Transformers : Fall of Cybertron

Transformers : Fall of Cybertron is a third @-@ person shooter video game developed by High Moon Studios and published by Activision . It is the sequel to the 2010 video game Transformers : War for Cybertron , and directly follows the events of that game as the Autobots struggle to defeat their Decepticon foes in a war for their home planet of Cybertron . The game was released on August 21 , 2012 , in North America and on August 24 , 2012 , in Europe for Microsoft Windows , PlayStation 3 , and Xbox 360 .

The game tells the story of the Transformers , fictional robotic life forms , and the final days of conflict on their home planet of Cybertron . An origins subplot for the Dinobots is also told , reimagined from the Transformers : Generation 1 continuity . Other subplots also tell an adapted story for several characters . Some of the voice cast from the 1984 series The Transformers return to reprise their roles , including Peter Cullen as Autobot leader Optimus Prime and Gregg Berger as Grimlock . Other actors return to reprise their roles from Transformers : War for Cybertron .

Fall of Cybertron received generally favorable reviews from critics . The Microsoft Windows and Xbox 360 versions have an aggregate Metacritic score of 79 / 100 , while the PlayStation 3 version holds a score of 77 / 100 . Critics generally felt that the game was true to the Transformers franchise and provided good fan service , but some thought that the story pace slowed at times . Gameplay was mostly praised , but some reviewers cited the removal of War for Cybertron 's cooperative campaign as a low point . Graphics and audio also received broadly positive comments , though some reviewers noticed frame rate issues with the PlayStation 3 version . A tie in titled Transformers : Rise of the Dark Spark , which is partially set between War for Cybertron and Fall of Cybertron was released June 24 , 2014 .

Gameplay

Transformers : Fall of Cybertron , like its predecessor Transformers : War for Cybertron , is a third @-@ person shooter . Players can control each transformer in both its robot and alternate forms . Instead of a traditional health system , the game features a system similar to the Halo series of video games . The player character has both a regenerating shield and health , the latter of which can be replenished by a health pack . The weapon selection in Fall of Cybertron is expanded , with new weapons that can take on very significant upgrades , including one that allows a weapon to fire up to 75 % faster . These are purchased through Teletran 1 kiosks found throughout the game .

Every character has been given their own unique ability . For example , Jazz can fire a grappling hook to reach high or distant places , Optimus Prime can command the massive Metroplex , and the Combaticons have the ability to combine into the Decepticon Bruticus . Segments in which players control Bruticus are designed to accommodate its larger size . Scale is maintained so the character towers over enemies . The Autobot Grimlock , who transforms into a dinosaur , is controlled differently than other characters . Carrying only a sword and shield , Grimlock cannot transform at will , instead accumulating rage as he battles opponents . When he gains enough rage , Grimlock is able to transform and inflict massive damage . The online cooperative campaign play featured in the first game has been removed in favor of levels that utilize each character 's specific abilities .

The survival mode Escalation from War for Cybertron returns . In this mode players must defend against increasingly difficult waves of enemies . As gameplay progresses , new sections of the level open , which give players access to upgraded weapons and abilities . Franchise characters are used in Escalation , while players can customize one of four character classes ? Scientist , Infiltrator , Destroyer , and Titan ? in competitive multiplayer . Autobot and Decepticon Transformers can be customized with parts earned through a ranking system or purchased through the game 's marketplace . Several parts from famous Transformers can be used , such as heads , torsos , legs , and arms . Hundreds of pieces and color options are available . Players can also buy and upgrade their gear .

Synopsis

= = = Setting = = =

 Transformers : Fall of Cybertron is a direct continuation of Transformers : War for Cybertron . Giant robotic life forms known as Transformers are at civil war . Two factions , the Autobots and the Decepticons , vie for control of their home world , Cybertron . The events of the previous game have left the planet unable to sustain life , and the Autobots , desperate to ensure the continued existence of the Transformer race , seek to flee the planet . The Decepticons , still bent on domination , will stop at nothing to ensure that the Autobots either submit to the Decepticons or are eliminated . Fall of Cybertron depicts the final battle between the two robot factions , which results in the desolation of their home world , forcing the Autobots to seek refuge in our galaxy , the Milky Way . The developer , High Moon Studios , hoped to show a darker tone than the original game . Game Informer 's Matt Miller stated that the game " changes and improves upon so many of the fundamental ideas that the developer considers the game a natural successor rather than a true sequel . "

