

= Seventh generation of video game consoles =

In the history of video games , the seventh generation includes consoles released since late 2005 by Nintendo , Microsoft , and Sony Computer Entertainment . For home consoles , the seventh generation began on November 22 , 2005 with the release of Microsoft 's Xbox 360 and continued with the release of Sony Computer Entertainment 's PlayStation 3 on November 17 , 2006 , and Nintendo 's Wii on November 19 , 2006 . Each new console introduced a new type of breakthrough in technology . The Xbox 360 offered games rendered natively at high @-@ definition video (HD) resolutions , the PlayStation 3 offered HD movie playback via a built @-@ in 3D Blu @-@ ray Disc player , and the Wii focused on integrating controllers with movement sensors as well as joysticks . Some of the Wii controllers could be moved about to control in @-@ game actions , which enabled players to simulate real @-@ world actions during gameplay (e.g. , in the Wii sports tennis game , the user swings the controller to hit the on @-@ screen image of a tennis ball) . Video game consoles had become an important part of the global IT infrastructure . It is estimated that video game consoles represented 25 % of the world 's general @-@ purpose computational power in the year 2007 .

Joining Nintendo in the motion market , Sony Computer Entertainment released the PlayStation Move in September 2010 . The PlayStation Move features motion sensing gaming , similar to that of the Wii . Microsoft joined the scene in November 2010 , with its Kinect (previously announced under the working title " Project Natal " in June 2009) . Unlike the other two systems (PlayStation 3 and Wii) , Kinect does not use controllers of any sort and makes the users the " controller . " Having sold 8 million units in its first 60 days on the market , Kinect has claimed the Guinness World Record of being the " fastest selling consumer electronics device " . While the Xbox 360 offers wired controllers as a standalone product , all PlayStation 3 controllers can be used in wired and wireless configurations . Starting with handheld consoles , the seventh generation began on November 21 , 2004 with the North American introduction of the Nintendo DS as a " third pillar " , alongside Nintendo 's existing Game Boy Advance and GameCube consoles .

The Nintendo DS (NDS) features a touch screen and built @-@ in microphone , and supports wireless IEEE 802 @. @ 11 (Wi @-@ Fi) standards . Additionally , the revised version of the NDS , the Nintendo DSi , features two built in cameras , the ability to download games from the DSi store , and a web browser . The PlayStation Portable (PSP) released later the same year on December 12 , 2004 , followed a different pattern . It became the first handheld video game console to use an optical disc format , Universal Media Disc (UMD) , as its primary storage media . Sony also gave the PSP robust multi @-@ media capability , connectivity with the PlayStation 3 , PlayStation 2 (only on some games) , other PSPs , as well as Internet connectivity . The Nintendo DS likewise had connectivity to the internet through the Nintendo Wi @-@ Fi Connection and Nintendo DS Browser , as well as wireless connectivity to other DS systems and Wii consoles . Despite high sales numbers for both consoles , PlayStation Portable sales have consistently lagged behind those of the Nintendo DS ; nevertheless , the PlayStation Portable has the distinction of being the best @-@ selling non @-@ Nintendo handheld gaming system . Sony announced in 2014 that they had discontinued the production of the PlayStation Portable worldwide , this follows Nintendo 's announcement in 2013 that it had discontinued its original line of the Nintendo DS family devices to move onto the Nintendo 3DS line . Microsoft also announced in 2016 , that they would discontinue the Xbox 360 at the end of April that year .

The multimillion @-@ dollar pre @-@ sale success of Ouya , an Android @-@ based microconsole initially founded through crowdfunding has raised open @-@ source development and the free @-@ to @-@ play model as key issues to be addressed in later firmware updates to the seventh generation consoles , as well as by the eighth generation consoles . The microconsoles like Nvidia Shield Console , MOJO , Razer Switchblade , GamePop , GameStick , Ouya , and even more powerful PC @-@ based Steam Machine consoles are attempting to compete in the game console market ; but even though some of these are theoretically powerful on paper , they are however seldom referred to as " seventh generation " consoles .

= = Home consoles = =

= = = Wii = = =

Nintendo entered this generation with a new approach embodied by its Wii . The company planned to attract current hardcore and casual gamers , non @-@ gamers , and lapsed gamers by focusing on new gameplay experiences and new forms of interaction with games rather than cutting edge graphics and expensive technology . This approach was previously implemented in the portable market with the Nintendo DS . Nintendo expressed hope that the new control schemes it had implemented would render conventionally controlled consoles obsolete , leading to Nintendo capturing a large portion of the existing market as well .

