



RAZER CORTEX

Welcome to Razer Cortex, the nerve center of your entire gaming experience. From effortlessly finding the best deals on your games to launching and boosting them for peak pc performance while backing up your progress and settings to the cloud and giving you gameplay recording capabilities, Razer Cortex is the one solution for all your PC gaming needs.

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1. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Windows® 10 / Windows® 8.1 / Windows® 8 / Windows® 7
- Internet connection
- At least 250MB of free hard disk space

Disclaimer: All features listed in this Master Guide are subject to change based on the current software version.

2. INSTALLATION

INSTALLING THE SOFTWARE

The Razer Cortex is a standalone software that can be downloaded and installed into your PC.

- Step 1. Visit www.razerzone.com/cortex/download to download the latest version of the Razer Cortex installer.
- Step 2. Launch the downloaded installer.
- Step 3. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the installation.
- Step 4. Click **Done** once the installation completes and restart your computer when prompted.

UNINSTALLING THE SOFTWARE

If you have a previously installed version of the Razer Cortex or if you wish to completely uninstall the software,

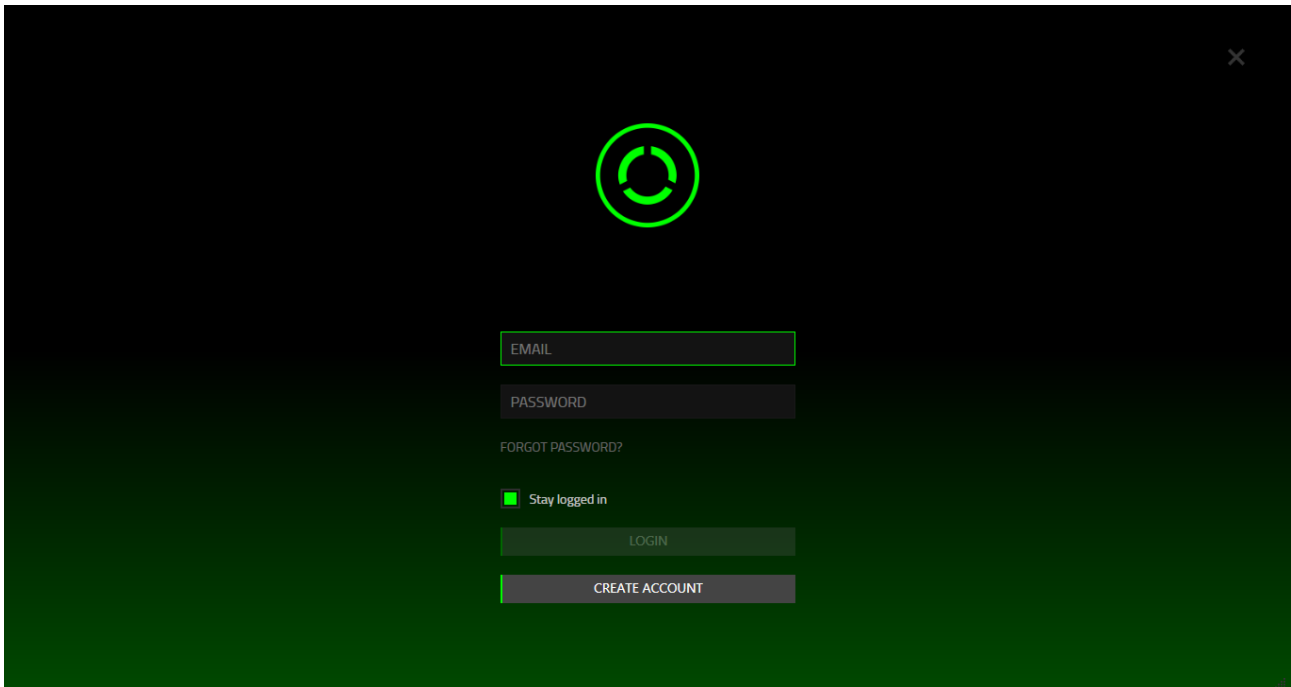
- Step 1. From the Windows **Start** menu, go to your **Control Panel** and select **Programs > Uninstall a program**.
- Step 2. Right-click on the Razer Cortex entry in the list and select Uninstall.
- Step 3. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the uninstallation.

3. ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

CREATING AN ACCOUNT

You can login to the Razer Cortex directly using your Razer Synapse 2.0 login details. If you are not an existing Razer Synapse 2.0 user, register as follows:

- Step 1. Launch the Razer Cortex from the Start menu.
- Step 2. Click **CREATE ACCOUNT** at the bottom of the window.
- Step 3. Enter a valid **Email** address and **Password**. Re-enter your **Password** for confirmation.
- Step 4. Click the **TERMS OF SERVICE** and **PRIVACY POLICY** links to read the terms of usage. Then, select the checkbox to agree to be bound by these terms.

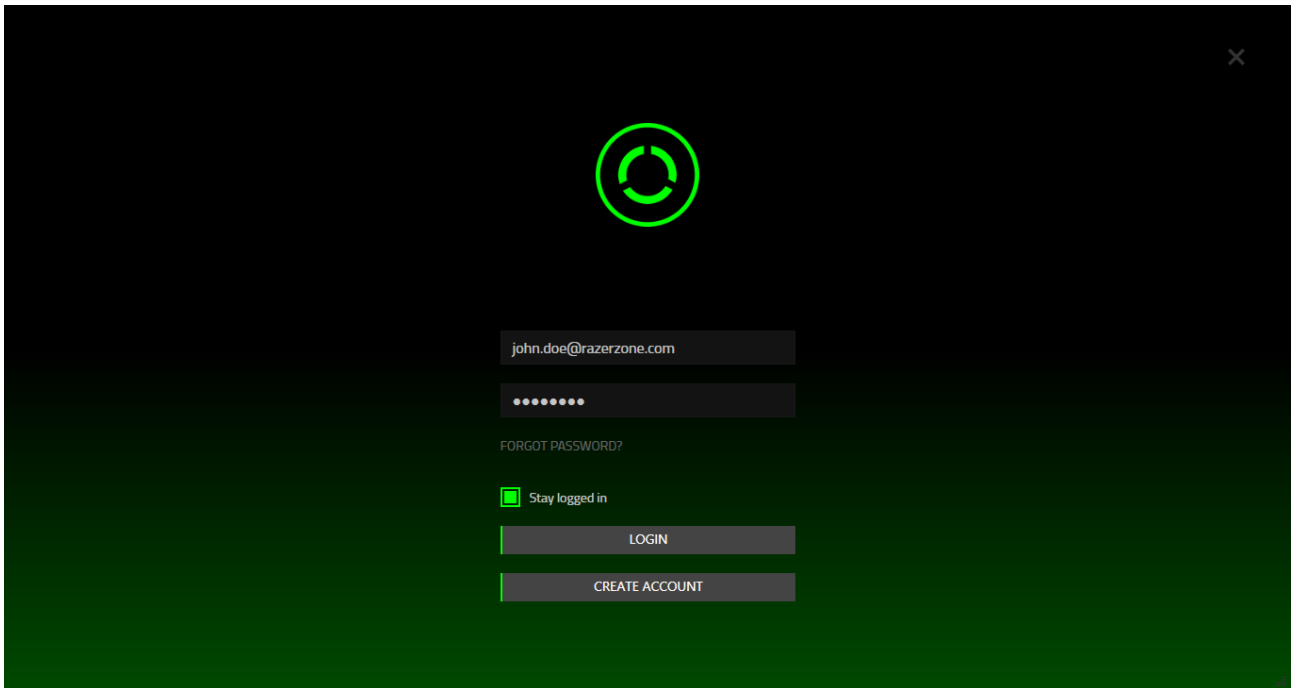


- Step 5. Click **CREATE ACCOUNT**.
- Step 6. Check your email inbox for an account verification email from Razer.
- Step 7. Verify your Razer Synapse 2.0 account by clicking on the link in the email.
- Step 8. Return to the Razer Cortex and login using your registered account.

LOGGING IN

If you already have an existing Razer Synapse account, login directly to Razer Cortex as follows:

Step 1. Launch Razer Cortex from the Start menu.



