

Don't Starve

An RYG Analysis

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

Developer: Klei Entertainment
Publisher: Klei Entertainment

RYG's VERDICT

89%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

1. Product Info

Looking at how much information is provided on Don't Starve on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

- ✓ Don't Starve released globally on 23.04.2013
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 23.04.2013
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [humblebundle.com](https://www.humblebundle.com)
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme

2. Digital Download

Note: Don't Starve 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.

- ✓ Don't Starve sold at one, global price
- ✓ Available worldwide through [humblebundle.com](https://www.humblebundle.com)
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is not required
- ✓ Released DRM Free on 23.04.2013
- ✓ 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

3. Privacy Policy & EULA

Looking at Don't Starve's Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement.

- ✓ EULA / TOS and Privacy Policy is not required for Don't Starve

4. Setup / Install

Note: Installing Don't Starve will take ~380Mb.

5. Updates / Patching

Note: Users will be provided an option to disable any automatic updates through the game within the "File" menu. Automatic Updates will require a [Steam Key](#) provided by the Humble Store.

6. DRM & Activation

Note: Don't Starve will not connect to any server(s) before and during gameplay.

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: Config and Savegame locations are found under the \Documents\Klei\ folder.

Looking at how Don't Starve is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ 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

Looking at how Don't Starve is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can opt-in / opt-out of automatic updates
- ✓ Can play the game unpatched
- ✓ Can install patches manually
- ✓ Details of patches provided via dontstarvegame.com
- ✓ Users can be advised of game patch's availability

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Don't Starve 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

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Don't Starve 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 in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ 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

Note: Don't Starve will connect to the following servers regardless of any disabled auto-updates: Cloudflare, Amazon, New Relic and Dreamhost

8. **PC Checkup**

- ✗ Will "phone home"

Looking at whether Don't Starve 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 Don't Starve 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 Don't Starve (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Don't Starve?)

- ✓ Uninstallation shortcut provided
- ✓ Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation

10. **Customer Support**

Looking at the customer support side of Don't Starve through the game's website

- ✓ Support information and FAQs are found at [humblebundle.com](https://www.humblebundle.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

89%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

Users shouldn't have too many issues setting up and playing Don't Starve, in particular with its optional auto-update feature and its array of in-game settings and configurations.



Colophon

This analysis of Don't Starve 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. Don't Starve was bought with RYG funds through The Humble Bundle.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Don't Starve 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 Don't Starve 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: Don't Starve
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PRYG3-00091-01
19 November 2013