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## God of war ascension upgrade guide

2013 action adventure video game God of War: AscensionDeveloper (s)Santa Monica StudioPublisher (s)Sony Computer EntertainmentDirector (s)Todd PapyProducer(s)Whitney WadeDesigner(s)Mark SimonProgrammer(s)Vassily A. FilippovArtist(s)Christopher SuttonWriter(s)Marianne KrawczykComposer(s)Tyler BatesSeriesGod of WarPlatform(s)PlayStation 3Release March 12, 2013 NA; March 12, 2013EU; March 13, 2013AU; March 14, 2013UK; March 15, 2013 , Hack and SlashMode(s)Single-player, multiplayerGod of War: Ascension is an action adventure game developed by Santa Monica Studio and published by Sony Computer Entertainment (SCE). The game was first released on March 12, 2013, for the PlayStation 3 (PS3) console. It's the seventh installment in the God of War series and a prequel to the entire series. Loosely based on Greek mythology, the game is located in ancient Greece with a vengeous as its central motif. The player controls the protagonist, Kratos, a former servant of god of war Ares, who cheated kratos into killing his wife and daughter. In response to this tragedy, Kratos surrendered to Ares, breaking his blood oath to God. Kratos was therefore imprisoned and tortured by three Furies, honor guards and sentencing enforcers. Helped by the oath holder, Orkos, Kratos escapes his imprisonment and confronts furies, aiming to free himself from his bond to Ares. The game is similar to previous installments, focusing on combo-based combat with the player's main weapon, Blades of Chaos, and other weapons acquired by the world's new weapon mechanic. It continues to use fast time events and adds a new, prompt, free-form system. Four magical attacks and power-boosting abilities can be used as alternative combat options, and the game includes puzzles and platforming elements. Ascension is the only installment in the series to include multiplayer that is online only and features modes for competitive and cooperative play. It also features an elaborate combat system, new game mechanics, and downloadable content. From October 2012 to March 2013, a social experience was available online in the form of a graphic novel called Rise of the Warrior, a prequel story that is stuck in single-player and multiplayer game modes. God of War: Ascension received generally favorable reviews from critics who praised its basic play and spectacle as a faithful series, though the story was considered less compelling than in previous installments. The game's multiplayer element received mixed responses: although reviewers found that gameplay translated well into multiplayer settings, they criticized the balance and depth of the fight. Ascension sold less well than its predecessors and received no awards, but it did receive several nominations, including Outstanding Achievement in Videogame Writing on Guild of America Videogame Awards and Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences award for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Design. Gameplay More information: Common game elements in god of war series In both God of War: Ascension is a single-player and multiplayer elements, it is primarily a third-person video game viewed from a fixed camera perspective. Some scenes in a single-player campaign are equipped with a first-person camera view. In single player mode, the player controls the character of Kratos in combo-based fighting, platforming, and puzzle games. Enemies are an assortment of creatures, most of which are drawn from Greek mythology, including cyclopes, cerberuses, empusas, sirens, Gorgons, satyrs, harpies, and centaurs. Other monsters were created specifically for the game, such as jugglers, Wraith, and manicores. Many of the monsters also appear in multiplayer mode. Platformer elements require the player to climb walls and ladders, jump over abysses, and slide the walls to continue through parts of the game. The game contains a variety of puzzles, from simple to complex. [1] [2] Fighting Kratos' main weapon is blades of chaos, a pair of blades attached to chains that are wrapped around the wrist and forearms. In the game, the blades can be spun offensively in various maneuvers. A new mechanic weapons called world weapon system allows Kratos to pick up weapons scattered around game locations or keep them from defeated enemies, and use them for a limited time. There are five world weapons (sword, club, javelin, sling shot, shield) that can be collected randomly, although Kratos can only have one at any time. [2] [3] When the world's weapon is not equipped, Kratos can strike or kick enemies as part of a new combat system. [4] Another new mechanic is that Kratos can tether enemies, referred to as sparring; He can hold the enemy in place with one blade while he attacks other enemies with another blade, and he can throw the strapped enemy. [3] Four magical disciplines are acquired, including Fire, Ares, Ice Poseidon, Lightning Zeus, and Soul Hades, which, depending on the magic fitted, penetrates blades of chaos with this elemental feature. For example, The Soul of Hades penetrates blades with purple flames and can unleash the souls of the underworld briefly to attack enemies. Ice Poseidon also allows Kratos to breathe underwater, the necessary abilities, as substantial time is spent there. [4] [5] Rage capability called Rage of the Gods, which has been featured in previous games is included, but in this game, its meter is filled with landing attacks on enemies and the ability is automatically activated once the meter reaches maximum capacity. It remains activated until the kratos is attacked or stops attacking for an extended period of time, after which the meter must be refilled. In the event that the The ability is also influenced by the magic equipped, which kratos use different rage attacks such as lightning-based Rage of Zeus. [6] Three relics, the Amulet of Uroborus (Life Cycle Mechanic), The Oath stone of Orkos, and the Eyes of Truth, are acquired and necessary for the development of the game. Amulet Uroborus allows Kratos to manipulate the time of decomposition or healing of the object; examples include the reconstruction of broken roads and their use in solving puzzles. The structure may be suspended or reversed if necessary. The amulet can also be used against enemies to briefly slow down their movements. The Oath stone of Orkos