



What to buy

GAMERS

Gamers are hard to buy for, especially the ones who have to play every game on release day. Then again, maybe someone on your list appreciates a good *Overwatch* reference. For

gamers of every shape, size, and age, we have a list of the coolest video game gear for the end of the year, no microtransactions needed.
 - WILL HARRISON, SPECIAL TO THE BLADE

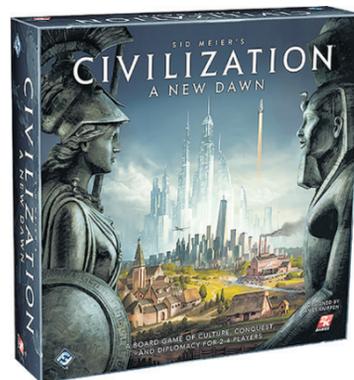


▲ **Xbox One X 1TB Console**
 Not one to be left out in the 4K cold, Microsoft has upped the ante and released its own high-end version of the Xbox One. This 1TB bundle comes with a wireless controller and a ton of firepower. Just ignore the confusing naming convention. **Amazon, online retailers: \$499.**



▲ **Overwatch Ultimate Hoodies**
 Sure, that Genji player in your life never moves the payload and constantly calls for healing, but it doesn't mean they don't deserve a dope hoodie. J!NX has a line of hoodies from the hit Blizzard game *Overwatch*, with more characters coming in 2018. Beware the bunny. **J!NX, \$59.99.**

▼ **SNES Classic Edition**
 Were you a Sega Genesis kid like me while all your friends got *Super Punchout*? Have no fear, Nintendo returns this year with yet another miniaturized classic console in the form of the SNES Classic Edition. With 20 classic games, this package is perfect for new gamers or your inner child ... If you manage to find one. **Amazon, Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Toys R Us, \$79.99.**



▶ **Sid Meier's Civilization: A New Dawn Board game**
 Love the classic strategy franchise *Civilization*? Played so much *Settlers of Catan* that you can't trade wood for sheep a single time more? The new and revamped *Civilization* board game by Fantasy Flight Games is here to find new ways to torture your gaming group. 2-4 players. **Fantasy Flight Web Store, Checkmate Games, online retailers: \$49.95.**

▼ **Nintendo Switch Mario Odyssey Bundle**
 You know it's a good year for gaming when a new Nintendo console is followed by a brand new *Mario* game. The Switch is as good in your living room as it is on the go, allowing you to sing along to "Jump Up, Superstar!" until you're blue in the face. **GameStop at several Toledo locations, Best Buy, Amazon, online and local retailers: \$379.99.**



▲ **Gift Cards For All**
 True story: Almost all the games I purchase these days are bought digitally. This can make gift giving a tricky situation, but all you need is the right gift card for the job. Battle Net from Blizzard, PlayStation Store, Xbox Live, Nintendo EShop, and more can hook you up with the right gift card for the job, no return receipt necessary. **Amazon, Walmart, Target, Best Buy, various online retailers: \$9.99 and up.**



▲ **Elgato Game Capture HD60 S**
 Even though the PS4 and Xbox One both stream directly to Twitch, it isn't a perfect solution for saving and sharing your gaming footage. If you want to level up someone's influencer skills, the Elgato HD60S lets you capture your best moments in all their glory. Works with all HDMI game consoles. **Amazon, online retailers: \$179.99.**



◀ **Funko POP! Figures**
 One can only assume that, once the apocalypse comes and destroys society as we know it, Funko figures will be so plentiful that they'll be used as currency. For the gamer in your life, Funko has you covered with figures from *Marvel vs. Capcom: Infinite*, *Portal*, *Horizon: Zero Dawn*, and more. **Seann's Anime and Comics, 5805 Monroe St., Barnes and Noble, \$9.99 and up.**



◀ **Star Wars Battlefront 2 Bundle**
 I sense a disturbance in the Force, as if a more powerful PlayStation 4 was made that takes advantage of 4K resolution televisions. This slick bundle comes with 1TB of storage, a special edition controller, and the deluxe edition of *Battlefront 2*. **Amazon, online retailers: \$449.**



▲ **Give Me The Games**
 2017 was an overwhelming year for excellent games. New iterations of *Mario*, *Zelda*, and *Resident Evil* are all ready and willing to go under the tree, along with hot new franchises like *Horizon Zero Dawn*. Just be sure to know what game console you're buying for beforehand. **PSN, Xbox Live, Switch Storefront, Amazon, Walmart, GameFly, Target, Best Buy, Toys R Us, \$39.99-\$59.99.**

* Prices and availability subject to change.

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