This strategy paid off , with demand for the Wii outstripping supply throughout 2007 . Since Nintendo profited on each console right from the start unlike its competitors , it achieved very positive returns . With only a few exceptions , monthly worldwide sales for the Wii were higher than those of the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 , eroding Microsoft 's early lead and widening the gap between its market share and Sony 's . On September 12 , 2007 , it was reported by the British newspaper Financial Times that the Wii 's sales surpassed those of the Xbox 360 , which had been released one year previously , and became the market leader in worldwide home console sales for the generation .

As in previous generations , Nintendo provided strong support for its new console with popular first @-@ party franchises like Mario , The Legend of Zelda , Metroid , and Pokémon , among others . To appeal to casual and non @-@ gamers , Nintendo developed a group of core Wii games , consisting of Wii Sports , Wii Play , Wii Fit , and Wii Music , where players make use of the motion @-@ sensing abilities of the console and its peripherals to simulate real world activities . With the exception of Wii Music , the games and their sequels have all been highly successful .

Publishers such as Ubisoft , Electronic Arts , Capcom , and Majesco continued to release exclusive titles for the console , but the Wii 's strongest titles remained within its first @-@ party line @-@ up . Analysts speculated that this would change in time as the Wii 's growing popularity persuaded third @-@ party publishers to focus on it ; however , some third party developers expressed frustration at low software sales . Goichi Suda , developer of No More Heroes for the Wii , noted that " only Nintendo titles are doing well . This isn 't just because of the current situation in Japan , as this is happening outside Japan . I am very surprised about the reality about Wii , because before I was making this game , I wasn 't expecting that Wii would be a console targeted only for non @-@ gamers . I expected more games for hardcore gamers . The reality is different to what I expected . " Conversely , the PAL publisher of No More Heroes Rising Star Games were greatly impressed with the game 's sales . Goichi Suda later retracted his comment , saying his " point was that No More Heroes , unlike a lot of Nintendo Wii titles currently available is the kind of product that will attract a different kind of consumer to the hardware , i.e. gamers who are looking for a different genre to the products that have been successful on this platform thus far . "

In early 2008 , the NPD Group revealed sales data showing that , while the Wii 's life @-@ to @-@ date attach rate was low , in December 2007 , it reached 8 @. @ 11 ? higher than the attach rates for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 in that month . The Wii 's low overall attach rate could be explained by reference to its rapidly increasing installed base , as financial analysts have pointed to the Xbox 360 's high attach rates as indicative of an unhealthy lack of installed base growth , and warned that what actually benefits third @-@ party developers is " quicker adoption of hardware and a rapidly growing installed base on which to sell progressively more game units , " which tends to lower the attach rate of a product .

On September 23 , 2009 , Nintendo announced its first price drops for the console . In the United States , the price was reduced by fifty dollars , resulting in a new Manufacturer 's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) of \$ 199 @. @ 99 , effective September 27 , 2009 . For Japan , the price dropped from ¥ 25 @, @ 000 to ¥ 20 @, @ 000 , effective October 1 , 2009 . In Europe (with the exception of the United Kingdom) , the price of a Wii console dropped from ? 249 to ? 199 . On May 3 , 2010 ,

Nintendo announced that Wii consoles sold in the Americas now would include Wii Sports Resort and Wii MotionPlus , effective May 9 , 2010 . Since May 15 , 2011 , the Wii Console is US \$ 149 @. @ 99 and comes bundled with Mario Kart Wii .

= = = Xbox 360 = = =

Microsoft Xbox 360 gained an early lead in terms of market share , largely due to its established Xbox Live online gaming system , and its early launch date , which was one year before its rivals . Sales in North America and Europe have continued to be strong , even after the release of the Wii and PlayStation 3 . Like its predecessor , the Xbox 360 received a muted reception in Japan , attributed to the lack of content aimed at Japanese gamers .

This early launch did come with some trouble , as technical problems appeared in a portion of Xbox 360 units sold . The most well @-@ known problem is the " red ring of death " and Error E74 , which received (and still receives) a great deal of attention due to some users having to replace their consoles multiple times . Microsoft attempted to address this by offering a three @-@ year warranty on all affected consoles and repairing them free of charge . It also retroactively reimbursed owners of affected systems who paid for repairs . According to The Mercury News , new models of the console featuring 65 @-@ nanometer technology will address this and other issues ; the new technology is expected to reduce heat production , which will lower the risk of overheating and system failures ; although , this has never been officially confirmed by Microsoft .

