

## = Saints Row IV =

Saints Row IV is an open world action @-@ adventure video game in the Saints Row series developed by Volition and published by Deep Silver . The player @-@ character is the leader of the 3rd Street Saints , a street gang that has become the world 's most powerful and popular organization , and must fend off an alien invasion after becoming President of the United States and receiving superpowers . The player is free to explore their environment while completing main and side missions at their leisure . The game incorporates elements from science fiction video games and films , and continues the series ' reputation for over @-@ the @-@ top parody . It was released on August 20 , 2013 , for Microsoft Windows , PlayStation 3 , and Xbox 360 , and was later ported to PlayStation 4 , Xbox One , and Linux in 2015 .

The game was Volition 's first after its sale to Koch Media in early 2013 . The supernatural and superpower concept for the game started in Enter the Dominatrix , a cancelled expansion planned for Saints Row : The Third , which the team expanded into Saints Row IV . Volition later released a " director 's cut " of Enter the Dominatrix as downloadable content for Saints Row IV alongside How the Saints Saved Christmas , other weapons , costumes , and vehicle packs , and a standalone expansion , Saints Row : Gat out of Hell ( which serves as the epilogue to the story ) . Saints Row IV received several limited and summative edition releases , and was briefly banned in Australia .

Reviewers praised Saints Row IV 's humor and character customization options , but criticized its lack of challenge . It sold over one million copies in its first week , though cumulative sales figures have not been released .

## = = Gameplay = =

Similar to previous Saints Row series games , Saints Row IV is an open world action game with third @-@ person shooter elements wherein the player is free to explore the environment and , at their leisure , play story or side missions . As the leader of the Saints , a street gang that has become the world 's most " powerful and popular " organization , the player is elected President of the United States , receives superpowers , and fends off an alien invasion . Most often the player will engage in shooting and racing activities , though other activities vary from fighting crowds of zombies , shoot @-@ outs in tanks , side @-@ scrolling brawlers , fights against supersized , daikaiju energy drink cans , and using a dubstep gun to interrupt 1950s Americana . The player @-@ character receives elemental powers and superpowers that greatly increase their jump height and running speed , such that the player can hop over buildings and outrun vehicles . The elemental powers include abilities to shoot fire and ice projectiles , telekinetically toss things , and create shockwaves upon landing jumps . As the player progresses through the game , they can optionally upgrade their abilities and weapons skill tree by using collectible " data clusters " scattered around town . If the player becomes too rowdy , the alien race 's police analogue will intervene . As in previous games , the player @-@ character 's look and feel is entirely customizable via a robust character editor feature .

The game is set in a nearly identical simulation of Steelport , the fictional city setting from Saints Row : The Third , though individual story missions have new , custom @-@ designed levels . Saints Row IV 's story parodies science fiction video games , especially Mass Effect 2 , as well as films like The Matrix and Zero Dark Thirty , and other " nerd culture " . Some story missions are propelled by individual characters ' existential crises , as each Saint character is stuck in a personal simulation of their own hell , and must be rescued by the player . Other elements borrowed from video game culture include BioWare @-@ style character romances games and a Metal Gear @-@ style mission with an unhelpful partner .

City districts are " liberated " from alien occupation as the player completes side missions in occupied districts . Liberated districts increase the player 's hourly income , which can be spent on weapons , skills , and perks . Side missions include Insurance Fraud ( where the player jumps into traffic to collect insurance money ) , demolition derby @-@ style Mayhem , and superpowered foot races . Saints Row IV has a two @-@ player cooperative mode .

= = Synopsis = =

= = = Plot = = =

Shortly after the events of Saints Row : The Third , The Boss , Shaundi and Pierce Washington are called upon to assist MI @-@ 6 agent Asha Odekar and her contact , reformed former Deckers leader Matt Miller , in infiltrating a Middle Eastern compound to assassinate former STAG leader Cyrus Temple and prevent a nuclear missile strike against Washington D.C. The Boss kills Cyrus , but is unable to stop him from launching the missile . Climbing aboard it , the Boss disarms the nuke before it reaches Washington , earning the adoration of America .

