# Thomas Was Alone

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

**Developer:** Mike Bithell
**Publisher:** Mike Bithell

## RYG's VERDICT

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

## 1. Product Info

*Note:* The DRM Free version of Thomas Was Alone is an earlier build and is not up to date with its Steam version. This version we tested lacked console controller (XBox360) support.

*Looking at how much information is provided on Thomas Was Alone on its website prior and on release.*

✓ Thomas Was Alone was released globally (for WIN) on 24.07.2012
✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux (initially released via. Humble Bundle)
✓ Demo provided through the official website
✓ Advised DRM Free on 24.07.2012
✓ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS not required
✓ All game-related information can be found on thomaswasalone.com

✗ Minimum and recommended specs not provided
✗ No Manual and/or Readme provided (other than in-game)

## 2. Digital Download

*Looking at the Mike Bithell's website direct as a digital distributing service for PC games.*

✓ Thomas Was Alone sold at one, global price
✓ Available worldwide through thomaswasalone.com
✓ Download / Client Manager not required
✓ Advised DRM Free on 24.07.2012
✓ User account creation not 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
✗ No refunds or exchanges
✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

## 3. Privacy Policy & EULA

*Looking at Thomas Was Alone's Privacy Policy and End User License Agreement.*

✓ EULA / TOS and the Privacy Policy is not required for Thomas Was Alone

# 4. Setup / Install

*Looking at how Thomas Was Alone is installed on Windows PCs only.*

**Note:** Downloading and Installing Thomas Was Alone will take ~110Mb.

**Note:** Config and Savegame locations are found under the HKCU\Software\Mike Bithell\ Thomas Was Alone registry key.

- ✓ All game files installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 10 minutes

- ✗ Installation logs of registry keys provided

# 5. Updates / Patching

*Looking at how Thomas Was Alone is patched prior and after gameplay.*

- ✓ Can play the game unpatched

# 6. DRM & Activation

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

**Note:** Thomas Was Alone will not connect to any server(s) before and during gameplay.

- ✓ 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's not required

# 7. Gameplay Experience

*Looking at the gameplay aspects of Thomas Was Alone and how it interacts with PC Windows.*

**Note:** The DRM Free version of Thomas Was Alone is an earlier build and is not up to date with its Steam version. This version we tested lacked console controller (XBox360) support.

- ✓ 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 customise keyboard controls only
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Can modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

**Note:** Config and Savegame locations are found under the HKCU\Software\Mike Bithell\ Thomas Was Alone registry key.

- ✗ Only playable on mouse and keyboard (current DRM Free version only!)

# 8. PC Checkup

*Looking at whether Thomas Was Alone 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 Thomas Was Alone 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:* HKCU\Software\Mike Bithell\Thomas Was Alone registry keys can be removed if retaining savegames are not an issue.

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

- ✗ Registry keys will remain after complete removal of Thomas Was Alone.

# 10. Customer Support

*Looking at the customer support side of Thomas Was Alone through Mike Bithell's website.*

- ✓ Customer service / support is found through thomaswasalone.com

## RYG's VERDICT

# 87%

| WORTH SUPPORTING | SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL | BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL |
|---|---|---|
| **85% and above** | Between 65% and 84% | 64% and below |

*While we had console controller connectivity issues with an "older" DRM Free version of Thomas Was Alone, we had found that Thomas Was Alone was a clean game and well suited to PC (Windows) machines. For $10 it is worth supporting either through the website direct or through Steam / Desura if gamers are keen on using their services.*

### Colophon

This analysis of Thomas Was Alone 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. Thomas Was Alone was bought with RYG funds through Mike Bithell's website.

### Disclaimer

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