Unreal

The long-awaited 'Quake-quasher'. It's scaaaary!

Probably the most anticipated game of the year, and touted as the "Quake II killer", Unreal delivers the goods with its majestic environments, unrivalled artificial intelligence and a powerful, eerie soundtrack. You begin as a prisoner trying to escape from a ship that has crashed on an alien planet ruled by the evil Skaarj who have enslaved the more docile Nalis. Your job is to exterminate the former, using any means available.

The difference between Quake and Unreal is evident from the start. The player starts off without a weapon and it takes a good half an hour of gameplay before you get one — time to tremble at the thought of an impending attack!
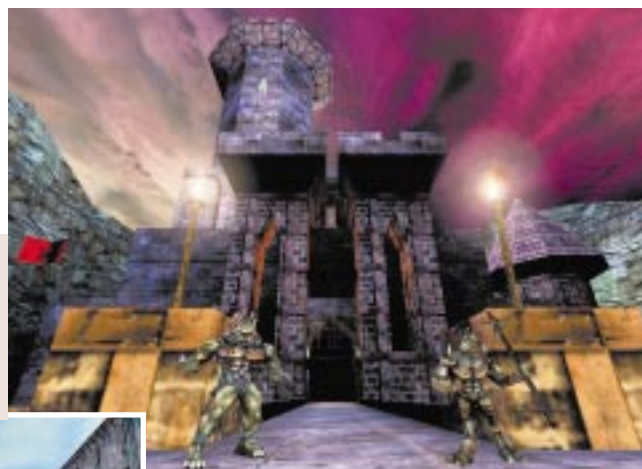
Unreal is able to depict both indoor and outdoor environments with aplomb. And it endows your enemies with

▶ EVEN THE OPENING SCENE IS FORBIDDING
▼ WATCH OUT FOR THE SCARY SKARJ WARRIORS — GET THEM BEFORE THEY GET YOU!

artificial intelligence that is strangely human: the creatures don't just charge blindly, but often hide behind pillars and wait for you to come to them.

You may need a good graphics card

to achieve Unreal's full glory, but this will be one of the scariest games you'll ever play.

AJITH RAM

PCW DETAILS
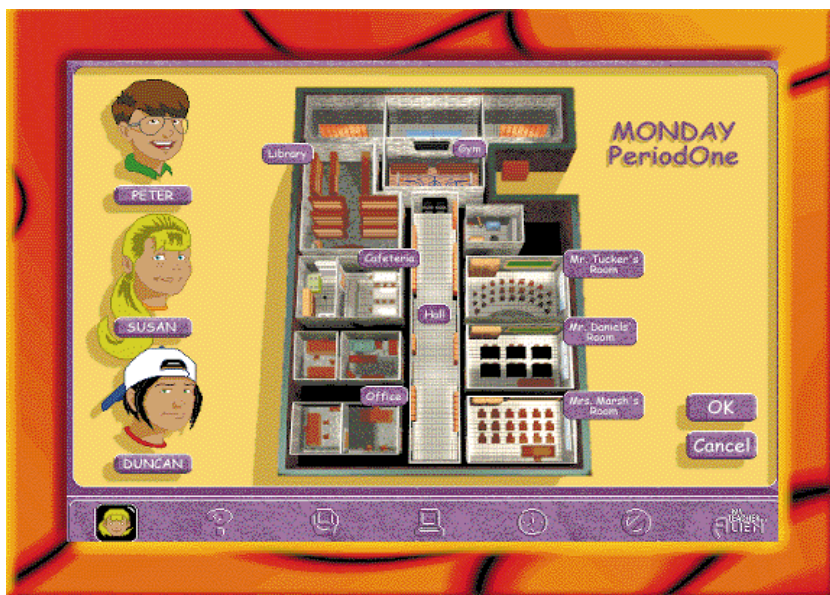
★★★★★

Price £34.99
Contact Epic 01202 521011
www.unreal.com
System Requirements P200, 16Mb RAM, Direct X compatible, 4X CD-ROM.

PCW RECOMMENDED

My Teacher is an Alien

Goodbye, Mr Chips! An alien has taken your place.

▲ PICK YOUR CHARACTER, CHOOSE A ROOM

Aliens have landed and only you can deal with them! Playing on the success of the book series, this game

sends you back to school as one of three teenage characters. After finding a strange communication device in one of

the school corridors, you know something is up. Martians have infiltrated the classrooms and it's your job to uncover the impostor — the finger points directly at your teacher!

Select your character and follow their timetable, from class to class. By clicking on the sentence options on-screen, you can talk to your friends and teachers. Listen carefully to what they say, for there is one vital clue that might give the game away. Watch out, though, because there are the school bullies. If they catch you on your own you'll find yourself trying to dodge a vicious flurry of stink bombs.

With its easy-to-use mouse-driven interface and fabulous cartoon graphics, this game cannot fail to appeal to younger gamers.

NIK RAWLINSON

PCW DETAILS

★★★★★

Price £24.99
Contact Ablac 01626 332233
www.ablac.co.uk/ablac.htm
System Requirements Windows 95, Pentium 75MHz processor, 16Mb RAM, 30Mb free hard-drive space, SVGA graphics (256 colours at 640 x 480 resolution), 4X CD-ROM drive, DirectX-compatible sound card, mouse.

PCW RECOMMENDED

Xenocracy: The Ultimate Solar War

Command your elite squadron and maintain the balance of power in space.

