

HAWX 2: EVALUATION SUMMARY



About HAWX 2

Developed by Ubisoft Romania, HAWX 2 is an action-flight simulation game. Unlike its predecessor, HAWX, which was released DRM-Free, HAWX 2 was implemented with Ubisoft's "Online Service Platform" and represented one of the last AAA titles to be implemented with such a DRM service.

Medium: Disc Version
Versions Tested: 1.01



About Ubisoft's "OSP"

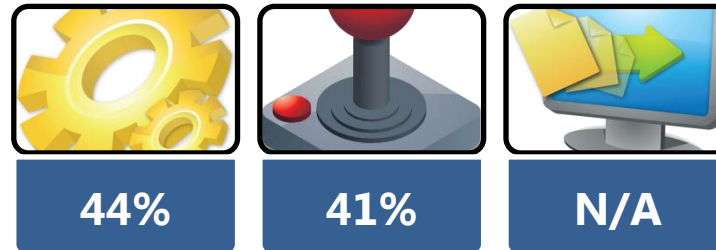
Released in March 2010, Ubisoft's "Online Services Platform" (OSP) is Ubisoft's user account-based, online-centric DRM. OSP boasts the ability to allow unlimited installations across many computer systems without any disc verification required. Any verification is achieved through a high-speed and constant online connection.



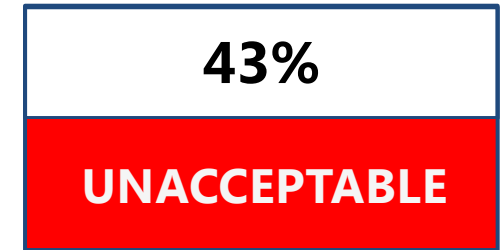
About Ubisoft Entertainment

With over 6,000 employees and €1.4 Billion in revenue, Ubisoft is Europe's 3rd largest Video-Gaming Developer and Publisher and 4th largest in North America. Aside from developing and publishing multi-platform Video Games, Ubisoft's range of services includes Uplay, in-house Digital Distribution and Motion Picture Production. Yves Guillemot is their current CEO.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES



RYG's RATING*



* RYG's Rating is an aggregate of the Individual Scores

AREAS OF CONCERN

- Pre-Purchase & DRM Notification

DRM: Documentation inconsistent between Publisher's websites, Gaming Package, Manual, Readme and EULA.
Publisher: Delayed PC Release; Incomplete PC Release; No demo.

- Privacy Policy

BOTH: Very poor documentation in relation to HAWX 2.

- EULA

DRM: Game non-transferrable and resale is not-permissible.
Publisher: As above; Not written for AUS Consumers; Incomprehensible, inconsistent and overwritten; Limited warranties/refunds provisions for consumers outside US; Ownership bias.

- Personal Backup

BOTH: Not permissible as per the EULA.

- Installation

DRM: Installation logs partially provided; DRM Files not contained to Gaming Directory
Publisher: As above; Forced installation of 3rd Party Software.

- Automatic Patches and Updates

BOTH: No "opt-out" option provided; No changelogs provided before or after the installation of the patch; No roll-back options provided; Lengthy update for low-speed Internet users.

- Activation:

DRM: Constant online-activation; Non-disclosure of information required/requested for activation; Non-disclosure of where the information is sent/received; Activation tied to a user-account; Game non-transferrable and resale is not-permissible
Publisher: As above; Poor documentation.

- Gameplay:

BOTH: Constant internet connection required.

- Uninstallation:

Publisher: Some files and registry keys remain.

- Customer / Technical Support

DRM: Minimal DRM support

- Internal Disputes Resolution

BOTH: Non-existent.