



***Version 1.0 Beta
Reviewers Guide***

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Introduction to RealArcade 1.0

RealNetworks' latest release, **RealArcade**, pioneers Internet media delivery for games by being the first one-stop, easy to use Internet game service. The RealArcade experience is about providing the best downloadable and Web games available with an easy to use application to acquire, play, and manage games, all built around a community for matching players, sharing information about games, and enhancing the game playing experience. **RealArcade** is the first games platform that makes playing games on your home PC simple and fun for all types of players.

Why RealArcade?

Simply stated, RealArcade is **Easy** - A super-simple way to discover and acquire new games and manager your game collection, **Connected** - A great way to share game experiences, find opponents and post your scores, and **Complete** - Your one stop source for new games and game resources.

It's Easy

RealArcade brings simplicity, ease of use and convenience to the world of Internet and downloadable games. We'll go into all of the features in greater detail later, but check out this list:

- ✓ **Easier download and installation process** – Click, download, then click play! Need to pause to make a phone call? No problem, just resume your download when you're ready.
- ✓ **Faster downloads** – Spend less time waiting and more time playing. Our patent pending Xzip game packager and compression technology reduces download sizes from 20% to 50% smaller than typical "zipped" files.
- ✓ **One-Click Guaranteed Download** – Installation is not the pain it used to be. At the completion of a download, the user simply clicks "Yes" to install and no more questions are asked. No screen-takeovers from install wizards, no choosing directories or install paths.
- ✓ **Quick, easy access to your games** – RealArcade puts all of your game downloads in the same place so you won't forget where you put the file. RealArcade will also find games already installed on your system and organize them to give you quick easy access to all of your favorites. Furthermore, RealArcade provides quick access to great downloadable and Web games, which are play tested and safety assured.
- ✓ **Rich, useful game information** – You'll find instructions on how to play, tips and tricks, links to fan sites, high score listings, game patches and troubleshooting information, and even player matching where you'll always find opponents to play against.
- ✓ **Compatibility Checking** – Many users complain that games don't work on their system, and they're often not sure why. RealArcade, however, checks their system for compatibility with the game of interest. If a component of their computer isn't compatible with the game, the user is notified before downloading.
- ✓ **Integrated Ecommerce** – RealArcade is a one-stop-shopping experience. Not only do we offer a large selection of demos to try out, this virtual retail outlet also comes with its own built-in ecommerce system. Furthermore, we make sure the users know they can purchase quickly and securely through our dedicated ecommerce servers.

It's Connected

One of the greatest benefits of playing games on the Internet is becoming a part of the community surrounding a game or a genre of games. Historically, the greatest obstacle has been the complexity of achieving this goal. RealArcade makes it easy and fun to become a part of the gaming community.

- ✓ **Total Interactive Package** – Actively participate in multi-player gaming, chat, and competitive scoring, and all within the simple, easy to use community section of RealArcade. Unlike most services that force the user into a technical world of jargon and Internet synchronization, RealArcade's point-and-click method streamlines multiplayer gaming to deliver a completely integrated and easy multiplayer gaming experience.
- ✓ **View Message Boards** – You can anonymously view message boards and user submitted game ratings. Message boards let you share strategies, ideas, and opinions with fellow players.
- ✓ **Get Game Reviews** – Furthermore, we've facilitated the posting of game reviews through an uncomplicated, straightforward Web form.

- √ **Anonymous Interaction** – Privacy is equally important to us. For all of our features above, there is no need for a lengthy registration process or for you to log on. A session nickname may be needed for multiplayer gaming and to identify yourself if you choose to participate in reporting your high scores to the community.

It's Complete

RealArcade offers the user the best games on the Internet.

- √ **RealArcade Games** – RealArcade Games offers direct access to over 60 of the highest quality, play tested, games available. RealArcade Games offers games in a wide variety of genres, including action, racing, strategy, puzzle, card, and casino games. You'll find great downloadable games offering a complete “try before you buy” experience, cool subscription based multiplayer games, and simple, fun Web-based games you can play right in your browser.
- √ **The Game Bazaar** – RealArcade offers both the top retail demos on the market, as well as a list of games from independent developers. The Games Bazaar of RealArcade offers an open self-publishing model that allows any game developer to take advantage of the distribution capabilities and reach of RealArcade. Any developer can download a simple game packaging tool and publish their game, free of charge! This is great for the RealArcade community as it makes a huge selection of content available. Plus, RealArcade allows developers to get their games in front of a larger potential audience than any retail outlet in the world.
- √ **Support Information** – Instead of digging for support documentation or game support sites for a game, the Game Page offers an instruction manual if available, support information, installation/uninstallation instructions... even tips, tricks, cheats, and links to fan sites! Furthermore, RealNetworks offers technical support for both RealArcade and the titles listed in RealArcade Games.

Special Features

RealArcade has several features that make it a must for any gamer. Below, we have outlined seven key features that illustrate the unique qualities of this service offers. Later, we will take you through the product, outlining specific steps for using RealArcade.

