Medal of Honor (2010)

Platform: PC (Windows 7 only)
DRM: SecuROM (Disc Verification ONLY!)
Digital Distributor: PHYSICAL COPY ONLY!

Developer: Danger Close / DICE
Publisher: Electronic Arts

RYG's VERDICT

56% **BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL**
64% and Below

1. Product Info

Looking at how much information is provided on Medal of Honor on its website prior and on release.

Note: Users are given a choice of how to activate Medal of Honor either as a constant disc-verification only or a once-off online-activation via. SecuROM.

- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Demo provided
- ✓ Advised SecuROM DRM was to be used on Medal of Honor
- ✓ Advised how SecuROM DRM would activate the game via. Medal of Honor
- ✓ Manual and Readme provided with the game

- ✗ Medal of Honor released with different global dates
- ✗ Available only on Windows
- ✗ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS is only found within the game
- ✗ All game-related information on store.origin.com is difficult to find & navigate

2. Privacy Policy

Looking at Medal of Honor's Privacy Policy found only through Electronic Art's official website.

- ✓ Privacy Policy not required for disc verification of Medal of Honor

3. EULA TOS

Looking at Medal of Honor's End User License Agreement.

Note: 3,552 words found in Medal of Honor's EULA. EULA won't be found in EA's Product EULAs page.

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Medal of Honor and SecuROM DRM
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods"
- ✓ Can opt-out of any monitoring services / software
- ✓ 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 game disc (not through EA's website)
- ✗ Difficult to read, understand and is inconsistently worded

- ✖ Drafted to only abide by the laws of the US
- ✖ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✖ Can't review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✖ License to play the game only provided
- ✖ No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- ✖ Replacement copies not provided OR replacement copies provided for a fee
- ✖ Terms and conditions for SecuROM DRM aren't clearly defined
- ✖ Circumvention of SecuROM prohibited
- ✖ Back-ups aren't permitted
- ✖ Medal of Honor's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✖ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✖ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✖ Termination process dictated by EA
- ✖ Legal action is waived

Note: More info on how SecuROM is implemented in Medal of Honor can be found in the game disc.

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

4. Setup / Install

Note: There will be extra files found in /Program Data/DSS/ Content Activation/ in relation to SecuROM.

Looking at how Medal of Honor is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed just under 30 minutes

- ✖ No installation logs of files and registry keys
- ✖ Extra game and DRM files found in /AppData/ and /ProgramData/

5. Updates / Patching

Note: Users connected will require a 13Mb update before gameplay.

Looking at how Medal of Honor is patched prior, during and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can opt-in / opt-out of automatic updates
- ✓ Day-one patch optional
- ✓ Can play the game unpatched
- ✓ No other DRM files or registry keys are installed
- ✓ Can install patches manually
- ✓ Details of patches provided via www.medalofhonor.com

- ✖ No installation logs of files and registry keys
- ✖ Rollback option not provided
- ✖ No plans to sunset SecuROM DRM

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at SecuROM DRM in relation to Medal of Honor and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Won't interfere with currently-executing background services or software
- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified or required to be modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Unlimited online activations to any one PC for disc verification pathway only!

- ✓ Can play single-player game offline
- ✓ Only SecuROM DRM is implemented
- ✓ Unlimited hardware activations for disc verification pathway only!
- ✓ Unlimited installations for disc verification pathway only!
- ✓ Activation is simple and hassle-free

- ✗ Little instructions provided on the activation process
- ✗ Can't verify the safety and reliability of the activation process
- ✗ Activation pathway isn't explained
- ✗ No support or troubleshooting process

Note: Medal of Honor will connect to the following servers prior and during gameplay: Electronic Arts and Verisign.

7. Gameplay Experience

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Medal of Honor and how it interacts with PC Windows.

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ 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

Note: Savegame found in Documents\EA Games\Medal of Honor\Saved

- ✗ Requires original copy to play the game
- ✗ Constant disc verification
- ✗ Only playable on mouse and keyboard
- ✗ DRM and monitoring services will operate during and after gameplay

8. PC Checkup

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

✓ Backup savegames prompt provided / Savegames retained

✗ Will need to uninstall the game via. Control Panel
✗ Notifications on deactiving the game not provided
✗ SecuROM files and registry keys remain

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of Medal of Honor through EA's Support

✓ Customer service / support found in one place at answers.ea.com
✓ answers.ea.com is easy to use and navigate
✓ Searching on answers.ea.com is direct and quick
✓ Info is easy to read and understand

✗ Legal action waived once arbitration process is initiated
✗ No option provided for giving feedback on the service of customer support

RYG's VERDICT

56%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

Users should have little trouble installing, activating and playing Medal of Honor via. a constant disc verification system. However, much of the reasons why it's received a "bargain bin material" score lies with EA's documentation with Medal of Honor + Se-cuROM as well as the way SecuROM was implemented (and left behind) after its initial use. Bear in mind this game was released before the blanket use and implementation of EA Origin.

Colophon

This analysis of Medal of Honor 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. Medal of Honor was bought with RYG funds through EB Games.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Medal of Honor 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 Medal of Honor and hope you continue to support our work.