



OpenCritic

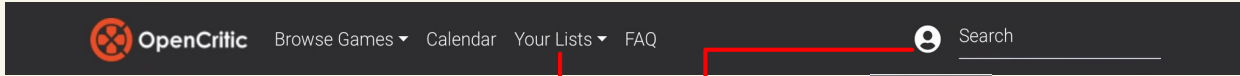
[OpenCritic.com](https://www.opencritic.com) is a video game review aggregator that compiles hundreds of critic scores to create a numeric score that users can use as the overall consensus for a game. OpenCritic's transparency in its scoring methods makes the website unique in its market niche.

I love video games, so my goal of this project is to redesign the content and elements of the website to make it more convenient to navigate for other gaming enthusiasts.

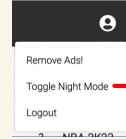
Reworking the Initial Impressions

Header, Footer, and Home Page

Old Header

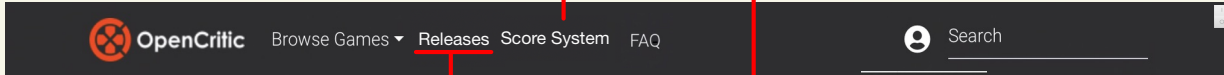


People who aren't logged in get a prompt to login/signup when they click on either one of these buttons.

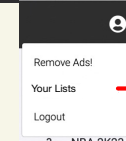


Drop-down menu only appears for logged-in users. This is the easiest and quickest way to toggle night mode and it's locked behind a login screen.

New Header



Reworked calendar page and decided that releases fit the new page more appropriately



Light switch for light mode and dark mode

Removed "Your Lists" from the header and added to user drop down menu to make the profile icon centered around individuals.

An explanation of the scoring system will retain many users since OpenCritic's system satisfies both people who are looking for every critic's recommendations and people who are looking for every popular top critic's recommendations.

Old Footer

AFFILIATE DISCLOSURE

A portion of the sale from items purchased through the Amazon, GamesPlanet, Best Buy, Walmart, GameStop, and other 3rd party retailer links on this page directly support OpenCritic.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Submit a Review
Our Partners
Contact Us
Our Supporters
Privacy Policy
Terms of Use
Press Assets

Manage Cookie Settings
Activate Dark Theme
Donate on Patreon
Like on Facebook
Follow on Twitter

The “important links” list is visually indistinct from the list of links next to it.

“Activate Dark Theme” isn’t a link.

New Footer

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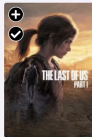

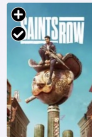

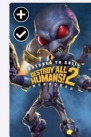
Removed dark theme toggle since there is already one on the header.

Patreon moved to “Important Links” and added “Our Socials,” to fit the tone of this section, as a hub link for Facebook, Twitter, and any other social media accounts.

Old Home Page

Popular Games

Don't miss the most popular games on OpenCritic today

 72 Steelrising	 88 The Last of Us Part I	 83 Splatoon 3	 64 Saints Row	 80 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The...	 68 Destroy All Human: 2 - Reprobed
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RECENTLY RELEASED

- 83 Splatoon 3 SEP 9
- ? NBA 2K23 SEP 9
- 72 Steelrising SEP 8
- ? Temtem SEP 6
- 76 Circus Electrique SEP 6
- 81 Disney Dreamlight V... SEP 6

UPCOMING RELEASES

- ? Warhammer 40,000... SEP 13
- ? Evil West SEP 20
- ? Serial Cleaners SEP 22
- ? The Legend of Hero... SEP 27
- ? Valkyrie Elysium SEP 29
- ? Overwatch 2 OCT 4






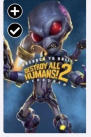
REVIEWED TODAY

- ? Betrayal At Club Low SEP 16
- 73 JoJo's Bizarre Adven... SEP 2
- 71 Pac-Man World Re-P... AUG 26
- 72 Steelrising SEP 8
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New Home Page

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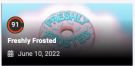









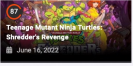
2022 Hall of Fame

- 95 Elden Ring Feb 25
- 91 Freshly Frosted Jun 10
- 90 Norco Mar 25
- 90 Neon White Jun 15
- 89 Not For Broadcast Jan 25
- 89 Rogue Legacy 2 Apr 28

What are     ?

