

● MARVEL'S Avengers has a few rough edges but developer Crystal Dynamics claims a V1.3.0 patch will sort over 1,000 issues picked up by fans and the game's

community over the past fortnight. They range from progression stoppers to small graphical fixes. Square Enix said: "We can't thank you enough for your patience."

● MIKE Bithell, the creator of Thomas Was Alone and John Wick Hex, has revealed his team's next game — The Solitaire Conspiracy. It looks to be a mix of

espionage, cyberpunk visuals and the classic card game, solitaire. It is the next "short" from Bithell Games and it will be out on PC on October 6.

Control's Wake-up call

EVER since the Control roadmap was revealed fans have been chomping at the bit for the AWE Expansion that blends the Control world with Remedy's much-loved Alan Wake series.

All that excitement does not mean that Foundation was a bad first DLC pack, but it has just got a bit lost in light of this epic team-up.

And though it's short it is a very sweet return and will be a thrill for both Control and Alan Wake fans as it blends together the two weird sci-fi universes.

It all starts off with Wake's disembodied voice leading Jesse to a new section of the oldest house in the Investigate Sector — one that has been closed for years. But there is a Wake's world nasty

Control Expansion 2 AWE

Xbox One, PS4 and PC £12.49

stalking a sector that has been consumed by the darkness and corrupted by the Hiss.

Jesse must get rid of the baddie across the three-and-a-bit hour running time. Kudos to Remedy, the balance between the worlds is just right — Wake

fans can get their fix of their beloved series while Control compadres will not feel alienated in their own game.

Like the main game there are a number of side missions on offer as you

explore the Investigate Sector area. They open up tales of their own but most of it boils down to fetch quests, which is a shame.

There are a few new bits and bobs. There's a Surge gun upgrade that basically turns it into a sticky bomb launcher. You can also control three launchable objects telekinetically. The gameplay and combat are richer.

This is great fun. It is a decent return to Control that delivers what fans want as well as being a strong first step into the Remedy joint universe.

★★★★



Avoidable Crisis

CRISIS became part of gaming folklore when it was launched back in 1997 — and now it has had the master treatment.

The original sparked memes asking "it run Crisis?" and was the benchmark for testing your PC rig cause of the high-spec that was needed the time.

The first-person shooter is on the console and PC once again — and has even made the move to the Switch.

You fill the high-tech suit of Jake Dunn — denamed Nomad — who is a member of Delta Force. He gets recruited into a Spec Ops squad called Team Raptor that runs black ops behind enemy lines.

The teams are kitted out with Nano Suits which turn them into one-man armies — they can run faster, become almost totally invisible and increase their armour.

It is 2020 — but this world is actually in a bit of a better shape than ours is just now.

North Korean forces take control of Lingshan and. An American team of archaeologists on the island send out a distress call amid claims they have found something that could change the world. Team Raptor are sent in to evacuate the scientists and secure any resources before

Crisis Remastered

Xbox One, PS4, Switch and PC £24.99

the nasty North Koreans get their hands on them. It all leads to a solid, if dated, campaign where Nomad runs, guns and blows up almost everything he sees.

There are also some neat twists and turns along the way to keep you on your toes.

The gameplay is pure FPS action, but Crisis gives you choices and they open up a world of possibilities. That is a fun mechanic — for example, there is a communication jammer in an enemy base and you have to shut it down.

Your options are:

A: Run in all guns blazing, kill everyone and switch it off.

B: Stealth your way past the machine gun nest, guard towers, soldiers and two tanks and flip the switch, or

C: Stand on a hillside and RPG the comms jammer to death then go stealth and slip away into the jungle.

There's also E, F, G, H options because there is no set way to do any mission. As long as you have the tools you can do it in any way you want.

So how could things go wrong? Well, this is a remaster and it's really

busted like a huge dumpster fire. The rough bits are really bad and it is full of technical issues that are on the verge of being deal-breakers. You will want to shout and scream when you get use of mounted guns and become stuck to them — or things like that.

The visuals are all over the shop, especially the ray-tracing mode. It just doesn't work.

There is a reason why ray-tracing will be conquered on next-gen consoles. And the same can be said of the other graphic modes — they just don't do the game justice.

