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**GREAT GAMING GIFT IDEAS INSIDE** 

# PARENTS GUIDE TO VIDEO GAMES

**115+**

**GAMES RATED INSIDE!**



**SONIC**™  
**SUPERSTARS**

**GAMING 101**  
EVERYTHING YOU  
NEED TO KNOW  
ABOUT VIDEO GAMES

**WHICH CONSOLE**  
IS RIGHT FOR YOUR FAMILY?



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ESRB [esrb.org](http://esrb.org)

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**PLAY**  
HAS NO LIMITS™

# WELCOME



## FROM THE PUBLISHER ALL THE HELP YOU NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT GAMES FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST

Are you mystified by the world of video games? You're not alone. For everyone but the most dedicated fans, it's tough to keep up with the latest trends and jargon in the world of interactive entertainment.

Still, gaming has become nearly ubiquitous in our society. Per the latest report from the Entertainment Software Association, more than 212 million Americans play video games for at least one hour a week. The average video game player is now 32 years old, and 46% of players are female. The upside of all those numbers is that your holiday gift giving this year is likely to include games for a special someone, or many special someones, in many different walks of life. Maybe you're looking for games your children might enjoy, or games to enjoy alongside your children. Maybe you're shopping for an older fan—a significant other or friend. In any case, it can be tough to know where to begin.

That's why we're happy to present you with our 12th annual *Parents Guide to*

*Video Games*. We strive to make gaming accessible for anyone, so you can find the right gaming gifts.

In this magazine, you'll find straightforward explanations of the most important gaming concepts and lingo. On page 8, you'll learn about the ESRB, the independent ratings board for video games, and its age recommendations. Starting on page 14, we brief you on the currently available game consoles, followed by a look at a few new releases worth checking out that we call "Five to Play." We've also got an in-depth cover story on *Sonic Superstars*, starring Sega's iconic blue hedgehog, as well as two previews of games based on popular media: *Bluey: The Videogame* and *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora*. Last but not least, our Game Directory highlights over 100 games, all sorted by the ESRB's age ratings. It's a great tool for your holiday shopping needs.

So read on, and let us help you level up your video game gift giving skills.

## Walmart PARENTS GUIDE TO VIDEOGAMES

### PUBLISHER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

STEVE B. HARRIS

### EDITORIAL

#### EDITORS

JOSH HARMON

MOLLIE L. PATTERSON

### CONTRIBUTOR

MARC CAMRON

### ART DIRECTION

MICHAEL HOBBS

### EGM MEDIA, LLC

8840 WILSHIRE BLVD.

THIRD FLOOR

BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211

WWW.EGMEDIAGROUP.COM

### PRESIDENT STEVE HARRIS

ASST TO THE PRESIDENT ANGELA ADAMS

CIRCULATION CONSULTANT RON SKLON

LEGAL BOB WYMAN

ACCOUNTING OZ ABREGOV

### SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES

GAMECENTER@EGMNOW.NET

### ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING MANAGER ELIZABETH SCOTT

### FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

800-875-6298, EXT. 120

ADSALES@EGMNOW.NET

# Walmart

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# Fun Family Gaming



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**SONIC SUPERSTARS**

**20**

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## WHAT ARE ESRB RATINGS?

The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) is the non-profit, self-regulatory body that assigns age and content ratings for video games and mobile apps so parents can make informed choices as to which are suitable for their children and family. As part of its self-regulatory role for the video game industry, the ESRB also enforces industry-adopted advertising guidelines and helps ensure responsible online privacy practices among members of its ESRB Privacy Certified program. The ESRB was established in 1994 by the Entertainment Software Association (ESA).



### EVERYONE

Content is generally suitable for all ages. May contain minimal cartoon, fantasy or mild violence and/or infrequent use of mild language.



### EVERYONE 10+

Content is generally suitable for ages 10 and up. May contain more cartoon, fantasy or mild violence, mild language and/or minimal suggestive themes.



### TEEN

Content is generally suitable for ages 13 and up. May contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling and/or infrequent use of strong language.



### MATURE

Content is generally suitable for ages 17 and up. May contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content and/or strong language.



### ADULTS ONLY

Content suitable only for adults ages 18 and up. May include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content and/or gambling with real currency.

## ESRB INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

The ESRB assigns Interactive Elements notices to physical video games. Below are the Interactive Elements categories.

### USERS INTERACT IN-GAME PURCHASES IN-GAME PURCHASES (INCLUDES RANDOM ITEMS)

The ESRB rating icons are registered trademarks of the Entertainment Software Association.

## ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS

### ALCOHOL REFERENCE

Reference to and/or images of alcoholic beverages

### ANIMATED BLOOD

Discolored and/or unrealistic depictions of blood

### BLOOD

Depictions of blood

### BLOOD AND GORE

Depictions of blood or the mutilation of body parts

### CARTOON VIOLENCE

Violent actions involving cartoon-like situations and characters. May include violence where a character is unharmed after it has been inflicted

### COMIC MISCHIEF

Depictions or dialogue involving slapstick or suggestive humor

### CRUDE HUMOR

Depictions or dialogue involving vulgar antics, including "bathroom" humor

### DRUG REFERENCE

Reference to and/or images of illegal drugs

### FANTASY VIOLENCE

Violent actions of a fantasy nature, involving human or non-human characters in situations easily distinguishable from real life

### INTENSE VIOLENCE

Graphic and realistic-looking depictions of physical conflict. May involve extreme and/or realistic blood, gore, weapons, and depictions of human injury and death

### LANGUAGE

Mild to moderate use of profanity

### LYRICS

Mild references to profanity, sexuality, violence, alcohol or drug use in music

### MATURE HUMOR

Depictions or dialogue involving "adult" humor, including sexual references

### NUDITY

Graphic or prolonged depictions of nudity

### PARTIAL NUDITY

Brief and/or mild depictions of nudity

### REAL GAMBLING

Player can gamble, including betting or wagering real cash or currency

### SEXUAL CONTENT

Non-explicit depictions of sexual behavior, possibly including partial nudity

### SEXUAL THEMES

References to sex or sexuality

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Depictions of rape or other violent sexual acts

### SIMULATED GAMBLING

Player can gamble without betting or wagering real cash or currency

### STRONG LANGUAGE

Explicit and/or frequent use of profanity

### STRONG LYRICS

Explicit and/or frequent references to profanity, sex, violence, alcohol or drug use in music

### STRONG SEXUAL CONTENT

Explicit and/or frequent depictions of sexual behavior, possibly including nudity

### SUGGESTIVE THEMES

Mild provocative references or materials

### TOBACCO REFERENCE

Reference to and/or images of tobacco products

### USE OF ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcoholic beverages

### USE OF DRUGS

The consumption or use of illegal drugs

### USE OF TOBACCO

The consumption of tobacco products

### VIOLENCE

Scenes involving aggressive conflict. May contain bloodless dismemberment

### VIOLENT REFERENCES

References to violent acts

Visit [WWW.ESRB.ORG](http://WWW.ESRB.ORG) for more information

# INTO THE STARFIELD

With Xbox Series X|S

STARFIELD



 XBOX

 Microsoft

**MATURE 17+**  
**M**  
ESRB  
Blood  
Strong Language  
Suggestive Themes  
Use of Drugs  
Violence

Game and consoles each sold separately.

# VIDEOGAMES

## 101

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIDEO GAMES



While it may be second nature for even the youngest of gaming enthusiasts, navigating the waters of interactive entertainment is a daunting task for many parents. Even the sharpest shoppers can be overwhelmed when they are looking for those special gifts. With everything on your children's wish lists—and all the terms that sound as if they are from a foreign language—finding the right game or add-on can be a challenge.

We've put together a crash course on all things gaming to help you navigate these pixelated problems and make the right choices for your family. Across the following pages you'll find everything you need to know to pick games and gear like a pro, including profiles of all the current systems, key accessories, and much more. With a little luck, you might even teach your kids a thing or two!

### CONTROLLERS AND THIRD-PARTY CONTROLLERS

For families who like gaming together, the major console manufacturers all provide official controllers that make it possible for multiple people to play at the same time, including “pro” models that offer more advanced features. But for those players who want a more customized experience, the console makers license aftermarket controllers that are manufactured and sold by third-party companies. Compared to their official counterparts, these controllers usually provide a much wider range of hardware options, and a far more robust set of decorative designs to choose from, including built-in LED lighting.



Some third-party controllers even offer special features to give elite gamers an advantage over the competition, such as precision triggers, adjustable thumbsticks, and rapid-fire buttons that allow players to pull off in-game actions at superhuman speeds.

### GAMING HEADSETS

Unlike standard audio earmuffs, gaming headsets feature a pair of headphones and a built-in microphone that enables players to communicate while playing online. Many gaming headsets allow television audio to feed directly into the headphones for a more immersive experience—not to mention keeping the external sound level to a minimum.

Headsets range in price from relatively basic budget setups to more expensive models that offer the enhanced features you'd expect to find in high-end audio equipment, such as surround sound and built-in audio mixers.



### VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality has evolved from science fiction dream to real, affordable technology that immerses you in complete sensory experiences.

Today, there are two types of headsets for high-end gaming. The first require external hardware, like a PlayStation 5 for Sony's PlayStation VR2, or a VR-capable computer for PC headsets like HTC's Vive Pro 2. The second type are standalone headsets, such as the Meta Quest 3. Standalone VR doesn't require anything else to function—the headset itself contains everything you need.

VR headsets come with integrated screens to deliver immersive visuals, as well as either built-in headphones or the option to use your own. In addition, external sensors are required with many tethered VR headsets to track movement. VR also supports motion controllers—more on that on the next page.

Games that offer VR experiences tend to fall into two categories: those crafted from the ground up specifically for VR, such as *Horizon Call of the Mountain*, or those that can be played in VR as well as on a regular television, such as *Resident Evil 4*.



## MOTION CONTROLLERS

Motion controllers are special devices that recognize gestures in addition to—or in place of—buttons to control a game, translating your movements into onscreen actions.

The Nintendo Switch comes with a pair of Joy-Con controllers with built-in position tracking and gyroscopes that can be used together to provide complex motion controls when playing in a more traditional fashion, or separately so that two (or more) players can experience simpler motion controls individually.

There are also a number of choices for motion control when using virtual reality headsets. One example is Sony's PlayStation VR2 Sense controller, which can track your hand movements while playing games, detect the placement of your fingers even when not touching any buttons, and which features both haptic feedback and adaptive triggers to make it feel like your hands are actually there in the world of the game while playing.



## MEMORY CARDS

Memory cards are portable storage devices that plug into a gaming console so players can save their progress. As nearly all home consoles now come with built-in hard drives, these cards aren't as important as they once were. The exception is the Nintendo Switch, which has limited built-in memory—just 32GB on the standard and Lite models—and benefits from a larger memory card for games and save files.

Though not strictly a memory card, the Xbox Series X and Series S consoles have a port that allows you to plug in a Storage Expansion Card to increase your available hard drive space by up to 2TB.



## HARD DRIVES

Games are getting bigger all the time. Even though Xbox and PlayStation consoles come with built-in hard drives, anyone who plays a lot of games is likely to run out of storage space. (That's even true if you buy game discs, as the PS5 and Xbox Series X both require you to install games to the hard drive before you can play.)

To help solve that issue, some manufacturers now offer external hard drives specifically designed for game consoles. These work just like an external hard drive for your computer, plugging into the console's USB port.

However, it's important to note that on both PS5 and Xbox Series X/S current-generation games must be transferred to the built-in hard drive before you can play—but moving files between drives is still a much faster process than redownloading or reinstalling a game.



## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING



Here's a list of common phrases, abbreviations and terminology you'll need to know to understand today's gaming landscape.

### ACHIEVEMENTS/TROPHIES

Awards given to players for accomplishing in-game tasks. Known as Achievements on Xbox systems and Trophies on PlayStation systems.

### ACTION

Genre with fast-paced gameplay testing hand-eye coordination. Action-game elements often bleed into other genres.

### ADVENTURE

Genre typically focused on an interactive story in which the protagonist must complete objectives and explore to move forward.

### AI

Artificial intelligence. The computer-controlled foes a player faces during a game.

### BATTLE PASS

Method for unlocking in-game items in many online titles. Players finish challenges to "level up" the pass and unlock in-game items during a limited-time "season." Usually free with an optional paid tier for more (and better) rewards.

### CUTSCENE

Non-interactive movie within a game.

### DLC

Downloadable content. Expansions or other add-ons that can be purchased online to add elements to an existing game.

### FIGHTING

Genre that typically pits two players against one another in martial arts combat using button presses that correspond to attacks.

### FPS

First-person shooter. Genre focused on gunfights and seeing through the protagonist's eyes. Alternately, frames per second. Rate at which a screen image refreshes.

### FREE TO PLAY

Game release model where there's no up-front cost to play. Players instead spend money to unlock new characters or other content via microtransactions or battle pass purchases.

### MICROTRANSACTION

In-game purchase cheaper and smaller in scope than most DLC. One common type is "skins" that change the appearance of a character or piece of equipment in the game.

### MINIGAME

Simplistic, smaller game within a larger experience.

### MMO

Massively multiplayer online game. Genre that puts players in a large world with dozens of other players at once via the internet.

### NPC

Non-player character. Characters that players interact with but don't directly control.

### OPEN WORLD

Expansive world that players can explore freely to accomplish goals in a flexible order, as contrasted to linear, level-based games.

### PLATFORMER

Genre that requires players to jump to and from platforms of various size and complexity in order to advance.

### RPG

Role-playing game. Genre emphasizing choice and control over how characters' skills develop over the course of the game.

### STRATEGY

Genre emphasizing strategic and tactical decision making while commanding multiple characters or groups of characters. Often turn-based, with sides alternating action.

### SIMULATION

Genre that attempts to simulate a real-world activity, like flying a plane, building a city, farming, or managing a business.

### VR

Virtual reality. Technology that puts players into 3D game worlds (or other immersive media). Requires a headset compatible with your console or PC, or a standalone device.



# KNOW THE GAME

## GAME MODES

### MULTIPLAYER

More than ever before, multiplayer has become a critical part of the gaming landscape. The replay value of a title is often tied to its multiplayer modes. These “games within the game” include such favorites as Capture the Flag (bring a flag back to your base), Deathmatch (try to completely annihilate the other players or teams) and Battle Royale (drop into a map with dozens of others and fight until one survivor or team remains).

In addition to online play, certain games also offer local multiplayer, which lets players compete at the same time, on the same TV, with separate controllers. Regardless of the specific format, multiplayer is an important element for many gamers.

The best multiplayer games now thrive for years after launch. Some of this year’s most popular examples are *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III*, *Street Fighter 6*, and *Crash Team Rumble*.

### CAMPAIGN SINGLE-PLAYER

Most games offer a campaign or single-player experience as the primary game mode. Single-player pits the gamer against computer-controlled adversaries. In a story that drives the action, players in single-player mode control a protagonist. Usually the goal is to complete a specific set of objectives to advance the narrative. These can stand alone, or they can be part of multiplayer games.

