

Torchlight

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: PHYSICAL COPY ONLY!!!

Developer: Runic Games
Publisher: JoWood Entertainment

RYG's VERDICT

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

1. Product Info

Note: Mac version of Torchlight can be found on [GOG](#) or through [Steam](#); Linux version is sold through the [Ubuntu Software Centre](#).

Note: [Demo](#) can be found directly from [torchlightgame.com](#)

Note: (Older) physical copies distributed through JoWood will not advise the DRM-Free status of Torchlight.

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

- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Demo provided on [torchlightgame.com](#)
- ✓ Manual and Readme provided with the game
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [torchlightgame.com](#)
- ✗ Torchlight released with different global dates
- ✗ Not advised DRM Free on the physical copy of Torchlight
- ✗ Advised online activation required, but was released DRM Free
- ✗ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS is only found within the game

2. Privacy Policy

Looking at Torchlight's Privacy Policy

- ✓ Privacy Policy not required

3. EULA TOS

Note: 1,048 Words found within Torchlight's EULA.

Looking at Torchlight's End User License Agreement in conjunction with JoWood Entertainment.

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Torchlight
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Can replace damaged copies with a free, replacement copy
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Torchlight
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" for Torchlight
- ✓ Can opt-out of any monitoring services / software
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can initiate legal action if the arbitration process fails

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

4. Setup / Install

- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals
- ✗ EULA is only found within Torchlight's physical disc
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of Austria
- ✗ 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
- ✗ Torchlight'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
- ✗ Termination process dictated by JoWood Entertainment

Looking at how Torchlight 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

- ✗ No installation logs of registry keys provided after installation

5. Updates / Patching

Note: International version of Torchlight shipped by JoWood are patched to 1.15

Looking at how Torchlight is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch

6. DRM & Activation

Note: (Older) physical copies distributed through JoWood will not advise the DRM-Free status of Torchlight.

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Torchlight 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

- ✗ Inconsistent information provided for the DRM-Free version of Torchlight

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: PCGamingWiki has an excellent page on customising and tweaking [Torchlight](#).

Note: Torchlight is not a graphically-intensive game. However, there are mods in which [the graphics can be improved](#).

Note: Remapping keys can be done by using [TorchKit](#).

Note: Savegame and config files are found in the /AppData/Runic Games/Torchlight folder.

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Torchlight 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 customise 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
- ✓ Can modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- * Only playable on mouse and keyboard

8. PC Checkup

Looking at whether Torchlight 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 Torchlight 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: Torchlight, by far, is the cleanest game to be removed.

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

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

10. Customer Support

Note: We had little to no issues playing Torchlight v 1.15

Looking at the customer support side of Torchlight through Instant Kingdom

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at torchlightgame.com/faq
- ✓ Their FAQ is easy to use and navigate
- ✓ Searching on their FAQ 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

With the exception for the inconsistent information provided on the "DRM" implemented on the physical copy, Torchlight is a relatively clean, safe and error-free game to play. Torchlight is also a game that is best enjoyed with an extensive selection of mods, some of which can be navigated via. the PCGamingWiki website.



Colophon

This analysis of Torchlight 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. Torchlight was bought with RYG funds through EB Games.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Torchlight 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 Torchlight 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.

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