### **Investing In Quality For Long-Term Growth**



2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021

### A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CLIENTS

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### **Investment Overview**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter market movements in stock and bond indices were far more "normal", or indicative of patterns seen over the last 10 to 15 years, than the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter where we saw several historically unique market movements. We wrote about some of the strange activity seen with "meme stocks", stock sectors such as Retail and Energy that have underperformed for 2 decades suddenly outperforming, and the historically fast spike in bond yields in our last quarterly investment report. Many of these unusual patterns abated or completely reversed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. For example, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter value stocks underperformed the market, while stocks of fast-growing companies became some of the best performing stocks during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

One trend that began early in 2021, the meme stock phenomena, to a certain degree sustained its momentum in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The meme stock trend was born in online chat forums like Reddit where unrelated groups of investors will buy up stocks of certain companies. Many of the companies seeing these groupthink buying trends are companies that are older, with outdated business models and usually are companies that are struggling to stay in business during the current fast-paced transition to a more digital, tech focused world. The buying trends may seem harmless, but they are having significant real-world effects.

For example, just a few months ago Reddit forum darling AMC Entertainment Holding Inc., notified shareholders that it was in severe danger of going bankrupt. But when the share price spiked from \$2 in January this year to a recent high of \$61, the company used the higher share price to issue equity (sell new shares) and pay off significant amounts of debt. Now this company that has seen revenues and earnings fall of a cliff in recent years is suddenly in a much better financial position and now even thinking about buying up competitors. Time will tell if the shareholders lose faith and sell, which could cause a cascade of selling and stock price declines.

In our corner of the market, and the real world, where we

See Page 2	Stock Highlights See Page 2 for Stock Highlights on the following companies					
Company	Market Cap	Portfolio	Country	Industry		
Zscaler, Inc.	\$29 Billion	U.S. Equity	USA	Cloud and Cybersecurity		
Cloudflare Inc.	\$34 Billion	Blended and Global Equity	USA	Cybersecurity		

This information is provided to existing and prospective clients to assist investors in understanding their own results. Detailed performance reports are updated on a quarterly basis and made available on our website www.ebertcapital.com. GIPS® compliant performance reports are included on the following pages. This report is for informational purposes only and should not be taken as instruction or solicitation to buy or sell any security. Investing in securities involves risks that may lead to financial losses. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

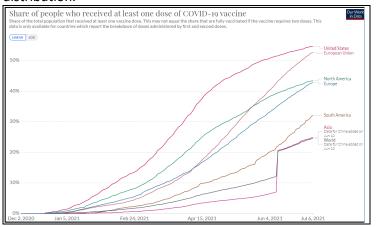
focus on owning the highest quality companies on the planet, our investment strategies had an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter as bond yields were spiking from all-time lows last summer there was a trend we still find baffling where shareholders were selling the stocks of companies growing at very fast rates. Analysts argue that higher rates make high growth companies less attractive from a valuation standpoint because it negatively affects discounted cash flow equations – but that calculus is useless to us because we know that there are a small number of truly exceptional businesses with sustainable growth, and we want to remain invested in those companies regardless of short-term valuation changes. Remaining invested in the "best in class" companies over the long-term is a great way to grow wealth and what bond yields are doing has no impact on these businesses.

Regarding our investment strategies, we are seeing another year of strong growth. Our Global Equity strategy has gained 19.22% year-to-date, Blended Equity 14.18% year-to-date and U.S. Equity 10.64% year-to-date, all returns are net of fees. What's more impressive to us are the cumulative and annualized returns for each of these green ESG investment strategies, which were launched October 1, 2019. The GIPS® verified returns are listed in more detail on pages 4, 5, and 6 of this report. Our Global Equity strategy is achieving annualized returns of 44.85% vs 23.53% for the All Country World Index over the same period. The Blended Equity strategy is achieving annualized returns of 37.58% vs 23.34% for the S&P 500 Index and 23.53% for the All Country World Index over the same

period. And our U.S. Equity strategy is achieving annualized returns of 32.42% vs 23.34% for the S&P 500 Index over the same period. Another impressive element of these investment strategies is that they have had only a slightly higher standard deviation than the overall stock market, despite significant outperformance.

