

RimWorld (Alpha)

An RYG Analysis

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

Developer: Ludeon Studios
Publisher: Ludeon Studios

RYG's VERDICT

78% **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**
Between 65% and 84%

1. Product Info

Note: This version of RimWorld evaluated is the public alpha copy, available through rimworldgame.com

Looking at how much information is provided on RimWorld on its website prior and on release.

- ✓ RimWorld released globally as a public alpha on 27.01.2014
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 27.01.2014
- ✓ Manual and Readme found on rimworldwiki.com
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on rimworldgame.com
- ✗ Minimum and recommended specs not provided
- ✗ (Free) demo not provided

2. Digital Download

Note: RimWorld is priced in USD via. the developer direct.

Note: Each user is able to download the RimWorld platform of their choice (Win, Mac, Linux) five times per update, send via Email.

Looking at Direct From The Developer as a digital distributing service for PC games.

- ✓ RimWorld sold at one, global price
- ✓ Available worldwide through rimworldgame.com
- ✓ Download / Client Manager not required for gameplay
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 27.01.2014
- ✓ User account creation not required
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✗ Minimum and recommended specs not provided
- ✗ Free access and downloads are limited to 5 per update
- ✗ No refunds or exchanges for purchased games
- ✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

3. Privacy Policy & EULA

Looking at RimWorld's Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement.

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

4. Setup / Install

Note: Downloading and Installing RimWorld will take ~50Mb.

Note: RimWorld will require extraction from its compressed ZIP file.

Looking at how RimWorld is installed on Windows PCs only.

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

- ✓ Can opt-in / opt-out of automatic updates
- ✓ Can play the game unpatched
- ✓ No other DRM files or registry keys are installed
- ✓ Can install patches manually
- ✓ Details of patches provided via ludeon.com/blog/
- ✓ Users can be advised of game patch's availability

- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys
- ✗ Rollback option not provided

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of RimWorld 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: Savegame locations are found within the \AppData\LocalLow\Ludeon Studios\RimWorld\ folder

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

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✓ Can play in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ 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

Note: RimWorld will only connect to Ludeon Studio's servers in respect to finding the latest update for RimWorld.

8. **PC Checkup**

- ✓ Can play on more than one PC simultaneously
- ✓ Can **modify** savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- ✗ Only screen resolution settings are provided
- ✗ Only playable on mouse and keyboard
- ✗ Will "phone home" to Ludeon Servers only

Looking at whether RimWorld 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 RimWorld 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: These latent files and keys won't harm the system and can be removed through a simple search of Ludeon / RimWorld.

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

- ✓ Savegames retained

- ✗ Will need to manually uninstall RimWorld
- ✗ Some files in /AppData/ and registry keys relating to Ludeon Studios remain

10. **Customer Support**

Looking at the customer support side of RimWorld through the Ludeon Studios forums

- ✓ Support information, FAQs and common issues are found via. the forums
- ✓ 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

78%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

We experienced no issues at all when we looked at RimWorld from its point of sale right through to its installation, in-game settings and gameplay. Some issues are there, such as the initial phone home process, but nothing too alarming in both its necessity and execution (finding updates). In its alpha state, RimWorld is a challenging game that scales quite well to the needs and the pace of the player's involvement.



Colophon

This analysis of RimWorld 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. RimWorld was bought with RYG funds through Kickstarter.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into RimWorld 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 RimWorld 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: RimWorld
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