

Back To The Future

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: Good Old Games (GOG)

Developer: Telltale Games
Publisher: Telltale Games

RYG's VERDICT

74% **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**
Between 65% and 84%

1 Product Info

Looking at how much information is provided on Back To The Future on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

- ✓ Back To The Future released globally on 22 December 2010
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on GOG
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on gog.com
- ✗ Available only on Windows
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme
- ✗ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS is only found within the game

2. Digital Dwnld

Looking at Good Old Games (GOG) as a digital distributing service for PC games.

- ✓ Back To The Future sold at one, global price
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is optional; not required for gameplay
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 01.11.2013 via GOG
- ✓ User account creation is optional; minimal details required (email, password)
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for pre-order purchases only
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account
- ✓ Can review and question changes made to GOG's Terms of Service (TOS)
- ✗ Warranties waived in respect to GOG's service
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play games
- ✗ Consumers prevented from disputing and validating any TOS breaches
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept GOG's TOS

Note: Games sold via GOG are all priced in USD

Note: Email and Password is the minimum required to set up a GOG account.

See Also: Refund Policy found within Good Old Games's Terms of Service (TOS)

See Also: Disclaimer of Warranties; Liability Limitations and Indemnity within GOG's Terms of Service (TOS)

3. EULA / TOS

Note: 907 Words found within Back To The Future's EULA. Back To The Future's EULA is GOG's standard EULA.

See Also: Good Old Games's Terms of Service, Refund Policy (as covered by RYG under Section 2. Digital Download)

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

4. Setup / Install

Note: GOG now provides installation logs of game files installed on Windows PCs! All logs are located within /AppData/Local/Temp/ folder.

Note: Back To The Future's installation is ~400Mb.

5. Updates / Patching

6. DRM & Activation

Note: Steam API files were found, but users won't need to install / use Steam in order to play Back To The Future.

Looking at Back To The Future's End User License Agreement in conjunction with Telltale Games and Good Old Games's Terms of Service.

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Back To The Future and Good Old Games (GOG)
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered within 30 days of purchase
- ✓ Terms for Back To The Future's DRM-Free aspects are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Back To The Future
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✗ EULA / TOS is only found within Back To The Future during installation
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of USA in the state of California
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ License to play the game only provided
- ✗ Back To The Future's source code isn't to be modified
- ✗ Warranties waived
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Termination process dictated by Good Old Games

Looking at how Back To The Future 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 5 minutes

- ✗ No installation logs of registry keys provided after installation

Looking at how Back To The Future is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Back To The Future 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

- ✗ Steam APIs found within the game directory and within the game EXE files.

7. Gameplay Experience

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Back To The Future and how it interacts with PC Windows.

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✓ 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

- ✗ Very little graphic-related options
- ✗ Only playable on mouse and keyboard
- ✗ Key bindings are fixed

8. PC Cleanup

Looking at whether Back To The Future 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 Back To The Future 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 Back To The Future (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Back To The Future?)

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

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of Back To The Future through GOG's website

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at gog.com
- ✓ GOG's support + forum is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching on GOG's support + forum is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand

RYG's VERDICT

74%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

While we did find Steam API files within the game directory and within the game's 5 EXE files, they were inert and won't install any Steam-related data, files or information on user's PCs. Apart from this, Back To The Future is playable, but only so on fixed controller configurations.



Colophon

This analysis of Back To The Future 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. Back To The Future was purchased with RYG funds from Good Old Games.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Back To The Future 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 Back To The Future 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: Back To The Future
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