As they share many cross @-@ platform games and compete for the same audience as their predecessors , frequent comparisons are made between the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 . The PS3 uses the Blu @-@ ray format , while the Xbox 360 uses a standard DVD9 . The Xbox 360 is less expensive to produce , and analysts expect that a mid @-@ revision will allow Microsoft to break @-@ even on manufacturing costs , while industry consensus is that the Xbox 360 's conventional architecture is easier to develop for .

At the end of first half of 2007 , the console stabilized at 11 @. @ 6 million units shipped as sales dropped 60 % while its rival , Wii , gained momentum and Sony announced a competitive price drop on the PlayStation 3 . Microsoft 's strategy to boost sales with the release of the highly anticipated Halo 3 in September 2007 paid off , outselling the Wii that month in North America . Microsoft 's Entertainment and Devices Division experienced a huge increase in revenue , largely driven by the release of Halo 3 , and posted a quarterly profit for the first time in two years .

The Xbox 360 's advantage over its competitors owes itself to the release of high @-@ profile games , such as additions to the Halo franchise . The 2007 Game Critics Awards honored the platform with 38 nominations and 12 wins ? more than any other platform . By March 2008 , the Xbox 360 had reached a software attach rate of 7 @. @ 5 games per console in the US ; the rate was 7 @. @ 0 in Europe , while its competitors were 3 @. @ 8 (PS3) and 3 @. @ 5 (Wii) , according to Microsoft . At the 2008 Game Developers Conference , Microsoft announced that it expected over 1 @, @ 000 games available for Xbox 360 by the end of the year . The Xbox 360 has managed to gain a simultaneous release of titles that were initially planned to be PS3 exclusives , including Devil May Cry , Ace Combat , Virtua Fighter , Grand Theft Auto IV , Final Fantasy XIII , Tekken 6 , Metal Gear Rising : Revengeance , and L.A. Noire .

In August 2007 , the first price drop was announced for all Stock Keeping Units (SKU 's) of the Xbox 360 . The Core system 's price was reduced in the United States by \$ 20 , the Premium by \$ 50 , and the Elite model by \$ 30 . Also , the HDMI port , previously exclusive to the Elite system , was added to new models of the Premium and Arcade systems ; the Core system was discontinued .

At E3 2010 , Microsoft revealed a new US \$ 299 @. @ 99 Xbox 360 SKU known officially as the Xbox 360 S and referred to as the " Slim " by various media outlets . It replaced the Elite and comes with an integrated 802.11n WLAN adapter , integrated TOSLINK port , 5 USB ports and a 250 GB HDD . It also does not require an additional power supply to make use of Microsoft Kinect motion control accessory . A US \$ 199 @. @ 99 version was released on August 3 , 2010 in the US which replaced the Arcade model . It has 4 GB and a 250 GB model of internal memory , it has a matte or

glossy finish and it comes with a headset . At E3 2013 Microsoft revealed the Xbox 360 E , the final iteration of the Xbox 360 series , to be succeeded by Xbox One . The Xbox 360 E was originally priced at US \$ 199 @. @ 99 for a 4GB model , and US \$ 299 @. @ 99 for the 250GB model . The 360 E featured a new square design with a simplified exterior akin to the Xbox One .

= = = PlayStation 3 = = =

Sony Computer Entertainment PlayStation 3 was released on November 11 , 2006 in Japan and November 17 , 2006 in the US and Canada . The system 's reliance on new technologies such as the Cell microprocessor and Blu @-@ ray format caused difficulties in manufacturing , especially the Blu @-@ ray diode , leading to shortages at launch and the delay of the PAL region launches ; however , by early December 2006 , Sony announced that all production issues had been resolved . Market analysts and Sony executives noted that the success of the PlayStation 3 and the Blu @-@ ray format were dependent on each other ; Rich Marty , VP of New Business Development at Sony Pictures Home Entertainment stated that the " PS3 is critical to the success of Blu @-@ ray , " while Phil Harrison stated that the PlayStation 3 's success would be ensured because " the growth of the Blu @-@ ray Disc movie market ... is a positive factor which will play more into the consumer psyche ... as more consumer electronics firms launch standalone disc players , as more Blu @-@ ray Disc movies become available , and as more shelf space is dedicated to the category at retail . "