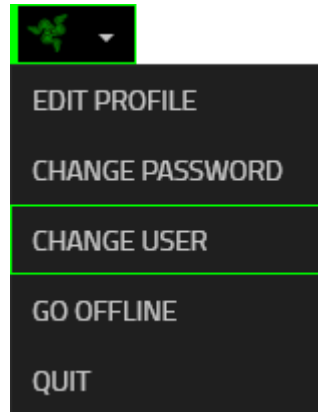
Step 2. Enter the **EMAIL** address and **PASSWORD** of your existing Razer Synapse account.

Step 3. Check the **STAY LOGGED IN** box ONLY IF you wish to automatically login to Razer Cortex using this account each time you launch the software.

Step 4. Click **LOGIN**.

LOGGING OFF

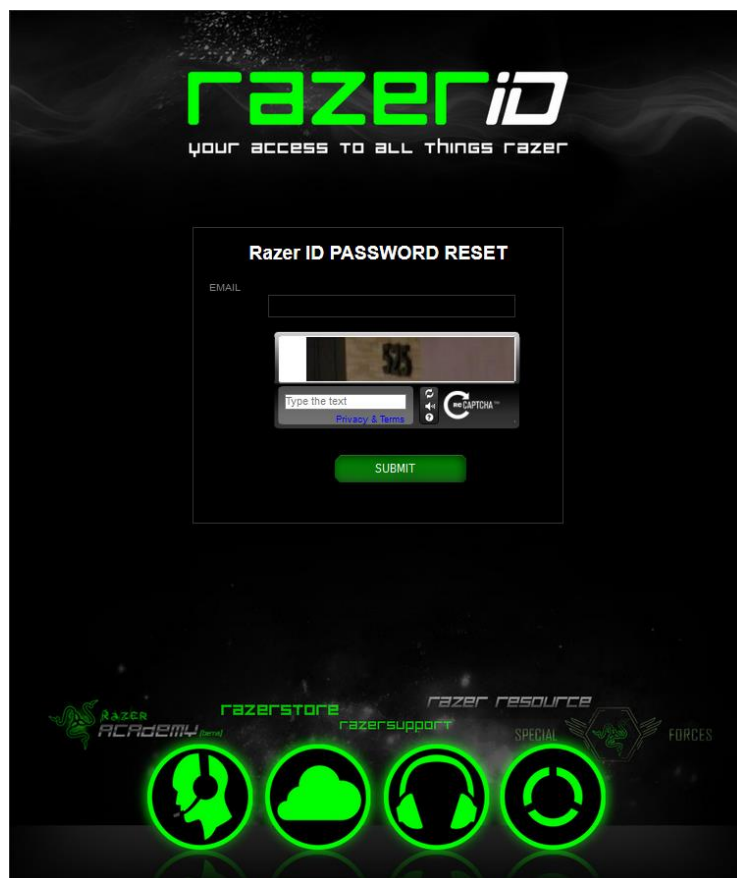
Log off from Razer Cortex by clicking your profile picture from the Razer Cortex main window and select **Change User**.



