

Unreal 2 Preview Author: Greg Harmon

Introduction

The original Unreal proved that ID Software weren't the only developers that could create great 3D engines. game cheats Unreal was beautiful and still is even today and for the time it was unsurpassed. game cheats Knowing that, you can imagine how high expectations are for the sequel. game cheats Legend Entertainment is in charge of creating Unreal II, however it is using the latest Unreal 3D engine created by Epic Games. game cheats The two companies have worked closely before on past titles such as Wheel of Time. game cheats Will Unreal II make gamers drool with leading edge graphics and level design that will impress even the most jaded of gamers? Judging from the screen shots, I'd say their on a good track to accomplish that. game cheats Read on for the details and feel free to post your thoughts and theories via the comments form below. game cheats

The Story

The story takes place in the same universe as the original, although all the characters and planets wont be making a return. game cheats You'll the play the role of a frontier marshall who's job is to keep the peace in a desolate area of space that is being colonized by humans. game cheats You're role will be the 24th century equivalent of a sheriff in the old west of United States history. game cheats This marshall will be in charge of the Atlantis, a 50 year old rusted ship that isn't exactly the cream of the crop. game cheats You wont be alone aboard the Atlantis, there's three more people who accompany you. game cheats Aida, the intelligence officer who happens to be a woman, a navigation officer and an engineer. game cheats On a calm day with nothing out of the ordinary going on, it is discovered that seven planets in the region contain seven ancient artifacts of great importance. game cheats So five alien races, warriors from several different mercenary groups and even your own military are all trying to find the artifacts first. game cheats Being the nice guy you are you take it upon yourself to find the artifacts first before they fall into the hands of evil. game cheats Why these artifacts are important hasn't been revealed to the public. game cheats

The Gameplay

Unlike in Unreal, you wont be on a journey through the same planet. game cheats You'll have to journey from planet to planet, seven in all and between visits you'll use the Atlantis, your ship to travel and equip yourself appropriately. game cheats There are twenty-five levels in Unreal II that are divided up into thirteen missions for you to play through. game cheats You'll receive your mission briefings in the ship via your intelligence officer, Aida. game cheats Her lips sync with what she is saying and she turns her head to look at you as you walk around, a very nice touch indeed. game cheats Unreal II will feature a conversation system also. game cheats Say you talk to an NPC, you'll be given any number of choices that you can respond with. game cheats Legend plans to make NPCs respond dynamically and have their facial expressions change in according to what you respond with. game cheats This system is by no means very unique but it isn't very common in the FPS genre. game cheats Whether this system will be neat and add to the game or if it gets on your nerves will remain to be seen. game cheats Unreal II will also feature a team play mode where you'll be in charge of a number of soldiers that obey your command. game cheats For instance you can command one soldier to patrol the perimeter and another to guard a door way. game cheats The way you command your soldiers will determine how well you do. game cheats

The Eye Candy

The latest Unreal 3D engine, code named Warfare will be powering Unreal II and it certainly should do a good job. game cheats It features a new skeletal animation system so characters have fluid movement and don't move like robots, unless intended of course. game cheats Characters also have ten times the amount of polygons that Unreal's did. game cheats The environments are an astonishing one-hundred times more detailed than the original's. game cheats The particle effects are astonishing and water is very realistic. game cheats Legend is trying to make each environment come alive with realism and their doing a good job of it so far. game cheats Check out the screen shots and

share your thoughts via the comments form. game cheats

The Aliens and the Weapons you'll kill them with

There will be fifteen different weapons available in Unreal II. game cheats Some will be the standard weapons such as sniper rifle, pistol and rifle but most will be very unique and creative. game cheats Weapons will have an alternate fire mode like the original Unreal however most haven't been revealed yet. game cheats Some of the more interesting weapons include a flamethrower and a leech gun. game cheats The leech gun is very unique and very cool. game cheats The leeches fired will suck the life and armor of your victim. game cheats The flamethrower's effects are great due to the new particle system. game cheats The fire is amazingly realistic. game cheats Only one alien race has returned and that's the Skaarj. game cheats They use extremely complex models and appear to be more muscular than in the original Unreal. game cheats Skaarj also have tatoos that represent their affiliation. game cheats This will be very important later in the game because you'll actually be able to ally yourself with various Skaarj factions and have them fight with you in battles. game cheats The other races haven't been talked about in enough detail to further comment on. game cheats However there will be several new alien races you'll see during the game. game cheats

The Multiplayer action

Unreal II will ship with not only the basic multiplayer modes such as capture the flag, death match and last man standing but will also feature a multiplayer mode similar to Tribes. game cheats In this mode you'll be able to choose from different classes and each team will have to capture the other's flag in their respective bases. game cheats Replicators will allow you to buy special equipment, items and weapons such as machine gun turrets that will help to defend your base. game cheats Whether or not the new Unreal engine will have all new net code or if it features a tweaked version of the Unreal Tournament net code remains to be seen. game cheats

Final thoughts

Legend Entertainment and Epic Games appear to be doing a great job on Unreal II and it's a title that I'm looking forward to, along with many others of course. game cheats Hopefully this game will feature very fun, complete gameplay features and not be an advertisement for the new Unreal engine which some say is the case. game cheats I have faith in Legend however and I think his game will truly be fun. game cheats Don't be surprised if you see this title arrive on the Xbox alongside the PC version as the Warfare engine can be easily ported to the Xbox. game cheats