Sony would provide support for its console with new titles from acclaimed first @-@ party franchises such as Gran Turismo , Team Ico , and God of War , and secured a number of highly anticipated third @-@ party exclusive titles , including Metal Gear Solid 4 : Guns of the Patriots , Yakuza 3 and Valkyria Chronicles . Titles that were originally exclusive or recognized with the platform , such as Devil May Cry , Ace Combat , Virtua Fighter , and Monster Hunter , have been released on other platforms . The previous Grand Theft Auto titles were originally timed exclusives on the PlayStation 2 , before making their release on other platforms , such as the Xbox , months later ; however , Grand Theft Auto IV , the latest installment , was released simultaneously on the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 . Announced exclusives titles for the PlayStation 3 such as Assassin 's Creed ; Bladestorm : The Hundred Years ' War , and Fatal Inertia were released on Xbox 360 as well , with the latter making its release on Xbox 360 before the PlayStation 3 version .

The Katamari series , which has long been PlayStation 2 exclusives , found one of the more recent installments , Beautiful Katamari , exclusive to Xbox 360 . These releases fueled rumors and fear that Final Fantasy XIII and Tekken 6 , two highly anticipated exclusive PlayStation 3 games at the time , would also be available for Xbox 360 , the PlayStation 3 's primary competitor and at E3 2008 , it was announced that Final Fantasy XIII would be simultaneously released on the Xbox 360 in Europe and North America ; later on October 8 , 2008 , it was announced that Tekken 6 would also be releasing on the Xbox 360 . After the multiplatform releases of these games , the fifth installment of the Metal Gear series , Metal Gear Solid : Rising , has also been announced for the Xbox 360 ; L.A. Noire , which was announced as an exclusive since the beginning of its development , has also been released for the Xbox 360 ; Dark Souls , the spiritual successor to Demon 's Souls , has also been released on Xbox 360 ; the Persona series , which has a long history of being PlayStation exclusive , found the seventh generation installment , Persona 4 Arena multiplatform ; however , Metal Gear Solid 4 , Yakuza 3 , Tekken 5 : Dark Resurrection ONLINE , and Disgaea 3 : Absence of Justice still remain PlayStation 3 exclusives . Sony has blamed lower @-@ than @-@ expected sales , loss of exclusive titles in the PlayStation 3 software library , its higher price , and stock shortages .

In July 2007 , Sony announced a drop in the price of the console by \$ 100 . This measure only applied to the 60 GB models and was exclusive to the United States and Canada , where those models are no longer in production . On October 18 , 2007 , Sony announced a US \$ 100 price drop for the 80 GB model and a new US \$ 399 40 GB model to launch on November 2 , 2007 with reduced features such as the removal of backward compatibility with PS2 games . Within weeks , Sony announced that sales of the 40 GB and 80 GB models by major retailers had increased 192 % . In November 2008 , Sony launched a \$ 499 160 GB model , and on August 18 , 2009 , Sony

announced the PS3 Slim . The PS3 slim sold 1 million in under a month . It was then announced that a 250GB slim model was to be released . It was released on September 1 (or 3 depending on country) and costs \$ 299 , £ 249 and ? 299 . In Australia the console will cost A \$ 499 , which is A \$ 200 less than the standard PS3 . In September 2009 , a \$ 299 120 GB Slim Model was released . A \$ 349 250 GB Model was later released later in 2009 . In August 2010 , the 160 GB Slim Model was released for \$ 299 . The same price for a 120 GB PS3 slim Model . In Japan , the 160GB slim model is also available in white . On September 17 , 2010 , Sony released the 320 GB Slim Model , but it only sold with the PlayStation Move for US \$ 399 @. @ 99 .

In September 2012 , Sony announced a new slimmer PS3 redesign (CECH @-@ 4000) , commonly referred to as the " Super Slim " PS3 . It was released in late 2012 it became available with either a 250 GB or 500 GB hard drive . The " Super Slim " model is currently the only model in production .

== Comparison ==

^ a Game packages not listed . Bundles , special editions and limited editions may include additional or exchanged items . ^ b There is a verity of other input devices available for all three consoles , including rhythm game controllers , microphones and third @-@ part gamepads / controllers . ^ c All consoles are capable of producing 3D images using anaglyph or frame @-@ compatible systems (side @-@ by @-@ side / SbS , top and bottom / TaB) , as these do not require any special output hardware . As such , these display modes are dependent on the software being displayed rather than the console . ^ d Facebook and Twitter apps for Xbox 360 were retired in October 2012 .

