



# EXPECTATIONS FROM E3 2019

The Electronic Entertainment Expo is the grand gaming event of the year. This year's event will not have Sony, who have often provided the conference and gaming world with the most jaw dropping reveals. This leaves the show floor open to Bethesda, Microsoft and the rest to steal the spotlight. So far only EA has taken the stage and they've revealed FIFA 20, Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order, Baldur's Gate 3. With a bulk of E3 remaining, here are our predictions, expectations and every bit of info that has leaked so far.

ASIF AYON

## LEAKS AND RUMOURS

There have been three major information leaks ahead of E3 2019. The most jaw-dropping of which is the expected reveal of a new From Software game titled Elden Ring. The game will be an open world action game and the studio are collaborating with Game of Thrones author George R.R. Martin for the game's story. A new Watch Dogs game, Watch Dogs Legion has leaked as well. The game will be set in UK and it's reported that you can play as any NPC in the game. The last of the big leaks is the new game from Ninja Theory. The developers of the critically acclaimed AA game, Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice are reportedly working on a new multiplayer game. News of Tales of Arise and a remaster of the first Ni No Kuni game have also been leaked, leaving Bandai Namco with pretty much nothing left to show for the conference. But other developers and publishers have been able to keep a tighter leash on their show floor presentations and here is what we expect from the big names.



## MICROSOFT

Coming off the heels of a great E3 2018 and a consistently good year, Microsoft are already teasing the prospects of new games and a supposedly new console.

"Scarlet" - Microsoft's next-gen console has already been teased by Microsoft ahead of their conference.

Microsoft addressed its lack of first party games in 2018 so expect some first party titles from Microsoft. Gears 5 will surely make an appearance at the event alongside a new Halo game.

Microsoft has also talked about its own streaming service Project xCloud and with Stadia making the headlines prior to E3, maybe this is a good as time as any for Microsoft to make its play on the expanding cloud gaming market.



## BETHESDA

Bethesda have had an awful last year in trying to salvage Fallout 76. Bethesda showcased the new Doom Eternal and teased a new Elder's Scroll game last year, so expect more information regarding those titles.

There's sure to be more Elder's Scrolls Online updates and reveals at this year's conference. Wolfenstein: Youngblood will make an appearance at the show floor as well. The game is being co-developed by Arkane Studios and MachineGames so it won't be a surprise if Arkane Studios reveal a new Dishonored game.

Tango Gameworks, one of the studios working for publishers Bethesda Softworks, might come out with its own game as well. The studio's last game The Evil Within 2 released two years ago, so a new The Evil Within is well on the cards.



## EXPECTATIONS FROM THE EVENT

### UBISOFT

Ubisoft are usually the most unpredictable presenter at E3 and this year might just be more of the same. The already revealed Ghost Recon: Breakpoint will surely make an appearance at Ubisoft's conference. Expect more Rainbow Six Siege, For Honor and The Division 2 updates. Beyond Good and Evil 2 is the most anticipated Ubisoft game and it's been too long since we've heard anything about it. Watch Dogs Legion will surely make an appearance given that it's already been leaked.



A Nintendo and Ubisoft collaboration is sure to happen again with either a new Mario Rabbids game or a follow up to Star Link: Battle for Atlas. But one thing that's on the cards for sure is Ubisoft's theatrics and surprise reveals.

### SQUARE ENIX

With news of Square Enix's Avengers Game already taking the internet by a storm and with Final Fantasy XV and the Final Fantasy VII remake still on the pipelines, Square Enix has the potential to deliver the show of the year. Square's E3 2018 was a pre-recorded mess with little to no new games being shown at the event. Babylon's Fall from developers Platinum Games was the only noteworthy game that graced the 2018 show floor. And with little to no information regarding the game, this is the right time for Square Enix to reveal the new game.

Square Enix has the potential to wow audiences this year and with the Avenger's franchise at peak popularity, the Avenger's game reveal will justify Square's Monday primetime slot at the conference.



### NINTENDO

The pre-recorded Nintendo Direct, which airs on the last day of the conference is always anticipated by longtime fans of the company. Nintendo's last E3 heavily leaned towards Super Smash Bros Ultimate but expect more games and more reveals this time around.

One game that will surely have more details is Pokémon Sword and Shield. The eighth generation of Pokémon games have already been revealed and it will be available exclusively on the Switch. Nintendo released a trailer for a remaster of Link's Awakening so there will be more news regarding the title.