gives Kratos the ability to create a shadow duplicate of himself that can squeeze boards, hold levers, or attack enemies. The eyes of truth remove the illusions created by furies and shed a blinding light on enemies. [7] Just as the Rapid Event Mechanic (QTE) featured in previous games, the new, promptless, free-form system allows players to choose when to attack or avoid based on hostilities. When some enemies, such as cyclops or juggling, have been sufficiently weakened, the player can jump on his back and briefly force them to attack other enemies. [8] Other features include ten artifacts hidden in the game world that provide more capabilities during New Game Plus than unlimited magic. This mode also allows players to change Kratos' costume, but trophies are banned. [9] The new feature missing in previous installments is Chapter Select, which allows players to select and play previously completed levels. Unlike previous instalments in which behind the scenes videos are unlocked when the game is finished, these videos are already available in the main menu. [10] Multiplayer Part desert of lost souls multiplayer map: Players (seen right) battle against each other with Titan Polyphemus cyclops in the background. If the players get close to Polyphemus, he'll attack them. [11] God of War: Ascension is the only installment in the series to offer a multiplayer feature that is online-only,[12] and up to eight players can participate. Before entering a multiplayer battle, each player is introduced to a fighter who, like Kratos, is an oath-breaker and is imprisoned in prison the damn-warrior story is reviewed in Rise of the Warrior. The player takes control of the warrior and aligns with one of the four deities: Ares,[13] Hades,[14] Zeus,[15] or Poseidon. [16] [17] The main goal for players is to take control of the map to receive rewards from the gods. Each god offers unique combat play-style and in-battle skills. The attacking style of god with which the player is at tune is crucial to their fighter's journey. [18] Players who bee with Ares are a brute force of professionals with an up-close focus. Players who take seus seus are magical experts focusing on space management. Players who are allies Poseidon are supported by a focus on team synergy and self-nutrition. Unlike the other three, the players who get along with the snake are versatile, with other unique mechanics such as rescue, stealth and curses. Players can create a total of four fighters to have a champion representing each god. [19] Players can unlock special magical abilities, new and upgraded armor, weapons, sights and other treasures as they gain experience points (XP) to level-up their fighter. [19] Players can also complete work that are challenges from gods that remembra the armor and weapons. [20] During multiplayer matches, players receive enthusiasts and debuffs,[21] and there is a color coding system called flashes where the player's character flashes a certain color indicating a special feature, such as vulnerability or invulnerability. [22] A prestige feature called Ascension, added in a June 10, 2013 update, allows players to renew their loyalty progression when they reach level 40, and receive an in-game menu for Godly armor and weapons-most valuable and powerful items in the game. [23] They are classified as a hero the first time they perform and then Demigod a second time and retain that title ever since. [24] There are five multiplayer modes: Team Favor of the Gods, Match of the Champions, Trial of the Gods, Capture the Flag, and Bout of Honor. Team matches randomly assign players to compete on either the Spartan or Trojan team. Signature multiplayer mode is a team favor of the gods, in which two teams of two-to-four players try to win by accumulating a target amount of points. The points, known as Favor, are obtained by slaughter and other methods. When players are not on the offensive, they can help their team earn points by catching allies, collecting red balls from the chest, and setting traps for rival players. The non-team version, Match of champions, is a four-on-eight-player deathmatch with a similar goal to the team's favor of the gods. [24] Trial of the Gods is a two-player, squad (co-op) time trial mode in which the duo faces five waves of mythological monsters ending in a boss fight. There is also a single player version. [16] In Capture the Flag, two teams of four players battle to capture an opponent's flag and return it to their base until the target number of flags have been obtained. [25] In Bout of Honor, added in the July 11, 2013 update, players test their skills in a best-of-seven-round one-on-one fight. [26] All but two of the fifteen multiplayer maps are based on locations explored throughout the God of War series, eight of which are based on places explored in ascension; for example, the Desert of Lost Souls is from the original God of War, the Bog forgotten is from God of War II, and the Labyrinth of the Daedalus, the Hercules Forum, and the Flame Chamber are from God of War III. [27] Two original maps are the Coliseum of Persia and the walls of Troy (which contains the Trojan horse). Each map contains special power-ups awarded by the gods for earning points for this team. [11] [28] Synopsis Setting As with previous games, God of War: Ascension is found in an alternative version of ancient Greece inhabited by Olympian gods, titans, and other beings of Greek mythology. The game's actions are set six months after Kratos killed his family, and ten years before the original God of War (2005). Another game chronologically would be the strings of Olympus (2008), which takes place some time between Ascension and God of War (2005). The story of the game takes place over four weeks; moves between the present (fourth week) and the past (previous three weeks), while the player controls kratos in both. Several cities, including the damn prison and some real-world locations-including the village of Kirra, the town of Delphi, and the island of Delos-are explored in the game. The prison damned is furies' massive prison to house all the swearing-breakers. Kirra is an abandoned village that lost its water supply after being destroyed by a water wheel and aqueous. Other than monsters, the only life is in its harbor, where the Tamed Harbor Master guide vessels to and from the harbor. Located in the snowy mountains north of Kirra, Hotel