=== Sales standings ===

Worldwide figures are based on data from the manufacturers . The Canada and the United States figures are based on data from the NPD Group , the Japan figures are based on data from Famitsu / Enterbrain , and the United Kingdom figures are based on data from GfK Chart @-@ Track .

=== Discontinuations and revisions ===

The PlayStation 3 20 GB was discontinued in North America in April 2007 and effectively discontinued in Japan in early 2008 .

The PlayStation 3 60 GB was discontinued in NTSC territories by September 2007 , and replaced with the 80 GB version .

The PlayStation 3 60 GB was effectively discontinued for PAL territories in late 2007 . When the remaining stock in stores was sold , the 40 GB version served as its replacement .

Sony announced before the PS3 launch in Europe that the PlayStation 2 's Emotion Engine CPU would be removed from it for cost savings , and all backwards compatibility would be software @-@ based . This is also the same for the 80 GB model launched in the North American market in 2007 .

An HDMI out port was added to the Premium Xbox 360 in May 2007 .

The Xbox 360 Core system was discontinued and replaced by the " Arcade " version in October 2007 .

The price of the Xbox 360 Premium version was dropped to US \$ 299 in North America on July 13 , 2008 . Supplies of the existing 20 GB model were exhausted by early August and it was replaced by an identical model with a 60 GB HDD at a MSRP of US \$ 349 .

The PlayStation 3 40 GB was discontinued in all territories in early August 2008 and the new 80 GB version served as its replacement .

The Xbox 360 Arcade 256 MB internal memory SKU was discontinued in all territories in early 2009 and a new 512 MB internal memory SKU still named the Xbox 360 Arcade was released .

The PlayStation 3 Slim was introduced on August 18 , 2009 . At US \$ 299 , it is US \$ 100 cheaper than the previous model ; it is also approximately ? lighter and more energy efficient . The two

original PS3 Slim models , priced at US \$ 299 @. @ 99 and US \$ 349 @. @ 99 respectively , hold 120 / 250 GB . These were then superseded by 160 GB and 320 GB models , which are priced at US \$ 249 @. @ 99 and US \$ 299 @. @ 99 respectively .

The black Wii console was released in Japan on August 1 , 2009 and in Europe in November 2009 .

The Wii package for North America has been updated to include a copy of Wii Sports Resort as well as the required Wii MotionPlus accessory to play it , beginning May 9 , 2010 . The console is also available in black .

A special edition red Wii console was released in honor of Super Mario Bros. 25th Anniversary .

The Xbox 360 S was announced at E3 2010 by Microsoft . It is a smaller revision of the Xbox 360 hardware , which includes either a built @-@ in 250 GB hard drive or 4 GB of Flash storage , 802.11n Wi @-@ Fi , a TOSLINK connector , 5 USB ports and an AUX connector for the Kinect sensor device .

The Wii Family Edition was released on October 23 , 2011 . It drops support for GameCube games and accessories , and is designed to sit horizontally .

The Xbox 360 E was revealed and released at E3 2013 on June 10 , 2013 . It featured a new slimmer design , that was quieter than previous models .

= = = = Backward compatibility = = = =

Early models of the Wii are fully backwards compatible with GameCube software and most of its accessories ; the Wii Family Edition and the Wii Mini iterations lack GameCube support . Early versions of the PlayStation 3 and all models of the Xbox 360 only offer partial support and use software emulation for backwards compatibility . Current versions of the PS3 do not offer PlayStation 2 compatibility , though PS1 compatibility is retained . Some models of the first generation of the PS3 offered full backwards compatibility for PS2 games . The Xbox 360 's compatibility is increased through game @-@ specific patches automatically downloaded from Xbox Live or downloaded and burned to a CD or DVD from the Xbox website and the PS3 's compatibility is expanded with firmware updates .

All three consoles provide titles from older consoles for download ; the Xbox 360 through the Xbox Originals service , the PlayStation 3 through the PlayStation Store , and the Wii through the Virtual Console . When purchased , the game is saved to console 's internal memory or , optionally on the Wii , to an inserted SD / SDHC card . Initially the Xbox 360 also provided Xbox Live support for backwards compatible games , but the service has since been discontinued for original Xbox games . No more games will be added to the list of backwards compatible games for the Xbox 360 . In response to the lack of backward compatibility for most PS3s , many popular games have been released for download as PlayStation 2 Classics and other popular series have been updated with gameplay / graphics as high @-@ definition remasters for PlayStation consoles and have been released on Blu @-@ ray Disc or are available for download on the PlayStation Network .

