

# GAMING ON LINUX

The tastiest brain candy to relax those tired neurons



## BOWLED A GOGLY



Liam Dawe is our Games Editor and the founder of [gamingonlinux.com](http://gamingonlinux.com), the home of Tux gaming on the web.

**G**OG.com (formerly Good Old Games), the biggest DRM-free gaming store on the internet, has officially launched support for Linux games old and new.

This is some of the biggest news in Linux gaming since Valve started paying attention to Linux with Steam. The reason for this is that GOG.com's standards closely align with those of Linux itself in the respect of freedom and value: if you cannot get your game to run (and your system is capable), then you can get a refund. That is great, as to get a refund from somewhere like Steam is damn-near impossible a lot of the time.

DRM is also a major issue for a lot of Linux gamers and is one of the reasons many people use Linux instead of products from a company like Microsoft or Apple due to the DRM mechanisms put into it. This is the same for gaming, as a lot of games may require nasty things like an always-on internet connection even for single-player games. You won't find anything like that on GOG.com, as they hate DRM as much as we do. GOG also wraps up really old Windows & DOS games that would never get a proper native port using DOSBox and Wine, but unlike other stores that have some Wine-wrapped games, GOG.com clearly label a game using Wine.

We see a fair few complaints from Linux gamers about games being on Steam and not DRM-free, so it's time for those gamers to put their money where their mouth is and support this excellent DRM-free store.

## Civilization V

Civilization's finally back on Linux!

**O**ne of the most popular PC gaming franchises ever is back on Linux.

We haven't seen a *Civilization* game on Linux since Loki Software ported *Civilization: Call to Power* in 1999, so it's incredible to see it back on Linux considering how popular it still is today. The game is consistently in the top 10 most played games on Steam and with good reason, as it can get a bit addictive.

*Civilization V* is a strategy game where you're tasked with controlling a single nation as you fight or make peace with the other nations in the world. You build cities, research new technologies, and it's



A large battle is about to take place

awesome. You get to pick what nation you play as, which will affect your starting abilities and how you progress through the game.

There isn't a traditional campaign mode with a linear story; instead it's more of a

do-as-you-please type game. You could play as a warlord pillaging towns and cities, or as the most peaceful nation on earth – the choice of how you play is up to you.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/8930/>

## Darksiders

Prepare to get brutal with your enemy.

**N**ow this is exciting! *Darksiders*, a popular action-oriented hack 'n' slash type game, is coming to Linux. It's all thanks to Leszek Godlewski (who previously ported *Deadfall Adventures & Painkiller*) of Nordic Games, so that's another big games company making the transition to Linux gaming.

*Darksiders* merges some excellent graphics with frantic gameplay as you battle it out with the forces of good and evil. The game itself features around 15 hours of gameplay



I'm going to need a bigger sword.

as you wield a massive sword and engage in epic boss battles. A gamepad is recommended for this type of

game to really get that button bashing going.

[http://store.steampowered.com/app/50620](http://store.steampowered.com/app/50620/)

# Halfway

Beautiful pixel art...

**H**alfway is a fantastic space sci-fi strategy game recently released on Steam, and when we say fantastic, we really mean it. The visuals and story in *Halfway* are just amazing, and that's without even getting into how good the gameplay is as well, which is fantastic.

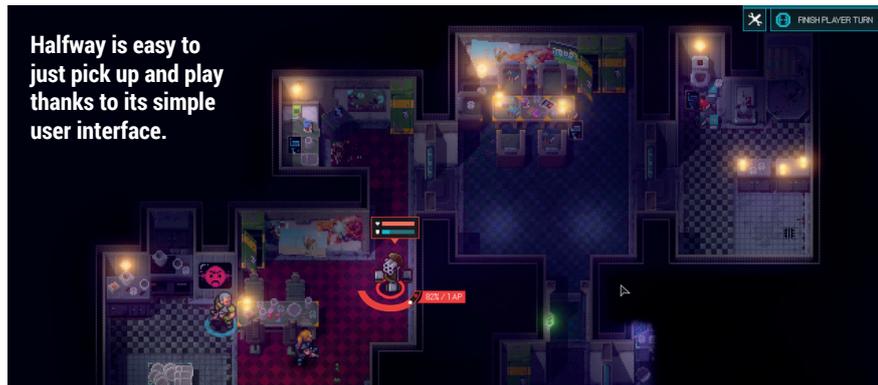
*Halfway* is much like *XCOM* in that it pits humans vs aliens in a turn-based strategy setting, but that's where the similarities end. *Halfway* is a much more intimate

game as you get to know your characters a bit more while searching your spaceship for those pesky aliens.

The battles are all at pretty close quarters and luckily, if you run out of ammo (it can and will happen!), then you can just sit next to a foe and smack them down melee style.

We can easily recommend this one.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/253150>



## Unity of Command

The war isn't over yet...



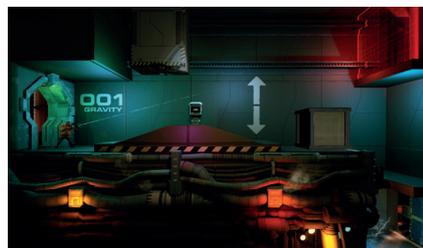
*Unity of Command* is an epic turn-based strategy game in which you battle it out against the elements as well as your enemy. The game is set during the Second World War, and you play as either the Axis or the Soviets, rather than the western allies, as is more common.

The game is quite brutal and not easy to get into, so it would be a great game for hardcore strategy fans looking for something to get their teeth into, especially those of you looking for a game with a different setting. We highly suggest trying out the tutorial first to help you get to grips with the details – and we don't suggest this very often.

[http://store.steampowered.com/app/218090/](http://store.steampowered.com/app/218090)

## Rochard

Show gravity who's boss!



*Rochard* is one of the first games to come to Linux built with the *Unity* game engine, and it's an absolute treat too. *Rochard* is an action platformer with puzzles that pits you against the familiar threat of alien invaders aboard your spaceship.

The puzzles can get pretty tricky in this one, as you bend gravity to your will using your trusty old 'G-Lifter', which doubles up as a weapon as you throw crates at your enemy, all while running around a beautiful cartoon-like backdrop.

Like *Braid* or *Portal*, *Rochard* isn't just a run, jump and shoot game: you need to engage your grey matter to play it, and that's why we like it.

[http://store.steampowered.com/app/107800/](http://store.steampowered.com/app/107800)

## ALSO RELEASED...



### Grim Fandango

I'm sure that name rings a bell for a lot of you! *Grim Fandango* is being re-released and updated for modern platforms, and Linux is go!

Originally released in 1998, *Grim Fandango* is quite an old game that many gamers would have probably missed, so especially for Linux gamers this is a great chance to replay a bit of gaming history.

<http://bit.ly/U4BK0C>



### Mount & Blade: Warband

*Mount & Blade: Warband* is an open world sandbox game that allows you to recruit your own band of merry men and participate in medieval battles across the land. You can travel the country taking quests as you see fit, but be wary about travelling at night, as bandits roam the lands and they will try to capture you. The battles are really fun and you can even fight while mounted on a horse.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/48700>



### Terraria

Rumours abound that *Terraria*, a highly popular 2D sandbox game, is coming to Linux after the developers have finished working on the Mac port. It is similar to the game *Starbound* on Linux, but not on such a grand scale.

*Terraria* could be seen as a 2D version of *Minecraft*, but with more interesting combat and boss battles.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/105600/>