

Spore: EVALUATION SUMMARY



About Spore

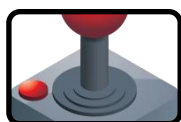
Developed by Maxis, Spore is a life-simulation game, which lends itself to other real-time strategy games as well as the Theory of Evolution. In spite of its financial success, Spore was met with considerable criticisms from the gaming and scientific communities for its lack of depth and "bastardisation" of other gaming genres, notwithstanding the controversy surrounding its DRM implementation.

Medium: Disc Version
Versions Tested: 1.00



About SecuROM

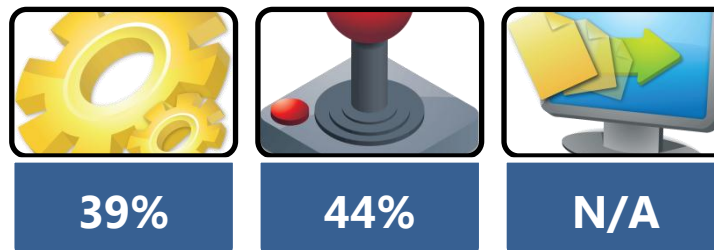
SecuROM is developed by Sony DADC and remains one of the oldest DRM series in the Video Gaming market. This version implemented by Electronic Arts is an online-activation, hardware-binding DRM with software blacklisting capabilities.



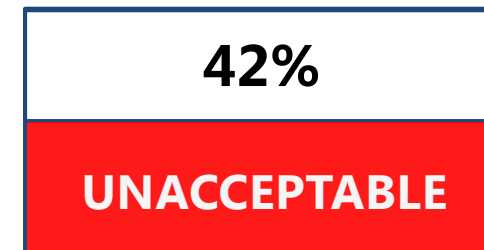
About Electronic Arts

With over 8,000 employees and \$3 Billion USD in revenue, Electronic Arts Inc (EA) is one of the world's largest developer and publisher of Video Games. Aside from once owning a 15% interest in Ubisoft Entertainment, EA's list of Developers includes Westwood Studios, DICE, Maxis, as well as Bioware. John Riccitiello 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: As above.

- Privacy Policy

DRMs: Privacy Policy absent.
Publisher: As above; List of 3rd Parties extends only to web analytics service providers.

- EULA

DRM: DRM information inconsistent.
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: DRM Files not contained to Gaming Directory; Installation logs not provided.
Publisher: As above.

- Activation

DRM: Online activation; Non-disclosure of information required/requested for activation; Non-disclosure of where the information is sent/received; Hardware activation; Resale not permissible; No documentation provided with respect to activation process.
Publisher: As above.

- Manual Patches & Updates

BOTH: Requires the installation and registration of Spore through EA's Download Manager (EADM).

- Uninstallation

DRM: Some files and registry keys remain; DRM Removal tool(s) not provided.
Publisher: As above; Uninstallation link not provided.

- Customer / Technical Service

BOTH: Inactive DRM support both in the Knowledge Base and Community Forum section; Information scattered and not localised.

- Internal Disputes Resolution

BOTH: Non-existent.