

Ether One

An RYG Analysis

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

Developer: White Paper Games
Publisher: White Paper Games

RYG's ASSESSMENT

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

1a. Product Info

Note: GOG has provided a stand-alone version and a DLC-bundled version of Ether One. Those who purchased the stand-alone version also has the chance to purchase the DLCs as a separate copy.

Looking at how much information is provided on Ether One on the GOG site prior and on release.

- ✓ Ether One released globally through GOG on 25.03.2014
- ✓ Ether One sold through multiple vendors
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 25.03.2014
- ✓ Readme provided after purchase of Ether One
- ✓ EULA, [Privacy Policy](#) and [TOS](#) fully accessible on GOG
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [GOG](#)

- ✗ Only available on Windows
- ✗ No demo provided

1b. Digital Dwnld

Note: GOG provides a [30 day money back guarantee](#) under the provision that a solution could not be found in getting Ether One up and running on player's PCs.

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

- ✓ Ether One 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 25.03.2014
- ✓ 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 Ether One 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)

2. Privacy Policy

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

Note: Ether One **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.

- ✗ 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

Looking at GOG Privacy Policy through the GOG

- ✓ Privacy Policy found on GOG and is not required for Ether One
- ✓ 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
- ✗ User 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 Ether One

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 Ether One
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" of Ether One once the modkit is available
- ✓ Allow monetisation of clips relating to Ether One through video sharing sites
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can initiate legal action if the arbitration process fails
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism of the game without reprisals
- ✗ EULA / TOS was not formatted for easy reading on the web
- ✗ EULA / TOS was **not written for easy comprehension**

3. EULA (GOG)

Note: There are a total of 25,883 words in Ether One's EULA. The GOG section within the EULA was evaluated only. All others pertained to the use of third party software used to make Ether One.

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

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

4. Setup / Install

Note: Ether One will take up roughly 1.2Gb of HDD space.

5. Updates / Patching

6. DRM & Activation

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

7. Gameplay Experience

- ✗ Users 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

Looking at how Ether One 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

Looking at how Ether One 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
- ✓ Installation logs of game files found in /AppData/Local/Temp/
- ✓ Play Ether One with the new patch from a previous savegame

- ✗ Rollback option not provided in the event of a failed patch

Looking at GOG in relation to Ether One 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

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Ether One and how it interacts with PC Windows.

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

- ✓ Can play Ether One in borderless full-screen mode
- ✓ Can play Ether One in windowed mode
- ✓ Video options provided in resolution, anti-aliasing and vsync
- ✓ Can play and customise keyboard / mouse controls
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Multiple (subtitle) languages provided in Italian and Spanish
- ✓ 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

- ✗ No known option for user-generated subtitles

8. **PC Checkup**

Looking at whether Ether One 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 Ether One 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 Ether One (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Ether One?)

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

10. **Customer Support**

Looking at the customer support side of Ether One 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

RYG's VERDICT

79%

BARGAIN-BASE- MENT MATERIAL

64% and below

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

Apart from the very long and dense EULA, which was mostly added as a means to list a number of third party providers in making the game possible, Ether One is one of those games that can be trusted for its make, reliability and usability. With respect to GOG it's good that options are provided for those who purchased a stand-alone copy to buy a DLC pack as a stand alone if they choose to. Much like the evaluation itself, the time was spent exploring the game world and discovering how the mind (or heart / soul) actually worked.



Colophon

This analysis of Ether One 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. Ether One was bought with RYG funds through GOG.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Ether One 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 Ether One 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: Ether Ones
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www.reclaimyourgame.com @projectryg
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