

Trine 2

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows 7 only)
DRM: Steamworks (Steam)
Digital Distributor: PHYSICAL COPY ONLY!!!

Developer: FrozenByte Inc
Publisher: FrozenByte Inc

RYG's VERDICT

69% **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**
Between 65% and 84%

1a. Product Info

Note: The demo can be download either from [Trine 2's Steam page](#) or through [Trine2game.com](#).

Note: First-time users will need to download the entire game via Steam, even if a physical copy was bought.

Looking at how much information is provided on Trine 2 on the Steam site prior and on release.

- ✓ Trine 2 released globally on 07.12.2011
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Demo provided
- ✓ Advised Steamworks (Steam) DRM was to be used for Trine 2
- ✓ Advised how Steam DRM would activate the game through Trine 2
- ✓ Privacy Policy (only) fully accessible on [steampowered.com](#)
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on [steampowered.com](#)

- ✗ Base game sold as multiple "editions" with varying selections of day-one DLCs

2. Privacy Policy

Note: 1,507 words found within [Steam's Privacy Policy](#).

See Also: Relevant Sections: [Collection of Information](#), [Personally Identifiable Information](#) and [Use of Personally Identifiable Information](#).

Looking at Trine 2's Privacy Policy through Steam

- ✓ Privacy Policy found on [steampowered.com](#)
- ✓ Policy applies to Steam Client, Steamworks DRM and Trine 2
- ✓ Easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Users visibly notified of any changes made to the Policy
- ✓ "Personally-identifiable" and "non-personally identifiable" info are defined
- ✓ Policy specifies what's are collected before and during gameplay
- ✓ Info is stored in the US
- ✓ Data centres are 100% safe and secure
- ✓ Info is used solely for improving Steam's services only!
- ✓ Visible opt-in / opt-out process
- ✓ Users can access and modify their user account
- ✓ Users can modify their user account
- ✓ Users can validate the info they've provided
- ✓ Can request to have their data removed
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the Privacy Policy

Note: Privacy Policy was retrieved June 2013; Effective Date of Steam's Privacy Policy prior to this evaluation was August 2012.

3a. EULA (GAME)

3b. EULA (STEAM)

Note: 6,286 Words found in Steam's EULA.

See Also: Section 12, *Dispute Resolution / Binding Arbitration / Class Action Waiver*

4. Setup / Install

Note: Installing games through Steam to a different folder and drive can be done by altering the Steam shortcut to add "-dev" (via. [RPS](#))

Note: First-time users will need to download the entire game via. Steam, even if a physical copy was bought.

- ✗ Third parties not identified
- ✗ Users have limited control over their Steam account
- ✗ Users must accept ALL changes to the Policy before playing Trine 2

Looking at Trine 2's EULA from Frozenbyte Inc.

- ✓ EULA / TOS wasn't found / wasn't required.

Looking at Steam Subscriber's Agreement through Steam.

- ✓ EULA / TOS is found on steampowered.com
- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Steam DRM
- ✓ Terms and conditions for Steam DRM are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Steam Client
- ✓ Permitted to create free "mods" of Valve's Source Code Engine
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Termination process is clear and transparent

- ✗ Difficult to read and understand
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of US in the state of California
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ Can't review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ Circumvention of Steam DRM prohibited
- ✗ Monitoring services / software are required to use Steam
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Arbitration process isn't freely-provided and requested by Valve
- ✗ Legal action is waived

Looking at how Trine 2 is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Steam DRM files installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 30 minutes

- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys
- ✗ All (physical) copies of Trine 2 will need to be downloaded via. Steam

5. Updates / Patching

Looking at how Trine 2 is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ No other DRM files or registry keys are installed
- ✓ Details of patches provided via steampowered.com
- ✓ Users can be advised of game patch's availability
- ✓ Users advised of any changes to the Privacy Policy or TOS before an update

- ✗ Automatic updates are mandatory
- ✗ Day-one patch required
- ✗ Requires ALL patches to play Trine 2
- ✗ Patches only installed via. automatic updates
- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys
- ✗ Rollback option not provided
- ✗ No plans to sunset Steam DRM

6. DRM & Activation

Note: It is recommended that (new) users should install and update Steam first before installing Trine 2.

Note: Trine 2 will only be connected to the following servers: Highwinds Networks, Limelight Networks, Verisign and Valve.

See Also: How to play Trine 2 in [offline mode](#).

Looking at Steam DRM in relation to Trine 2 and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Won't interfere with currently-executing background services or software
- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified or required to be modified
- ✓ Users are aware and advised on how Trine 2 will be activated
- ✓ Username, password and email are only required
- ✓ Unlimited online activations to any one PC
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline
- ✓ Only Steam DRM is implemented
- ✓ 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
- ✗ A non-transferrable user account is required
- ✗ Game is locked to specific account after activation

7. Gameplay Experience

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Trine 2 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 controller (XBox360 tested)
- ✓ Suitable options to remap keyboard/mouse and console controller keys
- ✓ Can play in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ Can access DLC offline
- ✓ Won't "phone home"
- ✓ Can play without connectivity issues on an ADSL connection

Note: Savegames are found in the Steam/userdata/.../35720/remote/ folder.

Configuration files are found in the /AppData/Roaming/Trine 2/ folder.

8. PC Checkup

- ✓ 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
- ✗ Can only play on one PC at a time per game / account
- ✗ DRM and monitoring services will operate during and after gameplay

Looking at whether Trine 2 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 2 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

Note: Steam does offer an option to **manually remove all Steam-related files**. It does work and will remove any remaining files and keys after uninstallation of Trine 2.

Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for Trine 2 (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Trine 2?)

- ✓ Knowledgebase provided at Steam to remove all Steam files and registry keys
- ✓ Knowledgebase in removing game + DRM files is easy to understand
- ✗ No direct shortcut in removing Trine 2
- ✗ Some files remain for Trine 2 (AppData/Roaming/Trine 2)

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of Trine 2 through Steam.

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

RYG's VERDICT

69%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

Installing Trine 2 was no different to our assessment of Shogun 2 in that the full game had to be downloaded through Steam in spite of paying for a physical copy. Apart from a 3Gb download Trine 2 was quite a pleasure to play with all the updates supplied since 2011. This version of Trine 2 behaved no differently to a lot of Steam games we've looked at. A DRM-Free version is due to be released via the Humble Store, as stated on Frozenbyte's official website for anyone who is interested in purchasing a DRM-Free copy.



Colophon

This analysis of Trine 2 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 2 was bought with RYG funds through EB Games.

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Trine 2 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 2 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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