80 NBA 2K23 SEP 9	1	Magic (am. respo...	18	7	Ankara: Lost Days SEP 15
73 Steelrising SEP 8	1	Mario + Rabbids Sparks o...	OCT 20	7	Wylie Flowers SEP 20
View More →				Reviewed This Week →	
	1	Gotham Knights	OCT 25		
View More →					

2022 Hall of Fame

 95 Elden Ring Feb 25, 2022	 91 Freshly Frosted Jun 10, 2022	 90 Norco Mar 25, 2022
 90 Neon White Jun 15, 2022	 89 Not For Broadcast Jan 25, 2022	 89 Rogue Legacy 2 Apr 28, 2022
 89 Immortality Aug 30, 2022	 88 Yanohada Chronicles 3 Jul 29, 2022	 88 Horizon Forbidden West Feb 18, 2022
 88 Jack Moves Sep 8, 2022	 87 Gran Turismo Sport Mar 4, 2022	 87 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Shredder's Revenge Jun 16, 2022

Who is "Mighty Man"?

"Mighty Man" is OpenCritic's way of tagging games based on the scores awarded to them by top critics.

The color scheme comes from video games, where "orange" loot is often best, with purple, blue, and green tiered loot following.


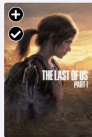

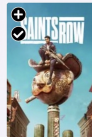

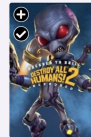
 Mighty The top 10% of game ratings. Best in their genre. Universal critical acclaim.	 Strong The next 30% of all games scored on OpenCritic. Great reception with a few flaws.	 Fair Games scored in the 30th-60th percentiles. Some issues hold these games.	 Weak The bottom 30% of game ratings. Games that missed on some key elements.
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The "Mighty Man" explanation isn't visible from the first impression of a page which may make users either confused on the meaning of some of the faces or ignore the faces and only focus on the numbers. The new button here would link to the new "Score System" page.

Old Home Page

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REVIEWED TODAY






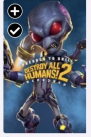
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80 NBA 2K23 SEP 9 73 Steelrising SEP 8 View More →

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2022 Hall of Fame View More

Who is "Mighty Man"?

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The color scheme comes from video games, where "orange" loot is often best, with purple, blue, and green tiered loot following.

- Mighty** 🍌 The top 10% of game ratings. Best in their genre. Universal critical acclaim.
- Strong** 🍌 The next 30% of all games scored on OpenCritic. Great reception with a few flaws.
- Fair** 🍌 Games scored in the 30th-60th percentiles. Some issues hold these games.
- Weak** 🍌 The bottom 30% of game ratings. Games that missed on some key elements.

Removed "Upcoming Releases" to swap out with "2022 Hall of Fame" since the header now has a designated section for game releases. Swapping in the hall of fame scores also creates a consistency of game scores and "Mighty Man" imagery that was lacking from the lack of scores and question marks in the "Upcoming Releases" section.

Old Home Page

LAST UPDATED: 11:30 PM EST 2022

ADVERTISEMENT

11:30 PM EST 2022

NEWS

MARKET

OPINION

Industry Headlines



News

The Last of Us Part I Review Embargo Details

The Last of Us Part I reviews are expected Wednesday morning. Here's the full review embargo details.

by [Matthew Enthoven](#) | August 30, 2022

[READ MORE](#)

News

Saints Row Review Embargo Details

Saints Row reviews are expected on Monday morning! Here are the full Saints Row review embargo details.

by [Matthew Enthoven](#) | August 19, 2022

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News

Soul Hackers 2 Review Embargo Details

Soul Hackers 2 reviews are expected on Thursday morning! Here are the full Soul Hackers 2 review embargo details.

by [Matthew Enthoven](#) | August 17, 2022

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News

Cult of the Lamb Review Embargo Details

Cult of the Lamb reviews are expected Wednesday morning. Here are the full embargo details.

by [Matthew Enthoven](#) | August 7, 2022



The "Industry Headlines" section towards the bottom of the home page only has review embargo dates. This section should either include links to articles from other websites or removed until OpenCritic has dedicated gaming journalists.

OpenCritic Browse Games Releases Score System FAQ Search

Overwatch 2

Blizzard Entertainment
Oct 4, 2022 - PC, Xbox Series X/S, PlayStation 5, Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Nintendo Switch

Review Embargo - N/A

Spread the word:

- 71 Soulstice SEP 20
- 87 Return to Monkey Island SEP 19
- 79 Metal: Hellsinger SEP 15
- 79 Wayward Strand SEP 13
- 68 Isonzo SEP 13
- 83 Splatoon 3 SEP 9
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- 72 Steelrising SEP 8

UPCOMING RELEASES

- 62 Serial Cleaners SEP 22
- 82 The Legend of Heroes: T... SEP 27
- ? Valkyrie Elysium SEP 29
- ? Overwatch 2 OCT 4
- 72 Sunday Gold OCT 13
- ? A Plague Tale: Requiem OCT 18
- ? Mario + Rabbids Sparks ... OCT 20

A better option would be to show the review embargo dates on pages for games that haven't released yet.

