

The Cave

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows 7 only)
DRM: Steamworks (Steam)
Digital Distributor: Steam

Developer: Double Fine Productions
Publisher: Sega Corporation

RYG's VERDICT

65%

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

1a. Product Info

See Also: The Cave for Linux
slightly delayed due to bugs.

See Also: Steam's EULA, Steam's
Privacy Policy and The Cave's
EULA.

Looking at how much information is provided on The Cave on its website prior and on release.

- ✓ The Cave for PC released globally on 24 January 2012
- ✓ The Cave for PC released within a day after its console version
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised Steamworks (Steam) DRM was to be used for The Cave
- ✓ Advised how Steam DRM would activate the game through The Cave
- ✓ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS fully accessible on steampowered.com
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on steampowered.com

- ✗ No demo
- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme

2b. Digital Dwnld

See Also: Backing up Steam
games "offline" can be found
via. PCGamingWiki.

See Also: Refer to Section 3,
*Billing, Payment & Other Sub-
scriptions* in respect to pre-order
refunds for users living in the EU

See Also: Difference in prices
for The Cave can be found via.
Steam Apps Database.

Looking at Steam as a digital distributing service for PC games.

- ✓ Available worldwide through Steam
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised Steamworks (Steam) DRM was to be used for The Cave
- ✓ Advised how Steam DRM would activate the game through The Cave
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds offered for pre-orders *for users living in the European Union*
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account

- ✗ The Cave is priced inconsistently across global regions
- ✗ Download / Client Manager is required, including for gameplay
- ✗ User account creation is required
- ✗ No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- ✗ Warranties waived

2. Privacy Policy

Note: 1,507 words found within Steam's Privacy Policy.

See Also: Relevant Sections: Collection of Information, Personally Identifiable Information and Use of Personally Identifiable Information.

- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play them
- ✗ Consumers prevented from disputing & validating Steam's TOS breaches
- ✗ Can't review and question changes made to Steam's TOS
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept Steam's TOS

Looking at The Cave's Privacy Policy through Steam

- ✓ Privacy Policy found on steampowered.com
- ✓ Policy applies to Steam Client, Steamworks DRM and The Cave
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Users visibly notified of any changes made to the Policy
- ✓ "Personally-identifiable" and "non-personally identifiable" info are defined
- ✓ Policy specifies what's are collected before and during gameplay
- ✓ Info is stored in the US
- ✓ Data centres are 100% safe and secure
- ✓ Info is used solely for improving Steam's services only!
- ✓ Visible opt-in / opt-out process
- ✓ Users can access and modify their user account
- ✓ Users can modify their user account
- ✓ Users can validate the info they've provided

- ✗ Third parties not identified
- ✗ Users have limited control over their Steam user account
- ✗ Users must accept ALL changes made to the Policy before playing The Cave

3a. EULA (GAME)

Note: 3,370 words found in The Cave's EULA

See Also: [The Cave's EULA](#).

Note: Steam's Subscriber's Agreement (EULA / TOS) is evaluated as a separate section 3b. EULA (STEAM)

Looking at The Cave's EULA from Sega.

- ✓ EULA / TOS is found on steampowered.com
- ✓ EULA / TOS covers The Cave and Steam DRM
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can initiate legal action **with Sega** if the arbitration process fails
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✗ Difficult to read, understand and is inconsistently worded
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of the UK
- ✗ 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
- ✗ Replacement copies not provided OR replacement copies provided for a fee
- ✗ Terms and conditions for Steam DRM aren't clearly defined
- ✗ Circumvention of Steam DRM prohibited
- ✗ Back-ups aren't permitted by Sega
- ✗ The Cave's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Not permitted to create "mods"
- ✗ Monitoring services / software are required to play The Cave

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

3b. EULA (STEAM)

Note: 6,286 Words found in Steam's EULA.

See Also: Section 12, *Dispute Resolution / Binding Arbitration / Class Action Waiver*

4. Setup / Install

Note: Installing games through Steam to a different folder and drive can be done by altering the Steam shortcut to add "-dev" (via. [RPS](#))

Note: All Steam-related files will be installed to the main Steam directory only!

5. Updates / Patching

6. DRM & Activation

- ✗ Warranties waived
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Termination process dictated by Sega

Looking at Steam Subscriber's Agreement through Steam.

- ✓ EULA / TOS is found on steampowered.com
- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Steam DRM
- ✓ Terms and conditions for Steam DRM are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Steam Client
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" of Valve's Source Code Engine
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Termination process is clear and transparent

- ✗ Difficult to read and understand
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of US in the state of California
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ Can't review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ Circumvention of Steam DRM prohibited

Looking at how The Cave is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Steam DRM files installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 30 minutes (Based on an ADSL2+ Connection)

- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys

Looking at how The Cave is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game unpatched (no automatic patches provided)

- ✗ No plans to sunset Steam DRM

Looking at Steamworks (Steam) DRM in relation to The Cave and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Won't interfere with currently-executing background services or software

Note: The Cave will only be connected to the following servers: Valve and Highwinds Networks

See Also: How to play The Cave in [offline mode](#).

Note: It is recommended that (new) users should install and update Steam first before installing The Cave.

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: The Cave will not connect to any servers while in "Offline Mode".

Note: Savegame and configuration settings can be found within `\AppData\Roaming\Double-fine\TheCave\` section

8. PC Checkup

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified or required to be modified
- ✓ Users are aware and advised on how The Cave will be activated
- ✓ Username, password and email are only required
- ✓ Unlimited online activations to any one PC
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline
- ✓ Only Steam DRM is implemented
- ✓ Unlimited hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited installations
- ✓ Support and troubleshooting process provided
- ✓ Activation is simple and hassle-free

- ✗ No instructions provided on the activation process
- ✗ Can't verify the safety and reliability of the activation process
- ✗ A non-transferrable user account is required
- ✗ Game is locked to specific account after activation

Looking at the gameplay aspects of The Cave 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 (keyboard / mouse and console) 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 modify savegame and/or ini file

- ✗ Can only play on one PC at a time per game / account
- ✗ DRM and monitoring services will operate during gameplay

Looking at whether The Cave 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 The Cave 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

Note: Steam does offer an option to manually remove all Steam-related files. It does work and will remove any remaining files and keys after uninstallation of The Cave.

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

- ✓ Backup savegames prompt provided / Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation
- ✓ External tool provided at support.steampowered.com
- ✓ Manual instructions to remove game & DRM files is easy to follow
- ✓ Manual instructions removes all game & DRM files and registry keys

- ✗ Will need to uninstall the game via. Control Panel

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of The Cave through Steam.

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at support.steampowered.com
- ✓ support.steampowered.com is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching on support.steampowered.com is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
- ✓ Arbitration / resolution service is available
- ✓ Arbitration / resolution process is easy to follow / understand
- ✓ Options provided for giving feedback on the service of customer support

- ✗ Arbitration / resolution process may favour towards Valve
- ✗ Legal action (including class action) waived once arbitration process is initiated

RYG's VERDICT

65%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

Steam might not reach the benchmark of Good Old Games of Humble Bundle in respect to a DRM-Free distribution model, but Steam is reliable in its payment gateway (connecting only through Steam's servers) and its ease of purchase. The Cave is a game that represents what flexible PC gaming should be. What made us smile was finding out that Steam offers a way to remove everything in one simple format. Consider The Cave showing promise and potential.



Colophon

This analysis of The Cave 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. The Cave was bought with RYG funds through Steam.

Disclaimer

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