

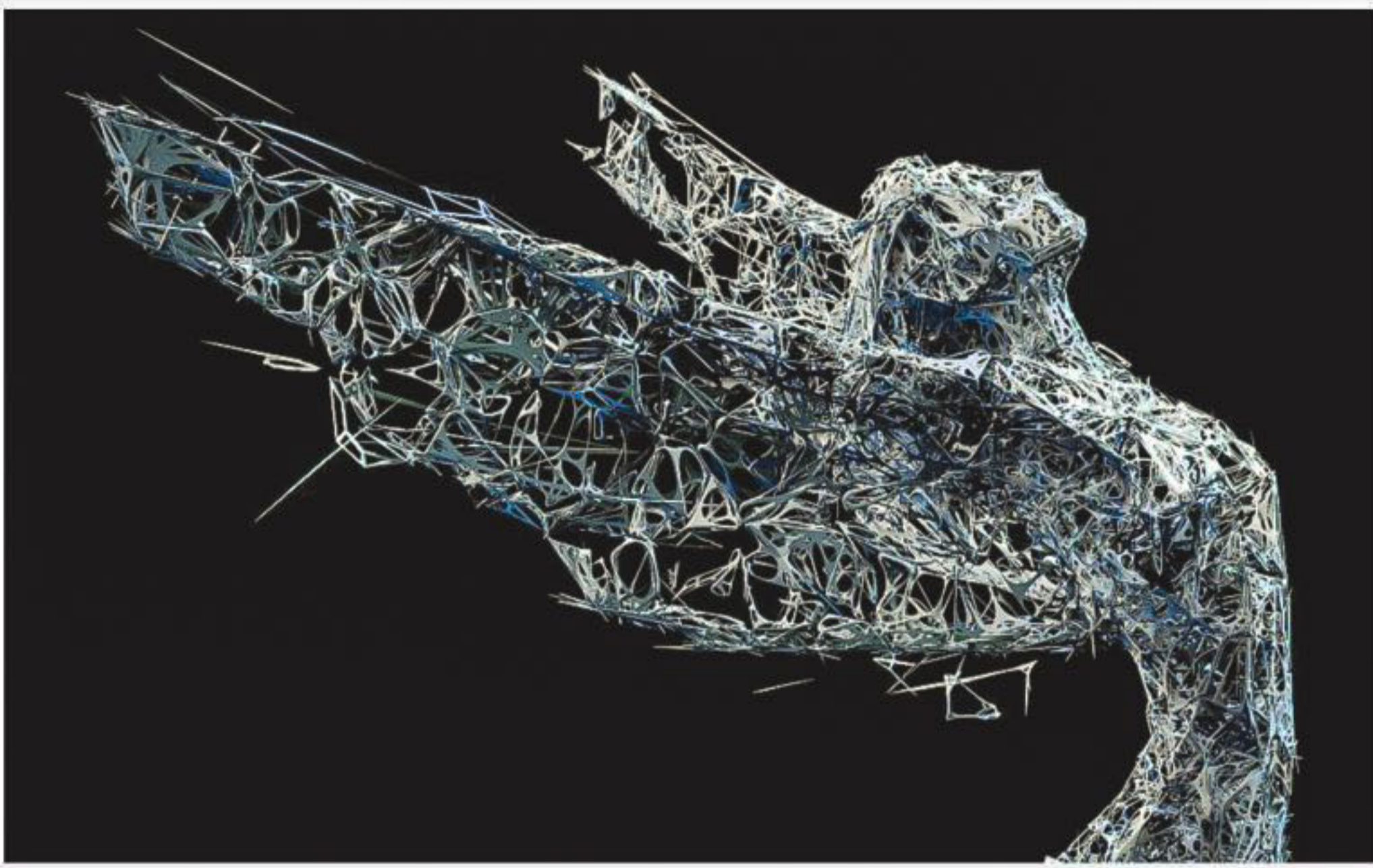


The power to do more

BYTES

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THE GAME AWARDS 2016 ROUNDUP

SHAER REAZ

BEST ACTION ADVENTURE GAME DISHONORED 2 (ARKANE, BETHESDA)



Nominees: Hitman (IO Interactive, Square-Enix), Hyper Light Drifter (Heart Machine), Ratchet & Clank (Insomniac Games, Sony), Uncharted 4: A Thief's End (Naughty Dog, Sony).

Dishonored winning the Best Action-Adventure award over the insane competition should tell you how good the sequel is. The original was brilliant – yet, somehow, the sequel charges at veteran entries like Uncharted and Hitman head on and

comes out on top. Surprisingly, no nomination for Final Fantasy XV, while No Man's Sky is hilariously nowhere to be seen. Maybe the organisers should have a brand new segment – most overhyped game of the year?