Individual Games

Old Side-by-Side



Elden Ring
FromSoftware Inc., BANDAI NAMCO Entertainment
Feb 25, 2022 - PC, Xbox Series X/S, PlayStation 5, Xbox One, PlayStation 4

IGN	10 / 10
PC Gamer	90 / 100
GameSpot	10 / 10
Easy Allies	9.5 / 10
Game Informer	10 / 10
GameRadar+	9 / 10
GamesRadar+	5 / 5
Metro GameCentral	9 / 10
GameRevolution	8 / 10
Hobby Consoles	92 / 100

MIGHTY OpenCritic Rating

Top Critic Average: 95

Critics Recommend: 98%

[View All 196 Critic Reviews](#)

Elden Ring Review Summary

Critic Consensus

Elden Ring is FromSoftware's best work yet and one of the highest rated games of all time. With refined, accessible, and satisfying combat in a vast, beautiful, and intriguing open world, players will find a lot to love.

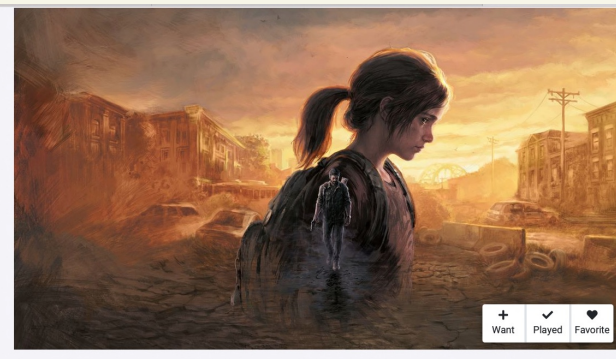
Spread the word:

Amazon **BUY NOW**

GameStop **BUY**

Critic's consensus is already easily visible so there's no need to show two Mighty Mans

The length of the review summary is inconsistent between these games. Review summaries should have a character or word limit since many people use review aggregators as a quick and consistent resource.



The Last of Us Part I
PlayStation, Naughty Dog
Sep 2, 2022 - PlayStation 5

IGN	9 / 10
GamesRadar+	4 / 5
Metro GameCentral	8 / 10
Easy Allies	8.5 / 10
GameSpot	8 / 10
Game Revolution	8 / 10
TheSixthAxis	9 / 10
Hobby Consoles	92 / 100

MIGHTY OpenCritic Rating

Top Critic Average: 88

Critics Recommend: 89%

[View All 119 Critic Reviews](#)

The Last of Us Part I Review Summary

Critic Consensus

Critics have been praising Naughty Dog's visual and audio upgrade of The Last of Us Part 1, with attention paid to the added accessibility features. There has been criticisms of the price point, however.

The overall visual and audio upgrades have been widely praised, particularly the character models and lighting which have been noted to create a larger sense of emotion and atmosphere. There has also been wide acclaim for the huge amount of accessibility options that have been added, making the game a lot easier to play for those who may struggle.

Critics have been split on the gameplay of The Last of Us Part 1, praising the improvements made to the AI, movement and the added functionality of the DualSense. However, many have also criticised that the gameplay feels like it's from 2013 (because it is). There have also been comments about how the game hasn't added new content or features, is missing the original games multiplayer mode and the gameplay can feel old fashioned at times, however, the consensus is that this is the definitive way to experience the single player narrative and it's follow up DLC Left Behind.

The length of the review summary is inconsistent between these games. Review summaries should have a character or word limit since many people use review aggregators as a quick and consistent resource.

New Side-by-Side



Elden Ring

FromSoftware Inc., BANDAI NAMCO Entertainment
Feb 25, 2022 - PC, Xbox Series X/S, PlayStation 5, Xbox One, PlayStation 4

Eurogamer	Essential
PC Gamer	90 / 100
IGN	10 / 10
Metro GameCentral	9 / 10
GamesRadar+	5 / 5
Easy Allies	9.5 / 10
Game Informer	10 / 10
GameSpot	10 / 10

MIGHTY OpenCritic Rating **95** Top Critic Average

98% Critics Recommend

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Elden Ring Review Summary

Elden Ring is FromSoftware's best work yet and one of the highest rated games of all time. With refined, accessible, and satisfying combat in a vast, beautiful, and intriguing open world, players will find a lot to love.