= = = Characters = = =

 ^ a Not a playable character ^ b Downloadable content , playable only in multiplayer ^ c Alternate skin available (preorder / downloadable content) ^ d Slag was renamed Slug in the game due to Slag being a derogatory term in some cultures ^ e Playable in escalation

= = = Plot = = =

 The game begins on the Ark , the spacecraft the Autobots use to flee their dying homeworld of Cybertron . On their journey , the Decepticons attack . Optimus Prime engages Megatron directly on the outer surface of the Ark . Bumblebee scrambles to his aid and finds Optimus just as Megatron is about to deliver a fatal blow . He dives in front of the shot , taking the hit for Optimus . The game then flashes back to six days earlier .
 The Autobots defend the docked Ark from Decepticon forces . Optimus realizes they have broken through Grimlock 's post after unsuccessfully trying to contact him . Optimus leaves to help Ironhide and his forces defend the Ark . Jazz and Cliffjumper are sent to investigate , and while eliminating enemy tanks , Optimus 's turret suddenly deactivates . As he leaves to repair it the room transforms around him , leading him to a brightly lit chamber where he activates the city @-@ sized Transformer Metroplex . The titan disables two Decepticon cannons but is shot point @-@ blank by a third . Starscream and the Combaticons capture Optimus soon after and bring him before Megatron . As Megatron prepares to execute Optimus , Metroplex arrives and pummels him into the ground . Having lost Megatron , Starscream claims leadership of the Decepticons and orders a retreat .
 Meanwhile , Jazz and Cliffjumper arrive at the Sea of Rust to locate Grimlock and his Lightning Strike Coalition Force . They find an enormous tower in a lake of energon firing a bright beam into Cybertron 's orbit . They find Shockwave at the scene and discover it is a Space Bridge . Shockwave escapes the ensuing confrontation , and Cliffjumper becomes trapped , leaving Jazz to fight off the incoming Insecticons . Cliffjumper overloads the tower , and he and Jazz are saved from the Tower 's explosion by Sideswipe . They report back to Optimus .
 Shortly after the Autobots salvage energon from the tower , Starscream and his Combaticons arrive to reclaim it . Onslaught , the Decepticon team 's leader , briefs them on a plan to ambush the Autobot transport carrying the energon . Combaticons Vortex , Blast Off and Brawl destroy the supports of a bridge the transport must cross . Meanwhile , Swindle engages Autobot ground forces and destroys the wheel struts underneath the transport . The transport transforms into flight mode and the Autobots engage the Decepticon team . Starscream orders the Combaticons to abort the mission , but they defy him and combine to form Bruticus , who brings the transport down ,

inadvertently losing half the energon in the crash . Starscream arrives at the crash site and arrests the Combaticons for insubordination .

Elsewhere , Soundwave assembles a newer , more powerful chassis for Megatron . He awakens , frees the Combaticons , stops Starscream 's coronation as King of the Decepticons and reclaims leadership of the Decepticons . He then leads a full @-@ scale assault on the Autobot stronghold of Iacon , where the massive Decepticon Trypticon 's remains are kept . Megatron invades the facility and takes Trypticon 's power core , the heart of a transformer . He informs Trypticon that he is not being rescued as he " failed " him , but he congratulates him for destroying Iacon City and few more Autobots . Trypticon is then transformed into the Nemesis , the Decepticon flagship .

Starscream , having been humiliated at the hands of Megatron , infiltrates Shockwave 's base , where he finds Grimlock being held prisoner . He offers Grimlock freedom in exchange for his fealty , but Grimlock escapes by throwing Starscream into the restraint controls . He reunites with his teammates Swoop , Slug , and Snarl and defeats the defending Insecticons . Grimlock learns from Shockwave that their processors were tampered with , leaving Grimlock with a speech impairment . By way of his Space Bridge , Shockwave also found a new planet inhabited by large creatures ; these were used to inspire all of their new alternate forms . Grimlock was further modified , and now cannot transform on command , but must be in a state of rage to do so . Grimlock recalls a name that Sharpshot gave them , the Dinobots , and claims it as their new team name . Grimlock then notices another Space Bridge tower that Shockwave has constructed nearby . Grimlock fights his way to Shockwave , knocking him from the tower and destroying it . The crumbling tower falls , and the portal in Cybertron 's orbit begins to decay .