Delphi features a Delphi Tower. After activating three massive mechanical pythons, the tower gives access to the Temple of Delphi, which is home to Oracle. Delos offers Titan-sized statues of Apollo, built by the inventor archimedes in honor of god. Characters Main Article: Characters god of War The game's protagonist is Kratos (voiced by Terrence C. Carson), a Spartan warrior who broke his blood oath to the god Ares after being duped into killing his family by his former master. The main adversaries are the three Furies: Megaera (Nika Futterman), Tisiphone (Debi Mae West) and Queen of Fury, Alecto (Jennifer Hale). Furies are guardians of honor and traitors who punish those they find guilty of. They were spawned from an eons-long war between the Primordials, the creatures that created the Earth. Other characters include the oath holder Orkos (Troy Baker), the son of Ares and Alecto, who was disparaged by God because he was not the perfect warrior that Ares was looking for; Altheia (Adrienne Barbeau), The Oracle of Delphi with a prophetic gaze; the damaged prophet Castor (David W. Collins) and his condesute twin Pollux (Brad Grusnick), who usurped the oracle, deciding who can consult her; A from Hecatonchires (Robin Atkin Downes), the first mortal imprisoned by furies who has been keeping records for maintaining his sanity. Kratos's wife Lysandra (Jennifer Hale) and his daughter Caliope appear in the illusion created by Alecto, and King Sparta (Crispin Freeman) and Village Oracle (Susan Blakeslee) appear in the illusion created by Tisiphone with the help of his acquaintance, Demon. In multiplayer mode Zeus (Corey Burton), King of the Olympian Gods, Ares (Steven Blum), God of War, Poseidon (Gideon Emery), God of the Sea, and Hades (Fred Tatasciore), God of the Underworld, appear as statues in the Rotunda of Olympus, where the player selects one to align, after which the chosen god will communicate with the player during the game. Castor and Pollux, Demigod Hercules (Kevin Sorbo), Titan Cyclops Polyphemus, Gorgon Stheno, and giant scorpion Skorpis also appear in multiplayer as bosses and/or environmental obstacles. Plot Game begins with Kratos, who is imprisoned, chained, and tortured by furies for violating his blood oath ares. Fury Megaera tortures Kratos, but he manages to break out. Chasing her through prison, she discovers that the prison itself is Aegean Hecatonchires, the first traitor to furies who violated the blood oath of Zeus; has been converted into a prison for the damned as punishment. [29] Overcoming the illusion created by Fury Tisiphone and her famous Demon, Kratos finds and kills Megaer, acquiring the Amulet of Uroborus, which Furies confiscated from him when he was imprisoned. Kratos fights manticore on Delphi Tower. Screenshot shows a new tethering mechanic: used in conjunction with the QTE drive. The story moves to three weeks before Kratos' jail term. Confronted by Orkos in the village of Kirra, Kratos is advised that the visions he was experiencing are mind tricks created by Furies, and instructs him to find Oracle Delphi. Upon arrival at the Temple of Delphi, he overcomes Castor and Pollux, who tried to kill Oracle. In her dying breath, Oracle instructs Kratosa to travel to Delos to gain the Eyes of Truth. With Amulet Uroborus from the now-dead Castor and Pollux, Kratos travels to the port of Kirra, where he will meet Orkos again. The Guard of Oath reveals that Ares wanted the perfect warrior to help him overthrow Zeus, so Ares helped Kratos against the barbarians to make him the perfect warrior. Orkos took the oath and did not doubt the Furies until Ares cheated on Kratosa to kill his own family. Armed with this knowledge, Kratos takes the ship to Delos. A week later, Kratos arrives on the island of Delos and explores the destroyed statue of Apollo. He is attacked by all three Furies and is eventually captured. Orkos appears and Kratos, they're transporting him to another place. Orkos swears to Kratos Stone and reveals that he and Altheia tried to warn Zeus about Ares and Furies' plan. In retaliation they took Oracle's eyes, objects Kratos is looking for. After a dangerous journey, Kratos uses the Amulet of Uroborus to restore the statue and get eyes. Upon completion of the Archimedes trials, Kratos is ambushed and captured by furies who confiscate all his items. Back in the present day, Tisiphone and Daemon cast another illusion to deceive Kratos, who overcomes it and acquires the oath of the Orkos Stone. He meets the scribe Hecatonchires, who reveals that the Furies were initially fair in their punishment but switched to ruthless beings because of Ares. Continuing his pursuit of furies, Kratos reaches the door to Alecto's chamber, but seemingly returns home to his wife and daughter: another illusion, this time cast fury queen Alecto. He's trying to convince Kratos that he can live under this illusion if he returns to Aresa, but he rejects it. Enraged, Alecto and Tisiphone attack Kratos, which loads the eyes, and Alecto transforms into a giant sea monster. After a brutal battle, Kratos used his eyes to break through furies' illusions before killing both, destroying the prison. Kratos returns to Sparta, where he met Orkos. He praises Kratos' win over the Furies, but shows that Kratos won't be without Ares' bond if he kills Orkos. He begs Kratos to give him an honorable death that will free them both from Aresa. Kratos initially refuses, but Orkos' ongoing pleas eventually force Kratos to kill him. Then, Kratos experiences the first of many nightmares-previously camouflaged by his bond-and discovers his way to redemption through the 24/7 service of Olympus. Kratos burns down his house with the corpse of Orkos inside and leaves, begins his journey to become a master of the gods. Developing Pre-E3 2012 In January 2010, Santa Monica studio director John Hight told video-game blog Joystiq that while God of War III will conclude the trilogy, it won't spell the franchise and say, "We'll be really careful what we do next. [30] Between April 2011 and April 2012, several sources claimed that the fourth master record would be released sometime in 2012 and would contain an online component. [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] On April 12, 2012, Sony released a teaser image on its official PlayStation Facebook page,[37], which was followed by a games announcement on April 19,[38], although