Trine

Platform: PC (Windows 7 only)
DRM: GMG Capsule / SecuROM
Digital Distributor: Green Man Gaming (GMG)

Developer: FrozenByte Inc
Publisher: Southpeak Games

RYG's VERDICT

59% **BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL**
64% and Below

1a. Product Info

Note: Trine cannot be traded in via. Green Man Gaming.

Note: Trine demo can be downloaded from GamersHell (Developer's site was not accessible at the time)

Note: SecuROM was not advised, even though it is integrated in Green Man Gaming's Capsule Client.

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

✓ Trine released globally on Green Man Gaming in 2011
✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
✓ Demo provided
✓ Manual and Readme provided via. Green Man Gaming's website
✓ EULA, Privacy Policy and TOS fully accessible on Green Man Gaming
✓ All game-related information can be found on Green Man Gaming

✗ Available only on Windows
✗ SecuROM DRM was not advised anywhere on Green Man Gaming's website
✗ No advice on how SecuROM DRM would activate Trine

1b. Digital Dwnld

Note: Games sold through Green Man Gaming outside the UK are priced in USD.

Note: Trine can be played without launching the Capsule Client.

Note: Refunds are discretionary and are conditional on GMG's Refund Policy.

Note: SecuROM was not advised, even though it is integrated in Green Man Gaming's Capsule Client.

Looking at Green Man Gaming as a digital distributing service for PC games.

✓ Available worldwide through Green Man Gaming
✓ Download / Client Manager is optional; not required for gameplay
✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
✓ 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
✓ Can access personal data

✗ Trine is priced inconsistently via. GMG across global regions
✗ SecuROM DRM was not advised anywhere on Green Man Gaming's website
✗ No advice on how SecuROM DRM would activate Trine
✗ User account creation is required
✗ No refunds or exchanges for pre-orders
✗ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

- ✖ No options to terminate account
- ✖ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play them
- ✖ Consumers prevented from disputing and validating GMG TOS breaches
- ✖ Can't review and question changes made to Green Man Gaming's TOS
- ✖ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept Green Man Gaming's TOS

2. Privacy Policy

Note: 972 words found within Green Man Gaming's Privacy Policy.

Note: Much of Green Man Gaming's Privacy Policy entails more with how users are affected during the payment service and user-generated content rather than gameplay.

Note: Green Man Gaming have made great lengths to confirm and reaffirm your purchasing details, along with adding layers of payment security for those using Credit Cards.

Note: Privacy Policy was retrieved April 2013. Policy first drafted in 2011.

Looking at Trine's Privacy Policy through Green Man Gaming

- ✔ Privacy Policy found on Green Man Gaming
- ✔ Policy applies to Trine and Green Man Gaming only
- ✔ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✔ "Personally-identifiable" & "non-personally identifiable" info are clearly defined
- ✔ Policy specifies only user & payment info are collected before gameplay only
- ✔ Info is used solely for payment processing and activation via. Capsule client
- ✔ Visible opt-in / opt-out process
- ✔ Users can access their user information
- ✔ Users can modify their user information
- ✔ Users have full control over their user information
- ✔ Users can validate the info they've provided

- ✖ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the Policy
- ✖ Not advised where the info is specifically stored
- ✖ Assurances of safety and security of information not provided
- ✖ Third parties not identified
- ✖ User data is retained by Green Man Gaming for an extended period of time
- ✖ Can't review and query changes made to the Privacy Policy
- ✖ Users must accept ALL changes made to the Policy before playing Trine

3. EULA TOS

Note: 7,321 words found in Green Man Gaming's TOS.

Looking at Green Man Gaming's Terms of Service (Trine has no EULA)

- ✔ EULA / TOS is found on Green Man Gaming
- ✔ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for purchased games
- ✔ Can replace damaged copies with a free, replacement copy
- ✔ Can back-up copies of Trine
- ✔ 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
- ✔ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✖ EULA / TOS only covers Green Man Gaming and Trine only.
- ✖ Difficult to read, understand and is inconsistently worded
- ✖ Drafted to only abide by the laws of the UK
- ✖ 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
- ✖ Terms and conditions for SecuROM DRM aren't clearly defined
- ✖ Circumvention of GMG Capsule / SecuROM prohibited
- ✖ Trine and GMG Capsule's source code isn't to be reverse-engineered

✕ Not permitted to create "mods"
✕ Warranties waived (excluding physical merchantability warranties)
✕ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
✕ Termination process dictated by Green Man Gaming

4. Setup / Install

Looking at how Trine is installed on Windows PCs only.