To achieve these objectives, players are either bestowed with, or earn through the successful completion of missions, a set of special skills or abilities that are assigned to different buttons on the controller.

If a game with single-player includes a multiplayer or co-op experience, these other modes sometimes incorporate the single-player themes. Some games with notable single-player experiences include *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*, *Marvel’s Spider-Man 2*, and *Starfield*.

### CAMPAIGN CO-OP

For gamers who like to play with their friends but would rather not participate in the natural competition of multiplayer, some titles feature a cooperative or co-op mode. Much like multiplayer, you can play either locally with a friend in the same room or online with a gamer who is sitting halfway around the world. Unlike multiplayer, some co-op modes allow you to experience the single-player story with your buddies so they are playing along with you, while others feature an extra batch of levels designed exclusively for when you want to play with your friends. As a result, the storyline of the main campaign you’ve been playing solo is not altered.

If the game features local co-op, certain titles provide a split-screen interface that allows both players to see the world through their characters’ eyes on the same television. Some games with notable co-op experiences include *Payday 3*, *Diablo IV*, and *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora*.



## ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sony, Microsoft, and Nintendo all offer paid online subscription services.

Microsoft’s Xbox Game Pass comes in two tiers, and allows access to a rotating library of games for a monthly fee, akin to video subscription services like Netflix or Disney+. As well, both tiers allow you to play multiplayer games online. Xbox Game Pass Core features a selection of over 25 high-quality games, while Xbox Game Pass Ultimate bumps that number up into the hundreds, offers access to ever game Microsoft publishes on Day One, and adds access to publisher EA’s subscription service EA Play and Microsoft’s PC Game Pass library. Ultimate also offers the ability to stream select titles over the internet to your console, mobile phone, or PC.

Sony offers its PlayStation Plus service in three tiers. Essential offers access to online multiplayer, cloud storage, and a selection of PS5 and PS4 games to add to your digital library each month. (Do note, an active subscription is needed to play these games in the future.) The Extra tier adds a wider catalog of PS4 and PS5 games. Not all Sony-published games join the catalog, and those that do arrive months after launch. Premium expands the catalog with older PS1, PS2, PS3, and PSP titles (some via cloud streaming), and time-limited demos.

Finally, Nintendo Switch Online connects players together for online gaming, lets you save game data to the cloud, and includes an ever-growing library of classic games to play. The Expansion Pass upgrade adds Nintendo 64, Game Boy Advance, and Sega Genesis titles, as well as bonuses like free DLC for select games.

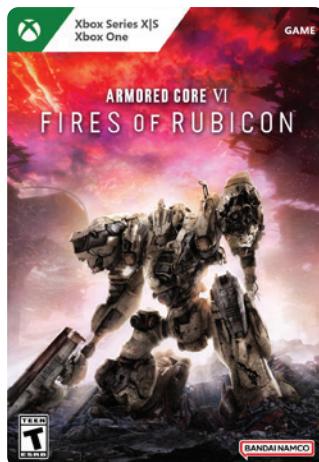
Online subscriptions are important part of today’s gaming scene, so don’t be surprised if you get a request for access to these services.



## REDEMPTION CARDS

Nintendo, Sony and Microsoft all offer prepaid cards that gamers can use to purchase content from their digital storefronts. The cards work in much the same way as a gift card for a retail outlet or restaurant. They are available in-store and are typically activated at checkout. The credit can be used only for the designated company’s storefront for which it was purchased.

Once the player adds funds to their account, using the special code on the back of the card, they can spend that amount on just about anything available in that console’s online store, including downloadable games, DLC, videos, and more.



## DIGITAL DOWNLOAD CARDS

Want to make sure a copy of the hottest new game will be there when you want it? Walmart offers Digital Download Cards for some titles that provide a code to download a copy of the game, sometimes before the game is even released. Just download your title and wait until release, when the game unlocks and becomes playable.

It’s a convenient way to get your game, and it avoids the risk of going to the store on launch day to discover the title you’re waiting for is sold out.

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Purchase gift card by 12/31/23.\*



\*Get the bonus instantly upon gift card redemption. Purchase gift card by 12/31/23. Redeem by 1/7/24. Offer valid only for new or returning Apple TV+ subscribers until 12/31/23 when purchasing an Apple Gift Card of any denomination from any third party retailer in the U.S. Excludes purchases of Apple Gift Cards from either the Apple retail or online store, and any new value added onto your digital Apple Account balance associated with your Apple ID. Offer good for 2 free months of an Apple TV+ subscription with gift cards purchased through 12/31/23. Bonus code provided immediately after gift card redemption into your Apple Account. Requires Apple ID with payment method on file. Plan automatically renews for \$6.99/month after promotion until cancelled. Cancel anytime in Settings > Apple ID at least one day before exact renewal date. Only one offer per Apple ID and only one offer per family if you're part of a Family Sharing group, regardless of the number of Apple Gift Cards you or your family purchases. Not valid for existing Apple TV+ subscribers, and not combinable with other Apple TV+ offers. Terms and Apple Privacy Policy apply; see the applicable terms for your country at <https://www.apple.com/legal/internet-services/itunes/>. TM and © 2023 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

# CONSOLE CRASH COURSE



## A QUICK LOOK AT CURRENT-GEN GAME SYSTEMS

### PLAYSTATION 5

#### SPECS

PlayStation 5 is Sony's most powerful console ever, with support for 4K resolution, higher frame rates, advanced graphics techniques like ray tracing, and speedy load times. The system is also backward compatible with nearly all PS4 titles. Sony currently produces two models: the **PlayStation 5** and the **PlayStation 5 Digital Edition**, both updated with a new, slimmer look this year. Games run exactly the same on either model, but the Digital Edition has no disc drive and can only play digital games. However, an attachable Ultra HD Blu-Ray Disc Drive, sold separately, can add disc support to the new Digital Edition. The original PS5 designs, both Standard and Digital, are still

available while supplies last, but beware that the original Digital Edition does not support the disc drive add-on.



#### HARDWARE SPECIALTY

4K resolution; frame rates up to 120 FPS; lightning-fast load times; backward compatibility with most PS4 games; immersive 3D audio technology; advanced haptic feedback on controller

#### MAJOR EXCLUSIVES

*Marvel's Spider-Man 2, Final Fantasy XVI, Forspoken, Tchia*



#### MULTIMEDIA

DVD, Blu-ray and Ultra HD Blu-ray playback (standard PS5 only); digital audio and video; multimedia apps

#### NETWORKING

Wired and wireless internet

#### ONLINE SERVICES

PlayStation Plus online multiplayer subscription, with Extra and Premium tiers offering game library and game streaming; Create button for video sharing and streaming; multimedia apps

#### KEY PERIPHERALS

DualSense wireless controller; DualSense charging station; PULSE 3D wireless headset; PlayStation VR2; Ultra HD Blu-Ray Disc Drive (new Digital model only)

### XBOX SERIES X AND S

#### SPECS

Boasting the most powerful GPU ever seen in a console, the **Xbox Series X** brings state-of-the-art features like ray tracing, 4K resolution, and higher frame rates to your living room. Its Velocity Architecture makes it possible to instantly switch between multiple games with the press of a button while reducing load times to mere seconds. Not only do these features apply to current-generation games, but thousands of backward compatible games (dating back to the original Xbox) see significant upgrades on Series X.

Providing another option for current-gen gaming, the **Xbox Series S** also includes all the performance advantages of Xbox's Velocity

Architecture and a powerful GPU in an incredibly affordable package. Capable of running games in 1440p resolution, the Series S is the smallest Xbox ever, thanks in part to being a disc-free console.



#### SERIES X

#### HARDWARE SPECIALTY

4K resolution; frame rates up to 120 FPS; lightning-fast load times; backward compatibility with thousands of games

#### MULTIMEDIA

DVD, Blu-ray and Ultra HD Blu-ray playback; digital audio and video; multimedia apps

#### SERIES S

#### HARDWARE SPECIALTY

1440p resolution; frame rates up to 120 FPS; lightning-fast load times; backward compatibility with thousands of digital games

#### MULTIMEDIA

Digital audio and video; multimedia apps

#### SHARED FEATURES

#### MAJOR EXCLUSIVES

*Starfield, Forza Motorsport, Redfall*

#### NETWORKING

Wired and wireless internet

#### ONLINE SERVICES

Xbox Game Pass online subscription service; game DVR video sharing and gameplay streaming; multimedia apps; internet browser

#### KEY PERIPHERALS

Xbox Elite Wireless Controller Series 2; Xbox Rechargeable Battery + USB-C Cable

## NINTENDO SWITCH FAMILY



### NINTENDO SWITCH

Nintendo's track record for doing something different with its gaming hardware continued with the **Nintendo Switch**, the first-ever "hybrid console." In simple terms, that means it works as both a handheld gaming system and a home console. Plug it into its dock, and you can play on the television like you would with a PlayStation or Xbox. But take it out, and the built-in touchscreen allows you to game on the go, just like you would with a dedicated portable game system. Thanks to the detachable Joy-Con controllers and a built-in stand, there's also a third way to play, where you rest the screen on a table like its own small TV and play without holding the system—a useful option for local multiplayer away from home.

#### SPECS

##### HARDWARE SPECIALTY

Flexibility as a handheld or a home console; 1080p visuals when connected to TV, 720p visuals in handheld mode; Joy-Con controllers can be used separately for multiplayer gaming; Near Field Communication (NFC) and IR motion camera; HD rumble

##### MAJOR EXCLUSIVES

*Super Mario Bros. Wonder, The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, Pikmin 4*

##### MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia apps

##### NETWORKING

Wireless internet

##### ONLINE SERVICES

Nintendo Switch Online subscription service; companion smartphone app with additional features

##### KEY PERIPHERALS

Dock; Nintendo Switch Pro Controller; Joy-Con controllers; Joy-Con charging grip; Joy-Con wheel; amiibo figures



### NINTENDO SWITCH – OLED MODEL

Nintendo's most recent hardware revision is the **Nintendo Switch – OLED Model**. This isn't the major upgrade we've seen from previous hardware updates like the PS4 Pro or the Xbox One X, so you shouldn't expect better graphics or performance compared to the original Switch. Instead, Nintendo focused on delivering a larger, higher quality screen that uses, as you can probably guess, OLED technology. Alongside the new screen, the company improved battery life, added a wider stand, updated the dock to support a wired internet connection, and doubled the internal storage to 64 GB. For the moment, it's the most polished Switch experience on the market.

#### SPECS

##### HARDWARE SPECIALTY

Flexibility as a handheld or a home console; 1080p visuals when connected to TV, 720p visuals in handheld mode; Joy-Con controllers can be used separately for multiplayer gaming; Near Field Communication (NFC) and IR motion camera; HD rumble

##### MAJOR EXCLUSIVES

*Super Mario Bros. Wonder, The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, Pikmin 4*

##### MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia apps

##### NETWORKING

Wireless internet; wired internet

##### ONLINE SERVICES

Nintendo Switch Online subscription service; companion smartphone app with additional features

##### KEY PERIPHERALS

Dock; Nintendo Switch Pro Controller; Joy-Con controllers; Joy-Con charging grip; Joy-Con wheel; amiibo figures



### NINTENDO SWITCH LITE

The **Nintendo Switch Lite** reimagines the Switch as a dedicated portable, removing the docking ability and detachable controllers in exchange for a lower price point. Nearly all Nintendo Switch games are playable on the Lite model, but there are a few exceptions for titles that have mandatory motion controls, like this year's *Everybody 1-2-Switch!*, so make sure a game supports handheld mode before buying it for the Lite. Most accessories, including Joy-Con controllers, can still be paired with the Lite, but they may require additional purchases to allow for charging, and the handheld nature means local multiplayer isn't as convenient as with other Switch models.



#### SPECS

##### HARDWARE SPECIALTY

Handheld that can play fully featured, home-console-quality games on the go; 720p visuals; Near Field Communication (NFC); HD rumble

##### MAJOR EXCLUSIVES

*Super Mario Bros. Wonder, The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, Pikmin 4*

##### MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia apps

##### NETWORKING

Wireless internet

##### ONLINE SERVICES

Nintendo Switch Online subscription service; companion smartphone app with additional features

##### KEY PERIPHERALS

Carrying case; amiibo figures

# HOT

## HARDWARE & ACCESSORIES



### APPLE GIFT CARD

Game on. Perfect for App Store purchases and subscriptions—get apps, games, Apple Arcade, and everything you need for every kind of play. Play more with all things Apple—iPhone, iPad, AirPods, Beats products, accessories, and more. Use it for purchases at any Apple Store location, on the Apple Store app, apple.com, the App Store, Apple Arcade, iTunes, Apple Music, Apple TV+, Apple News+, Apple Books, iCloud+, Apple Fitness+, Apple One, and other Apple properties in the US only.



### PLAYSTATION VR2 FEEL A NEW REAL

Escape into worlds that feel, look and sound truly real as VR gaming takes a huge generational leap forward.

Discover heightened sensory and emotional experiences through revolutionary PlayStation VR2 Sense™ technology with intuitive controls and 4K HDR visuals in the next generation of genre-defining games.



### PLAYSTATION 5 PLAY HAS NO LIMITS

The PS5™ console unleashes new gaming possibilities that you never anticipated. Experience lightning fast loading with an ultra-high speed SSD, deeper immersion with support for haptic feedback, adaptive triggers, and 3D Audio, and an all-new generation of incredible PlayStation® games.



### XBOX GAME PASS ULTIMATE THREE MONTHS

Play over 100 high-quality games with friends on console for one low monthly price. Download and enjoy new games on day one like *Halo Infinite* from Xbox Game Studios, as well as iconic franchises like Bethesda titles from Bethesda Softworks, indie games, blockbusters, and more. With games added all the time, there's always something new to play.\*

\*Game catalog varies over time. See [xbox.com/gamepass](https://xbox.com/gamepass)



### XBOX ALL ACCESS

Get everything you need to experience next-gen gaming with no upfront cost. Choose an Xbox Series X or S console and 24 months of Xbox Game Pass Ultimate for one low monthly price. Enjoy an instant library of over 100 high-quality console and PC games, plus join friends with online multiplayer. Experience new games on day one from Xbox Game Studios and Bethesda Softworks, plus an EA Play membership is included that gives members access to a collection of EA's top titles.

### **NACON REVOLUTION X WIRED CONTROLLER FIELD CAMO**

Designed for Xbox and PC, the Revolution X Field Camo controller is built for gamers looking for the very best in wired controllers. Featuring a dedicated app from the Microsoft Store on Xbox Series X/S, Xbox One and Windows 10/11, the Revolution X provides limitless customization options. Map buttons, set thumbstick sensitivity, trigger dead zones and much more. Create up to four game profiles to suit a range of games. Setup four programmable rear panel triggers for extra control. All cloaked in a Field Camo design and carry case, to complete your tactical gaming setup.