Looking at the markets and the U.S. and global economies from a larger perspective, there still seems to be a lot of good news overall, despite Covid-19 remaining a serious problem for many countries. In the U.S. our vaccination efforts and distribution have been far more successful than even most industrialized nations. Sadly, poorer countries are seeing almost non-existent distribution of high quality Covid-19 vaccines and thus many still have extremely high positivity rates and resulting lockdown measures.

Here is a chart from ourworldindata.org that shows how successful we've been versus other global regions in vaccine distribution.



The U.S. had a fully vaccinated rate well above 50% as of June 10<sup>th</sup>, whereas Europe was just above 40%, South America just above 30% and Asia at about 25% at that same date.

There is also much more political stability and a less acrimonious political atmosphere in the U.S. compared to just a few months ago. The election and subsequent January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol Insurrection created an uncertain atmosphere that provided investors and the market plenty of stress and fear of the unknown. With the Biden administration settling in, an air of calm seems to be the pervasive attitude in the stock market, as evidenced by the declining volatility index (VIX). Also, with Congress still as divided as usual it seems less likely that the Biden administration will be able to put forward certain elements of its agenda that the market would dislike, such as large-scale tax increases or policies Republicans would consider anti-capitalist.

Lastly, one element that played a big role in market

movements during Q1 was the yield of the 10-year Treasury bond, as previously mentioned. The 10-year yield spiked to a high of about 1.75% on March 31st. While this is still close to all-time lows it was a significant increase from the lows of 2020 because of fears of runaway inflation. The Fed, led by Jerome Powell, has repeatedly stated that this inflation was transitory – meaning much of it is temporary – and it seems for now that he's been right. The 10-year yield has declined back to 1.32% as of this writing, and many of the inflation measures that scared the market earlier this year have declined significantly. For example, Lumber prices that spiked to nearly \$1,700/1,000 board feet have fallen back to \$763, a 55% decline in just two months. Many other inflationary indicators that spooked the market have fallen significantly in the last two months as supply and production catch back up with demand now that the economy is opening back up.

**Stock Highlights** 

Company: Cloudflare Inc.	Ticker: NET
Market Cap: \$32 Billion	Country of Origin: USA
Industries: Cybersecurity	Portfolio: Blended &
	Global Equity
Current Price: \$108	DCF Value: \$107

Company Overview - Cloudflare provides security mitigation services to companies worldwide. Cloudflare protects their customers against Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS) attacks that we have seen recently where hackers disable a company's operations systems and force them to pay a ransom to get their system back online. The company also offers a Content Delivery Network to host websites and enable online security to those same websites. Cloudflare's services are sandwiched between the visitor's network and website host, protecting websites from attacks and enabling the distribution of content.

**Financial Highlights** - In the last 12 months Cloudflare posted revenues of \$478 Million with a growth rate of over 50%. Cloudflare's recurring revenue model and sticky customer base has enabled consistent high growth and profitability metrics, as evidenced by the nearly 80% gross profit margin. Cloudflare is also flush with cash and has very low debt.

Investment Thesis - We own Cloudflare shares because of the company's superior business model and because they are a rapidly growing company in an industry that is becoming increasingly important in the digital age. We hope to be long-term investors in a company we feel can grow at a very fast pace for a long time. This company literally checks all the boxes for us including a recurring revenue model, they provide a service customers can't or won't cancel, it's a non-cyclical business in a massive "industry of the future", and they dominate their area of the cybersecurity industry.

