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List of banned games in germany

List of banned countries.



List of banned video games in germany.

According to various reports, in its latest attempt to remove media which might be harmful to Germany's younger audience, a government body in the country has possibly removed as many as 27 titles from the Steam store. Although Valve hasn't issued an official statement yet, it seems likely that the games were pulled by the Federal Department for Media Harmful to Young Persons in Germany due to most of the games allegedly appearing on the "The List of Media Harmful to Young People", also known as "The Index". It is noteworthy that due to the absence of official statements from both the parties involved, Neowin has not been able to determine the accuracy of the claims as of yet. The 27 games removed from the German Steam store include several popular titles, like the entire Postal series as well as Aliens vs Predator Classic, which was released in 2000. Some of the games mentioned in The Index were are considered to be controversial because of violence, crime, sex and nudity, as well as crude language. The titles removed from the German Steam store are as follows: Aliens versus Predator Classic Blake Stone: Aliens of Gold Blood: One Unit Whole Blood Blood II: The Chosen + Expansion BloodRayne BloodRayne 2 Carmageddon Max Pack Carmageddon 2: Carpcocalypse Now Harvester Kingpin — Life of Crime NAM Painkiller: Black Edition Painkiller Hell & Damnation Painkiller Overdose Postal Postal 2 Postal 3 POSTAL Redux Rise of the Triad Rise of the Triad: Dark War Rune Classic Shadow Warrior Classic Redux SiN Episodes: Emergence Star Wars Dark Forces The Chaos Engine TimeShift UberSoldier II Similarly, all the bundles which included the aforementioned games have also been removed, which includes: Carmageddon Complete Pack Classic War Pack Lucasarts Jedi Knight Bundle Nordic Games Classic Mix Painkiller Complete Pack Painkiller Hell and Damnation Standard 4-pack Painkiller Hell and Damnation Collectors POSTAL 2 4-Pack POSTAL 2 + Paradise Lost Rise of the Triad - 4 Pack Star Wars Collection - 2015 -RP The Apogee Throwback Pack The Chaos Engine 2-Pack The Index is a list of media; which includes games, books, music and movies, and is designed to protect children from any content which the government deems unsuitable for them. While the list for physical media is officially and frequently released by the German authorities, similar lists for virtual media are not disclosed in order to avoid advertising harmful content. Restriction for any form of media indexed in this list remains valid for 25 years. After the passage of this time period, if relevant authorities still consider the content to be harmful for children, legal proceedings begin anew. It'll be quite interesting to see how the German gaming community responds to the controversy, provided that most of the titles are considerably popular. We will let you know as the situation develops. Source: Steam via TechRaptor GermanyA game can be banned in Germany if it has been confiscated by court order because it violates a section of the Strafgesetzbuch (criminal code). Private possession (and thus playing it) and acquisition (such as downloading a demo from the Internet) is still legal, but any dissemination is not. The seller would break the law if a sale took place, not the buyer. On December 10, 2002, however, one German court (Oberlandesgericht Hamm) decided that a single sale of a single copy does not qualify as dissemination. Unlike indexing by the BfM, which restricts the sale of all content-equal versions, the versions that are confiscated are enumerated in the court order. Being put on the index by the BfM or, since April 1, 2003, being refused a rating by the USK does not equal a ban. Rather, it imposes strict trade restrictions on the title.



While only very few games have been confiscated, the list of indexed games is very long. In December 2006, Bavaria and Lower Saxony proposed legislation, to be presented to the national parliament, that would make even playing games that feature "cruel violence on humans or human-looking characters" an offense punishable with fines or jail time of up to 12 months. § 86a outlaws the use of symbols of unconstitutional organizations, § 130 Volksverhetzung (agitation of the people), and § 131 instructions for crimes. In the official lists, these three sections are always bundled, so any action game that contains swastika flags and/or any depiction of Adolf Hitler) is listed alongside racist propaganda pieces.