Optimize Your Time

The typical download experience can waste a lot of time and energy: download the game, find the file on your computer, install the file, go through endless dialog boxes asking you where to install, blah, blah. RealArcade has solved this by offering a special game packager to all developers. This packager allows for an **automatic and seamless download and install** into the RealArcade interface. You specify where the game installs in RealArcade's Preferences, and all games that use this packager install to that directory. No finding files, no wizards, no questions. Just click to download. You can walk away assured that when you return, your game will be downloaded, installed, and ready to play. All games that offer this timesaving feature are called **RealArcade Optimized** games

RealArcade Optimized games are denoted with the following symbol in our catalog.



Upon game launch, the **RealArcade Optimized** logo is displayed.



Many Games, 1 Interface

How many games are lying buried in the user's Start Menu? With RealArcade, they won't have to worry about searching through endless menus to launch any of their favorite games. RealArcade is like one-stop shopping. When the user installs RealArcade, it asks if you want to search your computer for games. If the user selects "Yes," then **all games are easily accessed from one simple interface**.

Or, you can try your hand at Web Games. Choose **Web Games** under the Game Guide for entertaining browser based games.



Launch all your games through **My Games**, or you can **Quick Launch** your games.

Get Games Now

RealArcade's **Download Games** feature lets the user browse new games to play by category. Gamers can download, install, and play new games all through the same interface – free. You like? You buy! (We hope.) Want even more games? We also offer access to some of the hottest retail game demos to try out.

The user first clicks on **RealArcade Games**, then selects from any of these categories.



The user selects from any of these games to open the Game Page (discussed later) where the game can be downloaded, installed, and launched.

Automatic Backup

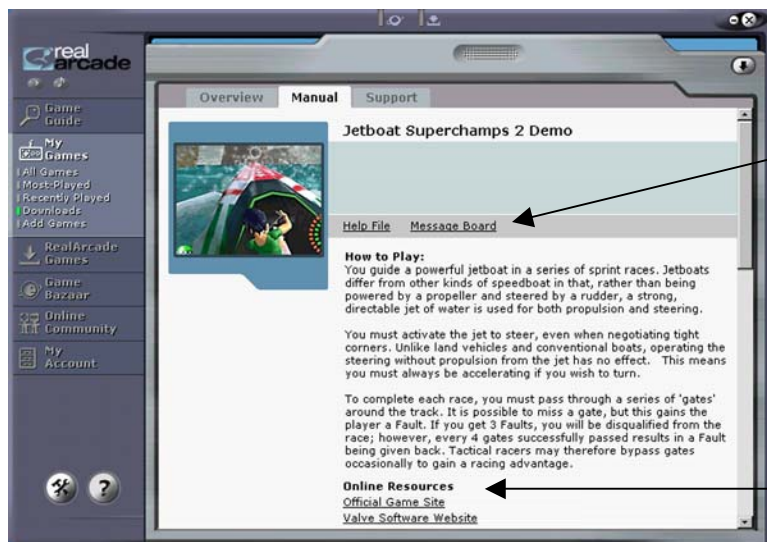
One concern about paying for downloadable games is: What happens if the computer crashes or if the player upgrades his/her computer? RealArcade's **"My Account"** feature ensures that users will always have access to their games to re-download. This benefits the user in the event of a hard drive crash, reformat, virus attack, or accidental uninstallation.

Using the **My Account** tab on the console, the user enters their login and password information. Within moments, they can review their list of RealArcade games and redownload any of them, at any time. **My Account** also offers valuable purchase and account information that the user can change at any time.



Need Help?

For most games, we also offer convenient access to game instructions, basic keyboard and mouse controls, tips, tricks, helps, hints, cheats, and other game enhancing instructions. We want the user to take full advantage of all the game has to offer. Consequently, we give the user access to help files, message boards, developer sites, and hints & tips (where available).



From the Manual tab in the Game Page (explained later), the user can access the Help File or the Message Board on the Web. All of these sources may get you that little extra help to get past a tricky level or to reveal tips or tricks for the game.

Finally, the bottom of the tab reveals the game's website, and a Hints/Tips website. Clicking these will open the browser to these locations.

Hot Off the Press

Get the latest gaming news with our **Game Guide**. Much like the user's home page for a browser, this will be the first thing the user sees when RealArcade is launched. The Game Guide offers news on the latest game releases from RealNetworks, along with reviews and previews of upcoming games. Although currently we only have *Headlines* as a category, we will be adding more to allow a totally customizable experience for the user. For example, if the user cares only about Action games, only content specific to his or her needs will appear.

The Game Guide



You vs. The World

Multiplayer gaming is revolutionizing the way people play games on the PC. RealArcade leverages the GameSpy Network to provide users access to the largest multiplayer network on the Web. This means that, for games with multiplayer support, you can find someone to play against 24 hours a day, anywhere in the world. Users can also chat with others in real time, join a game, or host a room where anyone can join. RealArcade uses standard Internet protocol for multiplayer games, so other gamers do not have to use our technology to match up with an opponent. Thus, multiplayer matching creates an infinite number of venues and gaming environments for the user.