Amazon leaked the announcement the day before. [39] The trailer was announced by Todd Papy, who worked as a designer on God of War and God of War II and as director of design at God of War III, as director of the game. [38] David Jaffe confirmed that God of War III game director Stig Asmussen has not returned to directing this game worked on another project in Santa Monica. [40] The announcement trailer was narable by Linda Hunt; it refers to the time before Kratos became the spirit of Sparta and was not bound by blood. [41] The announcement officially confirmed that the name of the game will be God of War: Ascension. Papy said the game wasn't called God of War IV to avoid confusion because it is a prequel, rather than a sequel, to the trilogy. The name was chosen because it complements the story and other multiplayer components: According to Papy, in this mode, the players are basically ascending from unknown hero to god. [28] [41] The game includes a retooled God of War III engine that allows online multiplayer battles for up to eight players. Papy said that customization, Kratos and other known gods should not be included as playable characters in multiplayer modes, because developers did not want red Kratos, blue Kratos, yellow Kratos, and a selection of gods would lock players into established roles. This decision was taken after the game when the players are pitted against each other. [28] Papy also said there would be no female characters because each character in multiplayer mode is based on Kratos' animation model. [28] The first teaser game multiplayer element featured team favor gods mode running on the Desert of Lost Souls map, which includes Titan Cyclops Polyphemus. [28] Multiplayer was discussed for past games, but was never performed as previous game directors felt that God of War was a single-player-only experience. [42] [43] For Olympus chains was shortened due to time constraints during development. [44] For Ascension, the development team decided to invest in multiplayer after a simple version, tested using two Kratoses, proved to be a lot of fun for game testers. [45] The development team faced challenges in adding more players to the established single-player series. Other established franchises were criticized for sub-par multiplayer implementations, so Santa Monica felt it had to prove to critics that their multiplayer mode shouldn't be tacked on. Since multiplayer was a new team, new employees have been hired who specialize in multiplayer, engineering and design, but Santa Monica didn't realize the amount of work needed for the experience they imagined. Development has been delayed because the multiplayer mode requires several rewrites. The player navigation code had to be changed for the online game, which was originally intended for the co-op; the team eventually decided that it was unsatisfactory, and the changed approach costs considerable time to develop. [46] The local co-op has also been reviewed, but the team has decided to keep multiplayer online-only. [47] The team finally found the heart [of] the final multiplayer game shortly before the first press show. Focus on development between a player and several players; Single-player received less attention while the team was preparing multiplayer for the first press release, but when one-player mode was reemphasized before its public debut, the multiplayer mode suffered. [46] David Jaffe, creator and game director of the original God of War, spoke with NowGamer before the first press release in late April. He said that if he had worked on ascension, he would incorporate three specific elements: different myths, a co-star, and look at the structure of Zelda as jumping off the point. [48] He liked the idea of cooperative mode, adding, 'I'd like to see player one be Kratos and player two be this stupid annoying sidekick that--for some to be determined by the story of reason--Kratos is stuck on a whole adventure and finally, once the main search is over, Kratos just snaps the poor kid's throat. [48] In May 2012, Jaffe spoke with IGN about the multiplayer element: I think it looks cool. It looks like creator one big, impeccably executed Sony Santa Monica game, adding, 'If it turns out to be the case that one player is salted because [multiplayer], then I think they have some justification. But I don't see any evidence of that and I don't see any evidence of that based on the team that they are. [49] Post-E3 2012 At the Sony Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) press conference in 2012, the North American release date was confirmed on 12 December 2012. The one-player demo has been shown revealing new game mechanics and combat systems. [50] The encounter with the sea monster Charybdis was included in the demo, but this sequence was cut out of the final game. Charybdis has been recast as the creature that Alecto transforms into during the final fight of the game. [51] On the same day, Papy confirmed on PlayStation.Blog that a collector's edition of the game would be released. He said Ascension was being developed to feature stereoscopic 3D.[52], but it was eventually cut. [47] At Gamescom 2012, new multiplayer footage has been shown, followed by the announcement of a multiplayer beta. [18] Comparing Kratos as it appears in God of War III (above) and Ascension (below). The increase in UV set-ups gave Kratos a more realistic look in Ascension. The 2012 Penny Arcade Expo (PAX), game director Todd Papy, Lead Game Designer Mark Simon, lead character artist Patrick Murphy, and writer of the God of War series Marianne Krawczyk, hosted the first God of War panel, discussed the origins of ascension, and provided an overview of kratos development. [53] Fury Megaera was unveiled,[54] and Mark Simon discussed a new combat system. Papy said he considered using the goddess Artemis as a playable female character that would offer the player alternative fighting options. Artemis would be portrayed as half human and half feline, with his head torso of the woman and the legs of the lioness. Artemis was eventually cut out of the game, but Papy said he would like to explore the possibility of using other gods in the future. [55] During the developmental transition from God of War III to Ascension, one of the graphic engineers, Cedric Perthuis, noted that the boundaries of God's War III engine limited the artist's creativity, so he tried to remove