Company: Zscaler, Inc.	Ticker: ZS
Market Cap: \$31 Billion	Country of Origin: USA
Industries: Cybersecurity	Portfolio: Blended Equity,
	Global Equity
Current Price: \$226	DCF Value: \$228

Company Overview - Zscaler provides secure access to hosted applications and secure access to external applications. Zscaler enables companies to move their security products to a cloud offering, reducing the need for appliances and reducing costs along the way. Zscaler's services are cloud-based and are created for a cloud and mobile based world. The company adds a layer of security to protect against attacks that come across content delivery networks (CDN's). Zscaler provides a cloud firewall that protects companies that offer services through the cloud.

Financial Highlights - Zscaler achieved revenues of \$602 million over the past 12 months, up from \$54 million in 2015, or 1021% over 6 years. Analysts expect an annual growth rate of over 53% over the short term and an astounding 44% growth rate thereafter. The reason why the company is growing so fast is because of the rapid adoption of Zscaler's technologies due to the very real necessity for what Zscaler offers. Zscaler has about \$1.5 billion in cash, waiting to be deployed in a merger or acquisition, which could potentially boost the revenue growth of the company and help make them more profitable.

Investment Thesis - We believe that cybersecurity related to CDN's will grow massively in the years to come. Software as a Service (SAAS) has changed the landscape of the internet, and as new technologies emerge, so too does the risk of cyber criminals exploiting these new technologies at the expense of users. Zscaler's 53% growth rate is reflective of the intense demand for their products. Every day we hear about another cyberattack that holds a company's data hostage for a ransom, which many companies pay. It is far less expensive to employ technology from Zscaler than it is to pay the ransom to a hacking group. And that is the reality of the world in which we live. Zscaler will continue to grow rapidly and become incrementally more profitable as long as the threat of cybersecurity continues to grow.

### Disclaimer/Disclosure

The purpose of this newsletter is to explain what is happening with our investment strategies and our current views on the markets. We do not sell our investment report and it is intended only as a communication device. The information in this report should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security. There is no assurance or guarantee that the securities discussed herein will remain in an account's portfolio at the time this report is received. The securities discussed do not represent an account's entire portfolio and may only represent a small percentage of an account's portfolio. It should not be assumed that any of the securities discussed were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions ECM makes in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance of the securities discussed herein.

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# **Ebert Capital Management Inc. U.S. Equity Strategy Composite**

As of June 30, 2021

Strategy/Index Name	Inception Date	1 Year Annualized	Annualized Since Inception	Cumulative Since Inception	36 Month Standard Deviation
U.S. Equity Strategy - Net of Fees	10/01/2019	34.69%	32.42%	59.68%	N/A
U.S. Equity Strategy - Gross of Fees	10/01/2019	36.18%	33.99%	62.85%	N/A
S&P 500 Index	N/A	38.61%	24.64%	44.36%	N/A

Year	Composite Net Return (%)	Benchmark Return* (%)	Composite 3-Yr Std. Dev	Benchmark 3-Yr Std. Dev	Internal Dispersion	Number of Portfolios	Composite Assets (\$)	Firm Assets (\$)
2019A	7.71%	8.53%	N/A	N/A	2.67%	157	\$6,184,174	\$24,006,315
2020	33.94%	16.26%	N/A	N/A	7.84%	162	\$9,436,037	\$34,005,567

A- Performance from 10/1/2019-12/31/2019

Our U.S. Equity strategy invests in U.S. companies with significant competitive advantages, barriers to entry, preferably a recurring revenue model, and tends to perform well during market selloffs. We only select the most dominant companies in their field. The desired holding period is long term, hopefully perpetually. This strategy consists of U.S. stocks only and is benchmarked to the S&P 500 Index. The U.S. Equity Strategy consists of all accounts that hold U.S. stocks of any market capitalization above \$50 million. The composite creation date is 10/01/2019.