RETRIEVING YOUR PASSWORD

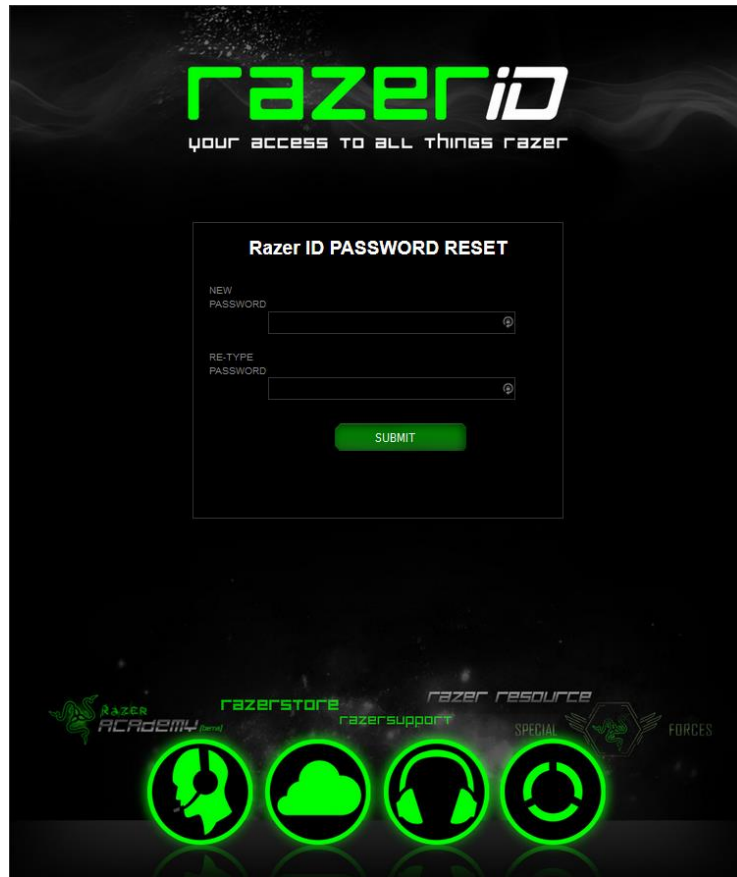
If you have forgotten your account password,

Step 1. Click **Forgot Password?** on the login interface of the software. Your web browser will launch and direct you to the Razer ID Password Reset page:



Step 2. Enter your registered account **EMAIL** and type the text verification code shown. Then click **SUBMIT**.

- Step 3. Check your email inbox for a verification email from Razer. Click the link in the email.
- Step 4. Your web browser will navigate to the password reset page as shown in the figure below. Enter your **NEW PASSWORD** and retype it to confirm. Then click **SUBMIT**.



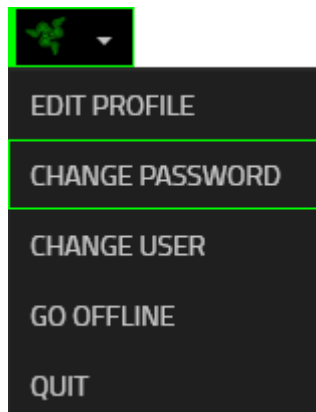
The image shows a web page for Razer ID password reset. At the top, the 'razerid' logo is displayed in green and white, with the tagline 'YOUR ACCESS TO ALL THINGS RAZER' below it. The main content area is a white box titled 'Razer ID PASSWORD RESET'. Inside this box, there are two input fields: 'NEW PASSWORD' and 'RE-TYPE PASSWORD', each with a password strength indicator icon to its right. Below these fields is a green 'SUBMIT' button. At the bottom of the page, there is a navigation bar with several links: 'RAZER ACADEMY', 'razerstore', 'razerresource', 'razer support', 'SPECIAL', and 'FORCES'. Each link is accompanied by a green circular icon representing its respective category.

A success screen will be displayed. You can now login to Razer Cortex using this new password.