= = = = High definition and enhanced definition video = = = =

Both the PlayStation 3 and the Xbox 360 support 1080p high definition video output . However , the output signal may be protected by digital rights management and may require an HDCP @-@ compliant display if HDMI is used . The Xbox Live Marketplace service and the PlayStation Store offer HD movies , TV shows , movie trailers , and clips for download to the console 's HDD . Other regional PlayStation Stores only allow download of movie trailers and short segment clips . As of November 2009 , the Video Download service present on the American PlayStation Store will be available for select European countries .

While only a small number of games render video in native 1080p , many games can be automatically scaled to output this resolution . The Wii is capable of outputting 480p for the Wii Menu and most games through a component cable , which must be purchased separately .

==== Reliability =====

In the September 2009 issue of Game Informer magazine , survey results were published in which among nearly 5000 readers who responded , 54 % of those who owned an Xbox 360 had experienced a console failure for that system , compared with 10 % for PlayStation 3 , and 6 % for Wii .

In August 2009 , warranty provider SquareTrade published console failure rate estimates , in which the proportion of its customers reporting a system failure in the first two years is 23 % for Xbox 360 , 10 % for PlayStation 3 , and 2 % for Wii .

== Handheld systems ==

For video game handhelds , the seventh generation began with the release of the Nintendo DS on November 21 , 2004 . This handheld was based on a design fundamentally different from the Game Boy and other handheld video game systems . The Nintendo DS offered new modes of input over previous generations such as a touch screen , the ability to connect wirelessly using IEEE 802.11b , as well as a microphone to speak to in game NPCs . On December 12 , 2004 , Sony released its first handheld , PlayStation Portable . The PlayStation Portable was marketed at launch to an above 25 year old or " core gamer " market , while the Nintendo DS proved to be popular with both core gamers and new customers .

Nokia revived its N-Gage platform in the form of a service for selected S60 devices . This new service launched on April 3 , 2008 . Other less popular handheld systems released during this generation include the Gizmondo (launched on March 19 , 2005 and discontinued in February 2006) and the GP2X (launched on November 10 , 2005 and discontinued in August 2008) . The GP2X Wiz , Pandora , and Gizmondo 2 were scheduled for release in 2009 .

Another aspect of the seventh generation was the beginning of direct competition between dedicated handheld gaming devices , and increasingly powerful PDA / cell phone devices such as the iPhone and iPod Touch , and the latter being aggressively marketed for gaming purposes . Simple games such as Tetris and Solitaire had existed for PDA devices since their introduction , but by 2009 PDAs and phones had grown sufficiently powerful to where complex graphical games could be implemented , with the advantage of distribution over wireless broadband .

Sony announced in 2014 that they had discontinued the production of the PlayStation Portable worldwide , this follows Nintendo 's announcement in 2013 that it had discontinued its original line of DS family devices to move onto the 3DS line .

==== Handheld comparison =====

Note : First year of release is the first year of the system 's worldwide availability .

== Other systems ==

There were also other consoles released during the seventh generation time period . Generally , they are either niche products or less powerful .

==== Home consoles =====

==== Handhelds =====

Released in China only

Released in South Korea only

==== Resembles =====

= = Cloud gaming / Gaming on demand services = =

= = Software = =

= = = Milestone titles = = =

Assassin 's Creed II (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Ubisoft Montreal and Ubisoft was met with widespread critical acclaim . Its success spawned two direct sequels , Assassin 's Creed : Brotherhood , and Assassin 's Creed : Revelations . It garnered Metacritic scores of 91 , 90 , and 86 respectively . The game was praised for its stronger emphasis on open @-@ world exploration and interaction , non @-@ linear gameplay and greater mission variety compared to the first Assassin 's Creed .