Before the launch , Metroplex sacrifices himself by transferring all of his energon to the Ark . Optimus then calls for the launch of the Ark to try and escape through the portal before it closes , but Decepticons arrive in the Nemesis to stop them . Soundwave leads the first wave of troops onto the ship through giant cables and destroys the Ark 's automated defense system . Jetfire is then launched into space to disengage the cables . Bruticus launches from the Nemesis and destroys the Ark 's fuel line before being blasted off the ship into empty space by Jazz and Jetfire . Nearby , Megatron and Optimus engage in battle . Before a winner can be declared , Optimus and Megatron are pulled off of the hull of the Ark and into the portal with both ships . The portal finally closes , leaving their home planet alone and quiet .

= = Development = =

During an investor conference in November 2010 Hasbro confirmed that a sequel to the 2010 game Transformers : War for Cybertron would be developed . Transformers : Fall of Cybertron was officially announced on October 6 , 2011 , in an article posted on the gaming magazine Game Informer 's website . In the article , Game Informer noted that their November issue would contain an exclusive feature on the upcoming game and the cover would include concept art . 1UP.com 's Chris Pereira wrote that fans would be excited to hear another original Transformers game from High Moon Studios was being developed , since the game based on the film Transformers : Dark of the Moon did not meet critical expectations . Henry Gilbert of Games Radar was also pleased to see an original game being developed and said " we 're glad [...] developer High Moon Studios is back to what it does best : crafting new / old adventures for the Autobots and Decepticons " . High Moon Studios originally announced that they would not be releasing Fall of Cybertron on the Microsoft Windows platform but changed their plans . The Windows version was completed by Mercenary Technologies , while High Moon Studios handled the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 releases . The game is powered by Epic Games ' Unreal Engine 3 and utilizes the Havok physics engine .

= = = Design = = =

Some characters who previously appeared in War for Cybertron feature updated appearances and transformation schemes , or moving parts that animate regardless of player action , similar to breathing . The character Optimus Prime was redesigned for a " more warrior @-@ type feel " , with

more bulk added to his body mass . The weaponry in Fall of Cybertron was also modified and enhanced ; the designers of the game put out a call to everyone in the studio for new weapon ideas . Matt Tieger of High Moon explained that in addition to new designs , each weapon could be upgraded , continuing , " We really made a conscious choice to make every upgrade a significant improvement , so one upgrade might increase your firing speed by 75 % . We could have made the system so that there were a lot of upgrades that each improved your guns a little bit , but we wanted to make each upgrade feel like this giant thing . That way when players buy it they ? re really going to feel the difference . "

= = = Audio = = =

At E3 2012 veteran Transformers voice actors Peter Cullen and Fred Tatasciore were confirmed to reprise their respective roles of Optimus Prime and Megatron . Tatasciore also voices Ratchet and the city @-@ sized Transformer Metroplex . Gregg Berger voices Grimlock from The Transformers for the first time in twenty @-@ five years . Other cast members include : Sam Riegel as Starscream ; Keith Szarabajka as Ironhide ; Nolan North as Cliffjumper , Bruticus and Brawl ; Steven Blum as Shockwave , Swindle and Sharpshot ; Isaac C. Singleton Jr. as Soundwave ; and Troy Baker as Jazz , Jetfire , and Kickback . Jim Ward provides the voice for Perceptor , David Boat voices Vortex , Travis Willingham performs as Sideswipe , Slug and Onslaught , Jamieson Price voices Warpath , and Keith Silverstein portrays Blast @-@ Off and Rumble .
The game features Stan Bush 's song " The Touch " , originally featured in the 1986 film The Transformers : The Movie . The rerecorded 2007 version was used during promotional trailers for preorder items , while the game 's end credits utilize both it and a remixed version of the song . The remixed version , called the " Power Mix " , was based on the melancholy " Sam 's Theme " version of the song , which was created for possible inclusion in the live @-@ action film Revenge of the Fallen . The credits begin with the " Power Mix " version , and segue into the 2007 version . Bush later released the " Power Mix " on iTunes the following September .

