

Faster Than Light

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: Good Old Games (GOG)

Developer: Subset Games
Publisher: Subset Games

RYG's VERDICT

80% **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**
Between 65% and 84%

1. Product Info

Note: More info on FTL can be found through ftlgame.com

Looking at how much information is provided on FTL: Faster Than Light (FTL) on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

- ✓ FTL released globally on Good Old Games on 14.09.2012
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on Good Old Games
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [Good Old Games](#)

- ✗ No Demo
- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme provided prior to purchase
- ✗ EULA only found within the game

2. Digital Download

Note: Games sold via. GOG are all priced in USD

Note: Email and Password is the minimum required to set up a GOG account.

See Also: [Refund Policy](#) found within [Good Old Games's Terms of Service \(TOS\)](#)

See Also: [Disclaimer of Warranties; Liability Limitations and Indemnity](#) within [GOG's Terms of Service \(TOS\)](#)

Looking at Good Old Games (GOG) as a digital distributing service for PC games.

- ✓ FTL sold at one, global price
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is optional; not required for gameplay
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided by [Good Old Games](#)
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 14.09.2012 via. GOG
- ✓ User account creation is optional; minimal details required (email, password)
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for pre-order purchases only
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account
- ✓ Can review and question changes made to GOG's Terms of Service (TOS)

- ✗ Warranties waived in respect to GOG's service
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play games
- ✗ Consumers prevented from disputing and validating any TOS breaches
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept GOG's TOS

3. EULA / TOS

Note: 907 Words found within FTL's EULA. FTL's EULA is GOG's generic EULA.

See Also: Good Old Games's Terms of Service, Refund Policy (as covered by RYG under Section 2. Digital Download)

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

Looking at FTL: Faster Than Light's End User License Agreement in conjunction with Good Old Games's Terms of Service.

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers FTL and Good Old Games (GOG)
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered in respect to pre-order purchases only
- ✓ Terms and conditions for FTL's DRM-Free aspects are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of FTL
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✗ EULA / TOS is only found within FTL during installation
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of USA in the state of California
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ License to play the game only provided
- ✗ FTL's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Warranties waived
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Termination process dictated by Good Old Games

4. Setup / Install

Note: GOG now provides installation logs of game files installed on Windows PCs! All logs are located within /AppData/Local/Temp/ folder.

Looking at how FTL: Faster Than Light is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ No DRM files or registry keys installed
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 5 minutes (Average time 1 minutes and less)

- ✗ No installation logs of registry keys provided after installation

5. Updates / Patching

Looking at how FTL: Faster Than Light is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of FTL: Faster Than Light 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

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: FTL: Faster Than Light is not a graphically-intensive game

Note: Savegame found within the /My Documents/ folder.

Looking at the gameplay aspects of FTL: Faster Than Light 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 controls
- ✓ 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 play on more than one PC simultaneously
- ✓ Can modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- * Only playable on mouse and keyboard

8. PC Checkup

Looking at whether FTL: Faster Than Light 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 FTL 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: Savegame found within the /My Documents/ folder.

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

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

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of FTL: Faster Than Light through Good Old Games (GOG)

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at www.gog.com/support/
- ✓ Their support is easy to use and navigate (known issues are highlighted)
- ✓ Searching on GOG's website is direct and quick

Note: Email support is tailored to the initial email query. They are friendly and personable.

- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
 - ✓ Customer service will resolve issues within 72 Hours
 - ✓ Tone and language used is warm, inviting and personable
 - ✓ Focused on understanding problems and providing an effective solution
 - ✓ Options provided for giving feedback on the quality of customer support
- ✗ Customer service via. Email takes more than 24 hours to respond

RYG's VERDICT

80%



WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

If the EULA was ignored, we would've given FTL the "Worth Supporting" rating. FTL is easily accessible, easy on the system, packages itself tightly within PCs and, most importantly, allows gamers to simply enjoy the game for what it is without annoyances or grievances associated with PC gaming.

Colophon

This analysis of FTL 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. FTL was bought with RYG funds through Good Old Games (GOG)

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into FTL 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 FTL 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: Faster Than Light
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