### **NACON RIG 600 PRO HX DUAL WIRELESS GAMING HEADSET**

Experience high-quality game audio on your Xbox, PlayStation, PC or Nintendo Switch with the RIG 600 PRO HX. Master your game audio across all your gaming platforms using dual-mode wireless with low-latency 2.4GHz and Bluetooth 5.1 connectivity. Bass-boosted, high-sensitivity 40mm drivers with tuned acoustic chambers deliver balanced sound without distortion. Game all day with a headset weighing in at only 240g with up to 24-hour battery life via Bluetooth and 18 hours using the USB-C dongle. Gain a competitive edge and react more accurately with Dolby Atmos for Headphones. Flip-to-hide boom automatically mutes your voice when closed. Download the 600 PRO Navigator app for advanced functionality, including equalizer pre-sets, mic adjustments and more.



### **NINTENDO SWITCH™**

#### **MARIO KART™ 8 DELUXE BUNDLE (FULL GAME DOWNLOAD + 3 MO. NINTENDO SWITCH ONLINE MEMBERSHIP INCLUDED)**

Zoom into the world of Mario & friends. This bundle has everything you need to start your Super Mario™ adventures, including a Nintendo Switch™ system with Neon Red and Neon Blue Joy-Con™ controllers. Plus, enjoy an added \$68 value with a download code for the *Mario Kart™ 8 Deluxe* game and a 3-month Nintendo Switch Online Individual membership.



### **NINTENDO SWITCH™ LITE**

#### **(TIMMY & TOMMY'S ALOHA EDITION) ANIMAL CROSSING™: NEW HORIZONS BUNDLE (FULL GAME DOWNLOAD INCLUDED)**

Create your own island paradise and bring it with you wherever you go with this Timmy & Tommy's Aloha themed Nintendo Switch™ Lite system. The system features a lovely coral color, a white leaf pattern on the back, and a cute leaf design on the front, inspired by the *Animal Crossing™* series. A full game download of *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* is included—a \$60 value!



### **McFARLANE TOYS™ DC MULTIVERSE™ BATMAN (HUSH) BLACK & GREY FIGURE**

As a child, BRUCE WAYNE watched as his parents were brutally killed in GOTHAM CITY'S CRIME ALLEY. Traumatized by their deaths, he devoted his life to becoming the world's greatest weapon against crime—the BATMAN™! To become the ultimate vigilante, the DARK KNIGHT™ disciplined his mind and body to reach the pinnacle of mental and physical superiority in his relentless pursuit of Justice!



# FIVE TO PLAY

NEW GAMES YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

CHECK YOUR FAVORITE GAMES!



1

## CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE III

PUBLISHER ACTIVISION / GENRE SHOOTER / SYSTEMS XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4 / MULTIPLAYER LOCAL, ONLINE / RELEASE 11.10.2023



BLOOD AND GORE, INTENSE VIOLENCE, STRONG LANGUAGE, USE OF DRUGS

Picking up where last year's game left off, *Modern Warfare III*'s story-driven campaign has Task Force 141 charged with stopping ultranationalist terrorist Vladimir Makarov. While much of the campaign will be a more focused experience, *Modern Warfare III* also features what are known as "Open Combat Missions," in which you have options as to how you want to approach your targets—such as choosing between being sneaky or going in with weapons blazing. Similarly,

the Zombies co-op mode has the biggest map this mode has ever seen, while multiplayer has updated and upgraded versions of the 16 maps from 2009's *Modern Warfare 2*, an evolved version of the "War" mode that was introduced in *WWII*, as well as the return of red dot minimaps. It also, alongside such fan favorite modes as "Kill Confirmed" and "Team Deathmatch," adds a new one called "Cutthroat," in which three teams of three each go head-to-head-to-head.

2

## THE INVINCIBLE

PUBLISHER 11 BIT STUDIOS / GENRE ADVENTURE / SYSTEMS XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5 / MULTIPLAYER NONE / RELEASE 11.06.2023



STRONG LANGUAGE, VIOLENCE

"Based on Stanisław Lem's iconic hard science fiction novel, *The Invincible* is a narrative-driven game where every action the player takes is linked to the quest to rescue [their missing crewmates], uncover the mysteries of Regis III, and ultimately save themselves from this mind-boggling planet. Players assume the role of a crew member on the spaceship Dragonfly, which lands on a planet entangled in a cosmic race between two rival factions: the Cosmosolidary Alliance and the Interplanetary

Commonwealth. There, you must search, deduce, track, repair, drive, fly, and negotiate. You also engage in profound discussions with your astrogator, and this dialogue system, along with a strong emphasis on narrative, and the integration of gameplay with the storyline, are all elements that align with our primary inspiration, *Firewatch*—though we also looked up to *Alien: Isolation* as a strong example of creating a sense of alienation and immersive, claustrophobic experiences."

MAREK MARKUSZEWSKI, CEO/GAME DIRECTOR, STARWARD INDUSTRIES



3

## WARIOWARE: MOVE IT!

PUBLISHER NINTENDO / GENRE PARTY / SYSTEMS SWITCH / MULTIPLAYER LOCAL / RELEASE 11.03.2023



Like previous games in the series, *WarioWare: Move It!* is full of super short but super clever microgames. More than 200, to be exact. You'll have to move your Joy-Con controllers—and your whole body—according to on-screen commands in order to complete each quick challenge. Maybe you have to lasso an alpaca, wiggle to escape being tied up, clean your turtle shell with a towel, or use one Joy-Con controller as your beak and another as your tail feather to be the early bird who catches the worm. In the game's story mode, which you can play solo or co-op, you have to help Wario escape the Woods Watchers by, well, playing a series of microgames. Or, if you're more of a party person, Party Mode lets you and up to three friends enjoy the microgames in an on-screen board game.



CRUDE HUMOR, FANTASY VIOLENCE

4

## ROBOCOP: ROGUE CITY

PUBLISHER NACON / GENRE SHOOTER / SYSTEMS XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5 / MULTIPLAYER NONE / RELEASE 11.02.2023

"Situated between the events of *RoboCop 2* and *RoboCop 3*, effectively bridging the gap between those two films, *RoboCop: Rogue City* is a first-person action game with RPG elements. Stepping into the formidable shoes of Alex Murphy, players embark on a mission to investigate a threat looming over the crime-infested streets of Detroit, which may be linked to the shadowy dealings of OCP. Being a heavily armored and methodical character, RoboCop may move at a deliberate pace, but his strength and integrated systems make him an unstoppable force. The game also offers a rich blend of exploration and investigation, with players scanning environments for clues, and engaging in detective work, to solve crimes within the city. Also, having Peter Weller reprise his role as Alex Murphy was a tremendous honor for us. His portrayal of RoboCop is iconic, and his involvement allowed us to capture the essence of the character."

PIOTR ŁATOCHA, GAME DIRECTOR, TEYON



BLOOD AND GORE, INTENSE VIOLENCE, SEXUAL THEMES, STRONG LANGUAGE, USE OF DRUGS

5

## EA SPORTS WRC

PUBLISHER EA SPORTS / GENRE RACING / SYSTEMS XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5 / MULTIPLAYER ONLINE / RELEASE 11.03.2023

"Rally racing is the most incredible form of motorsport because it challenges drivers to set the fastest times possible on gravel, tarmac, snow, and ice. At its core, *EA Sports WRC* is a rally simulation, but we realize some folks may need help staying in control of their car when up against that, so in *WRC* we've included a Rally School to teach the basics, and added a suite of assists to help new players. Another stand-out feature is Builder, where you can follow in the footsteps of the legendary Colin McRae by designing and developing your very own modern-era rally car you can use across the entire game. I genuinely think that Builder changes the landscape of licensed motorsport games. I also want to give a shout out to Moments, which is where fans will be able to experience the most iconic moments from the 50-year history of the FIA World Rally Championship."

ROSS GOWING, SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR, CODEMASTERS



NO DESCRIPTORS

MILD  
FANTASY  
VIOLENCE

CHECK YOUR FAVORITE GAMES!



**PUBLISHER** SEGA / **GENRE** PLATFORMER / **SYSTEMS** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4 / **MULTIPLAYER** LOCAL, ONLINE / **RELEASE** 10.17.2023

# SONIC SUPERSTARS

## SONIC AND HIS SUPER FRIENDS

Just over a year ago, Sega released *Sonic Frontiers*, a game created in part to coincide with the *Sonic* franchise's 30th anniversary. While it helped honor the past, *Frontiers* was also a powerful statement on what the future for Sega's beloved mascot might look like, completely redefining what we can expect from 3D *Sonic* adventures.

It's funny, then, that Sega now follows up *Sonic Frontiers* with *Sonic Superstars*, a release that focuses specifically on tapping into the series' 2D origins.

"*Sonic Frontiers* was our big step forward for the 3D high-speed action games that Sonic was known for," *Sonic* chief creative officer, Takashi Iizuka, told us. "Similarly, we wanted the classic series gameplay to take that same step forward to be modernized for audiences for the next 10 to 20 years."

In a way, crafting a new game that brings back the feeling of older experiences can actually be a more daunting task than simply creating something fresh. Iizuka explained that developing

*Sonic Superstars* using more modern technology and visuals was an important part of creating the game, but that it had to come without forgetting everything the team learned over the last 30 years about what made those older side-scrolling games fun to play.

"The whole concept for the title started out as a modern version of the classic gameplay, so the team needed to recreate everything about the classic games in their modern development environment using 3D assets," he continued. "It was



challenging, but the team succeeded.”

That doesn’t mean there isn’t plenty of advancement in *Sonic Superstars*, though. One huge new twist on an older idea is Emerald Powers, special new abilities that span across the entire adventure to offer more dynamic gameplay.

**“THE WHOLE CONCEPT FOR THE TITLE STARTED OUT AS A MODERN VERSION OF THE CLASSIC GAMEPLAY...”**

**TAKASHI IIZUKA, SONIC CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER**

“In the classic series titles, you could turn into Super Sonic when you collected all seven of the Chaos Emeralds,” said Iizuka. “Still, since you only got the power once you obtained all of [them], there wasn’t as much motivation as you were collecting to actively seek them out. So,





## MAKE NEW FOES, BUT KEEP THE OLD

*Sonic Superstars* wouldn't be a proper *Sonic* game if the blue blur's longtime nemesis Dr. Eggman wasn't back to stir up some kind of trouble. This time, however, that bloated boffin teams up with two other troublemakers—one from Sonic's past, and another that's new to the series.

Up first is Fang the Sniper, who originally debuted in *Sonic Triple Trouble* on the Sega Game Gear. While Fang had an unofficial cameo in *Sonic Mania* (it wasn't really him, but someone transformed to look like him), his last proper appearance was way back in 1996's *Sonic the Fighters*.

"When we released *Sonic Mania Plus*, we brought back Mighty and Ray from the classic series, and our fans really appreciated getting to experience those characters again," *Sonic* chief creative officer, Takashi Iizuka, explained when we asked about the unexpected return of Fang. "So, when we thought about modernizing this new game experience, we knew we needed to bring back some classic series characters for our fans to enjoy."

On the complete other end of the spectrum, *Sonic Superstars* also serves as the debut of Trip the Sungazer, a mysterious new character based around the sungazer lizard. We know that she's clad in robotic-looking armor and employed as a guide for Dr. Eggman and Fang as they travel throughout the Northstar Islands, but to find out more about her and her intentions, you'll have to play the game.



we wanted to change that, and every time someone gains a Chaos Emerald, we also want to grant them an Emerald Power."

While it was important to the team to not force you to use Emerald Powers to get through any specific parts of the game, the various abilities they offer can both help those players who might need a bit of extra assistance in getting past certain challenges, and give more skilled *Sonic* fans even greater options for exploring stages or taking down enemies. For example, grabbing the Blue Emerald offers up Avatar, an Emerald Power that produces clones of your current character that all attack at once, while the Yellow Emerald lets you unleash Slow, which slows down time so you can deal with threats easier.

As for Iizuka's favorite? "I like Vision, because it allows you to see things you cannot see normally," he told us. "I'm

always curious to use it to see if there is something around me."

The other biggest update you'll find in *Sonic Superstars* is that, for the first time



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ever, the game's entire campaign is playable together with up to four players locally. Now, not only is picking which of the four main cast—Sonic, Tails, Knuckles, or Amy—you want to play as when going solo important, but it'll also determine what role you'll fill when running together as a team. And if you'd rather fight against your friends than with them, *Sonic Superstars* also features a competitive Battle Mode (that can expand to up to eight players online).

It may feel a little strange to think of *Sonic* as a game focused on co-op, but teaming up to get through stages came to the franchise in its first-ever sequel, 1992's *Sonic the Hedgehog 2*. According to Iizuka, expanding

**“IT’S A MULTIPLAYER EXPERIENCE FROM START TO FINISH, EVEN IN THE SPECIAL STAGES AND BONUS STAGES!”**

**TAKASHI IIZUKA, SONIC CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER**

the potential for cooperative play in a *Sonic* game has been a long time coming.

“This was a feature that we wanted to put in decades ago, but couldn’t execute well,” he said. “We hope you enjoy talking and strategizing with your friends to explore the zones or take out the bosses. And remember, it’s a multiplayer experience from start to finish, even in the Special Stages and Bonus Stages!”

Given the passion fans still have for classic 2D *Sonic* gameplay, even after breakout 3D experiences such as *Sonic Frontiers*, we’re feeling pretty confident that a lot of people will indeed enjoy what Sega and developer Arzest have put together in *Sonic Superstars*—no matter if they take on the Northstar Islands and the nefarious Dr. Eggman alone, or with a full squad of furry friends.

# ELEVATE YOUR GAME



Experience the Xbox Wireless Controller –  
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**ATLUS**

<b>TEEN</b>	Violence Blood Suggestive Themes Partial Nudity Language Use of Alcohol
<b>T</b>	
<b>ESRB</b>	

**AVAILABLE**  
**11.17.23**



XBOX GAME PASS XBOX SERIES X|S XBOX ONE Windows PS5 PS4 NINTENDO SWITCH STEAM

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NO DESCRIPTORS



CHECK YOUR FAVORITE GAMES!



# BLUEY THE VIDEOGAME

**B**luey: The Videogame is an idea that makes perfect sense while making no sense at all.

As one of the world's most beloved television shows, and a property enjoyed by kids and parents alike, it seemed inevitable that someone would try to make a video game based around the daily adventures of Bluey, little sister Bingo, dad Bandit, and

mum Chili. But since the show lacks the sort of action or perils you'd typically build off of when designing a video game, figuring out *how* to turn those adventures into an interactive experience could prove to be a daunting challenge.

To publisher Outright Games and developer Artax Games, though, that challenge was an exciting one. "We wanted the game

to feel like players were actually playing within an episode of the show, while also providing the freedom to create their own fun scenarios and scenes using the instantly recognizable locations, objects, and games seen in the series," explained production director Vincent Grogan.

To help accomplish that goal, *Bluey: The Videogame* plays out across "episodes,"



with the first serving as a place to teach the game's controls and basic mechanics to the player in a natural way without locking them into a tutorial. That first episode also kicks off a completely original story crafted specifically for the game as a joint project between Outright Games, Artax Games, BBC Studios, and the show's producers at Ludo Studio.