The year is 10,600 of the Common Era. Mankind has colonised space, founding a solar dominion. Its new-found wealth has only been made possible by the existence of a liquonide mineral called Lycosite, and tension has mounted between nations due to the desire for this mineral.

In this game of space combat you play the Wing Toucher, commander of an elite squadron of United Planet Nations warships. Your squadron is in charge of maintaining the status quo between Earth, Venus, Mars and Mercury, the solar system's four superpowers.

The gamer has three options of play: arcade, simulation or internet. The first provides you with a fast shoot-'em-up fix and I guarantee that you'll come back for more. In simulation mode you can plan your strategy, refine your ship and select your own wingman and weapons officer. When you begin to play in this mode you will soon realise that this game is far better than a simple space blaster.

With missions created randomly over more than 70 different locations, plus out-of-this-world ships and weapons from which to choose, this game is in the line-up for the best of 1998.

ETELKA CLARK

▲ **REFINE YOUR SHIP AND CHOOSE YOUR WINGMAN**
◀ **THE ARCADE OPTION PROVIDES A SHOOT-'EM-UP FIX**

PCW DETAILS

★★★★

Price *£39.99*
Contact Grolier Interactive
01865 264800
System Requirements *Windows 95, 133MHz Pentium processor, 16Mb RAM (32Mb recommended), 10Mb free hard-drive space, SVGA card.*

Might & Magic VI

Find King Roland and restore him to power.

◀ **YOU AND YOUR TEAM NEED ARMOUR AND WEAPONS TO FIGHT GOBLINS AND ZOMBIES**

Might & Magic VI is a single-player game in which the good King Roland has won the war against his brother Archibald, but something has gone horribly wrong. King Roland is missing and a demonic cult is trying to take over the kingdom. Has King Roland lost the divine right to rule? You are plunged into the middle of this chaos, and with the help of powers given by a mysterious sorcerer you set out to find the king. The game enthralls you as you search for clues and fight a myriad of monsters. You start with a basic set of magic spells that increase as the game progresses. You can choose the skills of the friends helping you, but choose carefully: it could determine whether you live or die.

The game has faults, though. It is not 3D accelerated and there is too much emphasis on fighting rather than mystery-solving. Also, the monsters' become tedious as they walk into walls and generally act stupid. However, the graphics are great and the gameplay is gripping.

AJITH RAM

PCW DETAILS

★★★★

Price *£39.99*
Contact *Ubisoft 0181 944 9000*
www.ubisoft.com
System Requirements *P133, 16Mb RAM, DirectX-compatible, 4X CD-ROM.*

Gex3D: Enter the Gecko

Off his sofa and off-the-wall, the super-hero lizard returns.

In this game you play a wisecracking super-hero gecko whose days of saving the planet are over. Now, he can only find solace in cuddling up to his faithful TV with an armful of doughnuts. One day, his arch-nemesis, Rez, threatens to take over the country's TV broadcasting, forcing Gex to reluctantly leave his sofa and become a super-hero once more. This old platform format has received a major overhaul, with vast 3D landscapes incorporating cartoon and film images for Gex to bounce around in. The stunning graphics and use of exaggerated colour enhance the atmosphere of escapism. In one of the "toon" scenarios you hop around collecting carrots and feel inclined to jump down a rabbit hole. Reappearing in a bunny-suit at the other end you find Elma Fudd lookalikes

▲ Heyyy... far-out graphics, man

◄ Ultimate escapism

hunting down the "wabbit" with their blunderbusses. With over 125 possible moves, you get a real feel for pulling Gex's strings. A little skill is required and the game's difficulty is well weighted so you can get in some early practice. Actor Leslie Phillips gives the sharp-toothed Gex his one-liners. Although some of the quips are corny, when you eventually hear Phillips' familiar "Weeell, heelllooooo!", all is redeemed.

IAN ROBSON

PCW DETAILS

PCW RECOMMENDED

★★★★
Price £29.99
Contact 0181 944 9000
www.ubisoft.com
System Requirements Pentium 166, 32Mb RAM, 3Dfx graphics accelerator, 4X CD-ROM drive.

Commandos: Behind Enemy Lines

Become a conquering commando and bash the bosch in WWII.

Great fun, a visual feast! Making use of original newsreel footage, the events leading up to the Axis powers' real-life domination of Europe in WWII are outlined, providing the background to this engrossing game. Your first mission takes place in the snowy wastes of Scandinavia shortly after the exile of the Norwegian royal family. The Nazis have the power to attack any point in the North Sea and it's your job to ensure that they never reach Britain.

As a commando you are the best of the best, but you'll still receive extensive training. Each soldier in the platoon will

▲ Multiple views give a greater feeling of authenticity to the game

have different skills and you will be instructed in the use of each weapon and various methods of manoeuvring.

With realistic sound putting you at the heart of the action, and an entirely mouse-based interface, you'll be fighting alongside the nation's best within minutes. Commandos may not require the skills of a "Street Fighter" combat expert, but this game's engrossing storyline and challenging puzzles ensure that every mission you play will be different. You'll be enjoying it for months to come.

NIK RAWLINSON

PCW DETAILS

★★★★★
Price £49.99
Contact Eidos 0181 636 3000
www.eidosinteractive.com
System Requirements Windows 95, Pentium 90MHz processor, 8Mb RAM, 60Mb free hard-drive space.