GAMING ON LINUX

The tastiest brain candy to relax those tired neurons

You might expect us to say this, but opening up the source code of a game can better for everyone. It's a hot topic and one that has been talked about for years, but it seems that bigger developers still don't quite understand that they can still sell their game even if the source code is available for free.

The first thing to note is that for a game to be open source it doesn't mean that the media needs to be. So, the games engine can be open, but the art, music, voiceovers etc can still be closed assets, meaning the engine by itself wouldn't be the game. This way it keeps the developer's revenue streams open. True, this it may open the developer up to game clones, but unless your game were extremely simple that wouldn't be an easy task.

Having the code open actually enables others to port the game to platforms that the original developer may have never considered or been able to do themselves, opening up more places to sell their game. Ports aren't the only thing opening up the code allows, as it will also stop the game from falling behind with newer operating systems to enable code changes to support computers as they get more and more complex.

There is also the fact that if you manage to get a community behind it other coders can help improve the code itself to optimise it and give feedback for future projects. If anyone from Frontier Developments is reading – open source is good!
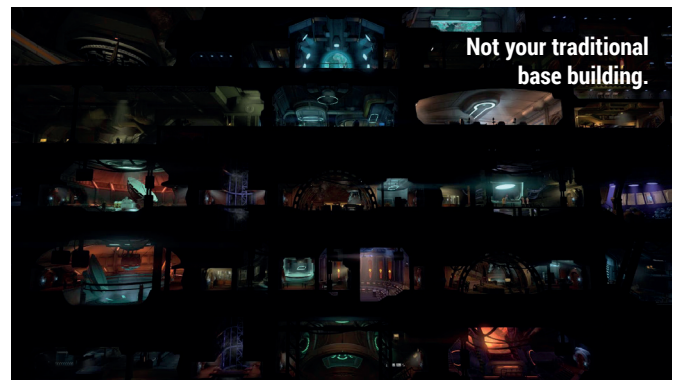**http://forums.linuxvoice.com**

XCOM: Enemy Unknown

The invasion has begun!

XCOM: Enemy Unknown, a high-profile reboot of the XCOM series has been released on Linux to great fanfare.

XCOM: Enemy Unknown mixes base building, research and turn-based combat in one absolutely beautiful package and just goes to show how far Linux has come in developers' and publishers' minds for us to get such a high-profile game.

The original XCOM is one of the best strategy games ever made and this reboot really does it justice. It takes the original and amplifies everything that was good

Not your traditional base building.

about it. There's a pack available for it called "Enemy Within", which adds a ton of new content including new multiplayer maps, new types of aliens and much much more. We highly recommend taking a look at this one, as the importance of games like this on Linux cannot be overstated. **http://store.steampowered. com/app/200510**

Civilization: Beyond Earth

A classic redefined and coming to Linux!

Wow! Another high-profile game getting a Linux version! Remind us to check if hell has frozen over. Civilization: Beyond Earth is the next iteration of the extremely popular Civilization franchise, although it shares certain aspects of Sid Meier's Alpha Centauri as well. The Civilization series are usually included in Steam's most popular games, so it's another barrier removed for Linux gamers.

For those who don't know it's a turn-based strategy game full of exploration, diplomacy, research and combat. Considering this iteration is

Tile-based gameplay has never been so beautiful

set on another planet some interesting looking creatures are bound to be found too.

The game is due for release this autumn, so we still have a bit of waiting to do.

It will most likely be available from Steam just as the others are, so you will have to set any fears about Steam aside if you wish to play it.
www.civilization.com

Homefront The Revolution
Viva la Linux Revolución!

Crytek is spoiling Linux gamers this year with a beautiful new first-person shooter. The original Homefront was by a completely different developer and is only coming to Linux thanks to Crytek porting its CryEngine to Linux as well.

One thing Linux is lacking is big-name FPS games to draw in more gamers who like their *Call of Duty*-like games, so this could hit a sweet spot for a few Linux converts. The game is set in the near future as America has been conquered by an unspecified army, and you play the role of a member of the resistance. The game isn't your standard run and gun shooter either, as it's more of an open world first person shooter. We're intrigued to see how far the open world aspect goes, as the developers promise that the city will react to your decisions.

It sounds like fun and we can't wait to get our hands on it.

Maybe the redcoats have come back?

www.crytek.com/games/homefront/ overview

Interstellar Marines
Pew pew pew!

Another first-person shooter to sink your greedy gaming fingers into is *Interstellar Marines*. We've known for a long time that the game would be coming to Linux, and now it's finally a reality. It's early days yet for this shooter as it is an "Early Access" title, so if you do fork out for it, prepare for an incomplete experience, but still a fun one.

It's one of the few first-person shooters to really try to do things differently even this early in its development. Maps can turn from day to night, completely changing the way you play it during a match, and it makes it a completely original, unique challenge to play.
http://store.steampowered.com/ app/236370

Kill Fun Yeah
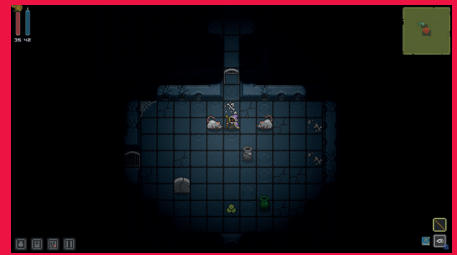**An insane 2D action platformer.**

Kill Fun Yeah is an absolutely insane online 2D action platformer, and when we say insane we mean it. This is the type of game where you can quite happily sit back with a beer and watch a friend die over and over. The game is extremely amusing for its use of crazy weapons that you can redirect after you fire them, with ridiculously enjoyable results.

It has a couple of different game-modes to keep you interested too, such as deathmatch, team deathmatch and capture the flag, although they always give capture the flag a silly name.

Kill Fun Yeah has already stolen plenty of time from us, so be warned you may get a little addicted.
www.killfunyeah.com

ALSO RELEASED...

Quest of Dungeons
For those of you who like your simple, but fun dungeon crawler games, *Quest of Dungeons* will fit that bill nicely. It comes complete with procedural dungeons, procedural weapons, boss monsters and a ton more.

Don't let the simple graphical style fool you, as this game has hours worth of game-play and it's not easy either.
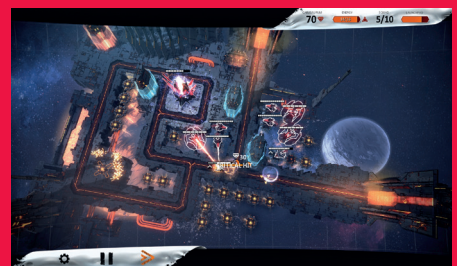http://store.steampowered.com/app/270050

ADOM: Ancient Domains of Mystery
ADOM is an extremely popular true roguelike game with an ASCII graphical mode for those after a nostalgic/retro vibe and a tiled-graphics mode to play your adventure with.

It's bursting with content, like a story, RPG mechanics, exploration across the lands and into dungeons and caves and it just keeps going. It can be a little overwhelming though if you haven't played a proper roguelike before.
www.ancardia.com

Anomaly Defenders
The last in the *Anomaly* series is now out on our digital shelving units and available for Linux. *Anomaly Defenders* is a tower offence game that sees you launching your counter attack agains aliens that have invaded the earth. It has the standard *Anomaly* features and solid gameplay, so it's not to be missed!
https://linux.gamesrepublic.com/bundle/strategy,anomaly-defenders-anomaly-2,368.html