"The brand-new story [takes] place over four episodes and five locations, delivered using fully animated cutscenes, all voiced with the official English-speaking voice cast," Grogan told us. "The game is centered around Bluey and Bingo creating a sticker book to record all the 'fun stuff' they want to do on their school holidays."

That sticker book will show players all of the locations, items, and stickers waiting throughout the game. According to Grogan, after completing the first episode, players can "choose to explore the Heeler House and find the items and stickers listed in the sticker book, or continue the adventure to unlock more locations and games creating memories."

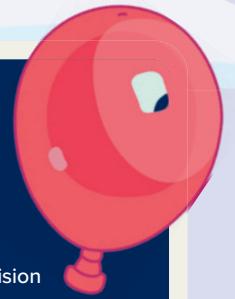
From its mixture of original moments and events that refer back to fan-favorite episodes, to its distinct visual style that attempts to mimic the look of the animated series, *Bluey: The Videogame* has the potential to be Outright Games' biggest and most distinctive release yet—and that's an opportunity the team seems to not have taken for granted.

"Like so many families around the world, everyone at Outright Games are massive fans of *Bluey*," said Grogan. "While this could have been stressful, we saw it instead as an amazing opportunity to work with a property that brings so much joy to families and provides such great life lessons."

**"WE WANTED THE GAME TO FEEL LIKE PLAYERS WERE ACTUALLY PLAYING WITHIN AN EPISODE OF THE SHOW..."**

**VINCENT GROGAN, PRODUCTION DIRECTOR**

## THE HOUSE ON HEELER HILL



Across years of television and cinema properties getting translated into video game form, one problem continually crops up: How do you design an explorable world around a location that may not actually fit together as one interconnected space?

While piecing together the Heeler House isn't quite as technically complex as figuring out the layout of something like *The Simpsons'* Springfield, properly building Bluey and Bingo's childhood home into an explorable location was still something that required care and consideration. At the same time, it was a task that also provided some exciting results.



"One of the best and most rewarding challenges we faced was creating the Heeler House," said production director Vincent Grogan. "This is the very first time that fans can freely explore the iconic [home] in a digital experience."

In order to get the house just right, developer Artax Games worked closely with the teams at Ludo Studio to make sure any questions they (and fans) had about the house were answered—or, at least, that *most* were.

"Fans can finally see how the rooms link to each other, and find the answer to which floor the kitchen is on," Grogan added. "However, we still were not able to answer the question of how the Heelers can afford such a big house on their respective job salaries."



VIOLENCE,  
MILD BLOOD,  
LANGUAGE

CHECK YOUR FAVORITE GAMES!



# AVATAR: FRONTIERS OF PANDORA

## TWO WORLDS MEET

**T**hough it may be set in the world of James Cameron's blockbuster franchise, *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora* isn't just a simple retelling of the events of the films. Instead, publisher Ubisoft and developer Massive Entertainment have opted to tell an original story centered on entirely new characters. In fact, the character you play as is about as new as it gets, since you'll be able to customize your very own Na'vi hero. (If you're not up on your *Avatar* lingo, the Na'vi are the aliens—you know, the blue, vaguely cat-like ones.)

Intriguingly, however, your character hasn't grown up as a part of Na'vi

society. Instead, they were abducted by the not-so-friendly humans of the RDA corporation and forced into a program designed to brainwash young Na'vi and train them to fight alongside humans. As a result of the war that broke out during the first *Avatar* film, the RDA gave up on the program, and the kidnapped Na'vi were abandoned in the facility in cryogenic sleep pods.

That's the jumping-off point for *Frontiers of Pandora's* adventure: Your character awakens after 15 years and connects with the tribal Na'vi for the first time. Before long, they're fighting against the humans alongside the tribes of Pandora's Western

Frontier—a continent not yet seen in the films—in a battle for survival.

Your hero's background plays a crucial role in gameplay, as you'll be able to make use of both Na'vi and human weapons in the game's first-person combat. Perhaps the right tool for the job is a stealthy bow and arrow, or maybe it's a rocket launcher. The choice is yours.

While the game will feature many familiar elements of open-world games, like taking out RDA outposts and gathering resources from the environment, Massive has put an environmentally friendly spin on gameplay to better capture the message of the films. When you're gathering resourc-

## ON A WING AND A PRAYER

One of the most memorable aspects of the Na'vi as depicted in the *Avatar* movies is their use of flying mounts, known in their native language as Ikran and in English as Banshees. It's no surprise, then, that *Frontiers of Pandora* will allow you to bond with an Ikran of your very own.



Rather than just using your flying mount to get around, you'll instead have a chance to connect with it on a deeper level, naming it, feeding it, and even customizing its appearance. In flight, you'll be able to perform impressive aerial acrobatic feats, which will come in handy when you engage in midair combat against the RDA forces.

If that all sounds a bit too nauseating, don't worry: While in flight, the camera will also shift from first- to third-person—which should make it a little easier to stomach all those loops and corkscrews.

THE CHARACTER YOU PLAY AS IS ABOUT AS NEW AS IT GETS, SINCE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR VERY OWN NA'VI HERO.

es, you'll have to be careful to take only what you need, and ridding Pandora of those pollution-spewing outposts will actually allow nature to reclaim the surrounding areas, with the ecosystem returning to balance over time.

Given the massive success of the *Avatar* films at the box office—enough that there are already three more sequels in the works—it's clear there are millions of people around the world captivated by the lush setting of Pandora and the Na'vi. Now, with *Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora*, those fans will finally get a chance to feel what it's like to be Na'vi, and to feel even more immersed in the franchise's world than ever before.



ABOUT THE RATING



EVERYONE

Content is generally suitable for all ages. May contain minimal cartoon, fantasy or mild violence and/or infrequent use of mild language.

# YOUR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY GAME WISH LIST!

Walmart has this season's hottest games. Just give each of your favorite gamers a copy of this guide and have them check off which games they want to unwrap come gift-giving time. Then head over to your local Walmart store or go online to Walmart.com, where you will find all the games on this list plus the consoles and accessories you need to play them!

CHECK YOUR FAVORITES!



## BABY SHARK: SING AND SWIM PARTY

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
OUTRIGHT GAMES  
**GENRE**  
PARTY, RHYTHM  
**RELEASE**  
09.15.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Baby Shark: Sing & Swim Party* is a cooperative rhythm-focused game based on the popular adventures of Baby Shark. As the Shark family heads off on a vacation to the Fin-Tastic Festival, up to four players can team up to take on a wide variety of skill- and rhythm-based challenges. 30 songs are featured, including the blockbuster hit "Baby Shark," with the game especially focused on helping develop better psychomotor skills in players ages 3 to 6. The members of the Shark Family are also customizable using unlockable costumes and skins.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



## DETECTIVE PIKACHU RETURNS

**STATS** SYSTEMS: SWITCH  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
10.06.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A sequel to the 2018 Nintendo 3DS game *Detective Pikachu* (which inspired a Hollywood movie of the same name), this follow-up once again pairs up a talking, crime-solving Pikachu with his human partner, Tim Goodman, in Ryme City, where people and Pokémon coexist. Rather than catching and battling 'mons like the main series, you're instead exploring, searching for clues, and talking to witnesses to get to the bottom of mysteries. The central case this time is a biggie, too: the disappearance of Tim's father and the origins of Detective Pikachu himself.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Fantasy Violence



## DISNEY DREAMLIGHT VALLEY: COZY EDITION

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
NIGHTHAWK INTERACTIVE  
**GENRE**  
ADVENTURE, SIMULATION  
**RELEASE**  
10.27.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In this mix of life sim and adventure game, you travel to Dreamlight Valley, a once peaceful land where Disney and Pixar characters live in harmony. At least, they did, until that peace was upended by an evil called The Forgotten. Go on quests, explore the world, and interact with a wide variety of beloved characters to bring magic back to the world again. In the *Cozy Edition*, you'll receive additional customization items, an exclusive poster and sticker sheet, and 14,500 bonus Moonstones to use for in-game items or to help speed up your progression along the Star Path.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



## DISNEY ILLUSION ISLAND

**STATS** SYSTEMS: SWITCH  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
DISNEY ELECTRONIC CONTENT  
**GENRE**  
PLATFORMER  
**RELEASE**  
07.28.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This 2D platformer finds Mickey, Minnie, Donald, and Goofy on an adventure on the whimsical island of Monoth, where they've been summoned to help recover three magical tomes and save the day. Unlike many classic platformers, there aren't separate levels, with all the action set in one interconnected world. Plus, there's no combat, so it's all about using your abilities to avoid hazards and move forward. With support for up to four players, local co-op plays a large focus, as do options making the game accessible—like a setting for infinite health.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Fantasy Violence



## EA SPORTS FC 24

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
EA SPORTS  
**GENRE**  
SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
09.29.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** For decades, EA produced the world's most popular soccer game, the *FIFA* series, in collaboration with the sport's official governing body. This year, however, the publisher has decided to go it alone, cutting licensing deals with individual teams and leagues rather than the association as a whole. Practically speaking, not too much has changed—players can still take to the pitch as some of the biggest clubs in the world and enjoy a variety of modes, including the popular Ultimate Team, club management and player careers, and online and offline multiplayer.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



## EA SPORTS PGA TOUR

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
EA SPORTS  
**GENRE**  
SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
04.07.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** After almost a decade away, *EA Sports PGA Tour* is finally back with a new golf sim. An exclusivity deal means the game is the only way to play all four of the PGA Tour's majors: the Masters Tournament, the PGA Championship, U.S. Open Championship, and The Open Championship. In total, 30 different courses from around the world are recreated in virtual form. You can create your own golfer or pick from a roster of playable PGA pros including Tony Finau, Scottie Scheffer, and Jordan Spieth, as well as LPGA players like Lexi Thompson and Nelly Korda.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



## EVERYBODY 1-2-SWITCH!

**STATS** SYSTEMS: SWITCH  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
PARTY  
**RELEASE**  
06.30.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *1-2-Switch* was, without question, the weirdest Nintendo Switch launch game, offering a variety of quirky minigames designed to take advantage of the Joy-Con controller's motion tracking capabilities in novel ways. This sequel ups the ante with even more minigames, this time inspired by material as varied as jumping rope, samurai sword fighting, and musical chairs. If you want to get really crazy, some of the minigames allow up to 100 people to play simultaneously on a single system by connecting up their smartphones—but you may need a bigger living room for that.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Alcohol Reference, Mild Violence



## F1 23

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
EA SPORTS  
**GENRE**  
RACING  
**RELEASE**  
06.16.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** The latest entry in the long-running series of official Formula One video games does pretty much everything you would expect. All the official courses, drivers, and teams from this F1 season have been recreated for the game, allowing you to live out your own fantasy of chasing glory at more than 200 miles per hour. Major additions and changes for this year include overhauled driving physics, a revamped UI designed to better match F1 broadcasts, and the next chapter of a story-driven campaign called "Braking Point," which mixes racing rivalries with off-track drama.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Language





**F1 MANAGER 2023**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 DEVELOPMENTS  
**GENRE**  
 SIMULATION  
**RELEASE**  
 07.31.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** If you're a big fan of racing, but not as much of a fan of actually getting behind the virtual wheel, *F1 Manager 2023* might be the game you're looking for. Rather than focusing on the experience of driving a Formula One car, this series lets you become the driving force behind an entire Formula One team. Your decisions on which drivers to hire, the design of your team's car, and your strategy for individual races will determine whether you climb to the top of the rankings or fall to the bottom of the pack and miss out on the points.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**FASHION DREAMER**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 XSEED GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 SIMULATION  
**RELEASE**  
 11.03.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In the spirit of Nintendo's *Style Savvy* series, *Fashion Dreamer* lets you create your own virtual self known as a Muse, then head off into an amazing world of fun and fashion. Collect over 1,000 patterns and 1,400 customizable items in order to put together the perfect ensemble that is sure to help set new fashion trends. Check out (and borrow) the outfits of both in-game characters and other real players, participate in photo shoots, and build your personal brand, all as you attempt to become the world's top influencer.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**FORZA MOTORSPORT**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 XBOX GAME STUDIOS  
**GENRE**  
 RACING  
**RELEASE**  
 10.10.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Despite the rebooted title, *Forza Motorsport* is actually the eighth entry in the hardcore racing sim series—but it is the first to be available exclusively on the Xbox Series X/S. The game makes use of that extra horsepower to deliver what its developers call "the most technically advanced racing game ever made." The visuals are stunning thanks to real-time ray tracing and physically based lighting, and the racing physics are so sophisticated they even account for minute details like changes in the temperature of the track over the course of a race.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**HOT WHEELS UNLEASHED 2 - TURBOCHARGED**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 MILESTONE S.R.L.  
**GENRE**  
 RACING  
**RELEASE**  
 10.19.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** As you might expect from a game based on Mattel's iconic toy car line, the *Hot Wheels Unleashed* games take a lighthearted approach to racing, light on realism but big on fun. This sequel ups the ante with new modes, features, and even more cars to collect. As you race tiny vehicles—now expanded to include motorcycles and ATVs—in memorable, giant-to-you settings like an arcade, backyard, and mini golf course, you'll be able to make use of over-the-top moves like Double Jumps and side-swiping Lateral Dashes alongside the returning Drift and Boost abilities.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**JUST DANCE 2024**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 UBISOFT  
**GENRE**  
 RHYTHM  
**RELEASE**  
 10.24.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Ubisoft's long-running dance series keeps on jiving with *Just Dance 2024*. Players earn points by matching the moves of the dancers on screen, with their motions tracked either by the controller (Nintendo Switch only) or a smartphone app. The trippy, neon-soaked music videos encourage you to shake your groove thing to recent hits from BTS, Sam Smith, and Blackpink, classics from Whitney Houston, Destiny's Child, and Britney Spears, and a whole lot more. In total, this year's game includes 40 new tracks, with an optional online subscription adding over 200 more.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Lyrics



**MADDEN NFL 24**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 EA SPORTS  
**GENRE**  
 SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
 08.18.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Madden NFL 24* is the latest football sim from EA. As always, this year's version updates the rosters and ratings for every team and player in the league, alongside some improvements and tweaks to gameplay. Defense is a major focus this year, with improved blocking AI and more than 1,700 new or adjusted animations for the hitting and tackling system. Be warned, however, that many of the new upgrades and even some game modes are only available on the current generation of consoles, so the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One versions will play a bit differently.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Lyrics



