

# Mysterious Cities of Gold

An RYG Analysis

**Platform:** PC (Windows 7 only)  
**DRM:** Steamworks (Steam)  
**Digital Distributor:** Steam

**Developer:** Neko Entertainment  
**Publisher:** Neko Entertainment

## RYG's VERDICT

**66%** **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**  
Between 65% and 84%

### 1a. Product Info

**Note:** Neko Entertainment / Ynnis Interactive have confirmed they will release Mysterious Cities of Gold: Secret Paths [through the Humble Store](#), DRM Free.

*Looking at how much information is provided on Mysterious Cities of Gold: Secret Paths (MCOG: Secret Paths) on the Steam site prior and on release.*

- ✓ MCOG: Secret Paths released globally for PC (Win) on 21.11.2013
- ✓ MCOG: Secret Paths released in line with the Wii U version
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised Steamworks (Steam) DRM was to be used for MCOG: Secret Paths
- ✓ Advised how Steam DRM would activate MCOG: Secret Paths
- ✓ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS fully accessible on [steampowered.com](#)
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [steampowered.com](#)
  
- ✗ Available only on Windows
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme

### 1b. Digital Dwnld

**Note:** Backing up Steam games "offline" can be found via. [PC-GamingWiki](#).

**Note:** Refer to Section 3, [Billing, Payment & Other Subscriptions](#) in respect to pre-order refunds for users living in the EU

**Note:** Difference in prices for MCOG: Secret Paths can be found via. [Steam Apps Database](#).

*Looking at Steam as a digital distributing service for PC games.*

- ✓ Available worldwide through [steampowered.com](#)
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised Steamworks (Steam) DRM was to be used for MCOG: Secret Paths
- ✓ Advised how Steam DRM would activate MCOG: Secret Paths
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds offered for pre-orders (EU ONLY!)
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account
  
- ✗ MCOG: Secret Paths is priced inconsistently across global regions
- ✗ Download / Client Manager is required, including for gameplay
- ✗ User account creation is required
- ✗ No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

## 2. Privacy Policy

**Note:** 1,507 words found within Steam's Privacy Policy.

**See Also:** Relevant Sections: Collection of Information, Personally Identifiable Information and Use of Personally Identifiable Information.

**Note:** Privacy Policy was retrieved November 2013; Effective Date of Steam's Privacy Policy prior to this evaluation was August 2012.

## 3a. EULA (GAME)

## 3b. EULA (STEAM)

**Note:** 6,946 Words found in Steam's EULA.

EULA has been updated to July 2013.

- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play them
- ✗ Consumers prevented from disputing Steam TOS breaches made against them
- ✗ Can't review and question changes made to Steam TOS
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept Steam TOS

*Looking at MCOG: Secret Paths's Privacy Policy through Steam*

- ✓ Privacy Policy found on [steampowered.com](http://steampowered.com)
- ✓ Policy applies to Steam Client, Steamworks DRM and MCOG: Secret Paths
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Users visibly notified of any changes made to the Policy
- ✓ "Personally-identifiable" and "non-personally identifiable" info are defined
- ✓ Policy specifies what's are collected before and during gameplay
- ✓ Info is stored in the US
- ✓ Data centres are 100% safe and secure
- ✓ Info is used solely for improving Steam's services only!
- ✓ Visible opt-in / opt-out process
- ✓ Users can access and modify their user account
- ✓ Users can modify their user account
- ✓ Users can validate the info they've provided
- ✓ Can request to have their data removed
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the Privacy Policy
  
- ✗ Third parties not identified
- ✗ Users have limited control over their Steam account
- ✗ Users must accept ALL changes before playing MCOG: Secret Paths

*Looking at MCOG: Secret Paths's EULA from 505 Games.*

- ✓ EULA / TOS wasn't found / wasn't required.

