

The Inner World

An RYG Analysis

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

Developer: Studio Fizbin
Publisher: Headup Games

RYG's VERDICT

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

1. Product Info

Looking at how much information is provided on The Inner World on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

- ✓ The Inner World released globally on 27.09.2013
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 27.09.2013
- ✓ Manual and Readme provided in-game
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on gog.com

- ✗ Available on Windows and MacOS
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS is only found within the game

2. Digital Download

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

- ✓ The Inner World sold at one, global price
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is optional; not required for gameplay
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 27.09.2013 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

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)

3. EULA / TOS

Note: 1,353 Words found within The Inner World's EULA, which is a combination of GOG's EULA and Headup Games's 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

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.

Note: The Inner World's installation is ~1.4Gb.

5. Updates / Patching

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at The Inner World's End User License Agreement in conjunction with Good Old Games and Headup Games's Terms of Service.

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers The Inner World
- ✓ 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 for purchased games
- ✓ Terms and conditions for the DRM-Free component are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of The Inner World
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ All warranties provided in relation to any potential software defects
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✗ EULA / TOS is only found within the game.
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of the US
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ License to play the game only provided
- ✗ The Inner World's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Not permitted to create "mods"
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

Looking at how The Inner World 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 minute and less)

- ✗ No installation logs of registry keys provided after installation

Looking at how The Inner World is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of The Inner World and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline
- ✓ No hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited Installations

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: Savegames are found in the /My Documents/TheInnerWorld/ folder.

Looking at the gameplay aspects of The Inner World 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
- ✓ Can customise keyboard/mouse 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 config files
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- ✗ Very little options in modifying any graphical settings
- ✗ Only playable on mouse and keyboard

8. PC Checkup

Looking at whether The Inner World 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 The Inner World 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

Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for The Inner World (How much legacy material is there after the removal of The Inner World?)

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

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of The Inner World through GOG's website

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at gog.com
- ✓ GOG's support + forum is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching on GOG's support + forum is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand

RYG's VERDICT

80%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

We had little trouble installing, playing and removing The Inner World. There were also some nice additions to the game, such as an added clause in the EULA in respect to software warranties and their concise, in-game manual.



Colophon

This analysis of The Inner World 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. The Inner World was purchased with RYG funds from Good Old Games.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into The Inner World 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 The Inner World 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: The Inner World
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