or push these limits, if possible, without losing any power. [56] For example, the number of UV set has increased to three per eye. For a complex character model like Kratos, independent textures are needed for body parts unique to it, each wrapping around the head, torso and limbs—all forming an editable 'UV set' when set flat. [56] Allowing more UV sades has also made it possible to have a more natural environmental appearance. Ascension was not as dramatic a progress in graphics over its predecessor as God of War II was: From a graphic 'technical' perspective, pretty much God of War: Ascension was more refined on the graphic front said another graphic designer, Ben Diamond, who focused on optimization during the development of Ascension. [56] The development team also added dynamic lighting that enabled the development of the mechanics of the life cycle game. Particle effects have also been greatly improved since God's War II; the idea was to give artists more control to achieve better results with fewer particles, Perthuis said. [56] Terrence C. Carson, Linda Hunt, Corey Burton, Gideon Emery, Steven Blum, and Kevin Sorbo reprised their roles as Kratos, the narrator, Zeus, Poseidon, Ares, and Hercules, respectively. Jennifer Hale, who voiced two characters in the previous installment, voiced by Fury Alecto and Kratos' wife, Lysandra, who was previously voiced by Gwendoline Yeo. Debi Mae West, Adrienne Barbeau, and Crispin Freeman, who had each done voice work on previous installments, voiced the characters Tisiphone, Altheia, and King Sparta. Troy Baker has sworn in goalie Orkos and is an announcer in multiplayer mode. Series veteran Fred Tatasciore took on the role of Hades, which was previously voiced by Clancy Brown. Susan Blakeslee reprised her role as Village Oracle, which makes the portrait look like an illusion created by Tisiphone. Unlike previous games, in which motion capture and voice recording were performed separately, Ascension used voice-over motion capture; Voice recording and motion capture were performed at the same time, allowing voice actors to act their characters' scenes together. The voice-over motion capture was performed at the House of Moves in Culver City, California. [57] Multiplayer beta The global multiplayer beta was announced on Gamescom 2012. [18] Beta included features that had not previously been revealed. Players who participated in the rise of Warrior social challenge to early access to the beta in December 2012. [15] SCE Europe players were also given the opportunity to access the beta in a timely manner. [58] Beta was available to PlayStation Plus subscribers on January 8, 2013. [27] [55] On January 19, Santa Monica granted all PlayStation Network users in North and South America access to the beta through a removable voucher. Beta test ended at midnight Pacific time on January 21.[59] In beta, players could choose to align with Ares or Zeus. It features an eight-player Desert of Lost Souls map and a four-player Hercules Forum map. Beta included Desert of Lost Souls map in Team Favor of the Gods and Capture the Flag mode, and Forum Hercules Map in Gods Favor mode, renamed Match of champions in the final release. [27] All beta participants got champion armor and blade for their multiplayer character when the game started. [60] According to Santa Monica senior producer Whitney Wade and director of internal development Chacko Sonny, the beta team look at the game as an evolving service. [46] Beta has allowed developers to make sure that the game design meets the consent of existing fans of the series, and that the system could cope with the high volume of players. Wade and Sonny said the testing went as expected, revealing consecutive layers of problems that we would solve, deploy repairs, and then monitor them in a live environment. [46] The most important change from beta, they said, was their planning in how to promote the game post-launch. The team designed a process that allowed them to quickly iterate repairs, deploy them through infrastructure (testing, certification, repair) and coordinate them with internal technology partners within Sony. [46] They also developed a system that allows them to track, log, and interpret any added changes, and the beta test gave a glimpse of how to prioritize key features. [46] In the release of E3 2012, a single-player demo has been shown featuring new game mechanics and combat systems. The demo revealed a revamped fast time event mini-game that replaced some button challenges with a new, prompt-less, free-form system. It features a World Weapons mechanic and Kratos has been shown to be able to nod opponents through the air while attacking. Other new features included Fury Magic Ares and Life Cycle Mechanic. Several new enemies, such as juggling and sea beast Charybdis, were also featured, although the latter was cut out of the final game. [50] [61] The E3 2012 single-player demo was part of early copies of the Director's Cut Blu-ray edition and Blu-ray/DVD Combo Pack version of the film. Total Retail, which were released on December 18, 2012. Shop to download. [63] Participants in the Rise of the Warrior Social Challenge who were on the Spartan team got access to the demo on February 20. The preview consists of the first 30 minutes of single player mode. [64] God of War: Ascension was released in North America on March 12, 2013. [66] Sales of the game were significantly lower than God of War III's sales for the first month, which was 1.1 million units. [67] Finally, the game shipped shipped more than 3 million units worldwide and earned more than \$100 million in revenue. [68] On October 15, 2013, God of War: Ascension was released as a digital download at the PlayStation Store in North America. [69] [70] The digital version was released in Europe and Australia on 23 November 2014. September 24, 2014. God of War: Ascension available to play from Sony gaming streaming service PlayStation Now. [71] Marketing God of War: Ascension Marketing Campaign initially focused on its multiplayer features. Between October 22, 2012, and the day of the game's release, there were four multiplayer trailers that featured each of the gods that players can align, showcasing some of the skills that players receive from them. [13] [14] [15] [16] On December 12, 2012, a multiplayer trailer called Evil Ways was released, featuring Polyphemus. [24] The first single-player trailer since the original in April 2012 came on January 19, 2013. [72] A live action trailer titled From The Ashes featuring a remix of Hanging on Ellie Goulding played during Super Bowl XLVII.