**MLB THE SHOW 23**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
**GENRE**  
 SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
 03.28.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This year, Sony's flagship baseball series shines a light on an oft-overlooked corner of the sport's history with a new mode called Storylines, which centers on the Negro Leagues. The experience highlights big moments in the careers of eight players, including Jackie Robinson, Buck O'Neil, and Satchel Paige. Of course, Sony has also polished the on-field gameplay, expanded the fantasy-inspired Diamond Dynasty mode, and implemented this season's real-world MLB rule changes to keep the experience authentic.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**MONSTER ENERGY SUPERCROSS - THE OFFICIAL VIDEOGAME 6**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 MILESTONE S.R.L.  
**GENRE**  
 RACING  
**RELEASE**  
 03.08.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Monster Energy Supercross - The Official Videogame 6* offers up the riders and bikes from the Monster Energy Supercross 2022 season across eight different modes. In addition to all of the racing thrills from prior games, new this year is the Supercross Park, a massive free-roam area that's the perfect place to relax alone or with friends. Along with added local split screen, online play now works together across all consoles. And, for those who could still learn a thing or two, racing legend Jeremy McGrath will help mentor you along your journey.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**MOVING OUT 2**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 TEAM17  
**GENRE**  
 PARTY, PUZZLE  
**RELEASE**  
 08.15.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This lighthearted game casts players as a Furniture Arrangement & Relocation Technician for the Smooth Moves moving company. The goal is to pack up the contents of a location—be it a house, castle, laboratory, or fantastical emporium made of edible treats—and move them to the target area in as little time as possible. To succeed, players will need to think strategically and contend with the wobbly, silly in-game physics. While the game does support solo play, much of the appeal comes from playing cooperatively as a team of movers either locally or online.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Crude Humor



**NBA 2K24**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 2K  
**GENRE**  
 SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
 09.08.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** 2K's premier basketball simulation is back. Like many cross-gen sports games, the biggest upgrades are exclusive to the newest consoles, but players on Xbox Series X/S and PS5 will be able to enjoy more realistic animations thanks to ProPLAY technology, which uses footage from actual NBA games to more authentically capture players' signature moves. Another big focus this year is the legacy of the late Lakers legend Kobe Bryant. The Mamba Moments mode, available on all platforms, lets players recreate some of the most memorable moments and performances of Kobe's career.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**PARK BEYOND**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 BANDAI NAMCO  
**GENRE**  
 SIMULATION  
**RELEASE**  
 06.16.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A theme park builder in the tradition of *RollerCoaster Tycoon*, *Park Beyond* includes the standard gameplay you expect from the genre. Players can build rides (including roller coasters that you can design custom tracks for), concession stands, and other less thrilling amenities. Business concerns matter too, as players will need to make sure they're attracting visitors and earning enough to keep the lights on. The big twist, however, is that you can also research "impossification," a specialty that lets you build attractions that bend the laws of physics—and even defy gravity.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Crude Humor, Mild Language



**PAW PATROL WORLD**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 OUTRIGHT GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
 09.29.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Paw Patrol World* sees the pups of the Paw Patrol taking on a whole new open-world adventure. As Mayor Humdinger plans to disrupt the Paw Patrol Day Festival, Ryder and his team must complete a variety of missions to ensure things go off without a hitch. You can control each member of the Paw Patrol, with every pup having their own unique abilities and usable vehicles. Track down a wide variety of collectibles hidden throughout Adventure Bay, and unlock special Flashback Missions that recreate situations from the TV series.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**SAMBA DE AMIGO: PARTY CENTRAL**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SEGA  
**GENRE**  
 RHYTHM  
**RELEASE**  
 08.29.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Sega's classic rhythm game series returns on the Nintendo Switch in *Samba de Amigo: Party Central*. Now, instead of complicated specialty peripherals, all of the maraca-shaking fun is enjoyable using a pair of Joy-Con controllers. Play solo, battle it out with friends locally, or compete online as you hit notes in time to the rhythm. Groove to 40 hit songs from artists such as Pitbull, The Jonas Brothers, Carly Rae Jepsen, and Ariana Grande, or snag DLC packs to add additional music such as beloved Sega tunes, Japanese and Korean pop, and more.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Lyrics



**SONIC ORIGINS PLUS**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 SEGA  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION,  
 PLATFORMER  
**RELEASE**  
 06.23.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Serving as an upgrade to the original 2022 release, *Sonic Origins Plus* once again refreshes four classic *Sonic* games with modern features and remastered visuals. New to *Plus* is the ability to play as Knuckles in *Sonic CD*, as well as, for the first time ever, the inclusion of Amy Rose as a playable character in all four games. Also included are a slew of new unlockables, along with all 12 *Sonic* games released for the Game Gear, including a few that have never previously seen release in the United States.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Fantasy Violence



**STORY OF SEASONS: A WONDERFUL LIFE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 XSEED GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 SIMULATION  
**RELEASE**  
 06.27.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A remake of the classic GameCube and PlayStation 2 farming RPG, *Story of Seasons: A Wonderful Life* whisks you away to the quiet life of Forgotten Valley. There, you'll need to learn how to raise crops, tend to your livestock, and make money off of your hard work to bring your farm back to its former glory. New to this remake are a much larger array of storyline events, a wider variety of crops and animals, and much expanded options for finding that perfect person to start a family with.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**SUPER MARIO BROS. WONDER**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
 PLATFORMER  
**RELEASE**  
 10.20.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Mario once again returns to his 2D roots with a new side-scrolling platformer. Players control either the portly plumber or one of his friends—Luigi, Peach, Daisy, Toad, Toadette, Yoshi, or Nabbit—on an adventure in the Flower Kingdom, where magical Wonder Flowers can dramatically alter reality. These "Wonder Effects" can do everything from transporting your character into space to transforming them into a Goomba enemy. The game also introduces a handful of new power-ups to collect and use, including one that turns Mario and his pals into elephants.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Fantasy Violence



**SUPER MARIO RPG**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
 ADVENTURE, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 11.17.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** First released for the SNES way back in 1996, *Super Mario RPG* remixes Nintendo's iconic plumber and his extended cast of friends and foes into a turn-based RPG in the vein of *Final Fantasy*. (In fact, that series' developer made the original.) In addition to a major graphical overhaul, this Switch remake introduces new mechanics, like team-up attacks, the ability to damage all enemies on the field by perfectly timing your attacks, an easier difficulty setting, and the chance to fight more challenging versions of bosses after you've completed the game.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Fantasy Violence



**SUPER MEGA BASEBALL 4**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 EA SPORTS  
**GENRE**  
 SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
 06.02.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** The *Super Mega Baseball* series offers a lighthearted take on America's pastime, with cartoonish players sporting oversized heads and a roster of fictional teams and players with silly names like Hog Porker and Buggy Snugs. For the fourth entry, however, developer Metalhead Software has brought in some real-life baseball history in the form of nearly 250 former MLB players, including Babe Ruth, Willie Mays, David Ortiz, and Vladimir Guerrero. In addition, more player traits and a team chemistry feature offer added depth for players who like to customize their own rosters.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Alcohol Reference, Comic Mischief, Mild Violence



**TT ISLE OF MAN: RIDE ON THE EDGE 3**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NACON  
**GENRE**  
 RACING  
**RELEASE**  
 05.11.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Based on the most dangerous annual motorcycle race in the world, *TT Isle of Man: Ride on the Edge 3* lets you speed through all 37 miles and more than 200 turns of the deadly course from the safety of your couch. With officially licensed teams and drivers, 32 circuits, and two different bike classes—Superbike and Supersport—the game aims to recreate the thrill of the actual race while remaining approachable to racing newcomers. The biggest addition in this version is a full open-world Isle of Man map that you can explore between events.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** No Descriptors



**UFO ROBOT GRENDIZER: THE FEAST OF THE WOLVES**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 MICROIDS  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
 11.14.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Based on one of the early anime franchises to see success outside of Japan, *UFO Robot Grendizer: The Feast of the Wolves* lets you relive (or live for the first time) the events of the TV series' first story arc. Play as main character Duke Fleet as you take control of the mighty robot Grendizer to save the Earth from a wide array of enemies—including, of course, a host of evil giant robots. The game promises not only to recreate the intense action of the 1970s anime, but also its character drama as well.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence





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## ABOUT THE RATING



### EVERYONE

Content is generally suitable for ages 10 and up. May contain cartoon, fantasy or mild violence, mild language and/or minimal suggestive themes.



## ADVANCE WARS 1+2: RE-BOOT CAMP

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
 STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
 04.21.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Advance Wars 1+2: Re-Boot Camp* brings two classic Nintendo strategy games together in one package, remade and upgraded for the Switch. In both games, you're tasked with giving orders to the troops of the Orange Star Nation, as they defend their homeland from threats on land, at sea, and in the air. While the soldiers and vehicles might resemble toys, victory requires a lot of brains and some well-timed bravery. Play solo or against friends, and when not battling on the premade maps, hop into the Design Room to create your own.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Violence



## CRASH TEAM RUMBLE

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 ACTIVISION  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
 06.20.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Crash Bandicoot may be best known as a platforming star, but in *Crash Team Rumble* the jeans-wearing marsupial is branching out with a four-on-four online multiplayer game. Each team—made up of characters from the *Crash* universe, all with different attacks and specialities—must work to collect Wumpa Fruit and bring it back to base, while also stopping their opponents from collecting fruit for themselves. It's a bit like *League of Legends* if you spent the whole game jumping around, or *Capture the Flag* with hundreds of flags up for grabs at once.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Comic Mischief, Fantasy Violence



## DC'S JUSTICE LEAGUE: COSMIC CHAOS

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 OUTRIGHT GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
 03.10.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Take on the crafty Mr. Mxyzptlk as Batman, Superman, or Wonder Woman in *DC's Justice League: Cosmic Chaos*. In this family-friendly take on the iconic DC superheroes, clean up the streets of Happy Harbor by defeating the mutant monsters that have invaded the town. No matter if you go at it alone or with a friend, other members of the Justice League will show up to help even the odds. Between taking down classic DC supervillains, engage in side missions, search for collectibles, and unlock new outfits for your favorite superhero.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Comic Mischief, Fantasy Violence



## DIGIMON WORLD: NEXT ORDER

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 BANDAI NAMCO  
**GENRE**  
 RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 02.22.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In this latest chapter of the long-running *Digimon* franchise, embark on a quest to solve a mystery that has sent the Digital World into chaos. Befriend and train over 200 Digimon, and then pick any two from your roster to journey together with. The stronger your bond with your Digimon, the more capable and powerful they'll be in battle against the Machinedramon. *Digimon World: Next Order* also lets you build up the town of Floatia, as you help grow it to become a thriving Digimetropolis.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Crude Humor, Fantasy Violence, Language, Suggestive Themes



## DOKAPON KINGDOM: CONNECT

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 IDEA FACTORY INTERNATIONAL  
**GENRE**  
 PARTY  
**RELEASE**  
 05.09.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Dokapon Kingdom: Connect* is a unique blend of RPG and board game that's great for turning friends and family into bitter foes. Pick your hero, spin the roulette wheel, and travel the board defeating monsters and collecting money. Of course, that's easier said than done, as other players can challenge you to one-on-one battles, steal your winnings, or even subject you to cruel pranks. Play solo, or battle others locally or online in a fight to not only earn the most riches, but also the keys to the entire kingdom.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Alcohol Reference, Fantasy Violence, Simulated Gambling



## DOUBLE DRAGON GAIDEN: RISE OF THE DRAGONS

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 MODUS GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
 07.27.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A new-era continuation of the popular 1987 arcade beat 'em up, *Double Dragon Gaiden: Rise of the Dragons* sees brothers Billy and Jimmy Lee, along with a cast of 11 other new and familiar characters, battling for the future of New York City. You'll need quick wits and fast moves as you punch and kick your way through colorful gangs across a wide variety of stages. While the gameplay itself features modern ideas and mechanics, the visuals resemble those classic *Double Dragon* games of the past.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Blood, Mild Suggestive Themes, Mild Violence, Tobacco Reference



## EA SPORTS NHL 24

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 EA SPORTS  
**GENRE**  
 SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
 10.06.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *NHL 24* is designed to replicate the hockey experience as closely as possible, complete with all the league's teams, players, and arenas. As is typical of sports games, there are a variety of modes in addition to exhibition matches, allowing players to play through multiple seasons as a player, team, or manager, and various modes for competitive online play, including World of Chel, where each athlete is controlled by a different player. Big improvements this year include a new passing system, greater control over body checks, and more realistic simulation of player exhaustion.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Violence



## FAE FARM

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 PHOENIX LABS  
**GENRE**  
 RPG, SIMULATION  
**RELEASE**  
 09.08.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Fae Farm* blends the cozy lifestyle simulation of series like *Harvest Moon* and *Animal Crossing* with a fantasy role-playing game. Players step into the work boots of a customizable homesteader in the magical land of Azoria, tending to crops and animals, decorating their homes, getting to know other islanders, and more. A second layer to the game encourages adventures into Azoria's many realms, with spellcasting battles and treasures to discover. The game also supports co-op for up to four players online or locally, though each player needs their own Switch console.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence



## JUMANJI: WILD ADVENTURES

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 OUTRIGHT GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
 11.03.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Jumanji: Wild Adventures* is the latest game inspired by the recent films starring The Rock, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, and Karen Gillan. After someone steals the Jewel of Jumanji, it's up to our quartet of heroes to save the day. Playable solo or in local co-op with up to four players, the game mixes puzzle solving, 3D platforming and exploration, and combat against hostile wildlife and enemy factions across Jumanji's different regions. Each character brings their own special weapon to the fight, and players can spend the loot they collect to unlock new upgrades.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence



## THE LEGEND OF NAYUTA: BOUNDLESS TRAILS

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NIS AMERICA  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 09.19.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Part of the long-running *Trails* series of Japanese RPGs, *The Legend of Nayuta: Boundless Trails* offers up an adventure that plays out across two different worlds. Engage in real-time battles against a wide variety of enemies, discover and wield powerful spells and weapons, and use your wits to solve environment-based puzzles that connect to the game's changing seasons. Like many of developer Falcom's other RPGs, you can expect an epic story filled with interesting characters and exciting twists around every turn.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Alcohol Reference, Fantasy Violence, Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Tobacco





# THE HOME OF MARIO & FRIENDS

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Nintendo Switch Lite -  
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Games Included Rated:



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**THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: TEARS OF THE KINGDOM**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
 ADVENTURE, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 05.12.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This sequel to the widely acclaimed *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* follows the heroic swordsman Link on yet another quest to rescue Princess Zelda and defeat the evil Ganondorf in the fantasy kingdom of Hyrule. While the open-world map from the last game returns, it's been overhauled with changes to the surface, floating islands in the sky above, and a massive subterranean underworld. Also helping the game stand apart are Link's new abilities, especially one that lets you connect objects together to build wildly imaginative structures and vehicles.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Mild Suggestive Themes



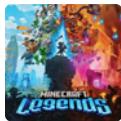
**LEGO 2K DRIVE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 2K  
**GENRE**  
 RACING  
**RELEASE**  
 05.19.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *LEGO 2K Drive* is an open-world racing game in the vein of *Forza Horizon*, with a large, seamless map that serves as both a hub connecting race events and a playground to explore. Of course, given that this is a *LEGO* game, the racing itself has a kid-friendly twist, with over-the-top boosts and jump abilities, kart-like handling, and vehicles that transform between street, off-road, and water forms. The bricked-out setting also means a whole lot of destructible environments and the chance to build your own custom vehicles from 1,000 unique pieces.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence



