Stealth Bastard

Platform: PC (Windows 7 only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: Humble Bundle

Developer: Curve Studios
Publisher: Curve Studios

RYG's VERDICT

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

1a. Product Info

Note: Stealth Bastard Deluxe was only available via. Humble Bundle for a two-week period. A non-DRM Free version can be found via. Steam.

Looking at how much information is provided on Stealth Bastard (Stealth Bastard) on the Humble Bundle site prior and on release.

- ✓ Stealth Bastard Deluxe released globally via. Humble Bundle on 17.06.2013
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Demo provided via. stealthbastard.com
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 17.06.2013
- ✓ Manual and Readme provided with the game
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on stealthbastard.com

- ✗ EULA is only found within the game (Privacy Policy found on website)

1b. Digital Dwnld

Note: More info can be found at humblebundle.com and Humble Visualisations

Note: User account designed to link present and past Humble Bundle purchases

See Also: Refund Policy under Customer Service within Humble Bundle's Terms of Service (TOS)

Looking at Humble Bundle as a digital distributing service for PC games.

- ✓ Stealth Bastard Deluxe sold at one, global price (user-driven pricing model)
- ✓ Available worldwide through Humble Bundle
- ✓ Download directly via. User-specific link provided in an email receipt
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided via. Humble Bundle's website
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 17.06.2013
- ✓ 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 purchased games (exceptional cases)
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account
- ✓ Can review and dispute and validate breaches in Humble Bundle's TOS
- ✓ Can review and question changes made to Humble Bundle's TOS

- ✗ Warranties waived in respect to Humble Bundle's services
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play games
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept Humble Bundle's TOS

2. Privacy Policy

Note: 254 words found within Stealth Bastard's website.

Looking at Stealth Bastard's Privacy Policy through Curve Studios

- ✓ Privacy Policy found on stealthbastard.com
- ✓ Policy applies to Stealth Bastard Deluxe
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ "Personally-identifiable" & "non-personally identifiable" info are clearly defined
- ✓ Policy specifies only level ratings & completion are collected during gameplay
- ✓ Info is stored at Amazon Web Services / DreamHost
- ✓ Info is used solely for rating levels, completion rate and leaderboards
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the Privacy Policy
- ✓ Can still play Stealth Bastard without accepting to the amended Privacy Policy

- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the Policy
- ✗ Assurances of safety and security of information not provided
- ✗ Opt-in / opt-out process not provided
- ✗ Little or no options to access user gameplay data
- ✗ Little or no options to modify user gameplay data
- ✗ Users have limited control over user gameplay data
- ✗ Users can't validate what they've provided

3. EULA TOS

Note: 1,695 words found in Stealth Bastard's EULA.

Looking at Stealth Bastard's EULA from Curve Studios

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Stealth Bastard Deluxe and DRM Free
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Terms and conditions for DRM Free are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Stealth Bastard Deluxe
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" within Stealth Bastard Deluxe
- ✓ Can opt-out of any monitoring services / software
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Termination process is clear and transparent
- ✓ Users can initiate legal action if the arbitration process fails
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✗ EULA / TOS is only found within the game only
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of England
- ✗ 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
- ✗ Stealth Bastard'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

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

4. Setup / Install

Looking at how Stealth Bastard is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Humble Bundle DRM files installed within folders designated by users

✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
✓ Error-free installation
✓ Installation completed within 5 minutes

5. Updates / Patching

Looking at how Stealth Bastard is patched prior and after gameplay.

✓ Can play the game unpatched

6. DRM & Activation

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

Note: Stealth Bastard will only be connected to the following servers: Amazon Web Services 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

7. Gameplay Experience

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

Note: Stealth Bastard is not a graphically-intensive game.

✓ Can play on minimum specs
✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
✓ Suitable options to modify video settings
✓ Can customise controls
✓ Can play with console controller
✓ 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
✓ Can play on more than one PC simultaneously
✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

Note: Savegame and Levels can be found at AppData/Roaming/ StealthBastard/ folder.

✗ Will "phone home"
✗ Can't modify savegame and/or ini file

8. PC Checkup

Looking at whether Stealth Bastard 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 Stealth Bastard without major errors

- ✓ Played Stealth Bastard 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

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

- ✓ Backup savegames prompt provided / Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation (manual removal of files required)

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of Stealth Bastard through Humble Bundle

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

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Perhaps the only two issues we encountered was the game's phone home feature, which is well supported in its simple (and fair) privacy policy, and its standard boiler-plate EULA. Beyond this Stealth Bastard won't cause any major issues or troubles on user's PCs (the ones we've tested). There is a free "full" version found on stealthbastard. com for anyone who is interested in playing a DRM-Free version of Stealth Bastard.

Colophon

This analysis of Stealth Bastard 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. Stealth Bastard was bought via. Humble Bundle through RYG funds.

Disclaimer

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