

GAMES THAT DESERVE A REPLAY ON THE PLAYSTATION 2

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The PlayStation 2 was perhaps one of the most innovative and popular consoles of all time. To this date, it is highly regarded for boasting some of the most popular titles. These are our picks for games that deserve a replay on this legendary console. Read on to find out which games made the cut.

1. Bully

Remember when *Bully* first came out? Rockstar Games came out with yet another gem. Most teenagers wished they could be like Jimmy Hopkins. Jimmy represented the modern youth in his high school life. A character everyone could relate to. What made *Bully* such a memorable game is that it represented high school in such a realistic way. The missions were over-the-top and the side missions were worth giving a shot. The PC port was a mess so the PlayStation 2 will do you just fine for a replay.

2. Dragon Ball Z Budokai Tenkaichi 3

There are fighting games and then there are DBZ fighting games. *Budokai Tenkaichi 3* had one of the most catchiest video game intros (that solo!).

It had the biggest roster and actually had a "What If?" storyline but what made it so much fun was the sheer awesomeness of the gameplay. It was simply fun. There are tons of button-smashing fighting games but *Budokai Tenkaichi 3* was something else.

3. Devil May Cry Trilogy

We all love Dante. He is probably one of the most laid-back characters of all-time. The next-generation DMC games could not even come close to the original PS2 trilogy (let's not even mention the fiasco that DMC 5 was). Dante took the level of cool in video games to new

dimensions. *DMC* totally changed the way people perceived hack and slash games.

4. God of War/ God of War II

The PlayStation 2 and the necessity of playing the *God of War* games come hand-in-hand. Kratos is the greatest badass in video game history, enough said. Both the *God of War* games are perhaps two of the greatest video games of all time. Amazing storyline, extremely fun gameplay and one of the best protagonists of all time. Do we even need a reason to replay these two titles of sublime badass-ness?

5. The entire Grand Theft Auto series

Be it *GTA 3*, *Vice City*, *Vice City Stories*, *Liberty City Stories* or *San Andreas*. Rockstar games made the best use of the console and its engine. Pushing the hardware to its limits, each *GTA* title was better than the other. The open-world fun of *GTA* can't be matched. If *GTA 3* revolutionized modern-day gaming then *San Andreas* showed what fun a massive world could bring. All the *GTA* games are unique and they deserve a replay no matter how many times you've played them.

So what are you waiting for? Get a PlayStation 2 or find your old one, plug it in and experience the nostalgia that this beauty of a console can only give.

Fardeen Zareef is in a war with carbohydrates but his love of Doritos overwhelms him. He also does not know how to use Twitter and loves to game.



Gray Area of Gaming Bootlegs, Hacks and Homebrews

TAIMUR RAHMAN

We've all grown fond of videogames and it has since become the common pastime for many children and adult alike. However, beneath the surface of it all lays its deep library of the illegal and creative.

Bootlegs

Bootlegs are illegal, unlicensed and sometimes pirated copies that creep their way into small video game shops. The common examples of these are the numerous *Grand Theft Auto* knock offs you can find. *Grand Theft Auto Dubai* is one notoriously well known bootleg you can probably find in your local shops. Sometimes bootlegs are hilariously far-fetched, and at other times they are Herculean works of human ingenuity. ShenZhen Nanjing Technology is a Chinese bootleg company known for its unlicensed remakes of games to the NES. They managed to fit in the PS1 masterpiece *Final Fantasy VII* into the NES engine, script by script. ShenZhen Nanjing happens to have a rival bootleg developer named Fuzhou Waixing, though it is notorious for its poor quality and bad music composition.

Bootlegs also exist as consoles. Usually in regions (China and North Korea)

where the original consoles were never marketed. Other bootleg devices take appearances akin to famous consoles but in fact play exclusive games or emulate older consoles. One such example is the PXP9000, a Chinese PSP lookalike that emulates GBA games.

Other famous bootlegs include



Pokémon Yellow (NES), Hong Kong 97 (SNES), Titenic (NES) and Bible Games by Wisdom Tree.

Check Out: bootleggames.wikia.com

Hacks

These aren't hacks like Chuck Lorre, Seth McFarlane or Adam Sandals. Some bootleg games often exist as

hacks, edits made to an already existing game. Sometimes a game is hacked to fix its flaws, bugs or glitches. At other times, the game can be translated entirely to different languages the game didn't have. There are hacks that make a game easier or tougher; there are hacks to manipulate every aspect of the game starting from

music to gameplay. Hex editing, palette and graphics editing, level editing, data editing and ROM expansion, assembly hacking and music hacking... all of these can completely overhaul a game to give a completely new experience.

Expanded ROMs are my personal favourite. Examples of this include an

updated Pokedex in older *Pokémon* games and many more levels in platformers such as *Super Mario Bros*.

Some of the more common hacks out there consist of several *Pokemon* (GBA), *Megaman X* (SNES), *Super Mario World*, *Final Fantasy*, *Castlevania*, *Street Fighter* and *Metroid* hacks.

Check out: www.romhacking.net

Homebrew

Homebrews are games or utility software developed by people as opposed to big companies. These games are not illegal as long as they don't share any likeness with licensed, commercial games. Most homebrews are free, while others carry a price tag. Homebrews for old consoles are still made even after said console's discontinuation. These games are often made with the actual platform's developer kit. The Dreamcast and NES in particular have an active and dedicated homebrew community. Homebrews are usually ports of popular PC games or apps. Ever wanted to play *Flappy Bird* on PSP?

Examples: *Doom DS*, *2048* (NES), *Lamecraft* (PSP)

Check out: www.dreamcast-scene.com

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