

PCSX2 0.9.6 FAQ

Section I: General questions about the project

What is the aim of this project?

The aim of this project is to emulate the Playstation 2, allowing people to play their Ps2 games on their pc. This requires having an original Playstation 2 console (for the BIOS) and of course having the original games as well.

Is the project open source?

Yes, the project is open source, and it is licensed under the GNU General Public License v2.

Can I help the project?

Sure you can, refer to this thread [HERE](#)

Is the release package complete? Can I play out of the box?

No, the release package is not complete. You need to do at least 3 things before you can play.

First, you need to put in your own BIOS. Dump your Playstation 2 BIOS from your own console. You can find the BIOS dumper [HERE](#)

Second, you need to configure the plugins in the emulator. You can use the official guide found [HERE](#)

And third, you need to update your directx in order for gsdx to work (important!) . Gsdx is our suggested graphics plugin. Update directx with the web installer [HERE](#)

Section 2: General questions about the emulator

What are the requirements for using this emulator?

Minimum

- * Windows/Linux OS
- * CPU that supports SSE2 (Pentium 4 and up, Athlon64 and up)
- * GPU that supports Pixel Shaders 2.0
- * 512mb RAM

Recommended

- * Windows Vista 32bit/64bit
- * CPU: Intel Core 2 Duo @ 3.2ghz or better
- * GPU: 8600gt or better
- * 1gb RAM (2gb if on Vista)

Does the emulator support 4 cores?

No, currently only 2 cores are supported. To make Pcsx2 efficiently use 3 or more cores will require major code changes. So don't ask when quad-core support will be available, since it won't be anytime soon! However, pcsx2 will run fine on your quadcore cpu. It just won't benefit from the extra 2 cores

Why is my CPU load less than 100%?

As said above, PCSX2 only uses 2 cores, so if you have more the CPU usage will be way less 100%. Even if you have exactly 2 cores, the emulator will not cause 100% CPU usage because of the way threading works. This does NOT mean PCSX2 isn't using the full power of your CPU, it is normal.

Is SLI/Crossfire useful?

By itself, no. Pcsx2 is not programmed to use more than one GPU.

Why not use CUDA to make things faster?

CUDA works best with many parallel threads, something pcsx2 does not use.

So even if we got CUDA support, it would probably run very slow.

Is game X playable?

There is a compatibility list on the site, [HERE](#)

For now it is outdated, so you are better off just trying the game

Do ps1 games work with this emulator?

No, this emulator only works with playstation 2 games. In order to play Ps1 games, you will need a ps1 emulator

My game worked in an earlier version, and now it does not, why?

Due to changes in the emulator some games may not work as well as they did in the previous release, as you will find with most emulation projects, you fix one game, you break another somewhere.

Why is the emulator so slow?

Because the Playstation 2 is a complex console, with a lot of parts which must be emulated at the same time. For a better explanation, refer [to this thread](#)

Where can I get BIOS and Games?

You can get your own BIOS from your own ps2.

You can use games from your own collection, or acquire them from a game store. Any other way is illegal and we have a strict policy about warez.

Case closed.

Where did the old VM and TLB versions go?

They were replaced by a different system which allows us to code better. It is still under development, but it will allow us to develop a better emulator.

How do I play a game?

- 1) Dump your own BIOS and put it into the BIOS folder
- 2) Configure the emulator (read section 3 below)
- 3) Get your Ps2 game discs ready, or make an ISO of them for faster access
- 4) Configure the cdvdrom plugin to point to those ISO/discs
- 5) File->Run CD/DVD

How do I compile the SVN source?

Read the compile guide [HERE](#)

Keep in mind that while you can post bugs about your own compiled svn revisions, we do not offer support for them.

When will the next version be released?

It will be released when it is ready. Don't waste your time and ours asking about that.

Section 3: Configuration questions

How can I configure the emulator?

Please refer to the official PCSX2 guide [HERE](#)

Where did the DC option go?

That option is no longer necessary, so it has been removed.

What about the frame limiting options?

The frame limiting options are often necessary for an enjoyable experience. Read out the explanation in the configuration dialogue, it's very detailed.

What is the normal speed for Playstation 2 games?

NTSC games have a normal speed of 60 frames per second.

PAL games have a normal speed of 50 frames per second.

Note that these speeds are unlike what happens in normal PC games. Sound, graphic, everything is clocked at that speed. A NTSC game running at 30 frames per second is truly going at half the speed it should be.

Are patches necessary?

Often they are not. In a few cases, they allow you to go further ingame compared to without, but by default you should leave them off. They can also be used for cheats.

What about gamefixes?

Gamefixes are, like the name says, special fixes for certain games. Enable them only for those games, they might cause problems in others.

Are speedhacks safe?

Speed hacks are, like the name says, hacks that make games go faster.

Use speedhacks at your own risk, they **will break** many games.

NOTE: Do NOT report bugs unless you also tried the game with "Nothing" selected.

What about the advanced options?

Advanced options should be only changed knowing you can break up games spectacularly sometimes. The help included in the configuration dialogue is very detailed, read it.

What about the plugins?

We included the latest stable versions of the best plugins out there in the package. You will need to configure them. Refer to the guide

Why is the sound bad?

We made SPU2-X the default plugin, as it has become a very nice choice by now.

Some games don't work very well with it though (especially squaresoft games). If you have trouble with the plugin, try Zerospu2 as well (also included).

Section IV: Useful links

BIOS Guides:

[Reichfuher's guide to dumping your Playstation 2 BIOS](#)

Error/Problem Guides:

[Will PCSX2 run fast on my computer?](#)

Memory Card Guides:

[Convert GameFAQ saves to PCSX2 memorycard](#)

How do I make a skip video patch?

[Patch Making For Dummies](#)

How do I play online?

[How to play online guide](#)

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