[73], which was followed by the last single-player trailer on February 26. [63] On June 4, 2012, Santa Monica Studio announced the release of God of War: Ascension - Collector's Edition, which was available for a limited time in North America. The package included a 6-inch (150 mm) statue of a shorts, a premium SteelBook gaming case, and exclusive downloadable content (DLC) available through the PlayStation Network (PSN). Exclusive DLC included the official game soundtrack, PS3 dynamic XrossMediaBar (XMB) theme, PSN avatar pack, 48-hour dual XP for multiplayer, and Season Pass to unlock all future DLC weapons and armor at no extra cost. [52] [74] On August 30, 2012, Santa Monica announced the release of a collector's edition for European territories. God of War: Ascension - Special Edition was also announced for release in European territories and was available at the same price as the standard edition. This included a premium SteelBook gaming case and DLC, which was available in the collector's edition, not season pass. [65] God of War: Ascension Legacy Bundle, which included Ascension, God of War Saga, a one-month subscription to PlayStation Plus, and a 500GB grenade red PS3, was available for a limited time. [75] Similarly, the United Kingdom received an exclusive PS3 package, which included a white 500 GB PS3. God of War: Ascension – Special Edition, and a special God of War: Ascension DualShock 3 controller.[76], which was released separately in Australia. [77] Advance orders for collector's editions started on 4 July 2004. Participating retailers have offered the Mythological Heroes Multiplayer DLC Pack as a bonus for pre-ordering standard or collectible editions of the game. [52] DLC packaging included Achilles, Odysseus, Orion and Perseus armor. [78] [79] Along with the DLC package, GameStop offered exclusive pre-order bonus-armor and spear ring Leonidas, as depicted by Gerard Butler in the 2007 film 300, for use in multiplayer mode, and a reversible God of War: Ascension poster measuring 22 x 28 inches (56 cm × 71 cm). [80] For a limited time, all copies of God of War: Ascension purchased from Best Buy included a multiplayer weapon Mjólnir (Hammer of Thor), inspired by the TV series Vikings, as DLC. [81] Walmart offered the Blade of Judgment multiplayer weapon as an exclusive pre-order bonus. [82] All copies of God of War: Ascension included early access to the naughty dog demo game The Last of Us. [83] [84] In North America, all copies included a voucher to download the characters Zeus and Isaac Clarke for the PlayStation All-Stars Battle Royale. [85] Rise of the Warrior Rise of the Warrior was a graphic novel by Marianne Krawczyk with art by Christopher Shy. [86] Only available on GodOfWar.com,[a] it was a prequel story that bunched into Ascension's single-player and multiplayer modes, and had 20 chapters that were released between October 2012 and March 2013. It also represented a social experience over the same time period. For social experience, players were aligned with either the Spartans or Trojans and competed through social challenges to earn points such as answering questions and solving puzzles for each chapter. In the first challenge, the teams competed to get their army a week of exclusive, early access to the multiplayer beta test, which began on December 12, and a one-month subscription to PlayStation Plus, which was won by the Spartans; the Trojans were given access on 17 December 2004. The Spartans also won another team challenge and got early access to a damn single-player demo on February 20, 2013. [64] [87] Players could also earn early, in-game unlocks for the game's multiplayer mode, including exclusive weapons and armor for all players who have reached the rank of Champion of the Gods. [15] The story followed an unnamed warrior who became in multiplayer mode. The warrior was a native of Kirra, whose father was killed by a cruel general who poisoned the village's water supply and killed many people. Before he died, the warrior's father begged him to honor the gods and vowed never to allow harm to their family. The warrior swore an oath to his father and met with a masked figure, The Donor, who led him and followed him all the way. [88] Shortly thereafter, the warrior called on Aresa to save his people from poisonous water; God destroyed the aqueous and water wheel that supplies water to the village. The fighter then met with surviving soldiers who were under his father's command. [89] One soldier told the warrior that the swords alone could not defeat the general. [90] The warrior and his men travelled to the land of Aeaea and recruited the witch Circe, who seemingly also sought revenge on the general. [91] Circe awarded soldiers magic weapons to help them on their way, and suggested they see Oracle delphi to see if the general had any weaknesses. [92] During this time, the warrior pledged allegiance to Poseidon and to protect his men. [93] Along the way through Delphi, the warrior received poisonous blood curbs. [94] Finally, both Circe and the warrior met with a general who was revealed as the warrior's uncle. The general revealed that he killed the warrior's father because he refused to join the general. [95] Circe was then revealed as a general lover who helped the warrior only so that he would get a general who planned to offer the warrior the chance to serve him in his conquest. The warrior refused, and Circe offered him a choice: To serve the general and his men would be spared from Circe's wrath, or kill the general and his men will die. [96] The donor who followed the two reminded the warrior that if he had killed a general who was a member of his family, the oath he had given to his father would have been broken, but if he had killed Circe, his men would have perished and the oath he had dispared would have been broken. [97] The warrior declared that he would not kill Circe and defended the lives of his men. But he cheated on the general to drink from a cup he secretly filled with cerberus with blood that killed the general. Circe was horrified by the fighter's vindictive act and retreated. [98] Because the warrior killed his own uncle, the oath he gave to his father was broken. The donor revealed himself to be Orkos, the oath keeper of the Furies and the warrior was imprisoned by furies in a damn prison. [99] [100] Content Downloads As well as downloadable content (DLC) included in the collector's edition, pre-order bonuses, and DLC from Rise of the Warrior, developers released several multiplayer DLC packs after the release of the game. All maps that were released after launch were free.