Dust: An Elysian Tail

Platform: PC (Windows 7 only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: GOG

Developer: Humble Hearts
Publisher: Humble Hearts

RYG's ASSESSMENT

79% SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL
Between 65% and 84%

1a. Product Info

Looking at how much information is provided on Dust: AET on the GOG site prior and on release.

- ✓ Dust: AET released globally on 07.11.2013
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Dust: AET sold through multiple vendors
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 07.11.2013
- ✓ Manual found in-game
- ✓ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS fully accessible on GOG
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on GOG

- ✗ No public demo

1b. Digital Dwnld

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

- ✓ Dust: AET sold at one, global price
- ✓ Available worldwide through GOG
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is optional; not required for gameplay
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 07.11.2013
- ✓ Username, Email, Password and DOB required to create a GOG account
- ✓ Alternative payment options provided (Visa, Mastercard, Amex, Paypal)
- ✓ Correct currency confirmation provided prior, during and after purchase
- ✓ Confirmation of purchase and receipt provided
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Complete download specs provided through GOG
- ✓ Can play Dust: AET without GOG's download / client manager
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for purchased games
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account

- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)

Note: GOG provides a 30 day money back guarantee under the provision that a solution could not be found in getting Dust: AET up and running on player's PCs.

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

2. Privacy Policy

Note: This applies to the GOG's Privacy Policy only.

Note: Dust: AET **will not connect** to any third party server during and after gameplay and does not require a Privacy Policy.

Note: There's 1,694 words within GOG's Privacy Policy.

Looking at GOG Privacy Policy through the GOG

- ✓ Privacy Policy found on GOG and is not required for Dust: AET
- ✓ Policy applies to GOG only
- ✓ Privacy Policy is formatted for easy reading on the web
- ✓ Privacy Policy is written for easy comprehension
- ✓ "Personally-identifiable" and "non-personally identifiable" info are defined
- ✓ Policy explicitly specifies which info are collected during purchase & download
- ✓ Data centres are 100% safe and secure
- ✓ Policy explicitly specifies which information are used
- ✓ GOG will not share or sell player's personal information to third parties
- ✓ Visible opt-in / opt-out process
- ✓ Players can access their personal information
- ✓ Players can modify their personal information
- ✓ Players have full control over their personal information
- ✓ Players can validate the info they've provided
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the Privacy Policy

- ✖ Players not visibly notified of any changes made to the Policy
- ✖ Players not consulted on future revisions to the Privacy Policy
- ✖ Not advised where the info is specifically stored
- ✖ Players cannot export their information
- ✖ Player data is retained by GOG for an extended period of time
- ✖ No mention on how player's data is affected during a sale / merger of GOG
- ✖ Players must accept ALL changes made to the Policy before playing Dust: AET

3. EULA (GOG)

Note: There's 907 words in the GOG Terms of Service.

Note: GOG provides a 30 day money back guarantee under the provision that a solution could not be found in getting Dust: AET up and running on player's PCs.

Looking at GOG's Standard EULA and GOG's Terms of Service

- ✓ EULA / TOS is found on GOG
- ✓ EULA / TOS covers applies to GOG's service(s)
- ✓ EULA / TOS is formatted for easy reading on the web
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for purchased games
- ✓ Terms and conditions for its DRM-Free services are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Dust: AET
- ✓ Allow monetisation of clips relating to Dust: AET through video sharing sites
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Players can initiate legal action if the arbitration process fails
- ✓ Players can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✖ EULA / TOS was not formatted for easy reading on the web
- ✖ EULA / TOS was not written for easy comprehension

- ✘ Players not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✘ Players not consulted on future revisions to the EULA / TOS
- ✘ Can't review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✘ License to play the game only provided
- ✘ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✘ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✘ Termination process dictated by GOG
- ✘ Arbitration process isn't freely-provided and is overseen by GOG

Note: Players, however, can request GOG to delete their own accounts if desired.

4. Setup / Install

Note: Dust: AET is a very small game to download (~1.3Gb) and install on Player's PCs.

Looking at how Dust: AET is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✔ Players can extract all game files to the directory of their choosing
- ✔ Installation logs of game files found in /AppData/Local/Temp/
- ✔ All game files are installed within folders designated by Players
- ✔ No DRM files installed within folders designated by Players
- ✔ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✔ Error-free installation
- ✔ Installation completed within 10 minutes

5. Updates / Patching

Note: The version of Dust: AET evaluated was up to date and required no updates.

Looking at how Dust: AET is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✔ Can opt-in / opt-out of automatic updates
- ✔ Can play the game unpatched
- ✔ Can install patches manually without the client manager
- ✔ Users can be advised of game patch's availability through the client manager

6. DRM & Activation

Note: GOG will connect to Edgecast in respect to downloading Dust: AET only. Dust: AET will not connect to any third party server during and after gameplay.

Looking at GOG in relation to Dust: AET and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✔ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified or required to be modified
- ✔ User account not required
- ✔ Can play single-player game offline
- ✔ Unlimited hardware activations
- ✔ Unlimited installations
- ✔ Activation is simple and hassle-free

7. Gameplay Experience

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Dust: AET and how it interacts with PC Windows.

- ✔ Can play on minimum specs
- ✔ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✔ Can play in borderless full screen mode
- ✔ Can play in (flexible) windowed mode

- ✓ Separate volume controls provided
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ Won't "phone home"
- ✓ Can play without connectivity issues on an ADSL connection
- ✓ Can play error-free for more than 5hrs
- ✓ Subtitles provided in English, French, Italian, Spanish and Japanese.
- ✓ Won't interfere with services and background software
- ✓ Will resume at the last checkpoint
- ✓ Can perform a manual save during gameplay
- ✓ Can play on more than one PC simultaneously
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- ✕ Limited video settings provided
- ✕ No option for User-Generated Subtitles / Localisation
- ✕ Can't modify savegame and/or ini file

8. PC Checkup

Looking at whether Dust: AET will modify certain PC settings without Players 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 Dust: AET without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM and monitoring services running in the background
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

9. Removal Uninstall

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

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

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of Dust: AET through the GOG

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at GOG
- ✓ Website is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching on the GOG is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
- ✓ Customer service via. Email is quick to respond within 24 hours
- ✓ Customer service will resolve issues within 24 hours
- ✓ Tone and language used is warm, inviting and personable
- ✓ Focused on understanding problems and providing an effective solution

RYG's VERDICT

79%

BARGAIN-BASE-MENT MATERIAL	SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL	WORTH SUPPORTING
64% and below	**Between 65% and 84%**	85% and above

Dust: An Elysian Tail is an enjoyable side-scrolling / fighting game that plays on the simple idea that it's easy and effortless to create a series of "combo" moves regardless of which controller system a player would use. Players shouldn't expect too many surprises from this GOG-distributed game in respect to how it interacts and affects their PCs.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Dust: An Elysian Tail 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 Dust: An Elysian Tail and hope you continue to support our work.