

## **Dead Ends: Free downloadable game – part of the Disarming Britain season FAQs**

### **What is it?**

Channel 4 has worked closely with multimedia education provider RollingSound to produce a computer game called Dead Ends, which aims to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of street crime. In this full 3D game produced exclusively for Channel 4's 'Disarming Britain' season you play on both sides of the law, as Keith Wilcox, a new gang recruit caught in a deadly situation he can't handle, and Detective Jameson, an officer investigating a gang killing that's turning up nothing but dead ends. Who killed Keith and why? To find out, you must interrogate witnesses, chase down suspects, pass gang initiation tests and escape through the dangerous streets of the estate.

### **Why did we make it?**

Young people in Britain are hugely affected by street crime so we were keen to engage them in the Disarming Britain season through a medium that they are familiar with. Equally, young people, some with experience of street crime, were integral to the process and were involved in storyboarding, scripting, acting, animating and testing the game, and producing the music for it. The game is targeted at young people who are also being targeted via activity on a Disarming Britain hub on Bebo.

### **Who is it suitable for?**

Dead Ends is an urban game about the death of a young person on Britain's streets and is not suitable for younger players. The game includes animation scenes of a stabbing, and a murder/crime scene.

### **Download queries:**

#### **How do I download the Dead Ends game?**

The game is available to download from [C4.com/disarmingbritain](http://C4.com/disarmingbritain) and [bebo.com/disarmingbritain](http://bebo.com/disarmingbritain)

You will be asked if you wish to 'Run' or 'Save' the file, please click 'Save', then follow the installation instructions onscreen.

#### **How long should the game take to download?**

This depends on the speed of your individual internet connection. Dead Ends is 210mb in size. With a good broadband connection (e.g. 7 megabytes per second) the game will take approx 30 mins to download.

#### **What is DirectX and why do I need to download that as well?**

DirectX is the part of Windows that allows computer games and other multimedia programmes to run on your PC. As with other windows products, Microsoft release new updated versions of DirectX periodically. Dead Ends requires the latest version which is DirectX 9.0c and which can be downloaded for free from [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

Most new commercial games currently on the market require DirectX 9.0c, so if you regularly play games on your PC, you will probably already have this.

## **Installation problems:**

### **I'm having problems downloading and/or installing Dead Ends/DirectX?**

Please make sure you have appropriate permission to download and install software on your PC.

If you are using a PC at home, please check with the person who owns the computer or is the administrator.

If your computer is part of a network (e.g. you are using a school ,college or work PC) it is very unlikely that as an individual user you will have administrator privileges to install software, this can normally only be done by the network manager/administrator, so please check with them.

## **Running problems:**

### **Why is the game crashing, or running slowly?**

Please check your computer meets the following minimum requirements before you attempt to download and install Dead Ends:

2Ghz CPU  
1GB ram  
256mb GPU  
300MB Hard disk space

Recommended Spec:

Dual-Core CPU  
2GB ram  
512mb Nvidia GPU (or equivalent)

Your screen must support a minimum of 1024x786x32 resolution.

If your computer does not meet these minimum spec the game may run slowly or crash. These requirements are relatively standard for commercial computer games, so if you regularly play games on your PC you should be fine.

### **Why does my computer 'freeze' on the loading screen?**

Once you have downloaded the game, you may find the game appears to 'freeze' on the loading screen. This probably means that your computer does not meet the specs above. The game should eventually load and be playable if you leave the screen to load, but will run slowly.

### **What is the Dead Ends Mini Arcade Game?**

There is a simple arcade version of the game that you can download at [bebo.com/disarmingbritain](http://bebo.com/disarmingbritain)

Dead Ends Mini Arcade Game requires the DX Studio Player, a free application for playing 3D games in a web browser. If you do not have the DX Studio Player on your PC, you will be offered this free download when you click on the link. The DX studio player only takes a few moments to download and install, similar to installing Flash or other similar applications.

As with the Dead Ends full game, please ensure you have permission to download and install software on the PC you are using.

**I'm having a problem not covered above, can I speak to RollingSound directly?**

Dead Ends is a free game produced by young people in association with RollingSound. RollingSound are a small youth education organisation and unfortunately they cannot respond to individual technical queries from the public.