Spread the word:



Amazon

BUY NOW

BUY

AVAILABLE NOW

71	Soulstice	SEP 20
87	Return to Monkey Island	SEP 19
79	Metal: Hellsinger	SEP 15
79	Wayward Strand	SEP 13
68	Isonzo	SEP 13
83	Splatoon 3	SEP 9
80	NBA 2K23	SEP 9
72	Steelrising	SEP 8

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?	Overwatch 2	OCT 4
72	Sunday Gold	OCT 13
?	A Plague Tale: Requiem	OCT 18
?	Mario + Rabbids Sparks ...	OCT 20
?	Gotham Knights	OCT 25

"The Last of Us Part 1 is the definitive version of Naughty Dog's masterpiece. However, the aging gameplay and lack of additional content make the \$70 price point questionable when an already excellent \$20 option is available."



The Last of Us Part I

PlayStation, Naughty Dog
Sep 2, 2022 - PlayStation 5



OpenCritic Rating



Top Critic Average



Critics Recommend

IGN	9 / 10
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The Last of Us Part I Review Summary

The Last of Us Part I is the definitive version of Naughty Dog's masterpiece. However, the aging gameplay and lack of additional content make the \$70 price point questionable when an already excellent \$20 option is available.

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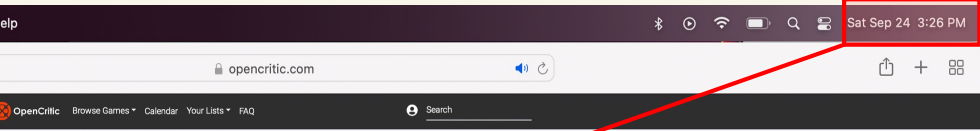
Amazon

BUY NOW

BUY

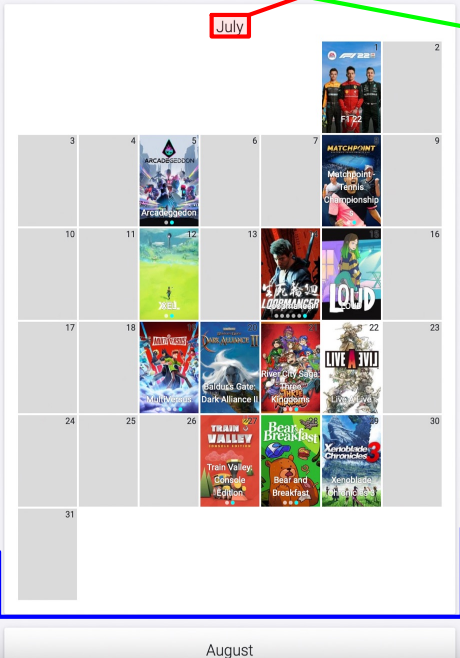
Turning the “Calendar” Page to a
“Releases” Page

Current Calendar Page



The current date doesn't match the calendar provided. In this example, it's unclear whether the site hasn't been updated since July or there are no releases until **next** July.

Gaming Calendar
See all of the top releases in gaming for the upcoming season. Games are evaluated for placement on the calendar on a case-by-case basis. If you think we're missing a game, email us at factcheck@opencritic.com.
This calendar is available in [Calendar \(.ics\) format here.](#)



The iCalendar is a great idea and would be better if the website offered calendars for each month.

The calendar shows a slideshow of games released on those days which isn't as practical as showing all of the games released on the same days as each other. There is also an extraneous amount of blank spaces on the page since games generally don't release on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.

New “Releases” Page

Release Dates

See all of the top releases in gaming for the upcoming season. Games are evaluated for placement on the calendar on a case-by-case basis. If you think we're missing a game, email us at factcheck@opencritic.com.

You can download the year's release schedule in your preferred calendar format [here](#). Or you can download individual months' schedules below.

September

82 The Legend of Heroes: Tr...	SEP 27
? Valkyrie Elysium	SEP 29
? Overwatch 2	OCT 4
72 Sunday Gold	OCT 13
? A Plague Tale: Requiem	OCT 18
? Mario + Rabbids Sparks o...	OCT 20
? Gotham Knights	OCT 25
? Bayonetta 3	OCT 28

[Download Sept. Dates](#) [View More](#) →

October

82 The Legend of Heroes: Tr...	SEP 27
? Valkyrie Elysium	SEP 29
? Overwatch 2	OCT 4
72 Sunday Gold	OCT 13
? A Plague Tale: Requiem	OCT 18
? Mario + Rabbids Sparks o...	OCT 20
? Gotham Knights	OCT 25
? Bayonetta 3	OCT 28

