

Arcania: Gothic 4: EVALUATION SUMMARY

About Arcania: Gothic 4

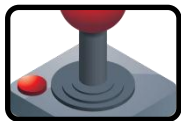
Arcania: Gothic 4 (Arcania) marks a new chapter to the medieval-fantasy, Role Playing series, Gothic. Developed by Spellbound Entertainment, Arcania was designed with a singular purpose of expanding its strong fan-base by capturing the attention of a new audience with different locations and with a new hero. Many critics regarded Arcania as a technical improvement over its predecessors, it left many unsatisfied, and citing elements that made the Gothic series unique to Gothic was lost.

Medium: Disc Version
Version Tested: 1.00



About SecuROM

SecuROM is developed by Sony DADC and remains one of the oldest DRM series in the Video Gaming market. This version implemented by JoWood Entertainment is an online-centric, hardware-based DRM.



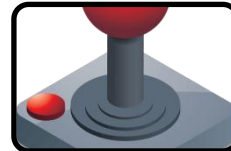
About JoWood / DreamCatcher

JoWood Entertainment is an Austrian Video Game Publisher known for the Spellforce and Gothic series. Their expansion into the North American market is represented with the acquisition of Canadian Publisher and Online Distributor, DreamCatcher Interactive, in 2006.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES



42%



46%



N/A

RYG's RATING*

44%

UNACCEPTABLE

* RYG's Rating is an aggregate of the Individual Scores

AREAS OF CONCERN

- Pre-Purchase & DRM Notification

DRM Vendor: Inconsistent information between packaging, EULA and website(s).

Publisher: As above; System requirements inconsistent between website(s) and packaging.

- EULA

DRM Vendor: Inconsistent; Consumers unaware of agreement until AFTER the purchase of Arcania; Ownership bias.

Publisher: Inconsistent between JoWood and DreamCatcher Interactive; Missing EULA for 3rd Party Software.

- Personal Backup

BOTH: Not permissible as per their EULAs; Inconsistent disclosure between JoWood and DreamCatcher Interactive.

- Installation

DRM Vendor: Installs secondary files upon launch of Arcania; DRM Files not contained to Gaming Directory

Publisher: Forced installation of 3rd Party Software; Logs cannot be saved.

- Game Updates & Patches

BOTH: Systemic issues consistent with those described in "Installation".

- Activation

BOTH: Online and Hardware activation; Non-disclosure of information required/requested for activation; Non-disclosure of where the information is sent/received; Activation limits not provided; Activation non-transferrable; Resale prohibited; Poor documentation.

- Uninstallation

BOTH: Some files and registry keys remain; DRM Removal Tool not provided in the game and/or on the Publisher's websites.

- Customer / Technical Support

DRM Vendor: Inconsistent responses and timeframes of support and advice.

- Internal Disputes Resolution / Privacy Policy

BOTH: Non-existent.