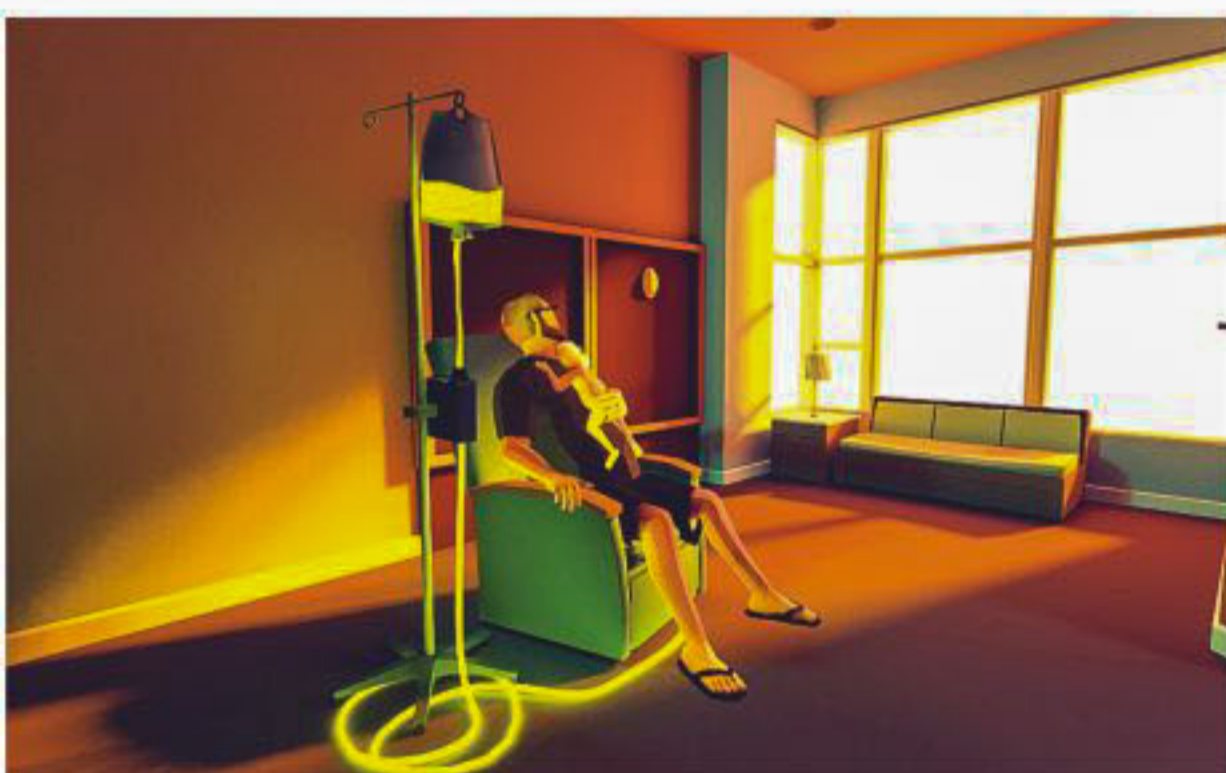
From e-Sports being considered a serious competitive sport to games becoming increasingly political and politically correct, there's no doubt in anyone's mind that the world of gaming is becoming more than an industry that caters to basement dwellers and the stereotypical geek – in fact, the geeks have taken over the world and are ruling it from the front. The Game Awards, although not yet as big of a powerhouse as the Oscars or the Emmys, goes a long way in legitimising the gaming industry by shelling out awards yearly in multiple categories...only to result in Reddit and Facebook being engulfed in flames for the following six months or so. Here's our roundup, comments and views on the winners and nominations at this year's Game Awards.



Best Narrative: Uncharted 4 - A Thief's End (Naughty Dog, Sony)

Nominees: Firewatch (Campo Santo), Inside (Playdead), Mafia III (Hangar 13/2K), Oxenfree (Night School Studio).

Again, not many surprises here – Uncharted and Nathan Drake's story finally comes to a close with U4, along with Naughty Dog's involvement in the series' development. The game was praised by critics for its intensive emotional depth and visual design, not to mention the fantastic narrative quality that has defined the Uncharted series from the very beginning. It's a good swansong for the series, this award.



Games for Impact: That Dragon, Cancer

Crowdsourced funds and developed by a dad in memory of his infant son, Joel,

whose life was claimed by cancer. Expect tears and emotional scarring.