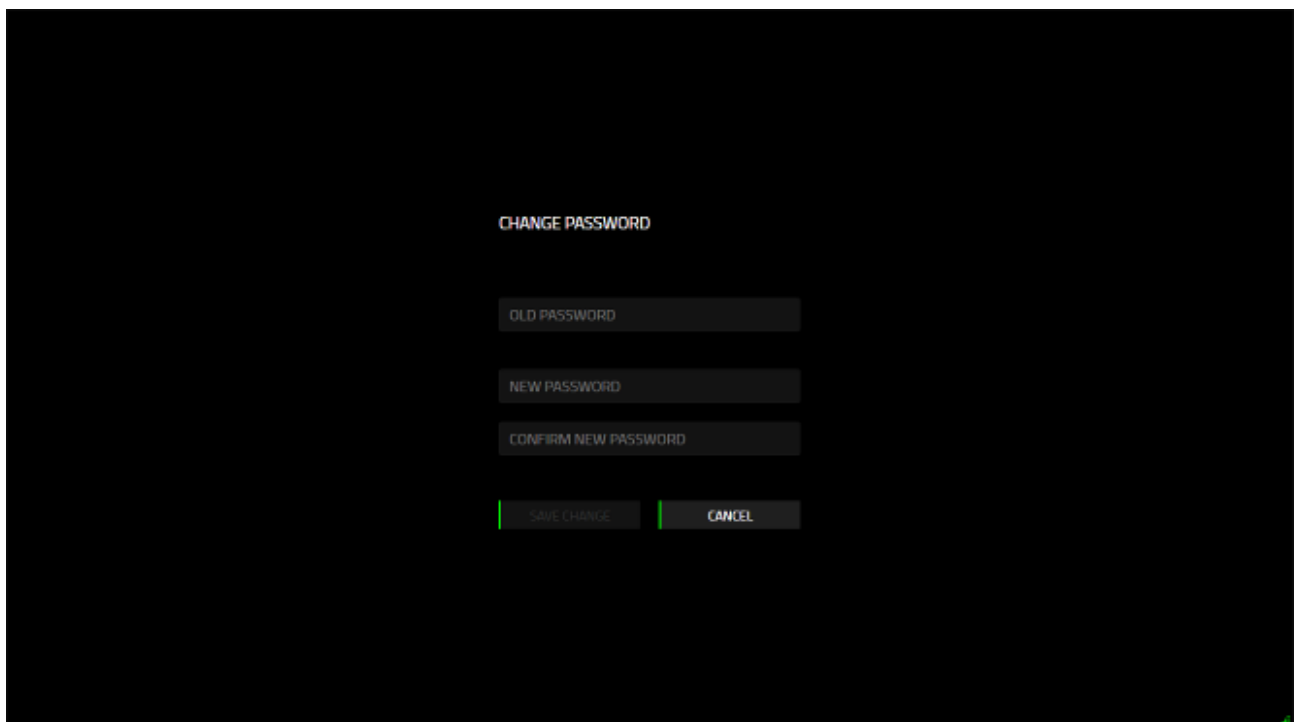
CHANGING YOUR PASSWORD

For security purposes, you are recommended to change your account password regularly. To change your account password through Razer Cortex,

- Step 1. Launch and login to Razer Cortex.
- Step 2. From the Razer Cortex interface, click your user name to bring up a list of menu options. Select **CHANGE PASSWORD**.

