

# Stacking

An RYG Analysis

**Platform:** PC (Windows only)  
**DRM:** DRM Free  
**Digital Distributor:** Good Old Games (GOG)

**Developer:** Double Fine  
**Publisher:** Double Fine

## RYG's VERDICT

**82%** **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**  
Between 65% and 84%

### 1. Product Info

*Note:* The Mac and Linux version(s) of Stacking can be found at [steampowered.com](http://steampowered.com).

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

- ✓ Stacking released globally for PC (Win) on 06.03.2012
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux (via. Steam)
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 06.03.2012
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [gog.com](http://gog.com)
  
- ✗ No demo
- ✗ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS is only found within the game
- ✗ Manual or readme not provided

### 2. Digital Download

*Note:* Games sold via. GOG are all priced in USD

*Note:* Email and Password is the minimum required to set up a GOG account.

*See Also:* [Refund Policy](#) found within [Good Old Games's Terms of Service \(TOS\)](#)

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

*Looking at Good Old Games (GOG) as a digital distributing service for PC games.*

- ✓ Stacking sold at one, global price
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is optional; not required for gameplay
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 06.03.2012 via. GOG
- ✓ User account creation is optional; minimal details required (email, password)
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for pre-order purchases only
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account
- ✓ Can review and question changes made to GOG's Terms of Service (TOS)
  
- ✗ Warranties waived in respect to GOG's service
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play games
- ✗ Consumers prevented from disputing and validating any TOS breaches
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept GOG's TOS

## 3. EULA / TOS

**Note:** 907 Words found within Stacking's EULA. Stacking's EULA is GOG's generic EULA.

**See Also:** Good Old Games's Terms of Service, Refund Policy (as covered by RYG under Section 2. Digital Download)

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

*Looking at Stacking's End User License Agreement in conjunction with Good Old Games's Terms of Service.*

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Stacking and Good Old Games (GOG)
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered in respect to pre-order purchases only
- ✓ Terms and conditions for Stacking's DRM-Free aspects are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Stacking
- ✓ 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 Stacking during installation
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of USA in the state of California
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ License to play the game only provided
- ✗ Stacking's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Warranties waived
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Termination process dictated by Good Old Games

## 4. Setup / Install

**Note:** GOG now provides installation logs of game files installed on Windows PCs! All logs are located within /AppData/Local/Temp/ folder.

**Note:** Stacking's installation is ~1.4Gb.

*Looking at how Stacking is installed on Windows PCs only.*

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ No DRM files or registry keys installed
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 5 minutes (Average time 1 minutes and less)
  
- ✗ No installation logs of registry keys provided after installation

## 5. Updates / Patching

*Looking at how Stacking is patched prior and after gameplay.*

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

## 6. DRM & Activation

*Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Stacking and its effects on Windows PCs only.*

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline
- ✓ No hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited Installations

## 7. Gameplay Experience

*Note:* Savegames are found in the /Appdata/Roaming/Double-Fine folder.

*Looking at the gameplay aspects of Stacking 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
- ✓ Suitable options to modify video settings
- ✓ Can play with console (XBox360) controller
- ✓ Can customise keyboard/mouse 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
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background
  
- \* Cannot modify savegame and/or ini file

## 8. PC Checkup

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

- ✓ Direct uninstallation shortcut provided
- ✓ Backup savegames prompt provided / Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation

## 10. Customer Support

*Looking at the customer support side of Stacking through GOG's website*

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

## RYG's VERDICT

# 82%

## WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

## SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

## BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

*We didn't find anything out of the ordinary with the Windows version of Stacking. The only real niggle is the lack of option(s) in manually configuring or tweaking the game files outside of the game itself.*



### Colophon

This analysis of Stacking 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. Stacking was purchased with RYG funds from Good Old Games.

### Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Stacking 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 Stacking 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: Stacking  
Copyright © 2012, Reclaim Your Game (RYG) Pty Ltd  
www.reclaimyourgame.com @projectryg  
PRYG3-00076-01  
11 September 2013