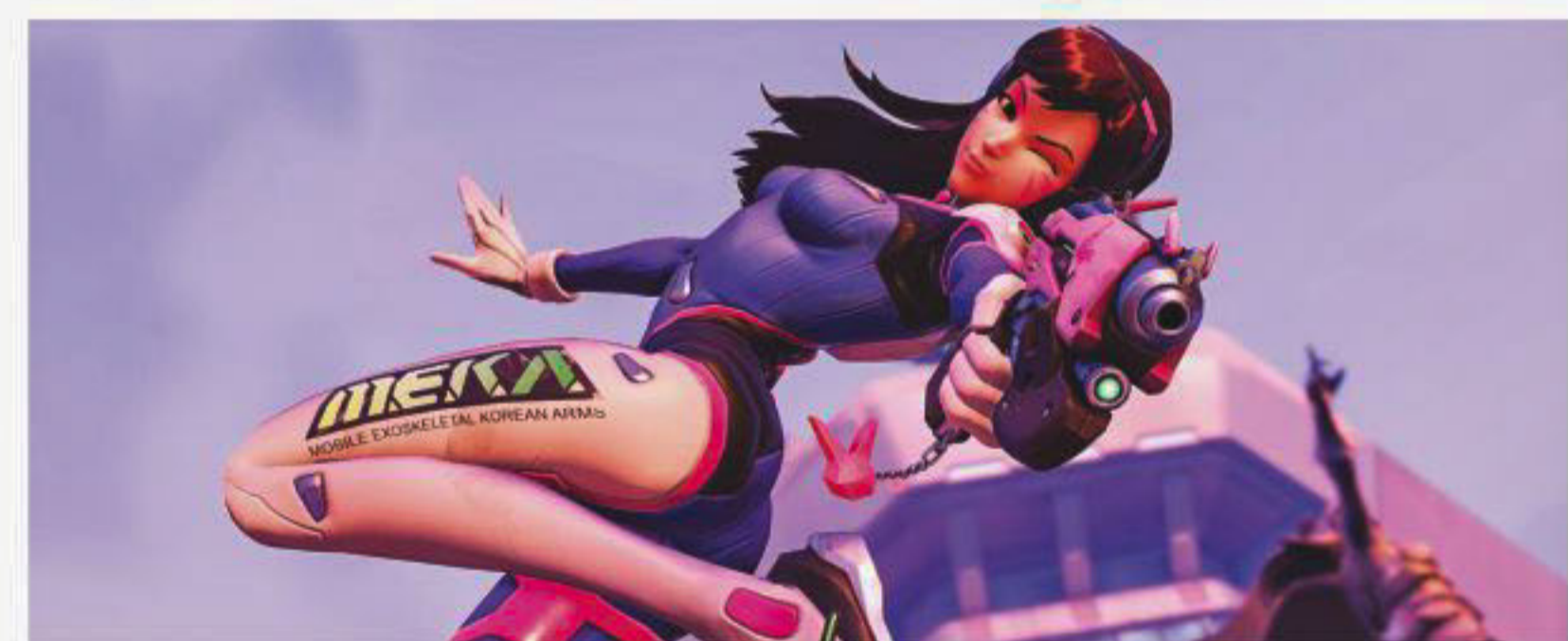
Game of the Year: Overwatch (Blizzard)



Nominees: DOOM (id Software, Bethesda), Inside (Playdead), Titanfall 2 (Respawn, Electronic Arts), Uncharted 4: A Thief's End (Naughty Dog, Sony).

Not many surprises here, although the online reaction of people who like being tortured and frustrated and constantly demoralised as a form of entertainment, suggests that there are huge gripes over Dark Souls 3 not being included in the list of nominations. With reason too – considering the amount of effort gamers had to put in just to progress marginally in the game, they have every right to

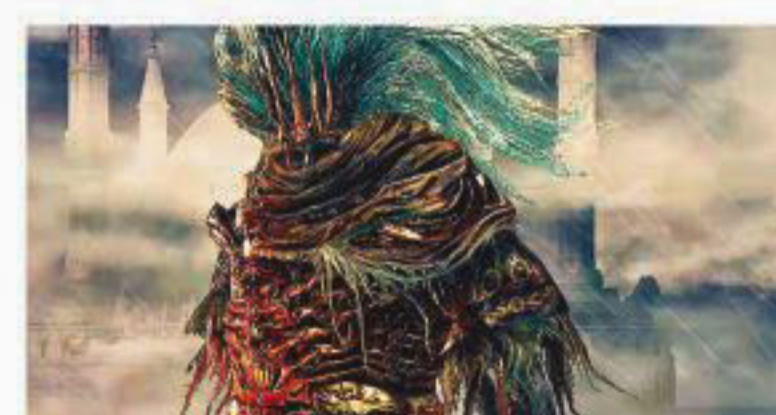
claim they did it because it's the best game of the year. Other than that, Overwatch winning was probably to be expected – very rarely has a multiplayer FPS gained this much popularity in this short span of time, not since kids ran around with LAN cables and pirating copies of early arena shooters like Quake. It's revolutionary in its own right, and the win is well deserved.