Five years later , The Boss has been elected President of the United States , with the other members of the Saints , Keith David and former Vice Kings leader Benjamin King acting as cabinet . While preparing for a press conference , the Boss is told that Asha and Matt have arrived at the White House to warn them of what they suspect is an impending alien invasion . Just as the Boss is informed , the invasion begins , spearheaded by the alien warlord Zinyak , who captures the Boss and all of the cabinet members .

The Boss wakes up in a 1950s sitcom set in the city of Steelport , devoid of violence and foul language . The Saints ' computer hacking specialist , Kinzie Kensington , contacts the Boss and informs them that they are trapped inside a simulation , with each of the Zin 's prisoners trapped inside personal simulations of their own fears in order to break their will . With Kinzie 's help , the Boss breaks free of the simulation and joins Kinzie and Keith in a stolen Zin ship .

While the trio attempt to contact reinforcements from Earth , Zinyak atomizes the planet , killing everyone not already captured by the Zin . Determined to get revenge for Earth , the Boss returns to the Steelport simulation to find their friends and reach Zinyak . After rescuing another prisoner of Zinyak , an artificial intelligence later named CID , and providing him with a physical body , the Boss , with his help , goes into the other Saint 's simulations and rescues them from their nightmares .

As the simulation begins to weaken under the Saints ' influence , Zinyak floods virtual Steelport with copies of gang members the Boss has faced in the past . Kinzie determines that the copies are being made from someone 's memory , leading the Boss to conclude Johnny Gat is still alive and trapped within the simulation . Despite protests from Kinzie and Matt that rescuing Johnny will reveal their location to Zinyak , the Boss rescues Johnny from his nightmare of Aisha 's death and gets him back to the ship . Johnny explains that during the fight in which he was presumed killed , he was actually abducted by Zinyak years in advance of their invasion , as Zinyak had concluded that Johnny could have single @-@ handedly stopped him if left on Earth .

The Saints rally inside the simulation in order to confront Zinyak , but are ambushed by an enormous Zin force . They escape , but Kinzie is captured by Zinyak and the Boss emerges from the simulation to find that Keith betrayed the Saints and fled . Returning to Steelport , the Boss finds Keith has been declared president of the simulation . When confronted , Keith claims that Zinyak has the means to restore Earth , and has agreed to do so in exchange for the Boss ' life . However , Keith is ultimately unable to bring himself to kill the Boss , and rejoins the Saints . The Boss , determined to find Kinzie , pursues Keith into his nightmare , and with help from Roddy Piper , beats Keith up until he barely manages to tell them where Kinzie has been taken to .

After the Boss rescues Kinzie from her nightmare , she devises a plan to crash the simulation , which will force the Zin to draw power from their ship to keep it running , thus weakening the ship itself and creating an opening for the Saints to enter . Working together , the remaining Saints manage to overload the simulation , shutting it down just as the Boss escapes . Assaulting Zinyak 's ship , the Boss finds power armor emulating the powers they had in the simulation , and confronts Zinyak in his throne room . While the entire Zin Empire watches , Zinyak and the Boss battle each other . With help from the Saints , the Boss kills Zinyak by tearing his head off and emerges victorious . Impressed , the Zin forces surrender to the Boss , who becomes the new head of the Zin Empire .

The Boss asks Zinjai , Zinyak 's main servant , for technology to bring Earth back . Zinjai says they cannot restore Earth , but can use time @-@ travel technology to return to Earth , explaining that Zinyak had used this technology to collect his favorite historical figures , keeping them in suspended animation . The Boss looks at the Saints and says , " Let 's go on a field trip . " In a post @-@ credits scene , the nineteenth century writer Jane Austen , whom the Boss is a fan of , is woken out of her stasis , revealing that she had been the narrator throughout the game .

If all of the loyalty missions have not been completed , an alternate ending out plays out , which sees the Saints make plans to take over more planets , unaware of their ability to use the technology .

#### = = = Characters = = =

A number of characters from earlier games in the franchise - both members of the Third Street Saints and former adversaries - make a return in Saints Row IV , many of whom take up the protagonist 's Presidential administration . Kinzie Kensington , the socially awkward FBI hacker from Saints Row : The Third becomes the White House 's press secretary , often tasked with clearing up the mess left behind by the President 's verbal missteps . Benjamin King , former leader of the Vice Kings gang from the original Saints Row , becomes the President 's Chief of Staff , while Pierce Washington has been appointed the Communications Director and Shaundi as the Director of the Secret Service .

