

RYG Evaluates Far Cry 4

by

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Here's our last game for the 2014 and right before Christmas. Far Cry 4 is, in every sense, a carbon copy of Far Cry 3 with a few enhancements here and there. This also includes many gripes and gameplay issues that are quite frustrating to go through at times. Apart from this players shouldn't expect anything amazing with this Ubisoft game and while the PC settings and configurations are vast they're still way off base when it comes to optimal play on the PC. Anyway, our thoughts are detailed below.

RYG's Assessment

48%

Bargain Basement Material

(Between 65% and 84%)

About Far Cry 4

Far Cry 4 is a first person, open world shooter and is the fourth Far Cry game developed and published by Ubisoft. Please refer to each section for our results we've evaluated and our summarised thoughts to gain a better understanding of how Far Cry 4 affects PCs and plays as a PC Game.

RYG Disclaimer

This Windows version of Far Cry 4 (Build: 1.40) was obtained through Uplay independently with RYG funds for the purposes of evaluation and product testing. Far Cry 4 was evaluated on the following system specs: Windows 7, Intel i5-4460, 16Gb RAM, AMD Radeon R9 290.

Availability

Uplay: http://shop.ubi.com/store/ubina/en_U...ctID.304344300

Steam: <http://store.steampowered.com/app/298110/>

Humble Store: https://www.humblebundle.com/store/p/farcry4_storefront

Recommended System Specs

OS: Windows 7 or above (*Windows 7 Version Tested*)

CPU: Intel Core i5-2400S @ 2.5 GHz or AMD FX-8350 @ 4.0 GHz

GPU: NVIDIA GeForce GTX 680 or AMD Radeon R9 290X or better

RAM: 8 Gb

HDD: 30 Gb

Source: [Ubisoft's Blog](#)

Note: Even on recommended specs we couldn't hit 60fps at 1080p on ultra settings.

Section 1 - Content Strategy and Product Marketing

- + Was released simultaneously with its console version
- + Was released globally on 18.11.2014
- + Is available through Steam, Humble Store, Uplay and Amazon
- + Ubisoft advises how Uplay is used in Far Cry 4

- Is available only on Windows
- No known DRM-Free version
- Certain DLCs provided on specific versions of Far Cry 4
- Minimum / Recommended Specs not provided on far-cry.ubi.com
- Complete download size not provided through far-cry.ubi.com
- Early access purchase required to access demo through far-cry.ubi.com
- In-game documentation and/or tutorials not provided
- EULA, Privacy Policy and Terms of Service not found on far-cry.ubi.com
- All game-related info is scattered across multiple URLs

Our Thoughts: It's generally difficult to get any meaningful information from Ubisoft's sites in relation to how Far Cry 4 will run, any documents that need reading or how it will affect PCs. For the most part the official site is a front for the promotional hype that comes with the advertising campaign of a AAA game. Most information that's critical to the game's found after purchasing the game itself.

Section 2 - Digital Distribution

- + Is available worldwide through Uplay
- + Download / Client Manager is optional for download of Far Cry 4
- + Released DRM Free through Uplay
- + Alternative payment options provided by Visa, Mastercard and Amex
- + Currency Notification provided prior, during and after purchase
- + Confirmation of purchase and receipt provided
- + Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- + Can access personal data
- + Can terminate account with relative ease

- Is priced inconsistently across global regions through Uplay
- Minimum / Recommended Specs not provided on Uplay
- Extra details beyond username/password are required in creating a Uplay account
- Complete download size not provided
- Download / Client Manager required to play Far Cry 4
- Purchased games are only backed up through Uplay
- No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- All players warranties waived whenever they use Uplay
- Cover waived against any unforeseeable damage and/or service disruptions within Uplay
- Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play Far Cry 4
- Players prevented from disputing / validating Terms of Service breaches made against them
- Can't review and question changes made in Terms of Service
- Past purchases voided after refusing to accept Terms of Service

Our Thoughts: Players shouldn't expect too much when it comes to Uplay either in the form of a distribution platform or a visual veneer to Far Cry 4 itself. Probably the upside to Uplay's system is that it's quite clean in terms of its file and registry structure. This is explained in brief later on, but Uplay is easy to remove, which say a lot in comparison to other DRM / Distribution services that require a software client to launch and play a game.

Section 3 - Privacy Policy

- + Privacy Policy found on ubi.com
- + Applies to Far Cry 4 and Uplay DRM
- + 'Personally-identifiable' & 'non-personally identifiable' info are clearly defined
- + Policy specifies what information are collected at specific areas of the platform
- + Info is used solely for payments, opt-in email campaigns & acct management

- Not formatted for easy reading online
- Cumbersome / difficult to read
- 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

- Assurances of safety and security of information not provided
- Third parties not identified
- Opt in / Opt out process not provided
- Players provided with little no options to access all game and player data
- Players provided with little no options to access, validate and/or modify their accounts
- Players cannot export their information tied to their Ubisoft account
- Player data is retained by Ubisoft for an extended period of time
- Can't review and query (legal) changes made to the Policy
- No specific information on how info will be used in the event of a sale/merger
- Players must accept ALL changes made to the Policy before using Far Cry 4

Our Thoughts: This is a consistent observation we're seeing with their Privacy Policies in relation to the game (and with Uplay in tow) and it's virtually inescapable. If you're comfortable playing this game within a physical connection, and allow Ubisoft to track / monitor / collect any data they will want from your system, then by all means. Otherwise, the "offline mode" through Uplay is useless. One can force disconnect their system during gameplay...but an offline mode functionality exists through Uplay for a reason. A lot of the data sent / received is protected, but that shouldn't be a reason to trust in the level of security Uplay has provided given larger video gaming companies over the past several years have been susceptible to online attacks.

