distribution partners.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements: Information in this press release that involves Blizzard Entertainment's expectations, plans, intentions or strategies regarding the future are forward-looking statements that are not facts and involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Blizzard Entertainment generally uses words such as "outlook," "will," "could," "would," "might," "remains," "to be," "plans," "believes," "may," "expects," "intends," "anticipates," "estimate," "future," "plan," "positioned," "potential," "project," "remain," "scheduled," "set to," "subject to," "upcoming," and similar expressions to help identify forward-

looking statements. Factors that could cause Blizzard Entertainment's actual future results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements set forth in this release include, but are not limited to, sales of Blizzard Entertainment's titles, shifts in consumer spending trends, the seasonal and cyclical nature of the interactive game market, Blizzard Entertainment's ability to predict consumer preferences among competing hardware platforms (including next-generation hardware), declines in software pricing, product returns and price protection, product delays, retail acceptance of Blizzard Entertainment's products, adoption rate and availability of new hardware and related software, industry competition, rapid changes in technology and industry standards, protection of proprietary rights, litigation against Blizzard Entertainment, maintenance of relationships with key personnel, customers, vendors and third-party developers, domestic and international economic, financial and political conditions and policies, foreign exchange rates, integration of recent acquisitions and the identification of suitable future acquisition opportunities, Activision Blizzard's success in integrating the operations of Activision Publishing and Vivendi Games in a timely manner, or at all, and the combined company's ability to realize the anticipated benefits and synergies of the transaction to the extent, or in the timeframe, anticipated. Other such factors include additional risk factors identified in Activision Blizzard's most recent annual report on Form 10-K and any subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. The forward-looking statements in this release are based upon information available to Blizzard Entertainment and Activision Blizzard as of the date of this release, and neither Blizzard Entertainment nor Activision Blizzard assumes any obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements believed to be true when made may ultimately prove to be incorrect. These statements are not guarantees of the future performance of Blizzard Entertainment or Activision Blizzard and are subject to risks, uncertainties, and other factors, some of which are beyond its control and may cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations.

SOURCE: Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.

Blizzard Entertainment, Inc.

Lisa Jensen

Vice President, Global PR

949.854.6200 dir

949.854.7900 fax

[ljensen@blizzard.com](mailto:ljensen@blizzard.com)

or

Shon Damron

PR Manager

949.955.1380 x2508 dir

949.854.7900 fax

[sdamron@blizzard.com](mailto:sdamron@blizzard.com)

or

Bob Colayco

PR Manager

949.955.1380 x2528 dir

949.854.7900 fax

[bcolayco@blizzard.com](mailto:bcolayco@blizzard.com)

Copyright Business Wire 2008

News Provided by COMTEX