

# Amnesia: AMFP

An RYG Analysis

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

**Developer:** The Chinese Room  
**Publisher:** Frictional Games

## RYG's VERDICT

**85%** **WORTH SUPPORTING THEM**  
85% and above

### 1a. Product Info

*Note:* Currently, the main site for Frictional Games is redirected to Steam. The Humble Store has a [direct link](#) for those interested in buying Amnesia DRM-Free.

*Looking at how much information is provided on Amnesia: A Machine For Pigs (Amnesia) on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.*

- ✓ Amnesia released globally through Frictional Games direct on 10.09.2013
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 10.09.2013
- ✓ Manual and Readme provided with the game
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [frictionalgames.com](#)
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS is only found within the game

### 1b. Digital Dwnld

*Note:* Amnesia 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).

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

- ✓ Amnesia sold at one, global price
- ✓ Available worldwide through [frictionalgames.com](#)
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is not required
- ✓ Released DRM Free on 10.09.2013
- ✓ 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

### 2. Privacy Policy

*Looking at Amnesia's Privacy Policy through Frictional Games.*

- ✓ Privacy Policy is not required for Amnesia

# 3.

## EULA TOS

*Looking at Amnesia's End User License Agreement from Frictional Games*

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Amnesia and the DRM-Free aspect of the game
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Drafted to coincide with relevant consumer laws at the point of purchase
- ✓ Terms and conditions for DRM-Free are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Amnesia
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" of Amnesia
- ✓ Can opt-out of any monitoring services / software
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can initiate legal action if the arbitration process fails
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisal
  
- ✗ EULA / TOS is only found within the game
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ Can't review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ License to play the game only provided
- ✗ No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- ✗ Amnesia's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

*Note:* Limited warranties, waivers of liability and indemnity are commonly found within many software EULAs and TOSs

# 4.

## Setup / Install

*Looking at how Amnesia is installed on Windows PCs only.*

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ No DRM files or registry keys installed
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 30 minutes
  
- ✗ No installation logs of registry keys provided after installation

*Note:* Amnesia's installation is ~4.9Gb.

# 5.

## Updates / Patching

*Looking at how Amnesia is patched prior and after gameplay.*

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

# 6.

## DRM & Activation

*Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Amnesia and its effects on Windows PCs only.*

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline
- ✓ No hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited Installations

*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)

## 7. Gameplay Experience

*Note:* More information on lower resolution issues and how to fix them in the interim can be found on [PC Gaming Wiki](#).

*Note:* Savegame + config files found within the \Documents\Amnesia\Pig\ folder.

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

*Looking at the gameplay aspects of Amnesia 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 play on mouse/keyboard and on a console (XBox360) controller
- ✓ Can customise controls
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Can modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

*Looking at whether Amnesia 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 Amnesia without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM / monitoring services running in the background after shutting down
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

*Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for Amnesia (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Amnesia?)*

- ✓ Direct uninstallation shortcut provided
- ✓ Backup savegames prompt provided / Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation

## 8. PC Checkup

## 9. Removal Uninstall

# 10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of Amnesia through Frictional Game's Forum.

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at [frictionalgames.com/forum](http://frictionalgames.com/forum)
- ✓ Frictional Game's forum is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching on the forum is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand

## RYG's VERDICT

85%

## WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

## SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

## BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

*We found little (technical) problems with the DRM-Free version of Amnesia. Perhaps the only blemish Amnesia had was the EULA supplied for the game even though much of it was both bare bones and quite readable / easy to understand. Still, many gamers wouldn't mind if the overriding intention is to play a game knowing that it won't adversely affect their PCs in any way, shape or form.*



### Colophon

This analysis of Amnesia 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. Amnesia: A Machine For Pigs was purchased using RYG's funds.

### Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Amnesia 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 Amnesia 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: Amnesia: A Machine For Pigs  
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