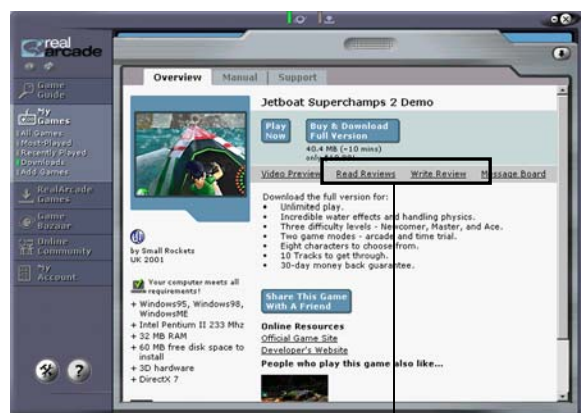
Not only does it add extra benefit to the user, but it also enhances the experience for those unable to leave home or who are otherwise incapacitated. In a RealArcade forum conducted earlier this year, one user commented that multiplayer matching would be especially helpful for relative who likes to play games with others, but cannot leave the home. RealArcade connects gamers to a community where the fun is always available, so join in!



The Multiplayer tab in the Game Page allows the user to chat, join a room, or create a room.

Plug Into Community

Make your voice heard! Gamers can submit their reviews of a game, read other reviews, check out the message boards, or chat with other gamers directly (for multiplayer games).



When the user clicks on **Write Review** or **Message Board**, their default browser opens and allows them to submit a review or read other gamers' feedback.



Buy Online – Easy, Safe, Secure

RealArcade affords the user instant access for purchasing or upgrading games. There's no need to track down a developer's site or remember a purchase URL to buy a game. Simply open the Game Page, try the game out, and if you like it, just buy from there, safely and securely. With a quick click, RealArcade becomes a self-contained virtual game store, open 24 hours. RealArcade uses advanced SSL encryption so your order is 100% safe. This kind of convenience, and safety, makes RealArcade the best way to grow your game collection.



From the **Game Page**, click here to purchase a game.

Product Walk Through

This section of the guide will walk you through some of the basics of RealArcade.

Preview, Download, Install, & Play a Demo

Here are the steps to get started:

- 1) First, launch **RealArcade**, and click **RealArcade Games**. This will show you the **Game Catalog** where you can peruse new games available through RealNetworks. Choose the **Racing** subcategory to look at racing games.

- 2) Let's take a look at **Jetboat Superchamps 2**. Click on the image to open the Game Page.



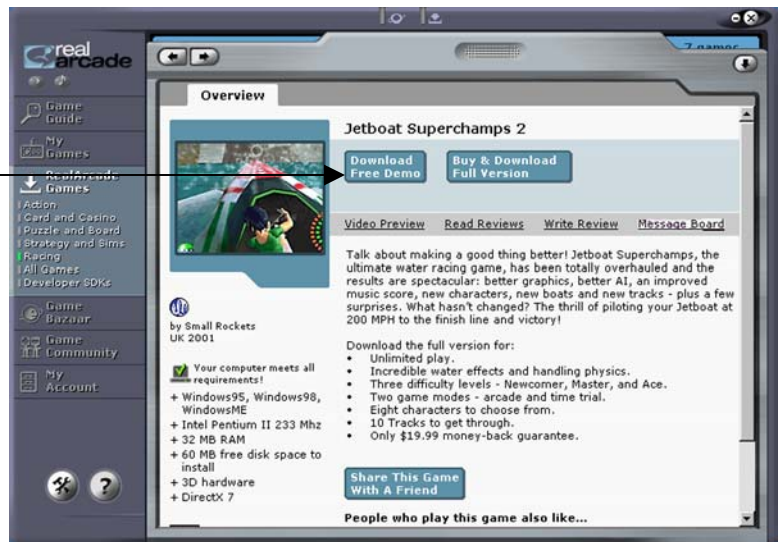
When you click the game image, the **Game Page** will open. The Game Page is where you can access all of the game's critical functions, such as download, install, play, and purchase. If you ever want to close the game page, click here.

- 3) To view a streaming preview of the game, click **Video Preview** at the top of the Game Page.

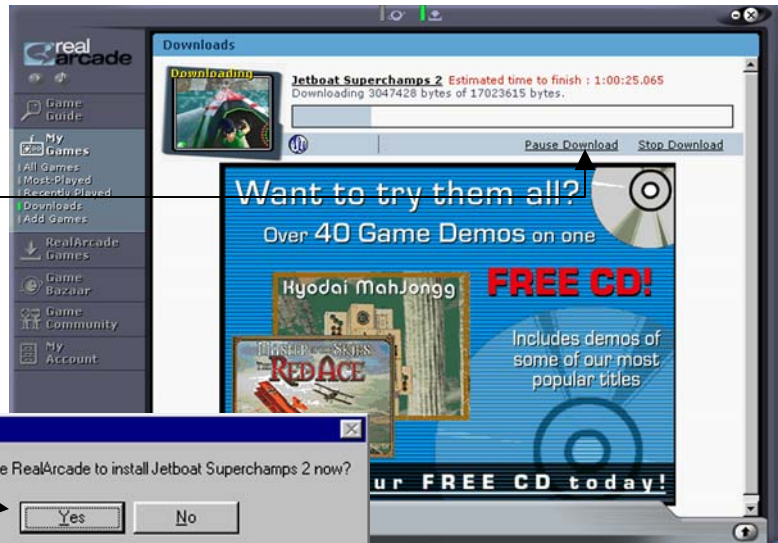
Poof! **RealPlayer** opens and plays the preview. If you have a slow connection, it automatically adjusts to show you screenshots instead. This preview could contain all kinds of content, including in-game shots, interviews, "meet the developer," anything.