[101] and players who received season pass from the collector's edition received all DLC weapons and armor at no additional cost. [52] DLC weapons and armor can be purchased separately or in bundles. Other DLC, such as XP boosters, is available; these were not included in season pass. [102] On May 7, 2013, the first set of DLC armor and weapons, including Armor Anarchy and Blades of Darkness, were released for purchase along with the free Chimera Armor. [103] Several other DLC packs, such as the Primordials Pack,[104] Champions Pack,[102] Marks of the Gods Pack,[105] and legendary Spears Pack, have been released. [106] [107] In June 2013, Santa Monica announced the Community Cape Design Contest, in which the God of War community could create and submit original cape designs. The draft winner was issued as dlc. [108] For a limited time the following month, Sony allowed players to test all available DLC weapons. [109] Some of the last DLC packs released included co-op guns,[110] Mantle Gods Pack,[111] several glove,[112][113] and Fury Capes Pack. [114] On October 11, 2013, Santa Monica announced that no additional DLC maps, weapons, armor, or tags would be produced, but multiplayer games would still be supported by patch updates. All DLC items were given special pricing options for the release of the digital version of God of War: Ascension. [69] To celebrate the one year anniversary of the release of the game, from March 25 to April 2, all DLC armor and weapons were available for free download, XP boosters were discounted by 50%, and developers released the Santa Monica Studio cape and marked one brand that allows gamers fighters to have Kratos' red tattoo when equipped. [115] The first maps were released via patch 1.06, called hunter update, on May 23, 2013. Tower of Delphi and an edited version of the Coliseum of Persia, which reads Trial of the Gods mode, were included in this update. Due to technical issues with which some players who have downloaded the patch have been downloaded and re-released via update 1.07 on 3 December 2009, the commission has not yet received any information from the Commission. Players who lost all online progress as a result of 1.06 received two 48-hour voucher codes providing five times the amount XP earned, season pass, 50 weapons and armor shards, and a special voucher code for ascension features that made these players on Hero, giving them instant access to divine weapons and armor. [116] The second set of maps was released by update 1.09 on 11 September 2009. This update included four maps for Bout of Honor mode — Canyons of Kirra, Chamber of the Flame, Landing at Delos, and Streets of Sparta, and a map of the four players of The Whirlpool of Alecto. [26] On August 1, Update 1.10 was released and added trial of the gods to labyrinth Map. [117] The latest multiplayer map, the eight-player Perc Archimedes, was released through an update on August 1, 27th [118] Soundtrack God of War: Ascension (Original Soundtrack)Soundtrack album by Tyler BatesReleasedMarch 5, 2013 (2013-03-05)GenreContemporary ClassicalLength1.05:35LabelSony Computer Entertainmentand La-La Land Records God of War: Ascension (Original Soundtrack) was composed by Tyler Bates and was released on iTunes on March 5, 2013 by SCE and La-La Land Records. [119] It was included as dlc in God of War: Ascension - Collector's Edition and Special Edition. [52] [74] On October 15th, the soundtrack was available for free on PSN for a limited time. [69] A remarkable feature of the Ascension soundtrack is that it was scored by only one composer; all previous plays had more composers. Tyler Bates previously scored a similarly themed film of 300 and the game Rise of the Argonauts. Bates said: My goal was to create a sound that supported the timeless dark age of God of war, while expanding the parameters of the 'Sword and Sandals' genre. Although the game's story is linear, he approached the project as if he were scoring a novel as opposed to a movie. Bates had not played any of the previous games and decided to take the score to new venues without being openly aware of the great music that is symbolic of previous instalments. The soundtrack was recorded at Abbey Road Studios, and features solo vocal work from Rafe Pearlman and Ciscandra Nostalgia. [120] Throughout the score, Bates used a combination of techniques to increase the drama of the game, said Emily McMillan of Game Music Online, who gave the album 4 out of 5 stars. She said one of Bates's signature techniques is an intense and simultaneous crescendo and glissando. All themes took place on a harmoniously smaller scale. On the track, Warriors' Truth, Bates uses Gerard Marino's main God of War theme and twists it for a prequel setting, taking a harmonic ascending scale and returning it to a downward pattern with a rough chorus/blass combination. Visions of Ruin contains a cimbal, which is rarely used in video game soundtracks. She said overall Music is powerful, rich and vibrant, although listening to an entire album can seem repetitive. [121] [122] Track listingNo.TitleMusicLength1. Primordial Rage Tyler Bates2:282. Bound by blades blood1:423. Ghosts of Kirry Bates1:534. Warrior Truth Bates2:315. Bates' body temptation1:276. Awakening Hecatonchires Bates2:137. Altheia is Bates' last vision2:468. Temple Massacre Bates2:129. Ascension Bates2:0310. Visions of the ruins of Bates3:1311. DelphiBates Theme2:3512. A touch of Bates' madness2:0413. False Prophet Bates2:0214. Shadow unveiling of Bates3:4015. Blood on the walls of Bates Canyon1:5916. Sparta Bates Street2:1517. A tribute to ApolloBates1:2818. The son is from the cursed Bates3:1920. Martyr's Chamber Bates2:3321. Warning too late Bates2:0922. Archimedes Bates 2:0623. Python Path Bates4:2924. Final offer Bates2:5725. Madness of queen Fury Bates2:3326. Tagged Bates2:0727. Gift gift for the holder of the oathBates3:19A1 present length:1.05:35 Reception ReceptionAggregate scoresAggregateorScoreGameRankings79.34%[122]Metacritic80/100[123]Review ScorePublicationScoreDestructoid9/10[124]Edge7/10[125]GameSpot8.0/10[126]GamesRadar+