= = Marketing and release = =

The first official cinematic trailer for the video game was shown at the 2011 Spike TV Video Game Awards on December 10 , 2011 and featured the song " The Humbling River " by Puscifer . A second cinematic trailer , dubbed " Our World " , was released in March 2012 . Gameplay was shown during the 2012 Botcon convention . On July 5 , 2012 , the UK release date for the game was brought forward one week to August 24 , 2012 . A trailer featuring an in @-@ game look at the city @-@ sized Transformer Metroplex was released with the announcement . The song featured was an Everlove cover of the Siouxsie and the Banshees song " Cities in Dust " . The launch trailer was released on August 17 , 2012 , and featured the theme " The Last Kingdom " by Alessio Nanni and Daniel Lessner . The game was released in North America on August 21 , 2012 , and Europe on August 24 .
A toy line based on the game was manufactured by Hasbro under the Transformers : Generations banner . Bruticus , a character formed by combining five Decepticons , is part of the line . Other figures include Optimus Prime , Jazz , and Shockwave . It was announced the toy line would be released August 21 , 2012 , in North America , a week earlier than originally planned .
In North America , Amazon.com and video game retailer GameStop offered preorder codes for downloadable content . GameStop offered a G1 Retro Pack that unlocks a The Transformers Generation 1 themed Optimus Prime skin , a Generation 1 inspired Megatron rifle based the character 's alternate mode , and a Shockwave Blast Cannon . Amazon offered a Generation 2 Bruticus skin . In the United Kingdom , Play.com also offered preorder codes . The codes unlocked the Dinobot Swoop for use in the competitive multiplayer .
Multiple downloadable content packs were released . The Multiplayer Havoc Pack launched on the game 's release date of August 21 , 2012 , and contains five characters for use in multiplayer : Perceptor , Ultra Magnus , Blast Off , Wheeljack , and Zeta Prime . It also unlocks the associated

customization pieces related to these characters . The Dinobots , excluding Sludge , make up the DLC Dinobot Destructor Pack , released on September 11 . The Insecticons , G1 Optimus , Megatron , Hound , and G2 Bruticus were released as DLC for single and multiplayer in the Massive Fury Pack on September 25 . Players can also purchase specific customization pieces for their multiplayer characters via microtransactions , allowing players to access content they would otherwise have to play to unlock .

= = Reception = =

 Fall of Cybertron has received generally positive reviews . The PlayStation 3 version received an aggregate score of 77 / 100 at Metacritic , while the Xbox 360 and Windows versions both hold scores of 79 / 100 . GameRankings reports similar scores ; the Xbox 360 version has an aggregate score of 81 @.@ 40 % , the PlayStation 3 a score of 76 @.@ 48 % , and the Windows version a score of 79 @.@ 17 % Jeff Gerstmann of Giant Bomb gave the game a 60 % approval , the lowest score reported .
 Alec Meer of Eurogamer praised the developer 's focus on staying true to the Transformers source material : " Fall of Cybertron is a love @-@ letter to a fictional universe created in 1984 that has ... continued to this day . " Matt Miller of Game Informer agreed , calling the narrative " tightly crafted " . G4TV 's Matt Keil lauded the story , character development and voice acting . He called the game " a cinematic shooter that stands on the strength of its design and gameplay " . GameSpot 's Kevin VanOrd stated that while the game 's levels focused on flight are enjoyable and that some levels give players a sense of power , the campaign mode was " too often more exciting to watch than to play " . Corey Cohen of Official Xbox Magazine gave high marks for the variety of characters players control during the campaign . He noted that each felt unique from the others , but thought that the game could have utilized the gargantuan transformer Metroplex more . Miller cited that the variety of playable Transformers and their unique abilities kept the game interesting , adding that the control scheme suited each unique character well .
 In a more critical review , Giant Bomb 's Jeff Gerstmann felt that the game had uneven pacing and gameplay . " The highs in Transformers : Fall of Cybertron are very high [...] but it doesn 't go far enough in that direction to stand out " he stated . Gerstmann disliked the frame rate drops during heavy action sequences . IGN 's Matt Cabral also noted this , but dismissed these moments as " occasional hiccups " . Cabral gave high marks for visual presentation , including the transformations each character used to change forms . Both Cabral and Keil criticized the lack of cooperative campaign gameplay , a feature available in the game 's predecessor , as a low point of Fall of Cybertron .
 According to the NPD Group , the game sold well during the month of its release , placing seventh in sales despite only being available during the last ten days . Fall of Cybertron sold 105 @,@ 000 copies during its North America debut according to Game Informer .

= = Sequel Tie @-@ In = =

 A video game titled Transformers : Rise of the Dark Spark was developed by Edge of Reality and published by Activision . It takes place between the events of War for Cybertron and Fall of Cybertron . It is also a crossover to the fourth live @-@ action film Transformers : Age of Extinction , and is therefore a tie @-@ in to the film . It features characters from both timelines .