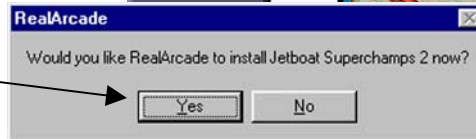
- 4) When you're ready to download the game, click **Download Free Demo**. This will launch the **Download Manager**.



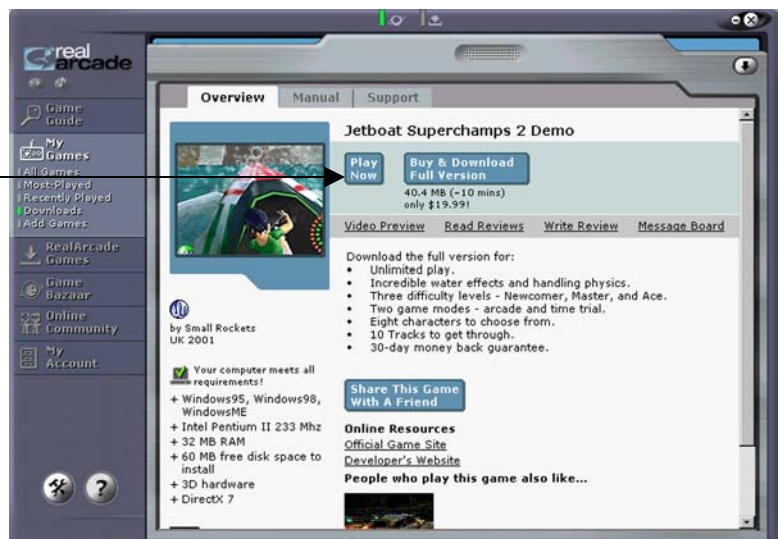
If you need to use the phone, surf the Internet or check your mail, you can always **pause** in the middle of a download and disconnect or surf. When you're ready to continue the download, go online and press **Resume**.



At the conclusion of the download, you will be prompted to install the game. Click **Yes**.



- 5) Once the game is installed, click **Play Now**, and let the fun begin!



Multiplayer Gaming

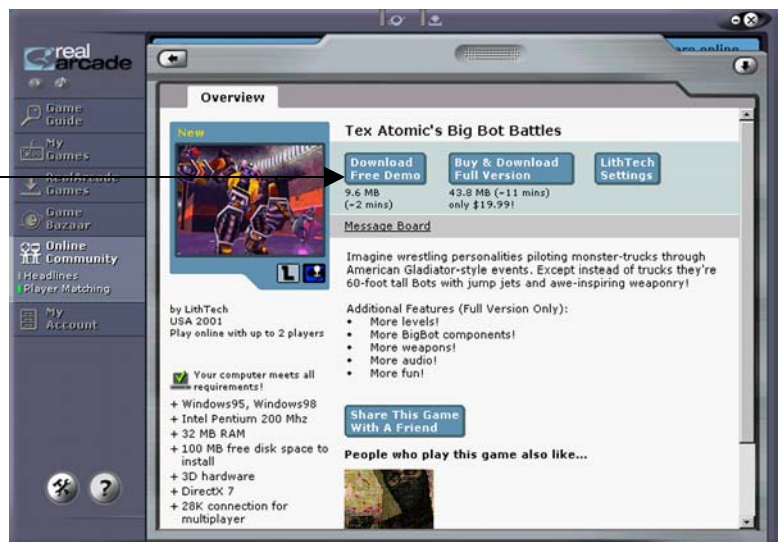
Multiplayer games are games that allow you to play with others over the Internet. However, not all games are multiplayer games.

If you want to specifically play multiplayer games, you may click on the **Game Community** tab from RealArcade, and select the sub-category called **Player Matching**.

- 1) We will try player matching with **Tex Atomic's Big Bots Battles**. You may need to scroll down to view the bottom of the list. When you find Tex Atomic's Big Bots Battles, click the image to open the game page.

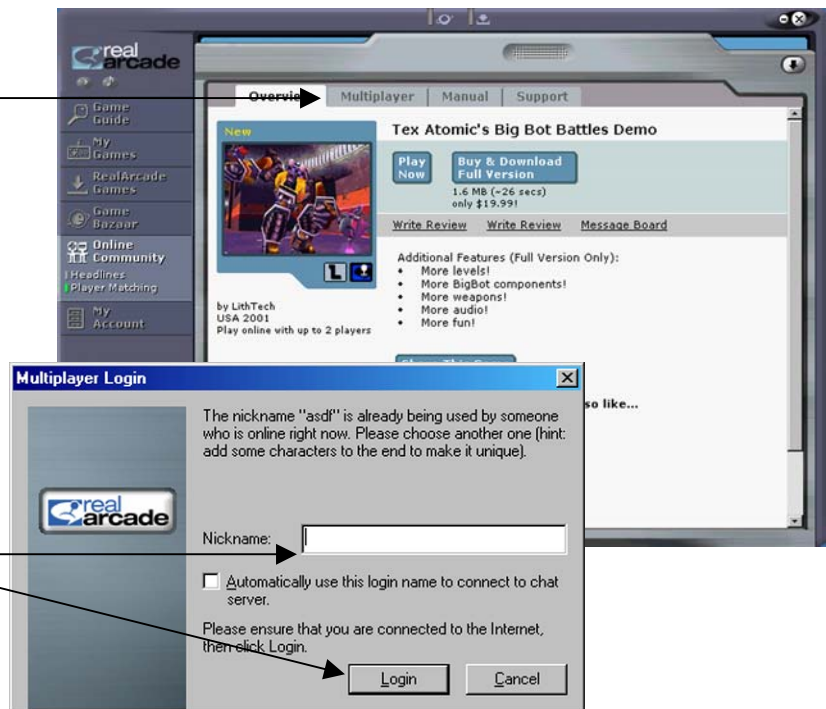


- 2) Go ahead and download the free demo, and install, as mentioned above.