Note: Installing Green Man Gaming (and any games within Green Man Gaming) is no different to the way Beamdog installs its client and its games. Please refer to RYG's analysis of Baldur's Gate: Enhanced Edition / Beamdog for more information.

✓ Custom installation options are provided
✓ Installation logs of GMG Capsule's files provided
✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
✓ Error-free installation
✓ Installation completed within 20 minutes on a broadband connection

✕ No installation logs of Trine's files and registry keys
✕ Green Man Gaming DRM files are found within the /AppData/ folders only

5. Updates / Patching

Looking at how Trine is patched prior and after gameplay.

Note: Users can purchase Trine DRM Free via. Frozenbyte's official website or through GOG.

✓ Can play Trine unpatched and is patched to version 1.03

✕ No plans to sunset GMG Capsule DRM

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at GMG Capsule / SecuROM DRM in relation to Trine and its effects on Windows PCs only.

Note: Once Trine is purchased users can immediately download and play Trine.

Note: The SecuROM version of Trine is a serial-key, online activation via. Green Man Gaming's servers only. The SecuROM found within the game's Executable, paul.dll and a SecuROM registry key are the only things that are installed in user's PCs.

✓ Won't interfere with currently-executing background services or software
✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified or required to be modified
✓ Unlimited online activations to any one PC
✓ Can play single-player game offline
✓ Unlimited hardware activations
✓ Unlimited installations
✓ Support and troubleshooting process provided
✓ Activation is simple and hassle-free

✕ No instructions provided on the activation process
✕ Can't verify the safety and reliability of the activation process
✕ Activation pathway isn't explained
✕ No offline option
✕ A non-transferrable user account is required
✕ User account, including billing/address details are required
✕ Game is locked to specific account after activation
✕ GMG Capsule and SecuROM DRM are implemented

Note: Green Man Gaming will only be connected to the following servers: Edgecast Networks, Amazon Web Services, Verisign, ZenDesk / Rackspace.

7. Gameplay Experience

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

Note: Trine can be played offline , without GMG's Capsule Client, and won't connect to any servers, including Green Man Gaming's.

Note: (Local) savegame and "options.txt" files are found in Trine's original installation folders.

- ✓ 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 controller
- ✓ 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 modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

- ✘ Console controller keys cannot be modified
- ✘ Can only play on one PC at a time per game / account

8. PC Checkup

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

Note: All Trine's files and registry keys will need a full manual removal as it won't remove any- thing via. the Uninstallation link.

Note: SecuROM's registry keys in HKCU/Software/Green Man Gaming/SecuROM/ will remain.

- ✓ Direct uninstallation shortcut provided

- ✘ Notifications on deactiving Trine not provided
- ✘ No prompt to backup savegames provided
- ✘ Trine files and registry keys, and Green Man Gaming's registry keys remain
- ✘ No External tools to remove Trine and GMG Capsule DRM files provided

10. Customer Support

- ✓ Searching on Green Man Gaming.com/support is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
- ✓ Options provided for giving feedback on the service of customer support

RYG's VERDICT

59%

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

There are some positives to be found in Green Man Gaming and its Capsule Client. It does use a less intrusive form of SecuROM, even though users won't be made aware of this. Installing games via. the Capsule Client is quick and painless and users won't need to launch the Capsule Client in order to play games. Unfortunately, it's difficult to find any long-term use of Green Man Gaming other than the weekly price reductions. Trine wasn't available for a trade in, it can't be removed automatically (as with GMG's Capsule Client) and much of the games sold through GMG require a third party client (like Steam or GFWL). And finally there are other (DRM-Free) alternatives for Trine to purchase, which renders Green Man Gaming a non-option for those seeking DRM-Free alternatives.

Colophon

This analysis of Trine 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. Trine was bought with RYG funds through Green Man Gaming.

Disclaimer

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