We might see a new Luigi's Mansion game as well and Metroid Prime 4 will be the ultimate icing on the cake for Nintendo's conference. Marvel Ultimate Alliance 3 will also be available on the Switch so there may be some details regarding the game as well. Nintendo might reveal some details about Labo VR at the Nintendo Direct but what Switch owners really want is more Animal Crossing, new IPs and more Super Smash Bros Ultimate DLC.



# THE PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS OF STADIA

Google has finally revealed more information for the upcoming Stadia platform. Although it won't be available for purchase in Bangladesh when it launches worldwide in November 2019; the new round of pricing and connection speed information gives us an idea on whether or not Stadia will be worth it when it does launch.

For starters, you'd need a stable 10 Mbps connection to play the games at 720p and 60 fps. Stadia's initial "Founder's Edition" will start at \$130 for a hardware kit including a controller and a Chromecast Ultra and three months of premium access, with a monthly rate of \$10 afterwards.

A total of 30 games will be available at launch, with notable titles, such as, Mortal Kombat 11, Rise of the Tomb Raider, Doom Eternal, Assassin's Creed Odyssey, etc. While Stadia was touted as the "Netflix for gaming" by some, all the games mentioned above will have to be purchased separately and will be available on Stadia's digital market place.

The only game which will be available at launch and playable on a Stadia subscription basis is Destiny 2. Many other games will be added to the subscription model. Two Stadia exclusives will be available at launch as well, Gylt by Tequila Works and Get Packed by the studio Coatsink.

It's a shame that Stadia didn't go the full subscription route at the start, but in having its own market place, Google's been able to pique the interests of a lot of developers and publishers.

Google will also launch a free version of Stadia in 2020 but until then the promise of Stadia looks expensive, hollow and a risky investment for early adopters.

If Google can figure out a way to bring down the minimum requirements to 5 Mbps and launch it on other Android devices other than the Pixel, then we might have a game changer on our hands.

ASIF AYON



# Apple's week of great highs and an expensive low

Apple brought their A game out to San Jose, California for this year's Apple Worldwide Developers Conference. WWDC 2019 for short, Apple's yearly developer conference usually comes with a new iOS reveal and some new product reveals and this year was no different. But with any Apple event and product announcement, the price points leave you with a burning sensation in your pockets. Apple revealed iOS 13, a new Mac and iPad OS and the woefully expensive new Mac Pro, with a separately expensive stand for the monitor to boot.

The expensive low refers to the new Mac Pro. It's just way too expensive for what it's packing. Although it is by no means underpowered, the \$5,999 price tag is just too much. The cheese grater, laundry basket that is the Mac Pro is a beast of a machine. The base model will have an 8-core Intel Xeon processor, 32GB of memory, Radeon Pro 580X graphics and a 256GB solid-state drive for

storage. The Mac Pro will support up to 1.5TB of maximum memory, two AMD Radeon Pro Vega II Duo and 4TB of SSD capacity. Apple also announced a \$4,999 monitor dubbed the Pro Display XDR, but the stand comes separate. The Pro Display XDR is a beautiful 6K 32-inch LCD display. The turn off to all this is the stand will cost \$999.

But other than that, Apple revealed a bunch of new things, all worth getting excited about the first of which is iOS 13 and dark mode. iOS 13 also brings tweaks and updates to many iPhone apps.

There's now a swipe feature for texting on iMessage and suggested contacts list for your frequent contacts. Apple's proprietary music app will now show lyrics to songs during playback. Apple Maps finally supports street view and 360-degree view. iOS 13 will be available to iPhone users in July for testing, with the final version available in Fall of this year.

New OSs didn't just stop with iPhones as the world was introduced to a new Mac and iPad OS. The iPad OS is the most welcome of the two as it's an indication that Apple are treating the iPad as a separate platform. The new file explorer on iPad looks similar to Mac's file sharing and the Slide Over feature has been streamlined greatly as well.

There will also be new gestures for editing on the iPad. The new macOS, Catalina brings in welcome addition for Mac users. You can use your iPad as a secondary screen with your Mac now. Apple will also break the iTunes app into three separate apps for Podcast, Music and TV.

Both iOS and macOS will offer voice controls so you can do all sorts of tasks like dictations, editing and opening apps. And to top it all off, the watchOS 6 update will come with its own App Store.

ASIF AYON