- 3) After you have installed Big Bot's Battles, you will notice the extra tab that appears for multiplayer games. Click on the **Multiplayer** tab to begin play.

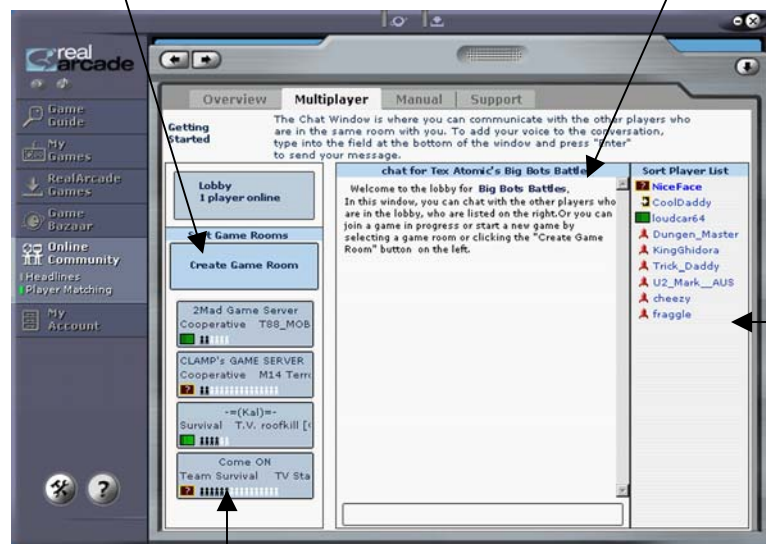
- 4) RealArcade will pop-up a login box. Here, you can type in whatever handle you want to call yourself. Since this will be displayed publicly, you may want to use a nickname or handle instead of your real name. After you type in your login name, click **Login**.



- 5) Now we can get down to business! The Multiplayer Tab gives you full access to all the functions of multiplayer matching. A complete breakdown of the information on this tab is provided below.

To host your own room, you can click Create Game Room here. Note that you can't host if you're behind a firewall.

After logging in (above) you immediately enter the game lobby where you can chat with others in the lobby. The chat area is here.



This shows you a complete list of all the players for this game.

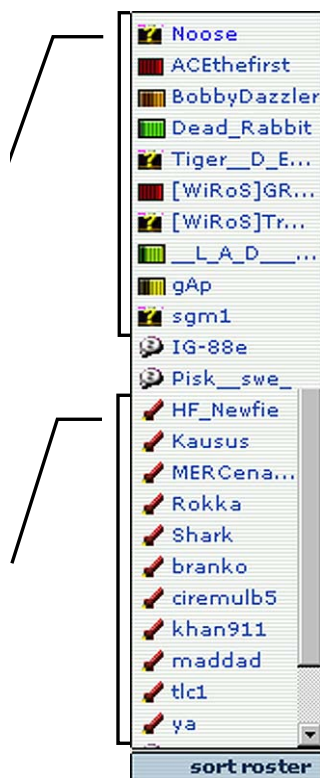
This area shows you what rooms are available (or servers in the case of server based games). When a room is **light gray** you can join at any time, **dark gray** and the game has already started (you cannot join), and **orange** means that the game has already begun but you can join at any time.

Player List

The player list shows all the players in the game. The symbols next to the player names indicate their state.

All of these players are in the lobby and available. The more green you see next to their name, the better their ping time. (The ping time is a measure of communication clarity.) Those with less green and more red mean that there will be greater delays between you and that player. Those with a question mark mean their ping time is not known.

These users are already engaged in gameplay and cannot chat with you in the lobby.



These users are away and unavailable.

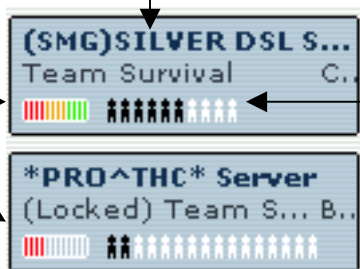
You can sort game players by a variety of criteria here.

Room List

The room list shows all the rooms available for the game. The symbols inside each room indicate their capacity, volume, and average ping time.

This gives you the average ping time for all the players involved. The more green you see, the better gameplay will be. If it's closer to red like this one, your gameplay will be choppy.

The name of the game (given by the host) is listed here, as well as the game type below it.



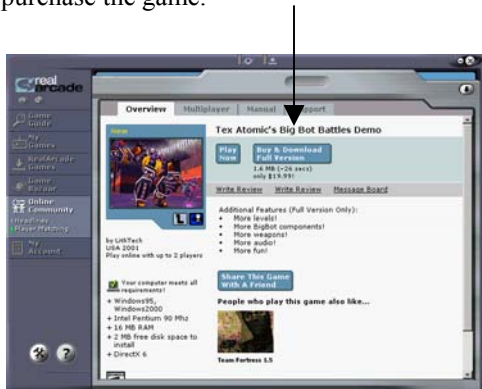
This shows you the total number of players allowed in the game. The positions in black have already been taken, and the white positions indicate the number of spaces available for play. Each position equals one player.

