

Waking Mars

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7)

DRM: DRM Free

Digital Distributor: Humble Bundle

Developer: Tiger Style Games

Publisher: Tiger Style Games

RYG's VERDICT

83%

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

1. Product Info

See Also: [System Specs provided by Humble Bundle](#)

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

- ✓ Waking Mars released globally on 08.11.2012
- ✓ Available on Windows, MacOS and Linux
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 08.11.2012 via. Humble Bundle
- ✓ Manual and Readme provided in-game
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on www.tigerstylegames.com

- ✗ No demo
- ✗ EULA only found within the game

2. Digital Download

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.

- ✓ Waking Mars 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 08.11.2012
- ✓ 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

See Also: [Disclaimer of Warranties; Liability Limitations and Indemnity within Humble Bundle's Terms of Service \(TOS\)](#)

3. EULA / TOS

Note: 343 Words found within Waking Mars's EULA

See Also: Humble Bundle's Terms of Service, Customer Service, Refund Policy (as covered by RYG under Section 2. Digital Download)

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

4. Setup / Install

Note: Will install OpenAL, a commonly-used cross-platform audio API in `/System32/` and in `/SysWOW64/`

5. Updates / Patching

See Also: [Waking Mars's support page](#) for potential updates.

- ✗ 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

Looking at Waking Mars's End User License Agreement in conjunction with Humble Bundle's Terms of Service.

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Waking Mars and Humble Bundle
- ✓ Is short, easy to read, understand and is worded with clear consistency
- ✓ Drafted to coincide with relevant consumer laws at the point of purchase
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for purchased games (exceptional cases)
- ✓ Terms and conditions for Waking Mars's DRM-Free aspects are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Waking Mars
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ All warranties provided
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals
- ✓ No mention of a class-action lawsuit waiver

- ✗ EULA / TOS is only found within Waking Mars during installation
- ✗ 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
- ✗ Waking Mars's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

Looking at how Waking Mars 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 30 minutes (Average time 10 minutes and less)

- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys provided after installation

Looking at how Waking Mars is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch (Waking Mars is packaged as version 1.02)

6. DRM & Activation

Note: Waking Mars will connect to a Verisign server if played on an Internet-connected PC

7. Gameplay Experience

Note: Waking Mars isn't graphically intensive; Only screen resolutions and windowed mode offered as video settings.

See Also: [Technical Support](#) from Tiger Style Games in respect to playing in Windowed Mode

Note: Savegame found at /UserFolder/Saved Games/Waking Mars/

8. PC Checkup

9. Removal Uninstall

Note: Savegame found at /UserFolder/Saved Games/Waking Mars/

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Waking Mars 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

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

- ✓ 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 (Xbox360 Controller tested)
- ✓ Can play in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ Can access DLC offline (Soundtrack provided with Humble Bundle purchase)
- ✓ Won't "phone home"
- ✓ 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

Looking at whether Waking Mars 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 Waking Mars without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM / monitoring services running in the background after shutting down
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

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

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

10. Customer Support

Looking at the customer support side of Waking Mars through Tiger Style Games

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at www.tigerstylegames.com
- ✓ Their support is easy to use and navigate (known issues are highlighted)
- ✓ Searching on Tiger Style Game's website is direct and quick
- ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
- ✓ Options provided for giving feedback on the service & quality of support
- ✗ Customer service via. Email takes more than 24 hours to respond
- ✗ Customer service via. Email will take more than 72 hours to resolve

RYG's VERDICT

83%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

A few niggles here and there, mostly contained to Waking Mars's EULA. Other than that, Waking Mars is safe to play and won't adversely impact your PC (Windows). The same can be said for Humble Bundle as a DRM-Free digital distribution service. Both are worth supporting if only to push them to deliver outstanding service and quality.



Colophon

This analysis of Waking Mars 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. Waking Mars was bought with RYG funds through Humble Bundle.

Disclaimer

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

RYG Analysis: Waking Mars
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