[127]GameTrailers8.3/10[128]IGN7.8/10[129]Joystiq[130]OPM (UK)8.10/13[1] God of War: Ascension received generally favourable reviews following the release of The God of War. Aggregation of the GameRankings and Metacritic review websites gave it an average rating score of 79.34% (based on 58 reviews)[122] and 80/100 (based on 89 reviews).[123] respectively. Critics praised the basic games and spectacle, but were critical of the lack of new ideas and gave mixed reactions to other multiplayer modes. Alex Simmons of IGN said the revamped combat system adds a source of depth: Learning to use every power effectively... provides a strategic lifeline when there is no energy to re-gen the chest nearby. Although initially considered by the World Weapons to be useful, he felt that they had become useless after the modernization of blades of chaos. Simmons felt the magic system was a positive step; Says magical attacks are unlocked at a later time, players cannot rely on them as they did in previous installments, which encourages players to think wisely about where to allocate experience points rather than be the ultimate badass from the start. [129] Combat and new game mechanics were well-received, with Dale North of Destructoid saying the God of War never looked or played better than this,[124] and Xav de Matos of Joystiq noted that combat is easier than in God's War III, and rarely requires much adjustment. [130] Opinions on difficulties differed; Simmons felt that most of the game was balanced, and that Ascension is probably the easiest in the series, but as he and Hollander Cooper of GamesRadar noted, some areas, such as the Archimedes trials, were too difficult. Simmons felt that in some sections, a lot of enemies were dying feeling cheap and frustrating.[129] and in Cooper's opinion, some points in the game [test] your patience, rather than your skills-including one [exam], which is easily the hardest part in any God of War game to date, for all the wrong reasons. [127] Both Simmons and Matos criticised the story: Simmons felt that even though the story is carefully delivered, it felt a little random, and said that compared to Zeus and Ares, furies don't quite cut it. [129] Matos was critical of the plot framing and narrative structure as simply too chaotic; claimed that the narrative fabric woven throughout began to divide, and Ascension does little to empower its characters in any meaningful way. He did praise the game for giving a distinct God of War flair to the familiar series. [130] Cooper praised the revamped graphics engine as not only the best thing the franchise saw, but some of the most impressive on the PlayStation 3, and was impressed by Kratos's enemies. [127] North agreed, saying there's the brilliance and brilliance that runs throughout the game that makes it the perfect send-off for the PS3, with its improved texture, animation and lighting. [124] Reviews from Edge magazine also positively reviewed the graphics, but had some frustration with the visual approach, such as some camera angles. [125] Matos was widely critical of the game's multiplayer mode, although he chose some elements, such as maps, as well-designed. He didn't like connecting to single-player mode, calling it a weird story tie-in, and was concerned that although gameplay translates well into a multiplayer element, the whole experience can be too chaotic to enrapture a large audience... it doesn't feel deep enough to command much more than a furiously devoted fan after. [130] Simmons has been more positive, saying that multiplayer mode is actually a fresh addition ... that successfully conveys many of the hallmarks of the much-loved single-player [game]. He highlighted Team Favor of the Gods as his favorite mode, but he didn't feel that the fight offered enough depth to give multiplayer a truly engaging experience, describing it as a curiosity that provides several hours of pleasure rather than being a vital addition. [129] Reviews from Edge magazine described the multiplayer mode as chaotic at first, with stunning possibilities, but said it will be easier as players learn levels. Edge review identified a solid camera system as an asset because you can always see exactly what's going on and fight opponents instead of point of view, and also praised the color-coding system that effectively lets you know when you have an opening and when to run it. [125] Controversy Some reviewers did not like the name of one of the trophies of the gameBros before Hos, which came after graphically stomping on a female villain. In response to criticism of misogyny, Santa Monica has released a patch changing the title of trophies to Bros. from enemies. [132] Awards Unlike previous instalments, God of War: Ascension won no awards, but it was nominated in several Best of E3 categories in 2012 by various media outlets. These nominations included Best Action/Adventure and Best Multiplayer from Rant,[133] Best PS3 Game and Best Action/Adventure Game by G4,[134] Best PlayStation 3 Game by Destructoid,[135] and Best PS3 Game and Best Action Game by IGN. [136] The play was nominated for Best Design at the 2014 Golden Joystick Awards in 2013. [137] At the 2014 Writers Guild of America Videogame Awards, it was a nominee for Outstanding Achievement in Video Game Writing and during the 2014 D.C.E. Summit, it was a nominee for the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Design. [138] See also 2013 in Video Games Notes ^ Since 2015, Rise of the Warrior is no longer available on GodofWar.com. References ^ Yin-Poole, Wesley (April 30, 2012). God of War: Ascension multiplayer confirmed. Eurogamer. eurogamer network. Archived from the original on December 5, 2012. Acquired April 30, 2012. ^ a b Santa Monica Studio. ed. & (2013). p. 5 ^ a b Santa Monica Studio, ed. & (2013). p. 14 ^ a b Shuman, Sid (February 7, 2013). Hands-On with the God of War: Ascension. PlayStation.Blog. Sony Computer Entertainment America. Archived from the original on February 8, 2013. Obtained February 7, 2013. ^ Santa Monica Studio, ed. & (2013). p. 15 ^ Santa Monica Studio, ed. & (2013). p. 6 ^ Santa Monica Studio, ed. & (2013). p. 16 – 17 ^ Studio Santa Monica, ed. & (2013). p. 17 – 18 ^ Dunning, Jason (March 6, 2013). 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