Click a room to join and the chat area becomes focused on only those players in the room with you. When you're ready to play, signal this by clicking **Ready Up** in the upper right hand corner. When the proper number of players has joined (or whenever the host is ready), the host will launch the game on your computer, and you're off!

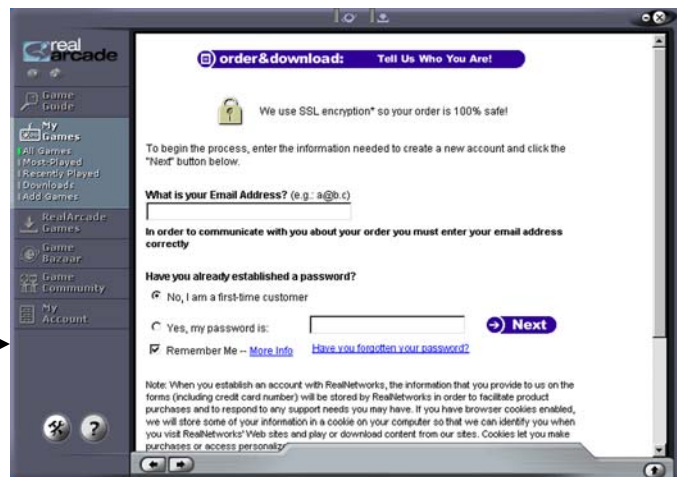
Purchase a Game

If you like, you buy! We've made it that simple. Here's how:

- 1) Click on **Buy & Download Full Version** from the **Overview Tab** of the Game Page. RealArcade will immediately take you through the secure and reliable process of getting your name and credit card number to purchase the game.



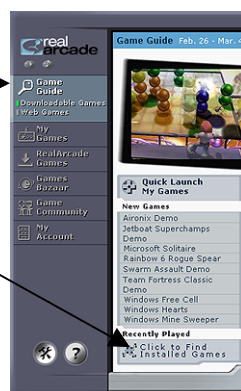
- 2) RealArcade will change hats and become an efficient, secure and private e-commerce system. This allows the user immediate access to the full version of the game, as well as the peace-of-mind that their financial information will not be shared with others.



Finding Games On Your PC

In the section entitled *Many Games, 1 Interface*, we mentioned that RealArcade allows you to play all your games from one simple console. However, if you already have games on your computer (or you've recently installed non-RealArcade games), it's important to keep RealArcade updated as to the games you have on your PC. This allows you to access them all from RealArcade. (Of course, all information about your games or other contents of your drive is kept locally and is not shared or sent to RealNetworks.) To "teach" RealArcade about installed games on your computer, you can use our **Find Games** feature.

- 1) First, **be sure you're online** to download needed game data. Then, to launch **Find Games**, go to the **Game Guide** and click this button. You may have to scroll down to see it.

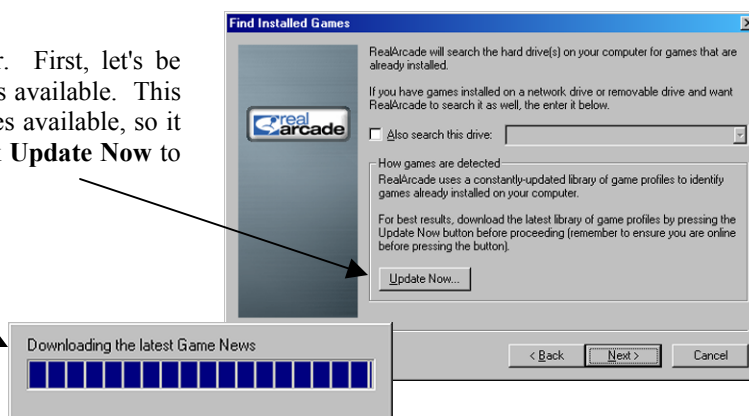


Alternatively, you can click on the **Tools Button** in the lower left hand corner of the console, and choose **Find Installed Games**.



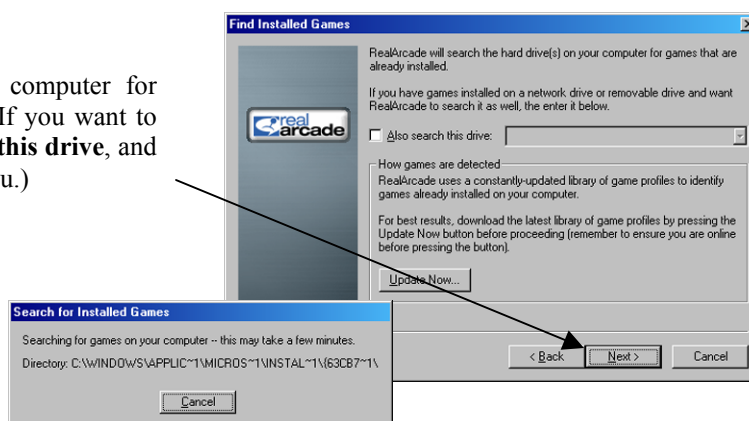
- 2) The **Find Games** window will appear. First, let's be sure that we have the latest Game News available. This gives RealArcade the latest list of games available, so it knows what games to search for. Click **Update Now** to download the latest game news.

