

A Virus Named Tom

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: Devloper Direct / Humble Store

Developer: Misfits Attic
Publisher: Misfits Attic

RYG's VERDICT

90% **WORTH SUPPORTING**
85% and above

1. Product Info

Looking at how much information is provided on A Virus Named Tom on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

- ✓ A Virus Named Tom released globally on 01.08.2012
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 01.08.2012
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on avirusnamedtom.com
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme

2. Digital Download

Note: A Virus Named Tom is priced in USD via. the Humble Store.

Note: Users will have the option to create a Humble Store account and link their game to it (or download via. their email link).

See Also: [Disclaimer of Warranties](#); [Liability Limitations and Indemnity within Humble Bundle's Terms of Service \(TOS\)](#)

Looking at The Humble Store / Direct From The Developer as a digital distributing service for PC games.

- ✓ A Virus Named Tom sold at one, global price
- ✓ Available worldwide through avirusnamedtom.com
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is not required
- ✓ Released DRM Free on 01.08.2012
- ✓ User account creation is optional; minimal details required
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✗ Minimum and recommended specs not provided
- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

3. Privacy Policy & EULA

Looking at A Virus Named Tom's Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement.

- ✓ EULA / TOS and Privacy Policy is not required for A Virus Named Tom

4. Setup / Install

Note: Downloading and Installing A Virus Named Tom will take ~250Mb.

Looking at how A Virus Named Tom is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Users can extract A Virus Named Tom to a file directory of their choice
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ All game files installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 5 minutes

- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys

5. Updates / Patching

Looking at how A Virus Named Tom is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game unpatched.

6. DRM & Activation

Note: A Virus Named Tom will not connect to any server(s) before and during gameplay.

Note: We did find steam_api.dll, but the rest of the analysis found that they were inert and won't affect PCs in any way (e.g. It won't connect to Steam or link to Steam)

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of A Virus Named Tom and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline (Internet connection not required)
- ✓ No hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited installations
- ✓ Activation is simple and hassle-free

- ✗ Inert files relating to Steam DRM were found within the game directory.

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: A Virus Named Tom is not a graphically-intensive game.

Looking at the gameplay aspects of A Virus Named Tom and how it interacts with PC Windows.

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✓ Disc not required for gameplay
- ✓ Suitable options to modify video settings
- ✓ Can customise controls
- ✓ Can play with console controller
- ✓ Can play in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ Won't "phone home"
- ✓ Can play without connectivity issues on an ADSL connection
- ✓ Can play error-free for more than 5hrs
- ✓ Won't interfere with services and background software
- ✓ Will resume at the last checkpoint
- ✓ Can play on more than one PC simultaneously

Note: Config and Savegame locations are found under the / My Documents/SavedGames/ AVirusNamedTom/ folder.

8. **PC Checkup**

- ✓ Can modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

Looking at whether A Virus Named Tom will modify certain PC settings without users permission / consent.

- ✓ PC clean after scanning for viruses
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for malware and spyware
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for rootkits
- ✓ HOSTS wasn't modified
- ✓ Played A Virus Named Tom without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM / monitoring services running in the background after shutting down
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

9. **Removal Uninstall**

Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for A Virus Named Tom (How much legacy material is there after the removal of A Virus Named Tom?)

- ✓ Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation

- ✗ Uninstallation shortcut not provided

10. **Customer Support**

Looking at the customer support side of A Virus Named Tom through the game's website

- ✓ Support information and FAQs are found at avirusnamedtom.com
- ✓ The website is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching through the website is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand

RYG's VERDICT

90%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

A Virus Named Tom is an easy game to set up and play. Any issues found with A Virus Named Tom were minor.



Colophon

This analysis of A Virus Named Tom was compiled by Lisa and Martin Pham. Typeface used is ITC Stone Sans. RYG thanks Anna Henriksson, **Josh Bush**, **Ethan Lee**, **Adam Ames** and **David Hatch** for their insights and suggestions in the design of this analysis. A Virus Named Tom was bought with RYG funds through The Humble Bundle.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into A Virus Named Tom as a product. We believe everyone should perform their own research and reach their own conclusions. This is one view of many, we hope. Again, we thank you for taking the time to read our analysis of A Virus Named Tom and hope you continue to support our work.

RYG is a user research and design studio for video game developers and publishers. Our focus is planning and designing games with a gamers'-first mentality through user and product research. RYG is led by a husband-and-wife team of Lisa and Martin Pham. RYG is operated in the heart of Sydney.

RYG Analysis: A Virus Named Tom
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