Matt Miller , having abandoned the Deckers and , according to news broadcasts in Saints Row : The Third , announced an abstinence from the use of technology , presumably returned to the United Kingdom and became employed by MI @-@ 6 alongside new character Asha Odekar . Johnny Gat also returns after being thought dead in Saints Row : The Third . Stilwater , the location of the first two games , makes an appearance for one mission with most of the street gangs from the first three games making appearances as well .

#### = = Development = =

Saints Row : The Third Enter the Dominatrix was first announced as a 2012 April Fool 's joke , but went into development . The expansion pack 's basic concept included a superpowered player @-@ character trapped by alien commander Zinyak in a simulation of Steelport . THQ president Jason Rubin encouraged company subsidiary and Saints Row series developer Volition to grow elements from the expansion into a full game . The company announced this change in direction in June 2012 , and postponed Enter the Dominatrix into downloadable content for the full sequel , Saints Row IV . The company 's strategy was partly to avoid sales issues by releasing the game in August 2013 , prior to the circulation of rumors about next generation video game consoles . Volition was sold to Koch Media in early 2013 when its parent company , THQ , filed for bankruptcy . It became Koch 's first internal video game studio . The studio officially announced Saints Row IV two months later , which was published by Koch Media brand Deep Silver . Acquired without rights to their Red Faction series , Volition 's new goals were to make connected , open world games where " the player is an agent of mayhem " . The entire company worked on the one game .

Each of the Saints Row series games had a core intent , and while the first three games built on the first 's " outlandishness and irreverence " , the fourth focused on " the supernatural and superpowers " . Senior producer Jim Boone recalled reviewers that asked whether the company could be " more over @-@ the @-@ top " than Saints Row : The Third , which they took as a challenge . The team focused more on making the game " fun " than " for the sake of being over the top " , and felt that superpowers helped the game 's basic navigation and combat . They also chose to remove the previous game 's in @-@ game mobile phone @-@ based navigation , which hindered its narration , and replaced it with a " quest log structure " . The team chose not to devote as much time improving the game 's graphics , considering the impending release of next generation platforms . The game spent less time in development than prior series games .

In August 2014 , Volition announced that they would be releasing a development kit for the

Windows version of the game , which lets players modify game assets and create new weapons .

The in @-@ game radio has seven pre @-@ programmed radio stations and 109 licensed tracks . The game 's original soundtrack is composed by Malcolm Kirby Jr . , who also composed the previous game 's soundtrack .

= = = Release and downloadable content = = =

Saints Row IV was released for Microsoft Windows , PlayStation 3 , and Xbox 360 in North America on August 20 , 2013 , and worldwide on three days later . Preorders included a patriot @-@ themed downloadable content pack that included flamethrower , dubstep , and rocket launcher weapons , a bald eagle jet , and an Uncle Sam outfit . A limited edition release of the game included a replica of the game 's dubstep gun , a doomsday button , and Johnny Gat statuette . Another limited edition release , the Game of the Generation Edition , included the previous items as well as a display case for the game . The game was originally refused ratings classification and effectively banned in Australia , but was later accepted when modified to remove an optional mission that involved an anal probe weapon and incentivized drug use . The country 's PlayStation 4 release was later recalled due to a classification error .

The game received multiple downloadable content packs . A Season Pass , which features two new mission packs and the aforementioned anal probe weapon , was announced prior to the game 's release . The first mission pack , Enter the Dominatrix , was released October 22 , 2013 . The pack was originally intended as a mission pack for Saints Row : The Third but evolved into the full sequel , Saints Row IV . The leftover content became the sequel 's first mission pack . It tells an alternative story about the Zin invasion wherein the Steelport simulation is hijacked by a rogue artificial intelligence called the Dominatrix . The pack 's storytelling frequently breaks the fourth wall and self @-@ referentially acknowledges its own plot holes and incongruence with the larger Saints Row story . Some scenes end in concept art or videos of Volition employees acting out the drama so as to give the game an unfinished feel . The pack also casts characters from Saints Row : The Third who did not return in the sequel . There are five missions in total , new weapons , vehicles , and computer @-@ controlled support characters ( " homies " ) . The second and final mission pack , How the Saints Save Christmas , features new weapons and vehicles and a plot to save Santa Claus from the Steelport simulation . It was released in December 2013 . Non @-@ mission downloadable content packs include new costumes , vehicles , and weapons , e.g. , face masks of United States Presidents George Washington , Abraham Lincoln , George W. Bush , and Barack Obama .