RealArcade will download the latest Game News.



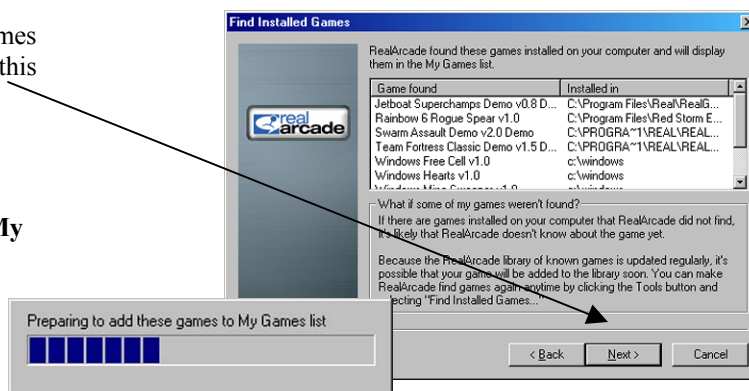
- 3) When you are ready to search your computer for games, click the **Next** button. (**Note:** If you want to search other drives, check **Also search this drive**, and specify the drive from the drop down menu.)

RealArcade will search your computer.



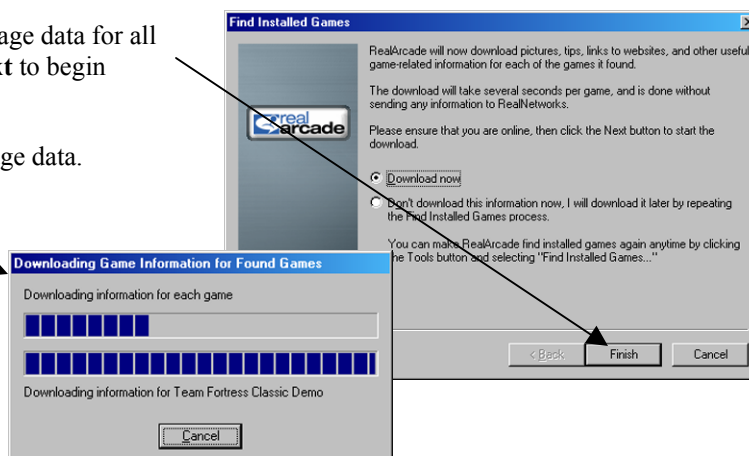
- 4) Once RealArcade has found all the games on your computer, click **Next** to add this list of games to your list in **My Games**.

RealArcade will add these games to **My Games**



- 5) Now you need to download the Game Page data for all the games on your computer. Click **Next** to begin downloading the Game Page data.

RealArcade will download the Game Page data.



Once RealArcade downloads the Game Page data, all the games and their associated data will now be added to RealArcade, and can be launched from **My Games**.

Privacy Means Privacy

Privacy should mean just that; you control who has what information about you. RealArcade respects this basic principle by keeping all information regarding games or other contents of the hard drive private and inaccessible to anyone but the user. At RealNetworks, we believe that a user's computer is his or her own, and consequently we adhere to a strict privacy policy regarding information contained on the user's hard drive. **RealArcade does not transmit any information about the contents of a user's drive to RealNetworks, nor to any third party.** If you have any questions about this, feel free to ask the RealArcade representative who originally contacted you.

Safety First

We use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption for all of our financial transactions, and we keep that information on our server so that the user does not have to continually re-enter that information over-and-over for each purchase. This not only saves the hassle of retyping credit card information repeatedly for multiple purchases, but it also ensures that the numbers pass only once over the Internet. Furthermore, the credit card information given to us is not shared with any third party. Once again, **privacy means privacy.** (Note that the self-published titles in the **Game Bazaar** are not supported by RealNetworks' Ecommerce system. RealNetworks makes no warranties or claims as to the security of outside ecommerce systems.)



We use SSL encryption* so your order is safe!

Specifications and System Requirements

Release Date:	May, 2001
Price:	Free
Program Type:	Freeware
Upgrade:	N/A
Web Site for Product Information:	http://www.realarcade.com
Operating System:	Windows 98, Windows ME , Windows 2000
Processor:	266MHz Pentium II processor (400MHz for laptops)
RAM:	32MB (64MB recommended)
Modem	28.8K (56K recommended)
Video:	4MB RAM, 16-bit color video card (3D hardware recommended)
Sound:	100% Soundblaster compatible sound card and speakers
Additional:	RealPlayer 7.0 or higher

Satisfying User Needs in Digital Games Distribution

RealArcade brings PC games to the mainstream user by offering a complete selection of the best downloadable and Web games on the Internet. RealNetworks enables the mass market by resolving the following problems:

