

# Kentucky Route Zero

An RYG Analysis

**Platform:** PC (Windows only)  
**DRM:** DRM Free  
**Digital Distributor:** Devloper Direct / Humble Store

**Developer:** Cardboard Computer  
**Publisher:** Cardboard Computer

## RYG's VERDICT

**91%** **WORTH SUPPORTING**  
85% and above

### 1. Product Info

**Note:** Kentucky Route Zero are designed and released in Five Acts / Episodes. Acts 1 and 2 were evaluated.

*Looking at how much information is provided on Kentucky Route Zero on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.*

- ✓ Kentucky Route Zero (Acts 1 and 2) released globally on 07.01 & 31.05.2013
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs (Soundtrack) sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Demo provided titled *Limits & Demonstration*
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 07.01.2013
- ✓ Detailed readme, FAQ and support found within the game
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [kentuckyroutezero.com](http://kentuckyroutezero.com)

### 2. Digital Download

**Note:** Kentucky Route Zero is priced in USD via. the Humble Store.

**Note:** Users will have the option to create a Humble Store account and link their game to it (or download via. their email link).

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

*Looking at The Humble Store / Direct From The Developer as a digital distributing service for PC games.*

- ✓ Kentucky Route Zero sold at one, global price
- ✓ Available worldwide through [kentuckyroutezero.com](http://kentuckyroutezero.com)
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is not required
- ✓ Released DRM Free on 07.01.2013
- ✓ User account creation is optional; minimal details required
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✗ Minimum and recommended specs not provided
- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

### 3. Privacy Policy & EULA

*Looking at Kentucky Route Zero's Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement.*

- ✓ EULA / TOS and Privacy Policy is not required for Kentucky Route Zero

## 4. Setup / Install

**Note:** Downloading and Installing Kentucky Route Zero will take ~280Mb.

**Note:** Kentucky Route Zero will require extraction from its compressed ZIP file.

*Looking at how Kentucky Route Zero is installed on Windows PCs only.*

- ✓ Users can extract Kentucky Route Zero to a file directory of their choice
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ All game files installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 5 minutes
  
- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys

## 5. Updates / Patching

*Looking at how Kentucky Route Zero is patched prior and after gameplay.*

- ✓ Can play the game unpatched.

## 6. DRM & Activation

**Note:** Kentucky Route Zero will not connect to any server(s) before and during gameplay.

*Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Kentucky Route Zero 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
- ✓ Activation is simple and hassle-free

## 7. Gameplay Experience

**Note:** Kentucky Route Zero is not a graphically-intensive game.

*Looking at the gameplay aspects of Kentucky Route Zero and how it interacts with PC Windows.*

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✓ Suitable options to modify video settings (resolution and vsync only)
- ✓ 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
  
- ✗ Can only play Kentucky Route Zero with the mouse

**Note:** Config and Savegame locations are found under the Documents/KentuckyRouteZero folder.

## 8. PC Checkup

*Looking at whether Kentucky Route Zero 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 Kentucky Route Zero 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:** Registry keys can be found via. Regedit under /HKCU/ Software/Cardboard Computer/ only.

*Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for Kentucky Route Zero (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Kentucky Route Zero?)*

- ✓ Direct uninstallation shortcut not required
- ✓ Savegames retained
- ✗ Registry keys relating to Kentucky Route Zero need manual removal

## 10. Customer Support

*Looking at the customer support side of Kentucky Route Zero through the readme file provided in the game.*

- ✓ Support information, FAQs and common issues are found in the readme file
- ✓ The readme file is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching through readme file is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand

## RYG's VERDICT

# 91%

## WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

## SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

## BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

*Kentucky Route Zero is an easy game to set up and play. Any issues found with Acts 1 and 2 of Kentucky Route Zero were minor (such as a manual removal of a single registry key and the use of a mouse and not a keyboard / controller in a point-and-click game).*



### Colophon

This analysis of Kentucky Route Zero 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. Kentucky Route Zero was bought with RYG funds through Cardboard Computer.

### Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Kentucky Route Zero 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 Kentucky Route Zero 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.

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