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■ Video game review

Game 'Destroys All Humans' with dull play, small array of weapons

Pandemic's take on the genre is often humorous but with bland missions, the entertainment doesn't last long

BY ANDREW MCCOLLUM

For about 15 minutes, Pandemic's latest third-person action game, "Destroy All Humans!" looks like an interesting take on the genre. Unfortunately, after about an hour, players will find that that it's a bland game with an original theme that keeps the game fresh for only a few minutes.

In "Destroy All Humans!" players take control of Crypto Sporidium 137, a vicious alien bent on fulfilling the game's title. The Furons, Crypto's race, are clones. Early in the game we find out that the Furons' DNA has been degrading and Crypto needs to harvest DNA from the brainstems of humans to ensure the survival of his race. In addition to harvesting DNA, Crypto has been asked to find his predecessor

Crypto Sporidium 136, who has crashlanded on Earth.

"Destroy All Humans!" is set in the 1950s, as seen in dozens of B-grade scifi movies. The game does a great job of creating a 1950s atmosphere. It often pokes fun at era-specific celebrities and political events. For example, all of Crypto's exploits are blamed on communists. "Destroy All Humans'!" sense of humor is possibly its biggest From the humorous thoughts that Crypto hears as he is scanning people's brains, to the bizarre conversations Crypto and his boss Pox have throughout the game, "Destroy All Humans!" has quite a few moments that will make gamers chuckle.

The game looks great, everything is smooth, especially Crypto. Pandemic has done a great job of mimicking

1950s architecture, and the effects for some of the weapons look phenomenal. The game's sound is excellent. The homicidal Crypto sounds like a gruff Jack Nicholson, and the game's music sounds like it's straight out of a B movie.

Unfortunately, "Destroy All Humans'!" humor and graphical polish can't make up for its mediocre gameplay. Crypto is armed with a fairly small array of weapons, which are mostly underwhelming. Missions are bland, they generally involve going from one point to another on the map, destroying whatever is there and then going somewhere else. There are some stealth missions, but those get stale quick. The main game should take about nine hours to beat.

'Destroy All Humans!" is a great rental, but after a few hours of play it feels like any other mediocre action game. If you are looking for a good action game this summer grab "Mercenaries" or "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" instead.

Heads up Penny





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