**MINECRAFT LEGENDS**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 XBOX GAME STUDIOS  
**GENRE**  
 STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
 04.18.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Minecraft Legends* takes all of the elements from one of the best-selling video games of all time, and rebuilds them into a new adventure. As piglin armies from the Nether invade the Overworld, you must rally both friend and foe in a battle to save your home. Travel through trademark *Minecraft* biomes, raise your banner, bring a team together, and then take on the piglin outposts in real-time strategy battles. Fight together alongside friends, or challenge them in competition to see who can bring the best out of *Minecraft*'s iconic inhabitants.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence



**NICKELODEON ALL-STAR BRAWL 2**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 GAMEMILL ENTERTAINMENT  
**GENRE**  
 FIGHTING  
**RELEASE**  
 12.01.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This is the second installment in a series of crossover brawlers starring iconic Nickelodeon characters like *SpongeBob Squarepants*, *Garfield*, and *Ren and Stimpy*. Like Nintendo's *Super Smash Bros.* games, the action is easier to pick up than most fighters thanks to simplified controls, but there's still plenty of depth. The sequel overhauls the gameplay with revised movesets for returning characters, new dodge mechanics, and a *Slime Meter* that can be used to power up attacks. An updated roster of playable characters including *Jimmy Neutron* and *Plankton* rounds out the package.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Cartoon Violence, Comic Mischief



**NINJA KIDZ: TIME MASTERS**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 SELECTA PLAY  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
 09.29.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** The *Ninja Kidz*—siblings Bryton, Payton, Paxton, and Ashton—run a popular YouTube channel where they showcase their martial arts skills in skits, competitions, and more. Now, the *Kidz* are making the jump to video games with this side-scrolling 3D beat 'em up. *Time Masters* finds the siblings traveling through time, from the Jurassic to the future, to rescue three missing martial arts masters. Each playable *Ninja Kid* has his or her own weapon, and you can even team up as a family with the local co-op mode, which supports up to four players.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Language



**PIKMIN 4**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
 STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
 07.21.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Pikmin 4* presents a lighthearted, accessible take on real-time strategy. Players control a minuscule interstellar explorer who arrives on an Earth-like planet to conduct a rescue mission. To aid them in their quest, they recruit plant-like creatures called *Pikmin*, who will follow orders to attack enemies, collect resources, and overcome obstacles in the environment across dozens of missions. Much of the fun comes from mastering the many different types of *Pikmin* and their abilities. This installment adds *Ice* and *Glow* *Pikmin* varieties, as well as a canine companion, *Otachi*.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Comic Mischief, Fantasy Violence



**SILENT HOPE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 XSEED GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 10.03.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Silent Hope* is a dungeon crawler, a specific kind of action RPG in which players venture into the depths to battle enemies and collect materials before returning back to base to craft upgrades and rest up for the next adventure. The game follows seven different heroes with different specialties on a quest to find the long-lost king of their realm within an endless chasm called *The Abyss*. You can swap between characters and earn experience to level up their skills. Randomized dungeon layouts are designed to keep each expedition surprising.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Language, Mild Blood



**THE SMURFS 2: THE PRISONER OF THE GREEN STONE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 MICROIDS  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, PLATFORMER  
**RELEASE**  
 11.14.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Those lovable little blue forest dwellers are back in *The Smurfs 2: The Prisoner of the Green Stone*. A fight between the *Smurfs* and *Gargamel* over the powerful *Green Stone* accidentally unleashes a new evil named *Stolas*, and four brave *Smurfs*—*Handy*, *Brainy*, *Dimwit*, and *Storm*—must now try to stop it from corrupting the *Cursed Lands*. In this all-new *Smurfs* story, make use of *Handy*'s latest creation, *SmurfMix*, to fight *Stolas*' monster minions, complete platforming challenges, and discover resources to upgrade the *SmurfMix* either solo or with a friend.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence



**SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS: THE COSMIC SHAKE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 THQ NORDIC  
**GENRE**  
 PLATFORMER  
**RELEASE**  
 10.16.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A spiritual successor to *SpongeBob Squarepants: Battle for Bikini Bottom* 20 years in the making, this 3D platformer stars everyone's favorite undersea pineapple resident. As *SpongeBob*, you embark on a quest through alternate realities called *Wish Worlds* to collect *Cosmic Jelly* for the mermaid fortune teller *Madame Cassandra*. In classic platformer tradition, there are tons of collectibles to discover in each level, as well as new combat and traversal abilities to learn. Fans of the show will recognize beloved characters and familiar locations with a magical, multiversal twist.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Comic Mischief, Fantasy Violence



**SUPER BOMBERMAN R 2**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 KONAMI  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, PARTY  
**RELEASE**  
 09.12.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Konami's bombastic competitive series returns in *Super Bomberman R 2*. Drop bombs to blow up bricks, collect power-ups, and try to catch your opponents in the crossfire to gain victory each round. In addition to previous battle modes like *Classic* and *Grand Prix*, the all new *Castle Mode* pits a team of attackers against a team of defenders to see who can capture—or keep safe—the most treasure chests. To mix things up, hop into *Story Mode* solo, or head online for a 64-player battle royale.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Cartoon Violence, Mild Blood, Mild Language



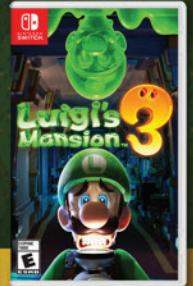
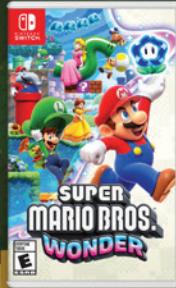


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## ABOUT THE RATING



**TEEN**  
Content is generally suitable for ages 13 and up. May contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling and/or infrequent use of strong language.



### AEW FIGHT FOREVER

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
THQ NORDIC  
**GENRE**  
SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
06.29.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Developed by longtime wrestling-game studio Yuke's, *AEW Fight Forever* is the first officially licensed project for All Elite Wrestling. Pick from over 50 legends of the wrestling world, or create your own custom fighter, and hit the ring for some no-holds-barred action. Square off in 4-Way, Ladder, Falls Count Anywhere, and more match types in a game that's easy to learn but hard to master. Once you're ready, take on the "Road to Elite" to see if you can secure a spot among wrestling's elite.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Language, Mild Suggestive Themes, Use of Alcohol and Tobacco, Violence



### ARMORED CORE VI: FIRES OF RUBICON

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
BANDAI NAMCO  
**GENRE**  
ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
08.25.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Before *Dark Souls*, developer FromSoftware was best known for *Armored Core*, a tactical action series about completing missions by using highly customizable giant robots. In *Armored Core VI: Fires of Rubicon*, that classic mecha action returns, with modernized controls, impressive new visuals, and a much deeper level of customization. Head down to the wastes of Rubicon 3 and take on a wide variety of challenging stages and bosses while deciding where your loyalty lies: with the well-funded corporations, or the liberation front trying to protect what's left of its home.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Drug Reference, Language, Violence



### ATELIER RYZA 3: ALCHEMIST OF THE END & THE SECRET KEY

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
KOEI TECMO  
**GENRE**  
RPG  
**RELEASE**  
03.24.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In this latest chapter of Koei Tecmo's long-running *Atelier* series, returning heroine Ryza searches for answers surrounding a group of mysterious islands and strange keys that have both suddenly appeared. Much like previous games, *Atelier Ryza 3* is an RPG that blends together alchemy and exploration. Trek out into a vast open world to defeat enemies and forage for materials. Then, head back to your atelier to craft new items that you can use in combat, sell for profit, or give to others to complete quests.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Mild Language, Suggestive Themes



### ATLAS FALLEN

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
FOCUS ENTERTAINMENT  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
08.10.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Atlas Fallen* tells the tale of a world ravaged by greed and over-consumption, leaving Atlas little more than a desert where the remnants of humanity struggle to survive. After your character finds a magical gauntlet, they use it to traverse the open world and form weapons out of sand to fight back against the malevolent god Thelos. *Atlas Fallen* offers deep player and combat customization, challenging real-time battles, and a wide variety of main and side missions to complete along the path to learning the truth about Atlas' fall—and potential revival.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Language, Violence



### CLASH: ARTIFACTS OF CHAOS

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
NACON  
**GENRE**  
ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
03.09.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Artifacts of Chaos* is the third game in the cult-hit *Zeno Clash* series. Though the surreal, otherworldly setting of Zenozoik and emphasis on hand-to-hand martial arts combat return, this new game follows a new set of characters and makes some significant changes to the gameplay, shifting from a first- to third-person camera and ditching separate levels for an interconnected, branching world inspired by games like *Dark Souls* and *Bloodborne*. Playing as a mutant named Pseudo, you must fight to protect the Boy, a small, birdlike creature with healing powers.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Violence



### THE CREW MOTORFEST

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
UBISOFT  
**GENRE**  
RACING  
**RELEASE**  
09.14.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *The Crew Motorfest* is the third entry in Ubisoft's racing series, but it's also a reinvention. While the first two games took place on an enormous map that spanned the entire United States, *Motorfest* uses a smaller open world based on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. Players explore this tropical paradise, competing in races themed after different aspects of motorsports like drifting, offroading, and even plane and boat racing. With 600 vehicles and an RPG-style loot and leveling system, it's less of a serious car racing simulation than a fun-first romp.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Lyrics, Mild Violence



### DISGAEA 7: VOWS OF THE VIRTUELESS

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
NIS AMERICA  
**GENRE**  
RPG, STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
10.03.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Disgaea 7: Vows of the Virtueless* sees two unlikely heroes team up as they fight against a tyrannical regime while searching for the meaning of honor and redemption. Switching between story scenes and strategic battles, interact with a cast of colorful characters and fight with—or against—them on the battlefield. New abilities like Jumbification make fights bigger than they've ever been before, while improvements and upgrades are numerous compared to previous *Disgaea* games.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Alcohol Reference, Fantasy Violence, Mild Blood, Suggestive Themes, Language



### EVERSPACE 2

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
ROCKFISH GAMES  
**GENRE**  
RPG, SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
08.15.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Everspace 2* is a space RPG that places the emphasis firmly on in-ship action. As Adam, a military clone pilot on the run, you'll explore the Demilitarized Zone of Cluster 34, a stretch of colonized space that makes up the game's handcrafted open world. Across the 30-hour campaign, Adam will need to make good use of his pilot skills while dogfighting in orbit, in deep space, and above the surface of planets, all the while collecting the loot he needs to upgrade his ships and expand his personal armada.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Language, Mild Blood, Mild Suggestive Themes, Violence

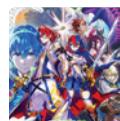


### FAIRY FENCER F: REFRAIN CHORD

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
IDEA FACTORY INTERNATIONAL  
**GENRE**  
RPG, STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
04.25.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Set in a land of magic and fantasy, *Fairy Fencer F: Refrain Chord* follows a young Fencer named Fang who wields a special weapon imbued with a Fairy known as a Fury. Along with a group of mysterious Muses, Fang adventures through a world filled with turn-based, strategic battles. To win, use traditional weapons and spells, or the game's more unique techniques, such as transformations that boost your character's power, or calling upon the Muses to enact special effects through their song.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Language, Mild Blood, Suggestive Themes, Use of Alcohol



### FIRE EMBLEM ENGAGE

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
RPG, STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
01.20.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Fire Emblem* games mix turn-based, grid-based tactical battles with RPG elements, like leveling up characters and building social relationships between fights. In *Engage*, players take on the role of Alear, an ancient dragon who awakens in human form on the continent of Elyos. Alear allies with humans to collect 12 magic "Emblem Rings" and defeat an old nemesis, the Fell Dragon Sombron. The rings can be used to summon characters from previous *Fire Emblem* games to fight alongside your party.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Mild Language, Mild Suggestive Themes



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**GAL GUARDIANS: DEMON PURGE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL

**PUBLISHER**  
 POQUE  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION,  
 PLATFORMER  
**RELEASE**  
 06.15.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In this new take on classic 2D side-scrolling action games, two demon-hunting sisters are on a quest to break a curse that has transformed their school into a gothic castle. *Gal Guardians: Demon Purge* mixes a heaping helping of homages to the legendary *Castlevania* series with its own modern gameplay twists and sense of humor. Switch between the sisters to make full use of each girl's unique skill sets, or play together with a friend to bring down the baddies together.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Violence, Blood and Gore, Suggestive Themes, Mild Language



**GANGS OF SHERWOOD**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NACON  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
 10.19.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Inspired by the legend of Robin Hood, *Gangs of Sherwood* is an action game with optional co-op for up to four players. But this isn't quite the story you know. Here, the Sheriff of Nottingham acquires the Philosopher's Stone, using it to build a flying castle and steampunk-style war machines. It's up to Robin Hood (an archer, naturally), Maid Marian (now a sword-wielding assassin), Little John (with a not-so-little robot arm), and Friar Tuck (with a club, magnetic shield, and healing mead) to lead the rebellion against him.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Language, Violence



**GRIMGRIMOIRE ONCEMORE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NIS AMERICA  
**GENRE**  
 RPG, STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
 04.04.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Originally released back on the PS2, *GrimGrimoire* was a stand-out title due to its beautiful artwork, fantastical characters, and distinct style of real-time tactical battles. Now, the game returns in *GrimGrimoire OnceMore*, an updated version that brings widescreen support and high-resolution visuals, new Grand Magic spells, the addition of a Skill Tree for deeper character customization, and more. Do you have what it takes to help young Lillet Blan become the master magician she's always wanted to be, while also stopping a tragedy from befalling the Magic Academy?  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Partial Nudity

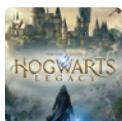


**GUNFIRE REBORN**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 505 GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
 06.08.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Gunfire Reborn* is a first-person shooter with roguelike elements, meaning players get just one chance to beat each level before they're sent back to the beginning, with the layouts, enemies, weapons, and loot randomly changing each time. As they progress, players can unlock six different playable animal characters and earn permanent upgrades through a skill tree, which makes reaching the end of each level and defeating the boss a bit easier on subsequent attempts—though luck and skill are always a major factor. To tackle the challenge with friends, there's also four-player co-op.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence



**HOGWARTS LEGACY**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 WARNER BROS. GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 02.10.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Set about a hundred years before the events of *Harry Potter*, *Hogwarts Legacy* lets players create their own student at the school of witchcraft and wizardry. As is wont to happen, the young witch or wizard will soon find themselves embroiled in an adventure involving dark wizards and mysterious ancient magic—all while still needing to get to class on time. This is a big open-world RPG, so you can freely explore the castle, take on sidequests, engage in spellcasting combat, and level up your skills.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Fantasy Violence, Mild Language, Use of Alcohol



**THE LEGEND OF HEROES: TRAILS INTO REVERIE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NIS AMERICA  
**GENRE**  
 RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 07.07.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Part of the long-running *Trails* series of RPGs, *The Legend of Heroes: Trails into Reverie* plays out across story arcs focused on three different characters, with you in control of who you play when. Recruit a wide array of allies, delve deep into randomly generated dungeons, and engage in turn-based battles while making the most of each team member's strengths. Or, when you need a break, try your hand at a variety of minigames, and get to know your squadmates better through unlockable side episodes.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Fantasy Violence, Language, Simulated Gambling, Suggestive Themes, Use of Alcohol



**MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN 2**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION  
**RELEASE**  
 10.20.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Following on from *Marvel's Spider-Man* and spin-off *Miles Morales*, this sequel sees both Spider-Men—veteran Peter Parker and newbie Miles—teaming up to take down a new batch of supervillains threatening New York, among them Kraven, the Lizard, and Venom. With a larger map including parts of Queens and Brooklyn, new combat abilities, and added traversal options like Web Wings for gliding, *Spider-Man 2* aims to deliver an even richer superhero playground built atop the foundation of an already great game.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Drug Reference, Mild Language, Violence



**METROID PRIME REMASTERED**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NINTENDO  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
 02.08.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Originally released in 2002, *Metroid Prime* was the first chapter of the *Metroid* series to switch to a first-person, fully 3D experience, offering a more atmospheric and immersive adventure than ever before. In *Metroid Prime Remastered*, return to the planet Tallon IV with bounty hunter Samus Aran, as she uncovers new threats and investigates deeper secrets about the Metroid. Fully remastered for the Switch, the game now boasts improved visuals and audio, modern dual-analog controls, new difficulty options, and bonus content sure to please both longtime and new fans alike.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Animated Blood, Violence



**NARUTO X BORUTO: ULTIMATE NINJA STORM CONNECTIONS**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 BANDAI NAMCO  
**GENRE**  
 FIGHTING  
**RELEASE**  
 11.17.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This is the latest chapter of the beloved cinematic fighting game franchise based on the world-renowned anime and manga series. With moves and visuals that look straight out of the show, pick from over 130 characters and face off in up to 3-vs-3 team-based combat. Explore either memorable moments from the series or the completely original Special Story Mode, fight rivals locally and online, unlock customization options, and invite even first-time players to join in thanks to the new Simple Control Mode.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Blood, Mild Language, Suggestive Themes, Violence



**OCTOPATH TRAVELER II**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SQUARE ENIX  
**GENRE**  
 RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 02.24.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Similar to its predecessor, *Octopath Traveler II* is an RPG that blends beautiful, retro-inspired visuals together with an engrossing story about a group of travelers who must save the world. Jump between the lives of the eight heroes, each of whom walk their own distinct paths through the story's events. In addition to returning elements like turn-based battles, a new day-and-night cycle can drastically change what you experience when, and Latent Powers offer each traveler unique special abilities during combat.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Mild Blood, Mild Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Alcohol and Tobacco





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**ONE PIECE ODYSSEY**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 BANDAI NAMCO  
**GENRE**  
 RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 01.13.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Based on the long-running anime and manga series, *One Piece Odyssey* finds Monkey D. Luffy and the rest of the Straw Hat Pirates stripped of their powers and stranded on an island surrounded by perpetual storms. To get back on the high seas, the crew must explore the island—and also relive memories of their greatest adventures. In combat, players control the entire party in turn-based battles, while exploration requires using different characters' unique abilities to solve puzzles and get past obstacles.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Tobacco, Violence

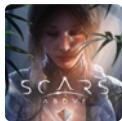


**PERSONA 5 TACTICA**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 ATLUS  
**GENRE**  
 RPG, STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
 11.17.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Persona 5*'s teenage heroes are back, but now find themselves trapped in a mysterious alternate world under the control of a ruthless group. Joined by a freedom fighter named Erina, help the Phantom Thieves claim victory in a series of grid-based tactical battles. Pick your party, plan out strategies, then unleash each member's trademark attacks, or call out their Personas for even more fantastical abilities. Between fights, upgrade your characters' skill trees, and engage in trademark *Persona* story segments.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Violence, Blood, Suggestive Themes, Partial Nudity, Language, Use of Alcohol



**SCARS ABOVE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 PRIME MATTER  
**GENRE**  
 ADVENTURE, SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
 02.27.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Scars Above* is a third-person sci-fi adventure shooter that kicks off as Dr. Kate Ward somehow wakes up on a strange alien planet. Alone and unfamiliar with her surroundings, Kate must try to survive the hostile wildlife and other threats that await as she searches for both her team members and answers to what's happened. Craft futuristic weapons and make use of their elemental functions to exploit enemy weaknesses, then scan the flora and fauna of the planet in the quieter moments to gain more knowledge on how to survive.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Violence



**STAR OCEAN: THE SECOND STORY R**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SQUARE ENIX  
**GENRE**  
 RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 11.02.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In this remake of the classic science fantasy RPG, a federation officer named Claude gets stranded on an undeveloped planet. After meeting Rena, a young woman with mystical powers, the two go on a quest to get Claude home. *Star Ocean: The Second Story R* features an artistic mix of 2D characters and 3D backgrounds, the ability to experience the story from each hero's perspective, and a number of new upgrades, including chain attacks during the game's real-time battles.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Fantasy Violence, Mild Blood, Mild Language, Mild Suggestive Themes, Use of Alcohol



**STAR WARS JEDI: SURVIVOR**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 EA  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
 04.28.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Set between *Episode III* and *Episode IV*, *Star Wars Jedi: Survivor* continues the story of Cal Kestis, who was still early in his training when Emperor Palpatine seized control of the galaxy and nearly wiped out the Jedi. Now out of hiding and confident in his abilities, Cal uncovers a new mystery that may be the key to escaping the Empire forever. With combat that mixes lightsaber attacks with Force abilities, several planets to explore, and a character-driven story, *Survivor* is an ambitious addition to the *Star Wars* saga.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Language, Violence



**STREET FIGHTER 6**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 CAPCOM  
**GENRE**  
 FIGHTING  
**RELEASE**  
 06.02.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Capcom gives its genre-defining fighting game franchise a fresh new start in *Street Fighter 6*. In a package that leans heavily into street culture, players can once again face off in traditional one-on-one fights with a diverse roster of new and old world warriors. Play locally, hop online to compete against others in the Battle Hub, or, when you want something different, head to World Tour, a sprawling new single-player campaign where you help your own custom character learn from the fighters themselves.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Mild Blood, Mild Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Alcohol and Tobacco, Violence



**SWORD ART ONLINE: LAST RECOLLECTION**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 BANDAI NAMCO  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 10.04.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** The culmination of a game series that first kicked off in 2013, *Sword Art Online: Last Recollection* is an action RPG that tells the story of a group of heroes trying to save a virtual world from those that would do it harm. Series protagonist Kirito joins the largest cast of characters yet, who come thanks to the increased amount of story scenarios included this time around. Play solo or together with friends to mimic that MMORPG feel, and take on a host of enemies and bosses in fast, stylish battles.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Fantasy Violence, Mild Language, Suggestive Themes



**TCHIA**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 KEPLER INTERACTIVE  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
 03.21.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This indie open-world adventure is closely inspired by the creators' homeland, the South Pacific island of New Caledonia. You take on the role of the titular Tchia, a young local girl, as she tries to rescue her father from the archipelago's oppressive leader. Tchia can swim, sail, hang glide, climb, and leap from palm trees to get around, but the real magic comes from her soul jumping ability, which allows her to leap into and control animals and objects. The icing on the cake? A fully playable ukulele.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Crude Humor, Language, Violence



**THEATRHYTHM FINAL BAR LINE**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SQUARE ENIX  
**GENRE**  
 RHYTHM  
**RELEASE**  
 02.16.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Rhythm games and RPGs may seem like a strange pairing, but it's quite a fitting combination for *Final Fantasy*, a series known for producing a long line of amazing soundtracks across its 35-plus years of existence. Pick from hundreds of classic songs, and hit the targets to the rhythm in scenes that recreate trademark battles and story moments from the franchise. Build your party from over 100 beloved characters, then set off on an aural journey either alone or online with up to eight players.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Mild Suggestive Themes, Mild Language, Fantasy Violence



**WWE 2K23**

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 2K  
**GENRE**  
 SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
 03.14.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In this latest installment of 2K's video game series based on the larger-than-life world of sports entertainment, pick from over 200 WWE superstars or create your own wrestler, then compete across a host of different modes and match types. New this year is War Games, which places two rings side-by-side, then surrounds them with a giant steel cage. Also, in a twist, this year's 2K Showcase focuses not on John Cena's biggest wins, but some of his most devastating losses—and how he learned to never give up.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Language, Suggestive Themes, Violence





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# OUT NOW

**MATURE 17+**  
**M**  
ESRB

Intense Violence  
Blood and Gore  
Sexual Themes  
Strong Language  
Use of Drugs



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## ABOUT THE RATING



### MATURE

Content is generally suitable for ages 17 and up. May contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content and/or strong language.



## ALIENS: DARK DESCENT

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 FOCUS ENTERTAINMENT  
**GENRE**  
 TACTICS  
**RELEASE**  
 06.20.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Aliens: Dark Descent* is a real-time tactics game in the universe of the sci-fi film series, following the crew of the spaceship Otago after it crash-lands on a planet infested with Xenomorphs and human cultists who worship the aliens. Players command a squad of up to four colonial marines on missions designed to evoke the action of the movies, complete with motion trackers that ping when an alien is approaching on the other side of a wall. While your troops can be leveled up as you progress, soldiers who die in battle are gone forever.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Strong Language, Violence



## ANONYMOUS;CODE

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** SWITCH, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SPIKE CHUNSOFT  
**GENRE**  
 ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
 09.08.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Anonymous;Code* tells the story of a world balancing between the devastation of orbital laser attacks and life-changing breakthroughs in technology. Follow young hacker Pollon Takaoka as he gains the power to "save" and "load" points in time to alter both the past and the future. *Anonymous;Code* focuses on dialog-heavy story scenes and character interactions, where experiencing the overarching narrative is more the focus versus action-oriented gameplay or getting a high score.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Strong Language, Suggestive Themes, Violence



## ASSASSIN'S CREED MIRAGE

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 UBISOFT  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, STEALTH  
**RELEASE**  
 10.05.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Over the years, Ubisoft's *Assassin's Creed* franchise has evolved from open-world stealth action games to sprawling action RPGs full of leveling and loot. *Mirage* returns to the series' roots. You control a young thief named Basim on the streets of 9th century Baghdad as he joins a group of assassins called the Hidden Ones. Gameplay centers on parkouring around the city and taking down targets. Stealth mechanics and gadgets let cautious players get in and out silently—but there's always brute force, too.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Drug Reference, Intense Violence, Strong Language



## ATOMIC HEART

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 FOCUS ENTERTAINMENT  
**GENRE**  
 SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
 02.21.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Set in an alternate-history version of the USSR in the mid-1950s, *Atomic Heart* draws heavily from games like *BioShock* to deliver an atmospheric first-person shooter in an imaginative setting. Players control World War II veteran Sergey "P-3" Nechayev in a Soviet science facility overrun by homicidal robots, mutants, and other experiments gone wrong. In addition to guns, P-3 has a special "Polymer Glove" granting telekinesis, freezing blasts, and other special abilities that add depth to combat.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Partial Nudity, Strong Language, Use of Alcohol



## BLASPHEMOUS 2

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 TEAM17  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
 09.15.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Like its predecessor, *Blasphemous 2* is a tough-as-nails 2D side-scroller with detailed pixel art inspired by gothic horror. As a knight known only as The Penitent One, you must navigate a world filled with traps, platforming challenges, and enemies and boss characters that must be confronted in intense melee combat. While the first game proved popular with fans and critics alike, the sequel seeks to build on that strong start with refined controls, a wider selection of weapons, and an even more engrossing story set in a new world.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Partial Nudity, Violence



## THE CALIGULA EFFECT: OVERDOSE

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 NIS AMERICA  
**GENRE**  
 RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 05.30.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Now on PlayStation 5, *The Caligula Effect: Overdose* takes inspiration from classic Japanese RPGs as it crafts a tale about the dangers of trying to forget the pain and problems of the real world by escaping to a virtual one. Become a member of the Go-Home Club, and attempt to escape to the real world through interacting with the other residents of Mobius and fighting against those who don't want you to leave. *Overdose* is a full remake of the 2016 original, offering much improved visuals, a new protagonist and supporting characters, and additional endings.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Sexual Themes, Strong Language, Violence



## COMPANY OF HEROES 3

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 SEGA  
**GENRE**  
 STRATEGY  
**RELEASE**  
 05.30.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Company of Heroes 3* is the latest entry in a series of strategy games inspired by the battles of World War II. This time, the focus is on the Mediterranean theater, with players leading the Allies into Italy and controlling the Axis forces in North Africa. Gameplay includes both larger strategic decisions away from the frontlines and battles where you issue commands directly to units on the field. While the action usually unfolds in real time, a new "Full Tactical Pause" feature offers a break to think and cue up commands.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Strong Language, Violence



## CRIME BOSS: ROCKAY CITY

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 505 GAMES  
**GENRE**  
 SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
 06.15.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** This first-person shooter is all about pulling off heists in a setting inspired by 1990s Miami. The story mode casts you as Travis Baker, a crime boss looking to take out his rivals. Individual missions let a crew of up to four players employ stealth and shooting to get the loot and get out alive. The cast is stacked with familiar Hollywood faces, including Michael Madsen, Chuck Norris, Danny Trejo, Danny Glover, Michael Rooker, and Kim Basinger. Plus, for some reason, Vanilla Ice.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Strong Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Drugs



## DEAD ISLAND 2

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER:** ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
 DEEP SILVER  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
 04.21.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Dead Island 2* may feature zombies, but it leans much more into action than horror. As one of six playable characters with different skills and abilities, you must survive and complete quests in an apocalyptic version of Los Angeles full of brain-dead zombies. (Save your jokes.) A wide selection of weapons—mostly melee—and a card-based power-up system allow for lots of combat experimentation. The game plays out from a first-person perspective, so the gory action is always up close and personal.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Strong Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Drugs



## DEAD SPACE

**STATS**  
**SYSTEMS:** XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
**MULTIPLAYER:** NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
 EA  
**GENRE**  
 ACTION, HORROR  
**RELEASE**  
 01.27.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A remake of one of the pioneers of the horror genre, *Dead Space* drops players into a sci-fi nightmare as Isaac Clarke and the rest of his team end up stranded aboard a massive spacecraft infested with hostile aliens. Isaac must complete tasks across the ship, first in an attempt to call for help, and then simply to survive. This remake not only brings a massive jump in visual and audio quality over the original *Dead Space*, but also much improved controls and various new story moments not seen previously.