Returns are presented net and gross of actual management fees paid. Fees are described on the last page of this report and apply to all composites managed by Ebert Capital Management Inc. ECM's account inclusion policy is the first full month or the end of the month in which the account is fully invested. The composite contains both taxable and nontaxable accounts. The returns of the individual portfolios within the composite are time-weighted, use trade date accounting, are based upon monthly portfolio valuations, and include the reinvestment of all earnings as of the payment date. The composite returns are asset-weighted based upon the beginning period market values calculated in U.S. dollars. Three-year ex post standard deviation for composite and benchmark is not present if 36 monthly returns are unavailable. A dispersion measure is not shown when there are five or fewer accounts in the composite for the entire year. The internal dispersion is calculated using the asset-weighted standard deviation of annual net returns of those portfolios that were included in the composite. The composite contained fewer than 1% of non-fee paying accounts at the end of each year.

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Past performance does not guarantee future results. Performance data quoted represents past performance. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Past performance of markets, strategies, composites, or any individual securities is no guarantee of future results. Different types of investments involve varying degrees of risk, and there can be no assurance that any specific investment will either be suitable or profitable for a client's portfolio. Investment in the above referenced model composite is subject to investment risks, including, without limitation: market risk, interest rate risk, management style risk, business risk, sector risk, and other risks related to equity securities. There are no assurances that a portfolio will match or outperform any particular benchmark. Historical performance results for benchmarks, such as investment indices and/or categories, generally do not reflect the deduction of transaction and/or custodial charges or the deduction of an investment-management fee, which would have the effect of decreasing historical performance results.

# Ebert Capital Management Inc. Global Equity Strategy Composite

As of June 30, 2021

Strategy/Index Name	Inception Date	1 Year Annualized	Annualized Since Inception	Cumulative Since Inception	36 Month Standard Deviation
Global Equity Strategy - Net of Fees	10/01/2019	43.63%	44.85%	85.44%	N/A
Global Equity Strategy - Gross of Fees	10/01/2019	45.18%	46.53%	89.04%	N/A
MSCI ACWI Index	N/A	39.42%	23.53%	42.21%	N/A
S&P 500 Index	N/A	38.61%	24.64%	44.36%	N/A

Year	Composite Net Return (%)	Benchmark Return* (%)	Composite 3-Yr Std. Dev	Benchmark 3-Yr Std. Dev	Internal Dispersion	Number of Portfolios	Composite Assets (\$)	Firm Assets (\$)
2019A	11.86%	8.75%	N/A	N/A	3.15%	143	\$5,486,430	\$24,006,315
2020	39.00%	16.40%	N/A	N/A	7.31%	154	\$8,847,088	\$34,005,567

A- Performance from 10/1/2019-12/31/2019

Our Global Equity strategy invests in companies with at least 50% of revenues outside the U.S. or significant operations outside the U.S. The strategy invests in companies with significant competitive advantages, barriers to entry, preferably a recurring revenue model, and tends to perform well during market selloffs. We only select the most dominant companies in their field. The desired holding period is long term, hopefully perpetually. This strategy consists of U.S. Stocks with revenues of 50% or greater coming from outside the U.S. or significant operations outside the U.S. and non-U.S. stocks and is benchmarked to the MSCI ACWI (All Country World) Index. The composite creation date is 10/01/2019.

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### Ebert Capital Management Inc. Blended Equity Strategy Composite

As of June 30, 2021

Strategy/Index Name	Inception Date	1 Year Annualized	Annualized Since Inception	Cumulative Since Inception	36 Month Standard Deviation
Blended Equity Strategy – Net of Fees	10/01/2019	38.02%	37.58%	70.19%	N/A
Blended Equity Strategy – Gross of Fees	10/01/2019	38.73%	38.62%	72.34%	N/A
MSCI ACWI Index	N/A	39.42%	23.53%	42.21%	N/A
S&P 500 Index	N/A	38.61%	24.64%	44.36%	N/A

Year	Composite Net Return (%)	Benchmark Return* (%)	Composite 3-Yr Std. Dev	Benchmark 3-Yr Std. Dev	Internal Dispersion	Number of Portfolios	Composite Assets (\$)	Firm Assets (\$)
2019A	10.11%	8.75%	N/A	N/A	3.81%	217	\$5,815,960	\$24,006,315
2020	35.23%	16.26%	N/A	N/A	7.84%	234	\$10,180,638	\$34,005,567

