

Endless Space

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows 7 only)
DRM: Steamworks (Steam)
Digital Distributor: PHYSICAL COPY ONLY!!!

Developer: Amplitude Studios
Publisher: Amplitude Studios

RYG's VERDICT

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

1a. Product Info

Note: Steam DRM is used for all version of Endless Space that are sold digitally outside of Steam.

Looking at how much information is provided on Endless Space on its website prior and on release.

- ✓ Endles Space was released globally on 04.07.2012
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised Steamworks (Steam) DRM was to be used for Endless Space
- ✓ Advised how Steam DRM would activate the game through Endless Space
- ✓ Manual and Readme found on steampowered.com
- ✓ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS fully accessible on steampowered.com
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on steampowered.com

- ✗ Available only on Windows and MacOS
- ✗ Base game sold as multiple "editions"
- ✗ [No demo](#)

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](#).

Looking at Steam's Privacy Policy through Valve (Steam)

- ✓ Privacy Policy found on steampowered.com
- ✓ Policy applies to Steam Client, Steamworks DRM and Endless Space
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Can request to have their data removed
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the Privacy Policy

Note: Privacy Policy was retrieved April 2013; Effective Date of Steam's Privacy Policy prior to this evaluation was August 2012.

3a. EULA (GAME)

Note: 998 words found in [Endless Space's EULA](#).

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

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*

- ✗ Third parties not identified
- ✗ Users have limited control over their Steam account
- ✗ Users must accept ALL changes to the Policy before playing Endless Space

Looking at Endless Space's EULA from Amplitude Studios

- ✓ EULA / TOS is found on steampowered.com
- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Endless Space and Steam DRM
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Terms and conditions for Steam DRM are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Endless Space
- ✓ Can modify or reverse-engineer Endless Space's source code
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" of Endless Space
- ✓ 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 reprisals

- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of France
- ✗ 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
- ✗ Circumvention of Steam DRM prohibited
- ✗ Monitoring services / software are required to play Endless Space
- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Termination process dictated by Amplitude Studios

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
- ✗ Monitoring services / software are required to use Steam
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Arbitration process isn't freely-provided and requested by Valve
- ✗ Legal action is waived

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](#))

5. Updates / Patching

Note: First-time users should expect a 450Mb update before playing Endless Space.

6. DRM & Activation

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

Note: Endless Space will only be connected to the following servers: Amplitude Studios (OVH Shared Hosting Services), Highwinds Networks, Limelight Networks and Valve.

See Also: How to play Endless Space in [offline mode](#).

Looking at how Endless Space 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 (on a Broadband connection)

- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys

Looking at how Endless Space is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ No other DRM files or registry keys are installed
- ✓ Details of patches provided via [steampowered.com](#)
- ✓ Users can be advised of game patch's availability
- ✓ Users advised of any changes to the Privacy Policy &/or EULA before an update

- ✗ Automatic updates are mandatory
- ✗ Day-one patch required
- ✗ Requires ALL patches to play Endless Space
- ✗ Patches only installed via. automatic updates
- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys
- ✗ Rollback option not provided
- ✗ No plans to sunset Steam DRM

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

- ✓ Won't interfere with currently-executing background services or software
- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified or required to be modified
- ✓ Users are aware and advised on how Endless Space 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

- ✓ Their forum is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching on the Endless Space forum on Steam is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
- ✓ Customer services is quick to respond within 24 hours
- ✓ Customer service will resolve queries within 24 hours
- ✓ Tone and language used is warm, inviting and personable
- ✓ Focused on understanding problems and providing an effective solution

RYG's VERDICT

65%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

While Endless Space scored no different to other Steam-released games we've looked at it did score far better in the areas concerning modding, coding and customisations. It's a welcoming sign that a developing studio is willing to embrace user modding from a legal perspective. In addition the response time(s) and the way the responses are delivered by a dedicated contact at the Endless Space forums on Steam is something that should be commended. Endless Space, like most Steam games, are self-contained on user's PCs and won't adversely affect their systems or leave remnants / legacy material behind after a full clean up. On a whole, Endless Space is something to consider as a game to support.



Colophon

This analysis of Endless Space 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. Endless Space was bought with RYG funds through EB Games.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Endless Space 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 Endless Space and hope you continue to support our work.