

Re: Do ATI cards really stink?

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In regards to the OP:

I'm currently using an ATI Radeon 9800 SE. This is my first ATI card and it will probably be my last, and that has less to do with their Linux drivers and more to do with their shitty customer service. My card included the full version of Hitman 2, a 2 CD game. Unfortunately they only gave me one CD and when I attempted to install it asked for the second disc which was not included. The card also supports dual monitors which I plan to enable for some graphics and video work, and possibly gaming, but you need a DVI-to-VGA adapter to use the second port. Again, such an adapter was supposed to be included, but they forgot to put it in the box.

Of all of the included documentation the only support information was a website URI. No phone numbers were included. If I pay several hundred dollars for a piece of hardware getting phone support out of the box is a reasonable expectation, especially since accessing a website is difficult if the video card is non-functional. If I can get free phone support for my hard drives, cheap-ass Belkin router, DVD drive and DVD burner, motherboard, etc. all of which are cheaper than my video card, I should be able to talk to a human being if my video card isn't working.

Under Linux I am able to play Linux native games almost trouble free, the only problem I have is with UT2004. If the textures are set to a high resolution, the game freaks out and it looks as if all polygons in the entire map are being sucked into a vortex. In Windows, I have the same problem, except large sections of the map flicker in and out of existence instead of the polygon vortex.

I play many games under wine/cedega and most games that are supposed to work using those apps work under my ATI card, the only exceptions are Battlefield: Vietnam and Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic.

In regards to PC games vs. console games:

Games are like movies, books, or any other media. Everyone has their own tastes. I've been playing PC games for about ten years. The last console I owned was a Super Nintendo (I still own it and my brother and I play through Super Metroid about once a year, decreasing our game completion time by a few minutes every time). I find that console games are too simple and easy to beat, good for some unwinding and brainless entertainment but rarely for an exciting game with a compelling story (Final Fantasy VIII and Oni are exceptions). But to each his/her own.

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To be a PC gamer you have to part with a good sized chunk of change to play the latest games, but the trade off is that we get the best graphics and the latest and greatest technology, like the advanced physics simulation found in Half-Life 2. While I feel that the importance of graphics is almost always overrated by the press and less experienced gamers, great graphics is always a plus.

As another poster noted, we have great mods to play. Half-Life came out in 1998 and up until the release of HL2 it is still easy to find it on the shelves.

As for some really good PC games:

FreeSpace 2
Duke Nukem 3D (including the Plutonium Pak/Atomic Edition)
Half-Life
Half-Life: Opposing Force
Half-Life: Blue Shift (short but good, at least G-Man didn't ruin your escape)
Half-Life 2
Unreal Tournament
Unreal Tournament 2004
Battlefield 1942
Battlefield Vietnam
Dark Forces
Jedi Knight: Dark Forces II
Jedi Knight: Mysteries of the Sith
Jedi Knight II: Jedi Outcast
X-Wing Alliance
StarCraft
BattleZone
Battlezone II: Combat Commander
Homeworld
Serious Sam
Serious Same: The Second Encounter
Aliens vs Predator
Aliens vs Predator 2
Deus Ex
Unreal
WarWind
Worms World Party
System Shock 2
Shogo
Shadow Warrior
Giants: Citizen Kobuto
Necrodome
Thief: The Dark Project
Thief II
Thief 3: Deadly Shadows
Carmageddon
Carmageddon 2: Carpocalypse Now

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Great mods:

Platoon for Duke Nukem 3D

UT2004 Troopers: Dawn of Destiny for UT2004

Matrix Moves and Lazy Matrix mutators for UT

Experience WWII for BF1942

Desert Combat for BF1942

Star Wars: Galactic Conquest for BF1942

Team Fortress Classic for Half-Life

That Vampire mod for Half-Life

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GotWookiee? <http://www.gotwookie.com>

The Rebel Legion: <http://www.rebellegion.com>