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November

82 The Legend of Heroes: Tr...	SEP 27
? Valkyrie Elysium	SEP 29
? Overwatch 2	OCT 4
72 Sunday Gold	OCT 13
? A Plague Tale: Requiem	OCT 18
? Mario + Rabbids Sparks o...	OCT 20
? Gotham Knights	OCT 25
? Bayonetta 3	OCT 28

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December

82 The Legend of Heroes: Tr...	SEP 27
? Valkyrie Elysium	SEP 29
? Overwatch 2	OCT 4
72 Sunday Gold	OCT 13
? A Plague Tale: Requiem	OCT 18
? Mario + Rabbids Sparks o...	OCT 20
? Gotham Knights	OCT 25
? Bayonetta 3	OCT 28

[Download Dec. Dates](#) [View More](#) →

Previous Months

January

82 The Legend of Heroes: Tr...	SEP 27
? Valkyrie Elysium	SEP 29
? Overwatch 2	OCT 4

February

82 The Legend of Heroes: Tr...	SEP 27
? Valkyrie Elysium	SEP 29
? Overwatch 2	OCT 4

March

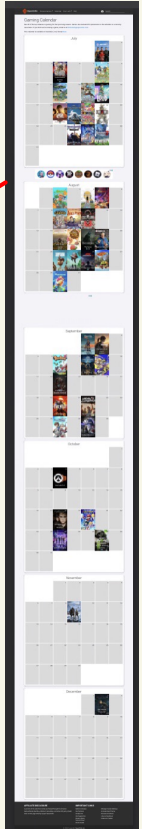
82 The Legend of Heroes: Tr...	SEP 27
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The new “Releases” page reorganizes the default view into list form, starting with the current month.

Adding different calendar options such as Google Calendar or Microsoft Outlook creates more flexibility for users.

This is how long the original “Calendar” page is. The proposed “Releases” page cuts the length to around a quarter of the “Calendar” page.

A downloadable version of each month's release schedule is available in the user's preferred calendar format.



Adding a “Score System” Page

Rating, Score, and Listing Questions

How is the OpenCritic rating (Mighty, Strong, Fair, or Weak) determined?

How is the Critics Recommendation percentage calculated?

Does OpenCritic assign ratings or scores to non-numeric reviews?

How is the Top Critic Average calculated?

What happens if a single publication publishes multiple reviews?

How do I get my game onto OpenCritic?

Why are there so many games missing before October 2015?

Why should a score system page be added?

OpenCritic's scoring system is what sets OpenCritic apart from the more popular Metacritic. Metacritic weighs top critics more heavily while OpenCritic has a score for top critics and a separate score that weighs every critic equally. This distinction can be the biggest factor in drawing more users from Metacritic so it's important to have a dedicated page for it.

The questions and answers here, pulled from the "FAQ" page, can be used as the content for the new "Score System" page.

Mighty Man: Breaking Down Top Critic Scoring

Top critic scores are differentiated from other critic scores by using "Mighty Man." A game needs to have at least 3 numeric reviews from top critics to receive one of the 4 Mighty ratings. The Top Critic average cutoffs are usually at 84 and above, 75-83, 66-74, and 65 and below. Non-numeric reviews are not included in any score calculations.



Mighty

The top 10% of game ratings. Best in their genre. Universal critical acclaim.



Strong

The next 30% of all games scored on OpenCritic. Great execution with a few flaws.



Fair

Games scored in the 30th - 60th percentiles. Some issues hold these games.



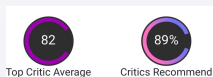
Weak

The bottom 30% of game ratings. Games that missed on some key elements.

The color scheme comes from video games, where "orange" loot is often best, with purple, blue, and green tiered not following.

The Mighty Man rubric is only used for top critics, but that isn't transparent to site visitors. Creating scannable headers with this information will aid in discoverability.

All Critic Scores: Recommend Percentage



This metric is calculated by taking the overall recommendation percentage of all reviews with verdicts. A review is considered to be recommended if one of the following has occurred:

- A critic specified they would recommend the game to general gamers over other games releasing at a similar time when uploading their review metadata to OpenCritic's content management system (CMS).
- For numeric reviews written by top critics, publications may elect to set their own threshold for what is and isn't recommended. For publications that have not made an election, the threshold is set to the publication's median review score. Reviews at or above this threshold are considered recommended. Note that this threshold is dynamic over time.
- Non-numeric reviews written by top critics that have a clear verdict and verdict system are also included when recommended. For example, Eurogamer (Recommended, Essential), AngryCentaurGaming (Buy), and GameXplain (Liked-a-lot, Loved) have their reviews included in this metric

Users who follow top critics that don't use numeric reviews will naturally question how their favorite critics' reviews are used after seeing the average cutoffs. The added sentence here will answer that question.