

What happened to Yakuza 3?

Written by Deekman
Thursday, 04 March 2010 12:31



(Editors Note: Yes this is a repost from my [personal blog](#) but thanks to OLR I have a platform to reach more like minded people, especially the audience that OLR caters to. If you have a story you want to let the world know

[send it to us](#)

and get your voice heard!)

Update: Thanks to [ThePatrick](#) for the updated info. Changed list of what's missing.

Update 2: I just want to say up front that I'm still buying this game launch day and still have my pre-order. The point of this article is to express my displeasure to Sega at what they've done for the series. When Yakuza 2 only sold 40,000 units in the US it was unclear if the 3rd would even make it. Support Sega and the series if you like it even with the cuts otherwise the next one won't be released. Buy it new, show your support and remember you're a customer and you can always express how unhappy you are with a product via [official channels](#).

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How Sega is breaking my heart again.

Over the last 3 weeks I've decided to get caught up on a game series I missed; Yakuza (Ryu ga Gotoku). The first game in the series was released on the PS2 in 2006 in North America but for some reason I skipped it. The second game released here in 2008 I skipped even though I had an interest because I skipped the first and didn't want to miss out on the story line.

2 weeks ago I started seeing more screenshots and trailers for Yakuza 4 the game is about to come out in Japan next month with Yakuza 3 coming out this month in the US and here I haven't even played 1 - 2! Luckily I managed to scrounge up a copy of both games here in my town in fairly good condition and set to work beating them.

I just managed to get through Yakuza's amazing story, full of betrayal, murder and [Bill Farmer](#). I'd just started Yakuza 2 when Sega announced, 2 weeks before Yakuza 3's release, that they would be cutting content from the US version:

"The content between Yakuza 3 US/UK and Yakuza JP is a little different in that we took out certain bits in order to bring the game to the west in the time allotted for us to do so. The parts we ended up taking out were parts that we felt wouldn't make sense (like a Japanese history quiz game) or wouldn't resonate as much (such as the concept of a hostess club)"

After the comment above the Yakuza fans online exploded demanding the content be made available via DLC or patched in. Segas response to the situation was:

"...we wanted to confirm that there is some content in the Japanese version of Yakuza 3 that didn't make it over to upcoming Western version, mostly involving the Hostess Clubs and the Japanese History trivia sections..."

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This response was just as bad and with the release of the US version trophy list it was all but confirmed what was going to be missing:

- Hostess Bars
- Japanese History Trivia Mini-Game
- Running a Hostess Bar Backing a Hostess
- Being A Host
- Mahjong
- Shogi
- Hanafuda
- Good Box Art (image above is not the art [this is](#))

Now most of the above I would probably never touch. I've no idea how to play Mahjong, Shogi or know much about Japanese History. The hostess bars however are a BIG part of the game series. Sure they are not a necessary part of the story but people (especially fans) love them. Not to mention some of the side missions give you items you use to interact with the girls of the bars. Making them now **useless**.

These games are about being involved within the Japanese culture and doing all there is to do in a Japanese city including most of the items listed above. Yes I probably won't do them but I want the option to do them or not. To come out and say that fans of the series ***don't want*** these features without giving us a choice is ridiculous! Let's face it people buying Yakuza 3 are mostly people who bought Yakuza 1 and 2 which included the removed games.

The thing that gets me upset about this though is the constant spin and lying the Sega marketing team are doing trying to save face. As soon as people demanded answers they have gone radio silent. The small statements they do release only seem to fan the fires of people demanding to know ***what else*** has been cut. They're not saying and now even the very small marketing push has backfired as everyone is taking turns rail roading them for answers that they refuse to give!

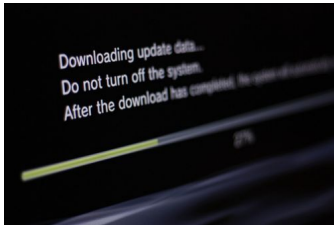
There's been rumors pre-orders of this game have gone down 75%. If true 75% is a HUGE blow on a game that was already expected to sell low numbers especially because the minds at Sega decided to release it the same day as a little game called **Final Fantasy 13!** Yet it seems Sega still doesn't want to give answers.

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All of the above and they still want me to pay full price for a game that's at this point 1.5 years old AND has 1/4 of it's content removed seems shady. Seems **greedy**.



What Sega could do to fix it.

- **Launch Price:** If they took the price and knocked \$20-\$25 off the launch price I could at least say "Well it sucks they removed it but at least they're not charging us for it." but as it stands now they expect us to pay the full price that it was launched at in Japan without cut content over a year later.

- **Patch it:** Announce a patch to re-introduce the missing content. Put it on the fans heads and say "If we can sell over 1 million copies of this game we'll release the patch." Fans win, Sega wins and it puts the blame directly on us if the patch is not released.

- **DLC:** Ironically I would be willing to pay an extra \$10-\$20 for something I only *might* play if it means I get the full game. If you want to release the game now and charge me for the content later sure I won't be happy about it but I would sure as heck feel better than how you're doing things now.

- **Promise & release Yakuza 4 in its entirety:** With this mad amount of fan backlash (and, if true, pre-order cancellation) Sega has to be thinking they messed up. If people don't buy the game it could go one of two ways. Sega sees the poor sales numbers and decides NA isn't a market they should strive to keep the series going in or they could admit to the error and promise not to cut content from the sequel. The hardest part with this is that if people don't buy the game now because of this Sega will lose nothing by not releasing any more of the series here. If they do buy it fans feel they are sending the wrong message to Sega that they are OK

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with paying full price for edited content.

Why am I getting so caught up in this:

I **want** the Yakuza series to continue here in the US. I **want** to keep playing one of my new favorite game series. I **want** Sega as a company to survive.

I feel like [my wife](#) put it the best:

"Imagine Assassins Creed 2 had come out in Japan a year ago and 2 weeks before it was released in your country Ubisoft tells you that the Villa content was cut amongst other things. We won't tell you what else was cut but we still expect you to pay us \$60 at launch."

Sure you can live without the Villa but for some people (including me) it was the heart of the game. Not to mention it's how you make money (much like running a hostess club in Yakuza 3).

I've been a big Sega fan from way back but as with everyone else the company had lost me after every game they released in the last 10 years (save Yakuza 1 and 2) have been TERRIBLE. I know I'm only new to the series of Yakuza but the games have hooked me and brought me back in to the Sega fold as a fan of what they CAN do. The combat, the story everything in this series is great and it's done by Sega!