BEST ROLE PLAYING GAME: The Witcher 3 Wild Hunt - Blood and Wine (CD Projekt RED)

Nominees: Dark Souls 3 (Bandai Namco), Deus Ex: Mankind Divided (Eidos Montreal, Square-Enix), World of Warcraft: Legion (Blizzard), Xenoblade Chronicles X (Monolith, Nintendo).

Finally a nomination for Dark Souls 3, but in a category it would never win – you get SO much more from the Witcher 3 expansion that it should be considered a legitimate sequel to 2015's GOTY winner. Words cannot describe how good this game is at building an immersive world for you to slip into, the story buildup is nuanced at first but lands sledgehammer blows as you reach the climax. Pity that DS3 didn't win anything, but in this category, it was completely locked out.



Dark Souls 3 didn't WIN?! The Nameless King is furious.



Best Sports/Racing Game: Forza Horizon 3 (Playground Games, Microsoft).

Best Strategy Game: Civilization 6 (Firaxis Games, 2K)

Best Independent Game: Inside (Playdead)

JUST IN

Dell XPS ultrabook now available in the market

Dell XPS 13 Ultrabook was recently unveiled in Bangladesh. This ultrabook comes with 'Infinity' bezel-less display. It also comes with 6th Generation Core i5 processor (clock speed up to 2.8 GHz), 8GB LPDDR3 1866MHz (On Board) RAM, 256GB PCIe Solid State Drive (SSD). It has two 1W stereo speakers with Waves MaxxAudio Pro, 720p Webcam for video conference & 2 USB 3.0 port with Powershare facility and a mini



Display Port. Price: Tk. 1,41,000/- including 2 years warranty

Corsair M65 PRO mouse in local market



The M65 PRO RGB featuring 12000 DPI optical sensors is currently available in Bangladesh. The aircraft-grade aluminum frame gives it low weight, and at the same time, makes it extremely durable. The mouse provides CUE (programmable) for advanced button configuration, macro programming, and three-zone RGB backlighting customisation. Price: Tk. 7,500/- plus one year warranty.

TECH HAPPENING

Symphony brings two new smartphones with extreme battery life



Symphony mobile has recently launched two smartphones- Symphony R20 and Symphony R100 in the market. These handsets were inaugurated by Rezwanaul Hoque, Senior Director, Edison Group at Dhaka last week. R20 has a whopping 4900 mAh battery and R100 is paired with a 4000 mAh battery which can withstand long

hours of heavy usage. Both smartphones offer some very decent features. For example, the smartphones come with power bank feature. Through the power bank feature, customers can charge the battery of others devices. The price of Symphony R20 is Tk. 7,390/- and R100 is at Tk. 10,990/-.

Banglalink launches entry level Symphony Roar series smartphones

Banglalink in collaboration with Symphony has launched Symphony roar E80 recently at Banglalink's headquarters in Gulshan. The smartphone was launched in presence of Shahriar Ahmed Remon, Head of Device, Banglalink, Rezwanaul Hoque, Sr. Director, Edison Group and Md. Shihab Uddin Chowdhury, AGM, Edison Group. The price of roar E80 smartphone is Tk. 3,090/- with 18 GB free data bonus. Each month customers will get 6 GB data with a validity of 30 days.



SureCash mobile payments for Bagdoom.com

Baagdoom.com has signed an agreement with SureCash to enable their customers to make payments for their online purchases using SureCash mobile payments platform. Chairman Shameem Ahsan, CEO Syeda

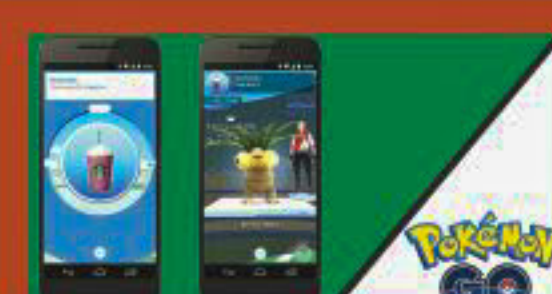
Kamrun Ahmed, COO Monowar Hossain Khan and CMO Mirajul Huq of BAGDOOM along with SureCash CEO Dr. Shahadat Khan, CBO Md. Abu Taleb, SVP Md. Nur Al Ather and higher officials from both organisations were present at the signing ceremony. At the ceremony, CEO of Bagdoom Ms. Syeda Kamrun Ahmed said, "SureCash is one of the revolutionary organizations for mobile payments in Bangladesh. Our users can easily make online shopping payments using SureCash service. We have signed this agreement with SureCash to bring better online shopping experience to all our customers."

TECH BITS

New Michigan law prepares for autonomous future



Pokémon GO is officially teaming with Starbucks



Amazon Channels adds HBO and Cinemax.



Workplace by Facebook begins to take shape



Yahoo Answers makes its official mobile