Problem	Features	Benefit
It is difficult to find high quality downloadable games that you are guaranteed to have a good experience with.	RealArcade Games section	All downloadable games integrated into RealArcade Games section go through an extensive screening process for quality gameplay. About one game in 50 evaluated go on to become a part of RealArcade Games section. They also go through an exhaustive quality assurance process where RealNetworks works with the developer to improve both game stability as well as making it easier to learn to play and get started. When you download a game from RealArcade you can be assured that it will offer best of breed gameplay and run smoothly on your system.
It is hard to figure out what games are the most likely to appeal to you before you decide to download them.	GameGuide Video Previews User ratings and reviews	The GameGuide is updated daily with the latest game releases and the latest user reviews or runaway popular games. The user reviews and ratings system allow you to research the games and find out what others thought of each game, so you can be fully informed when you start to download a game. You can also view a streaming preview or slideshow of a game to see if it is the type of game that you'll like.
Finding a really wide selection of games developed for the PC	The Game Bazaar	The Game Bazaar section offers a community hosted selection of self-published games. Any developer can use the RealArcade game packager and automatically get listed in The Game Bazaar section.
Good downloadable games are often huge files that are near to impossible for a dial-up user to download.	Designed for digital distribution PC games	All RealArcade games are optimized to minimize file size and maximize ease of download. Many of the games were designed from the ground up for digital distribution and achieve spectacular graphics and sound, while maintaining a small download size. Every game is also run through a new RealArcade packager that will compress a game down 20% to 50% smaller than typical zip style compression schemes.
Many consumers do not know the exact configuration of their system and trying to figure out which game will work and which ones will not is often a very confusing process or they resort to trial and error.	Automatic system requirement checking	RealArcade will determine your exact operating environment based on memory, free disk space, processor speed, video card, and sound card. When you try to download a RealArcade game, it does a quick system requirements check and will inform you if the game will run well on your system or not. Based on your connection speed, it will also inform you as to how long the download will take.

Problem	Features	Benefit
Downloading and installing games from the Internet is a frustrating and complicated process. Dial-up users will encounter lost connections half way through downloading large files and have to start over again and again and novices cannot find the file they just downloaded to then install it.	Integrated download and installation manager	Once you click on a download button in RealArcade, next thing you will do is play the game, everything downloads and installs automatically. If you need to go off-line or if you lose your connection, it will pause the download then restart once you are back online at the point it left off. Once the file is downloaded, the game goes through an automatic silent install and drops the user into the game page next to the "play now" button and they are ready to start playing their game.
Knowing where games are online or even which ones you have installed on your computer system. An avid gamer probably has 5 to 10 sites for playing games online and has 20 or more games installed, many of which, he has no idea they are even there.	Auto-detection of installed games Quicklaunch menu My games section	Convenience of a one-stop center for all of your games. RealArcade will scan your hard drive (with your permission) and find all the games you have installed on your system and present them to you in your My Games area. RealArcade also gives you a convenient "quick launch" menu for your new and most recently played games. The Web games section will provide direct access to a comprehensive listing of the best providers of instant play, web games that can be played directly from within RealArcade.
Downloadable games are hard to figure out because they do not come with a hard copy manual and searching the Web for more information about a game can be overwhelming with all the various sources of information that have varying degrees of usefulness.	Game Pages	RealArcade Game Pages provide you with a convenient location for finding out everything that you want to know about a game. An integrated game's game page will have a succinct "getting started" manual, a game overview, links to the best fan sites, links to user reviews and ratings, and links to the developer's site for additional tips and tricks for playing better.
Finding games that are good enough to purchase online.	"Try before you buy" experience	RealArcade offers a complete try before you buy experience. With game overviews, user reviews, streaming video previews, and free demo versions for every game, you will be well informed of what you are getting for your money.
Purchasing online feels too insecure to use my credit card on many game developer sites that I have never heard of before.	Integrated secure ecommerce	RealArcade has built-in ecommerce using SSL encryption so your order is safe and protected. RealNetworks has securely conducted millions of purchase transactions without a problem.
No back-up copy if you get a new computer or your old one crashes.	My Account	With the "My Account" feature you can log in from any computer and redownload any game you previously purchased. RealNetworks is your permanent virtual back-up copy.
Finding users to play against is complicated and intimidating. It is also very confusing as to how to get started.	Multitplayer matching	The community section makes it easy to play multiplayer games. With simple point and click interface to chat rooms and click to join multiplayer games, playing against others has never been easier. No messing with ping times, or IP addresses.

Problem	Features	Benefit
It is hard to find people to play against because there are not enough users in the community.	Multitplyayer network	RealArcade supports the GameSpy network, the largest online multiplayer network in the world. No matter how people are connected to the network, RealArcade users can interact and join in with supported games.
Games get updated frequently.	Autoupdate	RealArcade will automatically update any integrated game with incremental new releases or patches when a user selects "check for update" from the game pages. For games that aren't fully integrated (e.g. CD ROM titles), RealArcade still provides convenient access to a patch site for many of the games where you can manually check for the latest patches and updates.

There's no comparison

RealArcade is a unique service. No other current means of accessing or playing games over the Internet exists that fully satisfies the consumer needs of the mass market.

Feature	RealArcade	Consoles(PS/2)	Java game sites	Download game sites	ShockMachine	Gamespy Arcade
Ease of use meets mass market needs	X	X	X		X	
Compelling games with great graphics and sound	X	X		X		X
Multiplayer community and matching	X		X			X
Centralized Game management	X				X	
Offline game play	X	X		X	X	
Games that apply to mainstream and adult gamers	X		X	X		
Try before you buy game model	X			X		
Access to wide range of self-publish games	X			X		

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