I was born in 1995 in Ohio, which made me only five years old when the Avengers' first movie released. Being young, I didn't appreciate the magnitude of what Marvel Studios had done. I simply enjoyed seeing Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and company on screen together for the very first time. When I watched Avengers: Age of Ultron last year for the first time, my appreciation for this franchise grew drastically because it wasn't just a movie — it was a culmination of an entire era of comic book movies and television shows we had grown up with. The stakes were higher than ever before and you could tell there was so much love and care put into every scene. Still, I always found the character of Ultron to be the most fascinating. He's selfdestructive and cruel, with an intense hatred for humanity. He's an artificial intelligence that wants to wipe out everything at the same time with a single attack, including his creator Tony Stark himself. Prime 1 Studio is no stranger to their lighter approach with all their games. It's something I appreciate about them — they don't take themselves seriously and they don't pretend to be realistic. And while Avengers Alliance is still a super serious game, it's not as dark or grim as many other strategy games. One thing I love about their approach to conflict resolution is that you don't feel like there are any decisions ever taken out of your hands. If you need an answer to a question, choose the answer that seems easiest for everyone involved. Likelihood of success is always in your favor when you do that. It doesn't feel like the developers worked too hard into that decision-making element because it just works so well with people who enjoy strategy games in general. Of course, I'm not the only one who had a great time with this game. There were so many other people who came into it on their own accord, or were just introduced to it by word of mouth that formed rather large groups. My girlfriend is one of those people, who enjoyed it so much that she wanted to play multiplayer with me after we finished the main story together. It's something I wouldn't have expected from her initially because she was completely turned off by multiplayer games before, but she ended up enjoying enough of this Marvel Universe spin-off to want to continue playing with me after the tutorial ends. To me, this game is all about the gameplay. The game engine, the mechanics and even the story don't matter so much. I can play them all differently on different occasions for different purposes and still enjoy every moment of it. Sure, there are some minor issues that really only affect Wii U version of the game since GamePad isn't supported at all here. It was a nightmare trying to create paths where I could walk through walls on both versions, but mostly I just used my controller to explore areas if I couldn't find an entrance / exit through my character anyway.

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