A- Performance from 10/1/2019-12/31/2019

Our Blended Equity Strategy is composed of a mix of our U.S. Equity investments and our Global Equity investments. The purpose of this strategy is to hold stocks of high quality companies that maintain significant competitive advantages over their peers, barriers to entry, preferably with a recurring revenue model, and tends to perform well during market downturns. We only select the most dominant companies in their field. The desired holding period is long term, hopefully perpetually. The strategy is benchmarked to the MSCI ACWI. The composite creation date is 10/01/2019.

Returns are presented net and gross of actual management fees paid. Fees are described on the last page of this report and apply to all composites managed by Ebert Capital Management Inc. ECM's account inclusion policy is the first full month or the end of the month in which the account is fully invested. The composite contains both taxable and nontaxable accounts. The returns of the individual portfolios within the composite are time-weighted, use trade date accounting, are based upon monthly portfolio valuations, and include the reinvestment of all earnings as of the payment date. The composite returns are asset-weighted based upon the beginning period market values calculated in U.S. dollars. The composite contained fewer than 1% of non-fee paying accounts at the end of each year.

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# Ebert Capital Management Inc. Conservative Income Strategy Composite

As of June 30, 2021

Strategy/Index Name	Inception Date	1 Year Annualized	3 Year Annualized	3 Year Cumulative	5 Year Annualized	5 Year Cumulative	Annualized Since Inception	Cumulative Since Inception	36 Month Standard Deviation
Conservative Income Strategy - Net	8/1/11	6.07%	7.05%	22.67%	5.46%	30.46%	3.96%	46.47%	6.91%
Conservative Income Strategy - Gross	8/1/11	6.94%	8.09%	26.30%	6.52%	37.16%	4.97%	61.18%	6.96%
BarCap U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	N/A	-0.34%	5.35%	16.92%	3.02%	16.05%	3.27%	37.23%	2.98%

Year	Composite Net Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)	Composite 3-Yr Std. Dev	Benchmark 3-Yr Std. Dev	Internal Dispersion	Number of Portfolios	Composite Assets (\$)	Firm Assets (\$)
2011	1.48%	3.35%	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	\$33,485	\$740,775
2012	2.33%	4.23%	N/A	N/A	0.71%	19	\$1,433,199	\$5,500,000
2013	-2.27%	-2.02%	N/A	N/A	1.64%	36	\$1,275,057	\$14,025,000
2014	6.78%	5.95%	5.05%	2.89%	0.20%	48	\$1,712,661	\$17,000,000
2015	-5.83%	0.57%	5.26%	2.73%	0.26%	77	\$2,276,207	\$18,123,181
2016	9.28%	2.66%	5.96%	3.03%	2.58%	84	\$1,854,702	\$22,000,000
2017	8.41%	3.55%	5.25%	2.82%	1.06%	132	\$3,644,450	\$27,801,856
2018	-6.99%	-0.02%	6.08%	2.86%	0.76%	111	\$3,974,910	\$31,000,000
2019	15.13%	8.73%	6.70%	3.19%	0.81%	165	\$3,149,420	\$24,006,315
2020	14.12%	7.50%	9.13%	3.39%	3.30%	111	\$1,835,623	\$34,005,567

The Conservative Income Strategy consists of all accounts that hold bond ETFs selected with the aim of providing principal protection and income using low-cost bond index ETFs of varying maturity and bond quality and a small allocation to stocks. The composite creation date is 8/1/2011.

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#### Standard Tiered Fee Schedule for all composites.

Assets Under Management (\$)	Annual Fee (%)
First \$250,000	1.50%
Next \$250,000	1.25%
Next \$500,000	1.00%
Next \$1,000,000	0.75%
Over \$2,000,000	0.50%