Batman : Arkham Asylum (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Rocksteady Studios , Eidos Interactive , and Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment has been praised for its innovation , gameplay , and compelling storyline . It won a Guinness World Record for ' Most Critically Acclaimed Superhero Game Ever ' . It broke the record in this category by achieving an average score of 91 @.@ 67 from reviews around the world . Its sequel Batman : Arkham City (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360 , Wii U) would later become even more critically acclaimed than its predecessor , becoming the highest @-@ rated game of 2011 . It received universal acclaim for its narrative , character and world designs , and Batman 's combat and navigation abilities and was the recipient of several awards including : Game of the Year , Best Action Game , Best Action Adventure Game , Best Adventure Game , and Best Original Score from different media outlets .

Bayonetta (PS3 , Xbox 360) by Platinum Games and Sega received universal critical acclaim , including perfect scores from Famitsu and Edge , and is considered to have surpassed peers in its genre .

BioShock (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Irrational Games and 2K Games is considered a major influential and artistic game of this generation with a plot that quickly created controversy with the decisions the player makes during the game ? such as making moral choices as to whether to save or kill children . BioShock 2 (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) and BioShock Infinite (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) , the franchise 's subsequent titles , have received mostly positive reviews from critics and players alike . BioShock Infinite in particular received universal acclaim upon release , with reviews singling out the game 's plot and visual aesthetics as the main standouts , becoming the highest rated first @-@ person shooter of 2013 . It was also favorably compared to the first BioShock game , with some critics even considering Infinite had surpassed it .

Call of Duty 4 : Modern Warfare (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Infinity Ward and Activision garnered universal critical acclaim and is considered among the best games in its genre . With the release of its direct sequel and every single installment up until the launch of the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One , the Call of Duty franchise quickly propelled into the fastest and best selling video game franchise of the seventh generation of video games .

Dark Souls (PS3 , Xbox 360) by From Software generated universal critical acclaim upon release . Known for its brutally challenging gameplay , critics consider Dark Souls to be one of the most influential and rewarding video games of the seventh console generation .

The Elder Scrolls V : Skyrim (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Bethesda Game Studios and Bethesda Softworks was one of the fastest selling games of all times , and one of the most critically acclaimed of this generation . The art style of the game world drew acclaim from many reviewers and it became the highest rated role @-@ playing game of 2011 .

Gears of War (PC , Xbox 360) by Epic Games and Microsoft Studios had preorder sales that were second only to Halo 2 in the studio 's history . Gears of War was also the first Xbox or Xbox 360 game to sell out and reach the top ten charts in Japan . On November 7 , 2006 ? the day that it was

released ? it became the most popular game on the Xbox Live service , overtaking Halo 2 , which had held the spot since its launch in November 2004 . By January 19 , 2007 , just ten weeks after its debut , over three million units of the game had been sold .

Grand Theft Auto IV (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Rockstar Games is a sandbox @-@ style action @-@ adventure video game developed by Rockstar North . The game received universal acclaim , and was so popular that a few Hollywood producers set precedent by beginning to browse video @-@ game release dates to check for conflicts with movie release dates , due to Grand Theft Auto IV 's potential harm to May 2 , 2008 release of Iron Man . As of January 2014 , the PS3 and Xbox 360 version has taken the fourth and seventh positions of GameRankings ' best @-@ rated games of all time , respectively . GTA IV also shattered worldwide weekly sales records of any entertainment media to date by grossing over \$ 500 million within the first week of its release .

Grand Theft Auto V (PS3 , Xbox 360) as one of the AAA titles to release initially in the seventh generation of video game consoles , it was highly anticipated preceding its release . It was acclaimed by many reviewers who praised the story , presentation and open world gameplay . It broke industry sales records by earning US \$ 800 million in the first 24 hours of its release , and \$ 1 billion within its first three days , making it the fastest selling entertainment product in history .

Guitar Hero and Rock Band (Xbox 360 , PlayStation 3 , Wii) , music game franchises which used specially designed controllers that mimicked musical instruments and allowed users to play a large selection of licensed music , were extremely popular during the seventh generation , with over twenty different title releases across various platforms . Activision 's Guitar Hero series sold more than 25 million units with over \$ 2 billion in retail revenue , while Harmonix 's Rock Band series has sold over 13 million copies ; both series were augmented with a large volume of downloadable content . However , due to saturation of the market in 2009 along with the economic recess , both series have since ceased publishing , though Harmonix has stated they will bring back Rock Band to the eighth @-@ generation when the time is right .

Halo 3 (Xbox 360) by Bungie and Microsoft Studios broke many first day records , including preorders (1 @.@ 7 million +) , and first day sales (US \$ 170 million +) , surpassing its predecessor , Halo 2 , in both of these fields . It also featured advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technology for enemies , though the player 's allies ' intelligence was less refined .