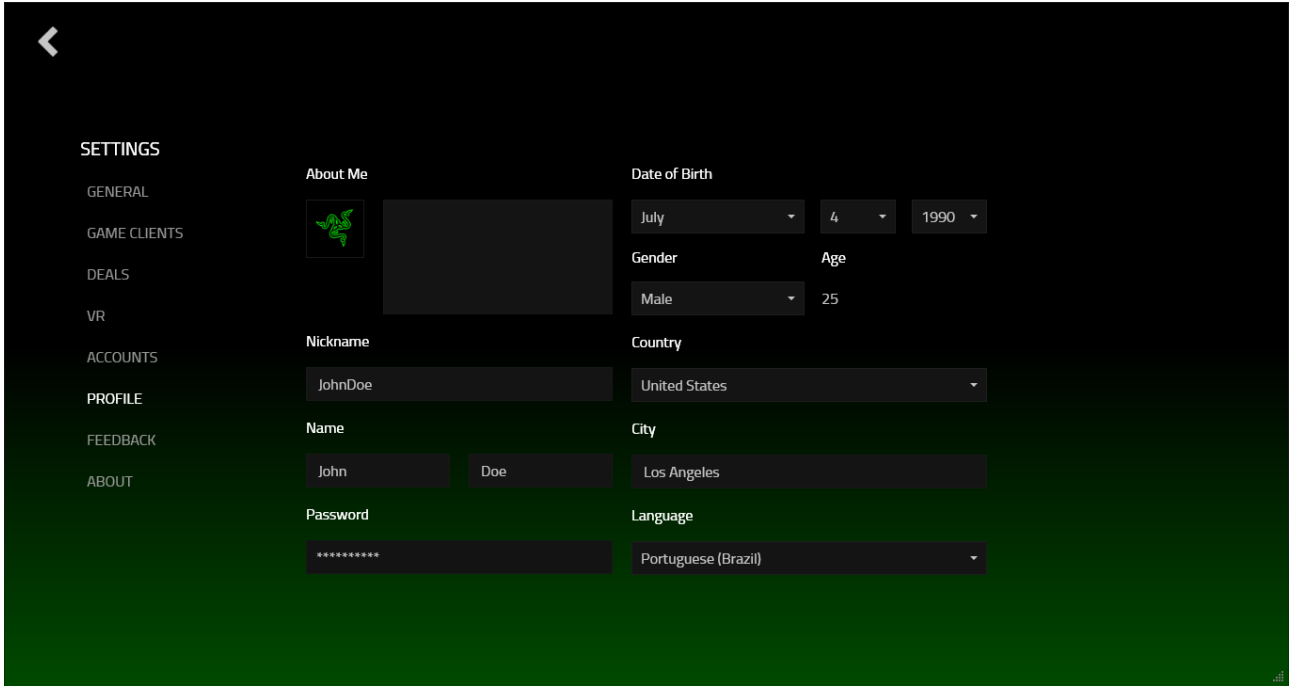


- Step 3. In the next screen, enter your **OLD PASSWORD**, and the **NEW PASSWORD**. Re-enter the new password then click **SAVE** to confirm the change.



MANAGING YOUR USER PROFILE

You can view and edit your user profile from the Razer Cortex interface. Click your user name and select **EDIT PROFILE** from the menu options or click the  icon to bring up the settings interface.



All information are optional. Profile details can include:

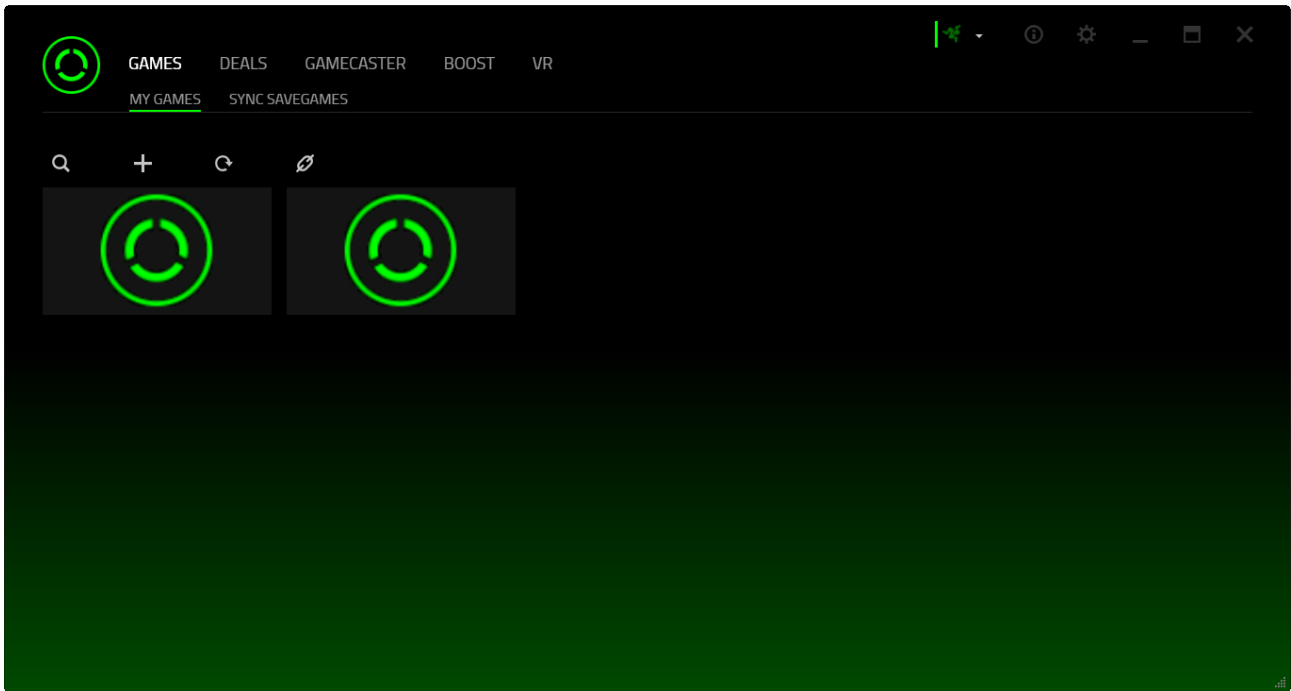
- Avatar: Change your display picture
- About me: Brief description about yourself
- Personal details including your preferred nickname, actual name, date of birth, age and gender
- Location details including language, city and country.
- Preferred UI display language.