Saints Row IV was released in several summative editions . The Game of the Century edition included 20 downloadable content sets and was released May 9 , 2014 . The National Treasure Edition included 29 downloadable content sets and was released on July 8 , 2014 . High Voltage Software ported the game to PlayStation 4 and Xbox One with all of its downloadable content as Saints Row IV : Re @-@ Elected . It was announced in late August 2014 alongside Saints Row : Gat Out of Hell , a standalone Saints Row IV expansion developed by Volition in conjunction with High Voltage . Both were released in North America on January 20 , 2015 , and worldwide three days later , both separately and bundled together . The release included new features such as voice commands . A Linux port was presented in December 2015 .

= = Reception = =

The game received " generally positive " reviews , according to video game review aggregator Metacritic . Reviewers praised its over @-@ the @-@ top humor and character customization options , and criticized its lack of challenge . Several also commented on its " even @-@ handed treatment " of gender , particularly female characters , and spotlighted hacker and former FBI agent Kinzie Kensington 's character performance . Saints Row IV sold over one million copies in its first week , and as of 2013 , Volition has not released total sales figures .

Polygon 's Danielle Riendeau described Saints Row IV as " big , goofy , and self @-@ referential

fun " and thought that the game accomplished what it set out to be : " an outrageous exercise in player power fantasy " . She also praised the game 's degree of freedom around character identity , its " dumb and lovable " narrative , and its transitions between varied sequences . Riendeau wrote that Volition " trimmed the fat " from previous games , and that their addition of superpowers " blew the constraints off a genre already known for player freedom " . She considered the story funny and " as obvious as can be " , but found its characters " well @-@ realized " . Riendeau particularly praised the game 's " treatment of gender " ? bold female characters who could pursue same @-@ sex relationships or even switch their gender mid @-@ game , and were not treated differently for being female ? but found the game 's continued association between women and sex workers " problematic " and a " vestige from the series ' roots as a juvenile crime drama " .

Reflecting on the series ' progression , Eurogamer 's Chris Schilling said that Saints Row IV successfully reinvented the series yet again , with superpowers replacing the usefulness of in @-@ game vehicles . He compared the game 's exploration mechanics to that of Crackdown , and its superpowers to the Infamous and Prototype series , and added that the game 's silliness fulfilled a specific niche in gaming . Schilling wrote that the need to restock at ammo shops was a " jarring holdover " from the previous games , but appreciated the recurrence of elements such as the GPS navigation system , side mission gameplay , and city district liberation . He regarded the game overall as artful but " gloriously dumb " , like " the Sistine Chapel ceiling of stupidity " . Schilling also commented on how he felt an urge to simply forgo the story to search for collectibles , though despite these options , the game became " wearying " over long play sessions .

Similarly , Dan Stapleton of IGN became bored when his superhero protagonist had little " to overcome " , and ultimately likened the game to " enabling god @-@ like cheat codes " in its predecessor . He wrote that it was very difficult to die , given the large amount of power @-@ ups dropped by enemies , and that the otherwise praiseworthy features from Saints Row : The Third felt " vestigial " when outmoded by superpowers . Stapleton said the player received the powers too early , which let the player play without caring about the city , and thus removed the " sense of place and character it had in the previous game " . He considered the game 's large number of collectibles an acknowledgement of this hole , which while originally rewarding , quickly becomes a " chore " . Stapleton praised the Red Faction @-@ style Disintegrator and Abductor guns , though considered the dubstep gun an " ineffective disappointment " . As a symbol , though , Polygon described the dubstep gun as " iconic " of Saints Row IV .