Section 4 - EULA and Uplay's TOS

- + Covers Far Cry 4 and Uplay
- + Terms and conditions for Uplay are clearly defined
- + Far Cry 4 won't blacklist specific background services or software
- EULA and/or TOS only found within the game itself
- Not formatted for easy reading online
- Cumbersome / difficult to read
- Drafted to only abide by the laws of the US
- Players not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA and/or TOS
- Players not consulted on future revisions to the EULA and/or TOS
- Can't review and query (legal) changes made to the EULA and/or TOS
- License to play the game only provided
- No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- Circumvention of Uplay prohibited
- Illegal for players to make archival copies of Far Cry 4
- Far Cry 4's source code is restricted
- Not permitted to create free 'mods' of Far Cry 4
- Monetisation of user-generated content of Far Cry 4 is restricted
- All players warranties waived whenever they use Far Cry 4
- Cover waived against any unforeseeable damage and/or service disruptions within Far Cry 4
- Termination process dictated by Ubisoft
- No known resolution process available for players experiencing issues with Far Cry 4

Our Thoughts: This Ubisoft EULA shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who has bought and played their games as it's the similarly-worded EULA as it was back when Assassins Creed 2 was released. Don't expect too many consumer rights retained in their terms of service and EULA.

Section 5 - Installation

- + Custom installation options provided through a compressed file
- + No third party software required
- + All game files installed in main installation directory
- + Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- + Error-free installation

- No installation logs of registry keys

Our Thoughts: Far Cry 4 and Uplay will install to where players want them installed. There are no surprises here and is, by far, the best thing we've seen about Uplay. In fact it's pretty much the same thing we saw in Assassins Creed: Liberation.

Section 6 - Automatic and/or Manual Patching

- + Patch free from any other third-party DRMs
- + Far Cry 4 is playable with latest patches

- Automatic updates are mandatory
- Day-One patch required to play Far Cry 4
- Is released with numerous bugs and will require fixes for gameplay
- Download / Client Manager required to download and install patches
- Details of patches not provided / provided prior to installation
- Changes / Amendments to Privacy Policy, EULA and/or TOS not provided prior to installation of patches
- No installation logs of files and registry keys
- Rollback option not provided
- No plans for a sunset patch to remove Uplay DRM

Our Thoughts: The latest patch we played was version 1.40, which had fixed a number of visual issues we had with version 1.0. Again this is one of the sore points with Far Cry 4 (or with any Ubisoft game released this year) where it was released with numerous bugs and then later fixed through player feedback after they have paid for the game.

Section 7 - DRM and Activation

- + Instructions provided on activating Far Cry 4
- + Currently-executing background services won't interfere with activation process
- + Firewall and AV settings not modified
- + Unlimited online activations
- + Can play Far Cry 4 offline
- + Only Uplay DRM is implemented
- + Unlimited hardware activations
- + Unlimited Installations
- + Troubleshooting process provided for failed activations

- Can't verify safety and reliability of the activation process
- A non-transferrable user account is required
- Game is locked to specific account after activation

Our Thoughts: Activating Far Cry 4 is pretty simple and players shouldn't have too many issues playing the game in offline mode. For the overly cautious this may involve physically disconnecting the PC from the Internet as Uplay will send/receive data regardless of whether players have actively set Uplay to Offline mode. In addition to this Far Cry 4's multiplayer portion requires a connection anyway.

Section 8 - Gameplay

- + Can play on minimum specs
- + Can play a backup copy of the game
- + Can play in borderless full screen mode
- + Can play in windowed mode
- + Can play in multiple resolutions
- + Numerous visual settings are provided in-game
- + Complete options in remapping keyboard and/or mouse controls
- + Separate volume controls provided for voice, sound and music
- + Full subtitles and/or captions provided
- + French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Russian and Portuguese are supported alongside English
- + Can play Far Cry 4 in offline mode
- + Can access DLCs offline
- + No known connectivity issues during gameplay
- + Can play Far Cry 4 error-free for the most part
- + Far Cry 4 won't blacklist specific background services or software
- + Can play game at last save checkpoint
- + Can manually save gameplay
- + Uplay isn't running after gameplay of Far Cry 4

- No option for players to provide custom subtitles and/or localisation
- Will 'phone home' without players consent
- Can't opt out of achievements and leaderboards
- Can only play on one PC at a time

Our Thoughts: While the in-game settings are huge (a lot more than what their previous games have offered) and there's a marked improvement in the visuals section, we found that the game (for the most part) remained buggy and, at times, unoptimised. In addition to this is the fact that the development of Far Cry 4 was modelled almost identically to Far Cry 3 – compelling bad guy, first person God complex, explorations, tower climbing, grinding missions and pointless income system. Fans of Far Cry 3 will love this game, but otherwise we're recommending players to wait until Ubisoft have fixed all these issues, which may likely come when the game is sold at a genuine discount.

Section 9 - General PC Maintenance

- + PC clean of viruses, malware, spyware and rootkits after installation and gameplay of Far Cry 4
- + HOSTS was clean
- + Windows Startup was clean
- + Uplay isn't running after gameplay of Far Cry 4
- + No other PC settings were modified after gameplay of Far Cry 4

Our Thoughts: Far Cry 4 is a clean game and won't impact on players PCs nor alter its settings outside of its gameplay.

Section 10 - Uninstallation

- + Clean uninstallation

Our Thoughts: This is a pretty clean installation of the game and so it shouldn't impact player's PCs too much.

Changelog

05.12.2014 – Report published on RYG