

The Novelist

An RYG Analysis

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

Developer: Orthogonal Games
Publisher: Orthogonal Games

RYG's VERDICT

87% **WORTH SUPPORTING**
85% and above

1. Product Info

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

- ✓ The Novelist released globally on 10.12.2013
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 10.12.2013
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on thenovelistgame.com
- ✗ Available only on Windows
- ✗ No demo OR Closed alpha/beta access only
- ✗ In-game manual provided only

2. Digital Download

Note: The Novelist 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.

- ✓ The Novelist sold at one, global price
- ✓ Available worldwide through humblebundle.com
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is not required
- ✓ Released DRM Free on 10.12.2013
- ✓ 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 The Novelist's Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement.

- ✓ EULA / TOS and Privacy Policy is not required for The Novelist

4. Setup / Install

Note: Downloading and Installing The Novelist will take ~150Mb.

Note: The Novelist will require extraction from its compressed ZIP file.

Looking at how The Novelist is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Users can extract The Novelist 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 The Novelist is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game unpatched

6. DRM & Activation

Note: The Novelist will not connect to any server(s) before and during gameplay.

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of The Novelist 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: Config and Savegame locations are found within the Registry HKCU/Software/Orthogonal Games/

Looking at the gameplay aspects of The Novelist 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
- ✓ 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
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- ✗ Only playable on mouse and keyboard
- ✗ Key binding settings are fixed
- ✗ Some difficulty in modifying any in-game settings manually via. RegEdit

8. PC Checkup

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

- ✓ Savegames retained through the Registry
- ✗ All registry keys under HKCU/Software/Orthogonal Games/ will remain (Can be manually removed)

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of The Novelist through the Humble Store

- ✓ Support information, FAQs and common issues are found via. Humble Store
- ✓ The site is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching through the site is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand

RYG's VERDICT

87%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

The Novelist is an easy game to set up and play. Any issues found with The Novelist were minor (such as fixed keyboard / mouse settings or manual removal of registry keys).



Colophon

This analysis of The Novelist 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 Novelist was bought with RYG funds through the Humble Store.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into The Novelist 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 Novelist 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 Novelist
Copyright © 2012, Reclaim Your Game (RYG) Pty Ltd
www.reclaimyourgame.com @projectryg
PRYG3-00100-01
22 December 2013