The Last of Us (PS3) by Naughty Dog and SCE scored over 50 perfect scores from gaming publications . It has been rated as the best PlayStation 3 game of 2013 on Metacritic , and has had one of the biggest launches of the year with 1 @.@ 3 million sold .

The Legend of Zelda : Skyward Sword (Wii) by Nintendo EAD and Nintendo received perfect scores from at least 30 publications and was praised for its intuitive motion @-@ based swordplay .

LittleBigPlanet (PS3) by Media Molecule and Sony Computer Entertainment (SCE) was one of the most highly anticipated games of 2008 . Upon release , it received high critical acclaim with a score of 95 / 100 on Metacritic and was the second most highly rated game of that year (behind Grand Theft Auto IV) . It was praised by G4 as a game that " not only lives up to the hype but exceeds it so many ways " and IGN called it " nothing short of astounding " . Its sequel , LittleBigPlanet 2 was released in 2011 to similar acclaim and is considered an improvement over its predecessor in almost every aspect .

Mario Kart Wii (Wii) by Nintendo EAD and Nintendo received highly positive reviews which commended the wide array of characters , tracks , karts , and distinctive online gameplay . Overall , it is the second best @-@ selling game for Wii at 35 @.@ 53 million copies sold , after Wii Sports as of March 31 , 2014 . Mario Kart Wii is also the best @-@ selling racing game of all time .

Metal Gear Solid 4 : Guns of the Patriots (PS3) by Kojima Productions and Konami received widespread critical acclaim upon release , receiving a perfect 10 from IGN , GameSpot and numerous other game reviewers . It also got a 94 % from Metacritic . The game was a financial driving force for Konami , reaching 5 million units sold in the financial year of 2009 . It is often considered one of the best games of the generation by critics and players alike .

Portal and Portal 2 (PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Valve Corporation were critically acclaimed and have sold millions of copies . Both games are often cited as some of the most influential games of the decade for rejuvenating the " first person puzzle " genre and have been selected , along with a few

other titles , to be put in the Museum of Modern Art as an example of a work of art in video games .

Red Dead Redemption (PS3 , Xbox 360) by Rockstar is one of the most critically acclaimed games of 2010 . It won numerous Game of the Year Awards and received a 95 / 100 on the review aggregate site Metacritic .

Street Fighter IV (Arcade , PC , PS3 , Xbox 360) by Dimps and Capcom garnered universal critical acclaim and is considered perhaps the finest 2D fighter ever made .

Super Mario Galaxy (Wii) by Nintendo Entertainment Analysis and Development (Nintendo EAD) and Nintendo sold more copies in its first week , including over 500 @, @ 000 in the US , than any other Mario title in the history of the franchise . As of November 2012 , Galaxy and its sequel , Super Mario Galaxy 2 , are the first and third highest rated games of all time respectively , as listed on GameRankings , along with being the recipients of many game of the year awards .

Super Smash Bros. Brawl (Wii) by Sora Ltd. and Nintendo is the first in the series to have third @-@ party characters , with the inclusion of Solid Snake and Sonic the Hedgehog . It dominated sales during its first week in Japan and the United States , selling 820 @, @ 000 in Japan and becoming the fastest @-@ selling video game in Nintendo of America 's history with 1 @. @ 4 million sold in the US . The game was critically acclaimed , receiving 93 % on Metacritic .

Uncharted 2 : Among Thieves (PS3) by Naughty Dog and SCE was the most positively reviewed game of 2009 and is one of the most critically acclaimed games of the generation . It received universal critical acclaim with a Metacritic score of 96 out of 100 , a GameRankings score of 96 @. @ 38 % . At E3 2009 , Uncharted 2 won the most E3 awards of any game . Critics praised almost every aspect of the game ranging from high quality music and sound to graphics .

Wii Sports (Wii) by Nintendo EAD and Nintendo has been attributed as a major factor in the Wii 's worldwide success . The game , along with Wii Fit , has been cited as attracting a more broad mainstream audience . This is a rarity among seventh generation games , as developers tend to try to attract young men . It has also been cited as one game that can provide a bonding experience among family members , and as a means of exercising and losing weight when played regularly . As of March 31 , 2014 , the game has sold 82 @. @ 54 million copies worldwide ? including bundled copies , making it the best @-@ selling Wii game and the best @-@ selling video game of all time .