*Looking at Steam Subscriber's Agreement through Steam.*

- ✓ EULA / TOS is found on [steampowered.com](http://steampowered.com)
- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Steam DRM
- ✓ Terms and conditions for Steam DRM are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Steam Client
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" of Valve's Source Code Engine
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Termination process is clear and transparent
  
- ✗ Difficult to read and understand
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of US in the state of California
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS

*See Also:* Section 12, *Dispute Resolution / Binding Arbitration / Class Action Waiver*

## 4. Setup / Install

**Note:** Installing games through Steam to a different folder and drive can be done by altering the Steam shortcut to add “-dev” (via. [RPS](#))

## 5. Updates / Patching

**Note:** The earliest version evaluated required no patches or updates.

## 6. DRM & Activation

**Note:** It is recommended that (new) users should install and update Steam first before installing MCOG: Secret Paths.

**Note:** MCOG: Secret Paths will be connected to the following servers: Valve (Highwinds Networks, Telia.Net, Kaia Networks, QWest Communications, Limelight Networks, Level 3 Communications, Comcast & WA Internet Exchange)

*See Also:* How to play MCOG: Secret Paths in [offline mode](#).

- ✗ Can't review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ Circumvention of Steam DRM prohibited
- ✗ Monitoring services / software are required to use Steam
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Arbitration process isn't freely-provided and requested by Valve
- ✗ Legal action is waived

*Looking at how MCOG: Secret Paths is installed on Windows PCs only.*

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Steam DRM files installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 30 minutes (using an ADSL2+ connection)
  
- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys

*Looking at how MCOG: Secret Paths is patched prior and after gameplay.*

- ✓ Can opt-in / opt-out of automatic updates
- ✓ Can play the game unpatched
  
- ✗ No plans to sunset Steam DRM

*Looking at Steam DRM in relation to MCOG: Secret Paths 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
- ✓ Users are aware and advised on how MCOG: Secret Paths will be activated
- ✓ Username, password and email are only required
- ✓ Unlimited online activations to any one PC
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline
- ✓ Only Steam DRM is implemented
- ✓ Unlimited hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited installations
- ✓ Support and troubleshooting process provided
- ✓ Activation is simple and hassle-free
  
- ✗ No instructions provided on the activation process
- ✗ Can't verify the safety and reliability of the activation process
- ✗ A non-transferrable user account is required
- ✗ Game is locked to specific account after activation

## 7. Gameplay Experience

*See Also:* How to play MCOG: Secret Paths in [offline mode](#).

**Note:** Saves are automated through a checkpoint system (at the end / start of each level).

**Note:** Saves are automated through a checkpoint system (at the end / start of each level). Savegames and Config files are found in the /My Documents/ Ynnis Interactive/ Folders.

*Looking at the gameplay aspects of MCOG: Secret Paths 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 play with console controller
- ✓ 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 modify savegame and/or ini file
  
- ✗ Only Resolution, Anti-Aliasing and VSyncing options provided
- ✗ No manual save option.
- ✗ Can only play on one PC at a time per game / account
- ✗ DRM and monitoring services will operate during and after gameplay

## 8. PC Checkup

*Looking at whether MCOG: Secret Paths 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 MCOG: Secret Paths without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM and monitoring services running in the background
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

## 9. Removal Uninstall

**Note:** Steam does offer an option to [manually remove all Steam-related files](#). It does work and will remove any remaining files and keys after uninstallation of MCOG: Secret Paths

*Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for MCOG: Secret Paths (How much legacy material is there after the removal of MCOG: Secret Paths?)*

- ✓ Knowledgebase provided at Steam to remove all Steam files and registry keys
- ✓ Knowledgebase in removing game + DRM files is easy to understand
  
- ✗ Will need to uninstall the game via. Control Panel
- ✗ Some game files and registry keys related to Steam and the game remain

# 10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of MCOG: Secret Paths through Steam's Community Forums

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

## RYG's VERDICT

66%

## BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

## SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

## WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

*There were very few issues encountered with the Steam version of Mysterious Cities of Gold: Secret Paths. Once the DRM-Free version is released through the Humble Store we can make comparisons between the Steam and DRM-Free distribution platforms. Apart from this the game itself was relatively easy to set up and play.*



### Colophon

This analysis of MCOG: Secret Paths 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. MCOG: Secret Paths was bought with RYG funds through Kickstarter.

### Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into MCOG: Secret Paths as a product. We believe everyone should perform their own research and reach their own conclusions. This is one view of many. Again, we thank you for taking the time to read our analysis of MCOG: Secret Paths 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: Mysterious Cities of Gold: Secret Paths  
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