The Wall Crawler Crawls his Way Back: A Spider-Man PS4 Review

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It's been quite some time since we last saw the release of a brand-new Spider-Man video game. Spider-Man has a fairly great history when it comes to video game titles, but the last few have not met the high standards that older Spider-Man games have set for them. The last few have come off as mostly being quick cash-grabs that had little to no effort being put into them. Needless to say these games have stained Spider-Man's once pristine video game image.

However, the brand new Spider-Man game on the PlayStation 4 has arrived and has set fans of the wall crawler into a frenzy. The game has been highly anticipated since it was announced by Sony at E3 2016, and has been the subject of tons of hype in the last two years. Now that it's been released, has it met the standards that were set for it?

The game is set in New York city, and is completely open world. You can swing around the city at your leisure and explore the rich environment that the developers of the game created for us. Some fans were worried that the graphics were being downgraded from the footage that was shown at E3, but their concerns seem unfounded to me. The graphics come off as amazing, with rich eye-popping colors and crystal clear definition. The texture of everything in the game looks realistic and highlights the true amount of effort that went into this game.

The gameplay is standard fare for what should be in a Spider-Man game. You run, you punch, you shoot webs at bad guys. The technical mechanics of everything is well done, with the exception of wall crawling. I found this one aspect to be a little difficult, but it's certainly not terrible. On top of that, you also have different gadgets that can be used in battle. These gadgets are well done and each have different powers. However, I found myself only using two or three of them for most of the game, with all the others only coming out on occasion or being used only when the game necessitated they be used.

The main campaign has you for the most part playing as Peter Parker. In a unique aspect, the game also has you play briefly in some levels as other Spider-Man characters such as Mary Jane Watson and Miles Morales. On one hand this is a unique way to make this game standout from other Spider-Man games, but on the other hand these levels can get annoying when you just want to be battling villains. The villains in the game are great, featuring a wide array of the most noted members from Spider-Man's rogue's gallery. All their costumes are well done too, based off the original designs but have been updated to the modern world.

Outside of the main campaign, you have a ton of side missions that can be done. These feature both other Spider-Man characters and other characters from the Marvel universe. You also can do things like collect old backpacks that are webbed up around the city and fight random street crime. All these activities unlock tokens that can be used in the game to better yourself. You use these tokens to unlock and upgrade your gadgets, unlock different abilities that can be used in the game and unlock different Spider-Man suits that can be worn in the game.

The different suits in the game are one of the best aspects of it. The library of different suits is rich and amazing, featuring suits that have appeared in both the comics and movies as well as suits that have been created specifically for this game. Each suit unlocks a new ability that can be activated during battle. This includes things like quadruple damage, a built in EMP blast or extra mechanical arms that Spider-Man can use in battle. Each suit power can also be used regardless of what suit you have on, so you don't have to wear a specific suit in order to have a certain ability. You also have modifications that can be done for your suit, allowing you to have whatever advantages you need depending on what the current mission entails.

The only major flaw the game has in my humble opinion is the main campaign of the game. It comes off as slow times, spending a lot of time building up the two main villains of the game and having you just fight thugs for most of the first half of the game. That being said the campaign is still fun to play and isn't anywhere near being bad. It can just be a little frustrating at first.

Spider-Man is one of the best video games released this year and is a must own. If you're a gamer or know someone who is, pick up it now. It's a fun experience and will only get better as new DLC packages get released for it.