

GAMING ON LINUX

The tastiest brain candy to relax those tired neurons



CROWDFUND YOUR GAME



Liam Dawe is our Games Editor and the founder of gamingonlinux.com, the home of Tux gaming on the web.

Now that Linux gaming is in full swing, things that didn't previously affect our platform are starting to put Linux in the firing line.

What we are talking about is Crowdfunding and Early Access games, and the feeling from many that they are starting to wear a bit thin. Some gamers have even stated they feel that these funding methods are ruining the games industry, but we don't think it's as severe as this.

There are always going to be risks when you front your own money to help a developer bring a game to life, and you should always go into it knowing this and accepting this.

With these methods of funding, you are helping to fund an idea, but not a 100% complete game, and it seems some people are forgetting this in the wider community.

Some planned features may not always make it in; that's perfectly normal for game development and it happens a lot. The issue is that when using these funding methods the developers' ideas get taken as fact, and when these features are cut some gamers get very upset.

The main problem is a lack of clear communication from developers, and especially in relation to Linux ports. We hope this is something developers will work on. These funding methods are constantly evolving, so to call them out as being bad for the industry is a little extreme. They have created a chance for many Linux games we might otherwise never have, so let's look on the bright side.

Borderlands 2

Are you ready to shoot & loot?

One of the hottest first-person shooters of the last few years is undoubtedly *Borderlands 2* and it has been officially released for Linux! This is absolutely massive news, as it's a high budget game and another big name to be playable on Linux.

It blends "cell-shaded" graphics with frantic shooter action, and it throws in some neat RPG mechanics. Each character has special abilities, so be sure to try them all to find who fits your style!

The loot system is also fantastic as you will constantly find better guns, some of which have some fun weapon effects on them to boost their power.



It cannot be understated how important games like this are for growing our platform.

Important Note: It's only supported on Nvidia graphics

cards right now. If it sounds like your cup of tea, it's available for £19.99 from Steam.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/49520/>

Tropico 5

Power corrupts. That sounds like fun to us!

Tropico 5 is the latest instalment in the very popular city-builder series, and the first in the series to be on Linux.

You get to create your very own dictator to run a tropical island and do with it as you wish, but be careful not to annoy the crown as you secretly prepare for independence!

It has the typical city-builder features like roads (I know, exciting right!), houses and commerce, but it does things a little differently with a comical edge to it.



You will need to create army units to protect your city with, and search out your surroundings for riches and wonders. The best part of *Tropico 5* has to be the multiplayer mode; you can

build online with others, and it can get very amusing with lots of dictators battling it out.

You can grab it on Steam right now for £34.99.

http://store.steampowered.com/app/245620

Another World

A real gem from another time.

Another World (or *Out of this World* as it was called in some places) is an absolute classic from a different era of video games. The 20th anniversary edition has just made its way onto Linux courtesy of game porting master Ryan "Icculus" Gordon.

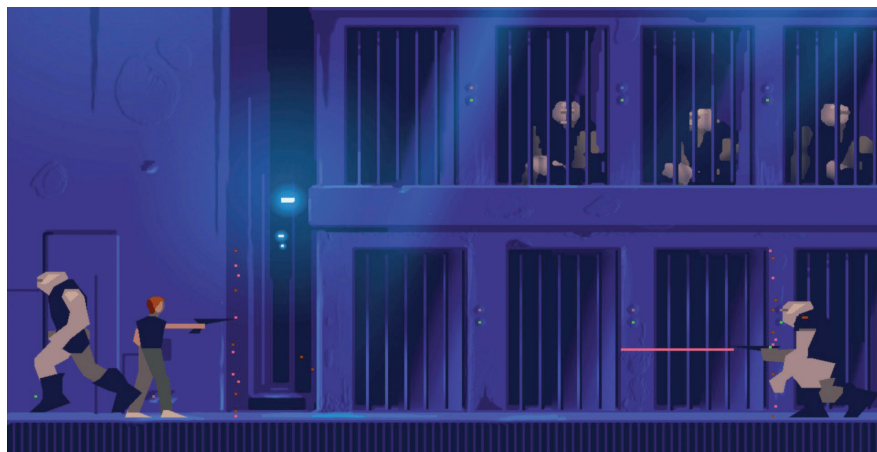
The game came from a time where the Amiga system was going strong and it

was praised highly on its release. So many years later, Linux gamers can get in on the action.

If you have never played it, we really suggest giving it a go to see a piece of gaming history in action.

It's available for £7.99 from Steam.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/233550/>



Counter Strike Global Offensive

Classic first-person shooter.



Counter Strike: Global Offensive is the latest iteration of the massively popular online FPS from Valve, and it has officially landed on Linux, bringing with it some frantic action.

One of the new modes, titled "Arms Race", is an absolute blast online as you change weapons with each kill and end up on a knife, upping the intensity with each kill. Based on the latest version of Valve's own *Source* engine, it looks and plays beautifully already, even being such a new release. And, knowing Valve, it will be supported for many years to come.

Available on Steam for £11.99.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/730/>

Outlast

One of the scariest games ever made.



It's time to hide behind your cushions – it looks like *Outlast* is heading to Linux!

Outlast is a first person survival horror game (bit of a mouthful!) and it's absolutely terrifying to play in the dark!

You can check it out on Steam below, but be warned not to buy it until the Linux release appears to avoid being disappointed and to have your purchase count as a Linux sale to help our platform.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/238320/>

ALSO RELEASED...



Robocraft

How about a free game that lets you build a vehicle and blow up other people's? If that tickles your fancy, you'll like *Robocraft*. You level up, gain access to more interesting building blocks for your craft and then battle it away online against gamers far and wide. It's really quite fun watching your craft and enemy craft slowly disintegrate.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/301520/>



Planetary Annihilation

Possibly one of the biggest real-time strategy titles ever made has smashed its way out of 'Early Access'. *Planetary Annihilation* is an inter-planetary battleground that allows you to crash moons into planets, but it will suck a lot of your time away.

The full release has seen another price drop too, so it's much more affordable to destroy planets at £22.99 now.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/233250/>



Hatoful Boyfriend

Probably one of the strangest games we will ever play. Fancy dating a pigeon? Like anime/manga-style graphics? (We had you at pigeons didn't we – be honest!)

Despite the dodgy premise, this pigeon high school dating sim is highly rated, so give it a go and try not to get hooked. You can grab it for £6.99 on Steam right now.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/310080/>