This may be the second time that the game's been reworked, but it's still missing the two expansion packs — Warhead and Crisis Wars.

That is a criminal error. Warhead is a separate tale whereas Crisis Wars is a multiplayer expansion. That means you could cut the developers some slack, but not much. This remaster is far from complete.

It should be a smash hit that has everyone talking — and buying it. Instead it's like an aged Hollywood star trying to make a comeback after a botched face-lift. The talent is there, but it still shows its age.

★★



● RAYMAN creator Michel Ancel is quitting the industry to focus full-time on a wildlife sanctuary. His 30-year career has produced a number of h-profile franchises like Rayman, the Rabbids and Beyond Good & Evil. He also

confirmed his two ongoing projects — Beyond Good & Evil 2 and Wild — would continue without him. Ancel said: "Today is very special for me. After more than 30 years, I've decided to stop working on video games and focus on my second passion: Wildlife!"



TOP 5 GAMES THIS WEEK

- 1 Super Mario 3D All-Stars
- 2 Marvel's Avengers
- 3 Animal Crossing: New Horizons
- 4 Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 1 + 2
- 5 Mario Kart 8 Deluxe

● MICROSOFT have forked out \$7.5 billion to buy ZeniMax Media — the parent company of Bethesda, id Software, Arkane Studios, MachineGames, Tango Gameworks and more. It means franchises such as The Elder Scrolls, Fallout, Doom, Dishonored, Wolfenstein, Prey, Rage, The Evil Within, Quake

and Starfield are now part of the Xbox family. Interestingly, Deathloop and Ghostwire: Tokyo will not be changed by the acquisition — meaning Microsoft will be publishing two PlayStation timed exclusives. The rest of Bethesda's games will launch on Xbox, PC and other consoles on a case-by-case basis.



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

THE BYSON FAMILY

WHO: Philip Seth Campbell (vocals), Christian Fleetwood (guitar), Chris Russell (keys), Mick McDaid (bass), Allan James (drums).

WHERE: Glasgow.

FOR FANS OF: The Rolling Stones, Paolo Nutini, Creedence Clearwater Revival.

JIM SAYS: For over 20 years Bishoppbriggs boy Phil Campbell has been making his mark on music. It's been a rollercoaster ride for the singer, who got his first major label deal as a teenager.

As a solo singer-songwriter he was tipped for stardom, even appearing on Later...With Jools Holland in 1998 alongside Aerosmith and Texas.

He went on to front multi-national London-based rockers White Buffalo before leaving the band in 2004.

After returning to a solo career he then took up the reins as singer with The Temperance Movement, scoring three Top 20 albums.

They looked like a band on the verge of major stardom, including a triumphant appearance on the Main Stage at the final T in The Park festival in 2016.

They took a similar slot at TRNSMT in 2018 where they warmed up the crowd perfectly for rock legends Queen.

Phil announced that he had left the band earlier this year, but the seeds were already sown for an exciting new venture in the shape of The Byson Family.

He said: "I got burned out and bummed out with the project after seven or eight years touring and releasing music. I loved the whole experience, but I needed something with different people."

The Byson Family were already in place and made their official debut at St Luke's in Glasgow at the end of 2018. It was initially just mates, Phil, or Philip as he is these days, had been pals with former River 68's guitarist Christian for a while.

Fellow 68ers Chris and Allan complete The Byson Family line-up, along with long-time Paolo Nutini bass player Mick.

Fans of The Temperance Movement won't be disappointed with what The Byson Family have to offer. It's more rootsy and veering towards bluesy Americana, but the common denominator is Phil's incredible voice. From the tracks I've heard so far, it's all rather promising.

Phil added: "So far we've been chucking out the odd single independently. We've cut some videos with friends for the songs Only Love Can Live and Angel Of The Reckless but Hope & Pray is the first official single in our masterplan."

Hope & Pray came out on Friday, with Billy Sloan at BBC Radio Scotland and Tom Russell at The Max already giving it big support.

Tom also had them play a stunning stripped-back session. With an album pencilled in for next year Phil and the lads are set for a major breakthrough. He said: "The record is the absolute best of us."

MORE: thebysonfamily.com ● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio, Sundays at 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com

jimgellatly.com

PIC: RICHARD BRADBURY
Watch video of The Byson Family at thescottishsun.co.uk