§ 131 outlaws representation of violence in media "which describe cruel or otherwise inhuman acts of violence against human beings in a manner which expresses a glorification or rendering harmless of such acts of violence or which represents the cruel or inhuman aspects of the event in a manner which injures human dignity." § 130 and § 131 make it to a criminal offense to do following with corresponding scriptures: distributing / selling issuing in public, demonstrating or otherwise making available leaving it to a person under the age of 18 producing, buying, delivering, storing, offering, announcing, praising, importing or exporting to use them within the meaning of the letters 1 to 3. This means, that the import or purchase and the possession for personal use are still legal for persons over 18 years. Name Reason Soldier of Fortune: Payback Banned due to high levels of gore (decapitations, dismemberments, and excessive blood-letting) KZ Manager (1990-10-29/1990-11-19) Banned because of Nazi references. Condemned: Criminal Origins (Decision AG Munic February 2008) Banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Condemned 2: Bloodshot Banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Manhunt (all versions, 2004-07-19) Banned because of high impact scary violence and cruelty. Manhunt 2 Banned for "gross, unrelenting, and gratuitous violence." Dead Rising Banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Dead Rising 2 Banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Silent Hill: Homecoming (Uncut) Banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Wolfenstein (Uncut) Banned because of Nazi references. Scarface: The World is Yours (Uncut) Banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Left 4 Dead 2 (Uncut) Banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. The Darkness (Uncut European Xbox 360 version) Banned because of Nazi signs in bonus comic. In a recent announcement, Sega has confirmed that the recently announced The House of the Dead: Overkill and MadWorld will not be released in Germany. Sega will also not be distributing Aliens vs. Predator as well.



After 10 years a "Beschlagnahmung" (ban) expires. The ban of the following titles dates back more than 10 years and so their bans have been automatically revoked: Name Reason Wolfenstein 3D Was banned because of Nazi references. Commandos: Behind Enemy Lines (English version 1999-06-24) Was banned because of Nazi references. Mortal Kombat (all Sega platforms, 1994-11-11) Was banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Mortal Kombat II (all versions except Game Boy, 1995-02-08) Was banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Mortal Kombat 3 (Mega Drive, PlayStation, SNES 1997-06-12) Was banned because of high impact violence and cruelty. Mortyr (2001-10-24) Was banned because of Nazi references. "Harvester" (1996-08-31) Was banned because of high impact violence and sex references As people who enjoy video games and all the freedoms associated with that in North America sometimes forget that people in other countries aren't as fortunate. While checking out the Steam subreddit, I noticed out today that gamers in Germany are no longer able to purchase games that are classified as "adult-only" games on Steam. This affects countless gamers in Germany who are now up in arms regarding the situation and rightfully so. Such Content is not allowed in your country. While the age-verification is more than enough for most places, it isn't in Germany. In fact, it may as well not be there, at least in the eyes of the government. Due to this, Steam has blocked all games with this classification in Germany. Now you may be saying to yourself, "who needs to play pornographic games"? Which if that is what you're saying or asking, that's only half right. Adult games in Germany, which happens to be one of the larger gaming markets in Europe, catering to those 18-years of age and older. Or USK18, the German rating board for games. In addition to games with sexual content, it also extends games with "dark and threatening atmospheres." This category is for games which are not generally approved for those aged under 18 due to the fact that they are considered detrimental to young persons. The aim is to protect minors from the vehemence of the images and the violent concepts and from any possible identification with game characters whose actions may run contrary to ethical and moral norms. The atmospheric intensity and authenticity of gameplay make it difficult for players to distance themselves from the depicted events. The nature of these games and the way in which they are presented require a degree of social maturity not generally found in 16 to 17-year olds. The category "Not suitable for young persons aged under 18" does, however, indicate the possibility of a negative impact on minors but excludes the likelihood to corrupt young persons in terms of Art. 18 Sec. 1 German Youth Protection Act (JuSchG). Meaning first-person shooters, horror games, most action/adventure games, and fighting games. Games like Mortal Kombat, Street Fighter, Watch Dogs, Call of Duty, Red Dead Redemption II, The Witcher series, and Cyberpunk 2077, just as examples, are no longer available for purchase available on Steam in Germany. This is a huge censorship concern and one that isn't sitting well with Steam users in Germany. Now, I'm not completely against this, as the age-verification is fairly simple to defeat as it's based on an honor system. And I know we've all lied about our age, one time or another. What's happening here is the government no longer feels this system is acceptable. They either contacted Steam regarding this, which is just a temporary thing until something better can be applied. Or perhaps a permanent solution; that we don't know. As to what caused this, as these games were available yesterday, it is still not clear. What's clear is that the gamers are currently stuck with no recourse at the moment. The other question is, what happens to games that you already own? Are those inaccessible now? At the moment, we still don't know, but we have reached out to Steam for an update. If you have been affected by this and wouldn't mind sharing some details regarding the recent development, please let us know in the comments.