**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Strong Language





**EXOPRIMAL**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
CAPCOM  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
07.14.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A video game about soldiers in exosuits fighting thousands of dinosaurs in a near-future world might sound like a plot an 8-year-old would come up with, but it also sounds like a totally awesome idea for a third-person shooter from acclaimed developer Capcom if you ask us. In this online, team-based action game, save a future being overrun by endless waves of beasts from the past while also trying to take down a malevolent AI and other teams of players at the same time. It's time to make the dinosaurs extinct once again.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Strong Language, Violence



**DIABLO IV**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
BLIZZARD  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
06.05.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Diablo IV* is the latest release in one of the most popular action-RPG franchises of all times. First you create a character, choosing between five character classes with different specialties, like the Barbarian or Sorcerer. Then you head into the horror-steeped fantasy world of Sanctuary to battle demons and monsters in an effort to stop the villain Lilith, with the entire game unfolding from a zoomed-out overhead perspective. Much of *Diablo*'s appeal comes from its simple combat and nearly endless supply of randomized loot that can be used to power up your character.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Language



**FINAL FANTASY XVI**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
SQUARE ENIX  
**GENRE**  
RPG  
**RELEASE**  
06.22.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In the latest epic chapter of the long-running franchise, help young prince Clive Rosfield fight back against those that abuse the power of the Mothercrystals and the elemental beings known as Eikons. Gorgeous graphics, gripping story, and endearing characters blend together seamlessly with action-packed battles and exploration across the varied lands of Valisthea. *Final Fantasy XVI* features plenty of epic moments, including the giant monster fights unleashed as Clive comes to harness his own inner Eikon.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Partial Nudity, Sexual Themes, Strong Language, Violence



**FORSPOKEN**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
SQUARE ENIX  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
01.24.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** In *Forspoken*, you control Frey, a young woman who finds herself transported from New York City to the fantasy realm of Athia by a magical talking bracelet. Of course, since this is a video game, Frey soon discovers she must save Athia from evil oppressors called the Tanta and a corrupting force known as the Break. In combat, Frey has access to a wide variety of spells and magical parkour abilities, the latter of which also come in handy for exploring the vast open world to gather collectibles and complete side challenges.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Strong Language, Violence



**IMMORTALS OF AVEUM**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
EA  
**GENRE**  
SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
08.22.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Immortals of Aveum* recreates the fast-paced shooter gameplay of titles like *Call of Duty* with one major difference: There aren't any guns. Instead, hero Jak relies on a variety of spells and other magical abilities befitting the fantasy setting of Aveum. Core combat involves balancing three different styles of magic: red for close quarters, blue for long range, and green for rapid-fire attacks. In addition, you'll learn to use other, less directly damaging spells to manipulate the environment, move around, and affect enemies as you progress through the story-driven campaign.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Strong Language, Violence



**LIES OF P**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
NEOWIZ GAMES  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
09.19.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Lies of P* is built upon an unexpected premise: an extremely dark and challenging gothic action RPG inspired by the original 1883 novel *The Adventures of Pinocchio*. And yet, that serves as the perfect setting for a journey filled with peculiar humans, terrifying puppet monsters, narrative twists, and an artificial boy tasked with taking back the city of Krat. Pinocchio has a variety of weapons, robot arms, and other skills to work with, but he—and you—will need all that and more to defeat the rogue puppets and make Krat safe for humans again.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Violence



**LIKE A DRAGON: ISHIN!**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
SEGA  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
02.21.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Like a Dragon: Ishin!* takes many of the themes and characters from the series formerly known as *Yakuza*, and reworks them into a side story set in Japan's Edo period. Play as Sakamoto Ryoma, a masterless samurai seeking revenge for the murder of his mentor. Travel around talking to people, completing side quests, and solving mysteries, now with combat that focuses heavily on swordplay and a setting that allows for stories not possible in the other *Like a Dragon* games.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Strong Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Alcohol, Violence



**LORDS OF THE FALLEN**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
CI GAMES  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
10.13.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A reboot of the 2014 game of the same name, *Lords of the Fallen* is a third-person action RPG that drops you into a brutal world filled with horrific creatures, where only your skills and your sword can keep you alive. Battle through the vast, interconnected world of Axiom on a quest to kill the demon god Adyr, and then, should you fail, fight your way through the horrific underworld of Umbral in order to make it back to the land of the living for a second chance at success.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Partial Nudity, Strong Language, Violence



**MASTER DETECTIVE ARCHIVES: RAIN CODE**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: SWITCH  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
SPIKE CHUNSOFT  
**GENRE**  
ADVENTURE  
**RELEASE**  
06.30.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Master Detective Archives: Rain Code* is a new "lucid-noir" detective adventure from some of the minds behind *Danganronpa*. As the amnesia-stricken detective-in-training Yuma Kokohead, roam the streets of a rain-soaked Japanese city, investigating crime scenes and gathering evidence alongside a strange being known as Shinigami. Then, head into the Mystery Labyrinth, a bizarre realm where the truth behind those incidents in the real world awaits—but only if you've got both the brains and brawn to find it.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Strong Language, Suggestive Themes, Violence

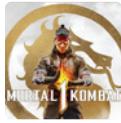


**METAL GEAR SOLID: MASTER COLLECTION VOL. 1**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
KONAMI  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, STEALTH  
**RELEASE**  
10.24.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** Three of the most groundbreaking video games of all time return in *Metal Gear Solid: Master Collection Vol. 1*. Throughout all three—*Metal Gear Solid*, *Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty*, and *Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater*—control characters such as Solid Snake, Raiden, and Big Boss as they make their way across enemy territory, where being sneaky and avoiding encounters is often the best course of action. While the gameplay in all three is intense, so too are the dramatic storylines and larger-than-life characters.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Drug Reference, Partial Nudity, Sexual Themes, Violence



**MORTAL KOMBAT 1**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, SWITCH  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
WARNER BROS.  
**GENRE**  
FIGHTING  
**RELEASE**  
09.19.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** The *Mortal Kombat* fighting games became infamous for their over-the-top violence, exemplified by comically gory “Fatality” finishing moves. While this latest entry (sort of) reboots the story, its core identity remains intact, with a roster of characters with fantastical powers dishing out painful attacks in head-to-head combat across a story campaign, online or local multiplayer, and alternate modes. The biggest addition is the ability to pick a secondary “Kameo” fighter you can call in to assist during fights.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Strong Language



**PAYDAY 3**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
DEEP SILVER  
**GENRE**  
SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
09.21.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Payday* is all about pulling off big heists, with a heavy emphasis on its online four-person co-op. Across a variety of New York City locales, like banks, nightclubs, and penthouses, you plan and execute sophisticated robberies using high-tech gear. While stealth is the safest approach, just like in heist movies, it's easy for the situation to spiral out of control, at which point you can expect to shoot your way out or—in a new twist—trade some hostages to the first responders for extra leverage.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Drug Reference, Intense Violence, Strong Language



**REDFALL**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S  
MULTIPLAYER: ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
BETHESDA  
SOFTWORKS  
**GENRE**  
RPG, SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
05.02.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Redfall* is an open-world shooter with RPG elements set in a Massachusetts town overrun by vampires. Players pick one of four playable characters with different technological or supernatural powers and fight to liberate the city one area at a time by completing story missions and side activities. As in similar games, much of the focus is on becoming stronger by leveling up, unlocking new skills, and finding more powerful weaponry. Online co-op play allows up to four vampire hunters to team up.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Drug Reference, Strong Language, Violence



**REMNANT II**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
GEARBOX  
PUBLISHING  
**GENRE**  
RPG, SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
07.25.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Remnant II* is a third-person shooter inspired by the *Dark Souls* series, which means you can expect challenging difficulty and memorable boss fights. Players select an “archetype,” like the firearm-focused Gunslinger or the Handler, who has a dog companion, to take on evil plant monsters known as the Root. But the story is less of a draw than the action, which supports three-player co-op and emphasizes replayability with procedurally generated levels, branching questlines, and lots of loot.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Partial Nudity, Strong Language, Violence



**RESIDENT EVIL 4**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
CAPCOM  
**GENRE**  
HORROR, SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
03.24.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** A ground-up remake of one of the most beloved survival horror games of all time, *Resident Evil 4* modernizes Leon S. Kennedy's quest to rescue the president's daughter from a mysterious cult in rural Spain. Rather than zombies, this chapter centers on a new parasitic threat called Las Plagas that turns the local population into rageful—but still very human-seeming—monsters. The third person-shooter gameplay emphasizes careful resource management, as ammo and healing items are scarce.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Strong Language



**SHADOW WARRIOR 3**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
DEVOLVER DIGITAL  
**GENRE**  
SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
02.16.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Shadow Warrior 3* is what's known as a “boomer shooter,” a first-person shooter that tries to capture the fast-paced feel of the genre in the 1990s. Players control Lo Wang as he fights to defeat a dragon that threatens humanity's survival. Combat is all about using guns and swords in conjunction with hyperkinetic movement abilities like wall-running and double-jumping to string together attacks against *yokai*—Japanese-inspired demon enemies. The over-the-top tone means lots of gore and crude humor.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Mild Sexual Themes, Strong Language



**STARFIELD**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S  
MULTIPLAYER: NONE

**PUBLISHER**  
BETHESDA  
SOFTWORKS  
**GENRE**  
RPG, SHOOTER  
**RELEASE**  
09.06.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *Starfield* is a sprawling sci-fi RPG from the creators of *Skyrim* and *Fallout 4*. You create your own character and embark on a quest to uncover the truth behind a mysterious, seemingly alien artifact, traveling between over 1,000 procedurally generated planets in your own customizable spaceship. While combat—both on-foot shootouts and dogfights in your spaceship—plays a big role, developer Bethesda has also included alternate approaches for those who prefer to roleplay using stealth or persuasion.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood, Strong Language, Suggestive Themes, Use of Drugs, Violence



**THE TEXAS CHAIN SAW MASSACRE**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
GUN INTERACTIVE  
**GENRE**  
HORROR  
**RELEASE**  
08.18.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* is the latest game to adapt a horror movie classic into an online multiplayer experience. The big twist this time around is that, rather than pitting one killer against a group of survivors who need to escape and can't fight back, this game shifts to a 3-vs-4 approach. One team controls three members of the murderous Slaughter family, while the other team plays as four survivors trying to get away. Each character on both sides has a unique ability, adding strategic depth.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Strong Language



**UFC 5**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5  
MULTIPLAYER: LOCAL, ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
EA SPORTS  
**GENRE**  
FIGHTING, SPORTS  
**RELEASE**  
10.27.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** The long-awaited next chapter in EA Sports' mixed martial arts franchise has arrived with *UFC 5*. The jump to the newest generation of consoles means the visuals sport far more oomph, with the roster of real-world fighters approaching photorealism. An improved damage system means you'll be able to see the effect of every hard hit on your opponent, and just like in real matches, a doctor will now stop the fight if the injuries become too severe. New animations and gameplay mechanics enable truer-to-life strikes and submissions, too.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Violence, Blood, Strong Language



**WO LONG: FALLEN DYNASTY**

**STATS** SYSTEMS: XBOX SERIES X/S, PS5, XBOX ONE, PS4  
MULTIPLAYER: ONLINE

**PUBLISHER**  
KOEI TECMO  
**GENRE**  
ACTION, RPG  
**RELEASE**  
03.03.2023

**ABOUT THE GAME** While we've received a number of *Dark Souls*-inspired action RPGs rooted in historical Japan such as *Sekiro* and *Nioh*, *Wo Long: Fallen Dynasty* offers a new twist by moving the location of its demonic breakout to China. Create your own hero, pick their fighting style, then battle alongside legendary warriors through a dark fantasy set during the Later Han Dynasty of the Three Kingdoms. Survival will require perfecting both offensive and defensive skills, calling upon the power of Divine Beasts, and claiming areas of each map to increase your potential.  
**ESRB CONTENT DESCRIPTORS** Blood and Gore, Violence



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## TAKA MAEKAWA

PRODUCER, NATSUME INC.

*Harvest Moon: The Winds of Anthos* takes the long-running and much-beloved farming franchise into some previously unexplored—and thanks to its move to an open world, much larger—territory, all while offering graphics and gameplay that are high points for the series. To learn more about the work the team at Natsume has put into this new direction for *Harvest Moon*, we set off across Anthos on a quest for answers with producer Taka Maekawa.



**PUBLISHER**  
NATSUME  
**GENRE**  
SIMULATION  
**RELEASE**  
09.26.2023  
**SYSTEMS**  
XBOX SERIES X/S,  
PS5, SWITCH, XBOX  
ONE, PS4  
**MULTIPLAYER**  
NONE  
**ESRB CONTENT  
DESCRIPTORS**  
NO DESCRIPTORS

### TAKA MAEKAWA CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

WILD GUNS RELOADED, HARVEST MOON: SKYTREE VILLAGE, REEL FISHING: ROAD TRIP ADVENTURE

**“I wanted players to be able to freely explore the entire world, interact with individuals from different cultural backgrounds, and, in the process, enjoy many discoveries...”**

What can you share with us about those aspects of the game?

**TM:** We aimed for a balance between not going for too cutesy of a design, and also staying within *Harvest Moon*'s traditional image. After many discussions and redesigns, we finally arrived at the art style for this title.

With the new camera option, we believe it will enhance the player's immersion into the game. [But] we also understand that some players may not be accustomed to this kind of camera, [so] the player can adjust the camera control speed in the options to play at a pace that suits you best.

What are some of the smaller, less noticeable improvements that are equally important?

**TM:** One addition would be the Power Wisps! Although they are not directly involved in the main story, the Harvest Wisp Fruit they offer will increase your stamina and bag capacity, which will be very important when exploring the wide world of Anthos!

Another important improvement is load times, or lack of load times, to be precise! Our programmers worked diligently to minimize loading times, aiming to reduce waiting times as much as possible during gameplay.

**We know it's not always nice to ask someone to pick favorites, but who is your favorite bachelor or bachelorette this time around, and why?**

**TM:** I'm directly involved in the story development of all the characters, so I really can't pick just one. [And] for *The Winds of Anthos*, each bachelor or bachelorette the player meets has their own unique background, issues, and concerns that only you can resolve.

But if I had to, it would probably be Vivi from Providence Village. She's an explorer, just like the main character, so the two of you immediately have something in common. And just like the main character, she's not afraid of or intimidated by anything!

**Harvest Moon games are first and foremost about farming, so what improvements does *The Winds of Anthos* bring in this regard?**

**Taka Maekawa:** The biggest is that you are free to live in different places throughout the world from essentially the start of the game. Because Anthos has regions with significantly different environments, my hope is that players will feel free to explore, and spend time in the places they enjoy most! There are also different kinds of crops and different animals you can find in each area, of course.

**Since you brought up Anthos itself, what was it like to craft *The Winds of Anthos* as the first *Harvest Moon* game set in an open world?**

**TM:** Obviously, this was going to be a big challenge, as *Harvest Moon* has always been about settling in one specific area and living your life

there. I thought, “Wouldn't it be interesting if you could move to other places while at the same time exploring a vast world?”

I wanted players to be able to freely explore the entire world, interact with individuals from different cultural backgrounds, and, in the process, enjoy many discoveries such as encountering wildlife, discovering fishing spots, hidden mines, and more!

We [also] wanted people to feel new possibilities and new experiences when playing. And to challenge this, we really focused on the world map, so that there is always something the player can interact with, or even something like beautiful scenery when traveling from one place to another.

**Another noticeable shift from previous *Harvest Moon* games is the new art style and camera.**



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