Changes are automatically saved as they are made. Click  to return to the main interface.

4. RAZER CORTEX GENERAL SETTINGS

UNDERSTANDING THE INTERFACE

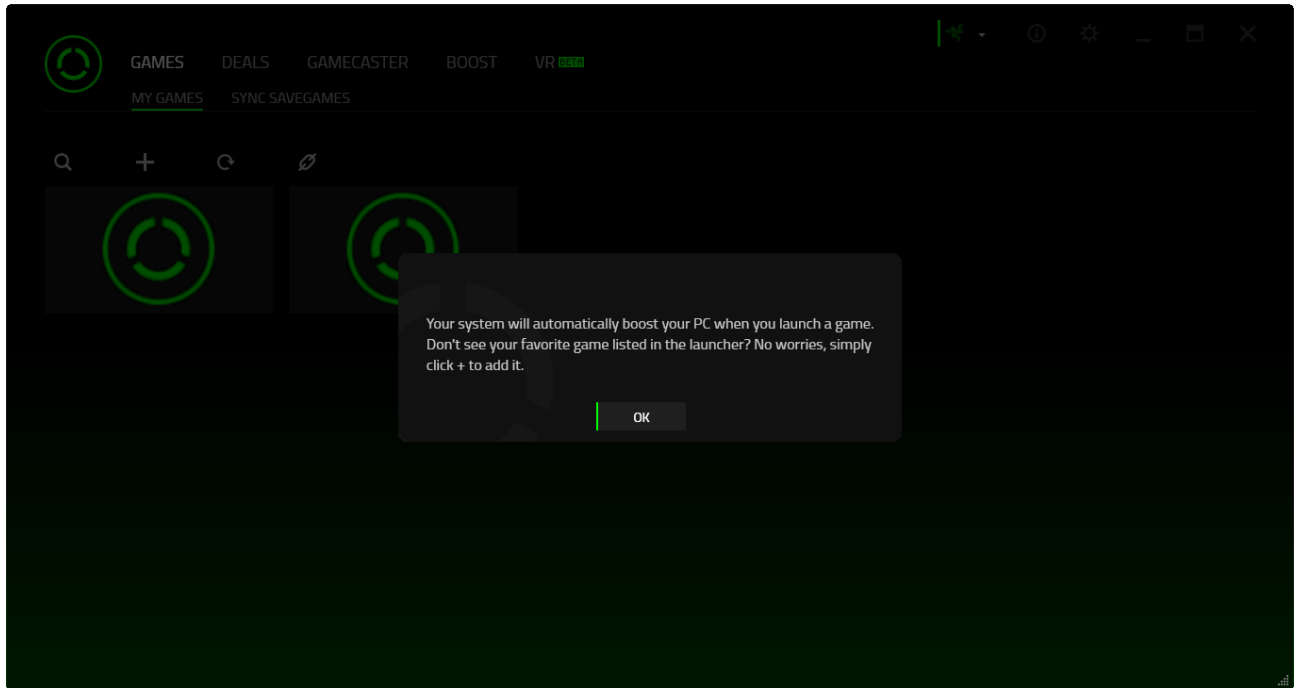
By default, your Razer Cortex displays the GAMES tab when activated.



This tab displays a list of your games and applications. Use the tabs on the top to access the various functions of the Razer Cortex. Please refer to the later sections of this guide for more information on each feature.

TOOL TIPS

A simple tool tip providing a brief explanation on each feature of the Razer Cortex is included for every tab of this interface. Simply click  to find out more about a particular feature.

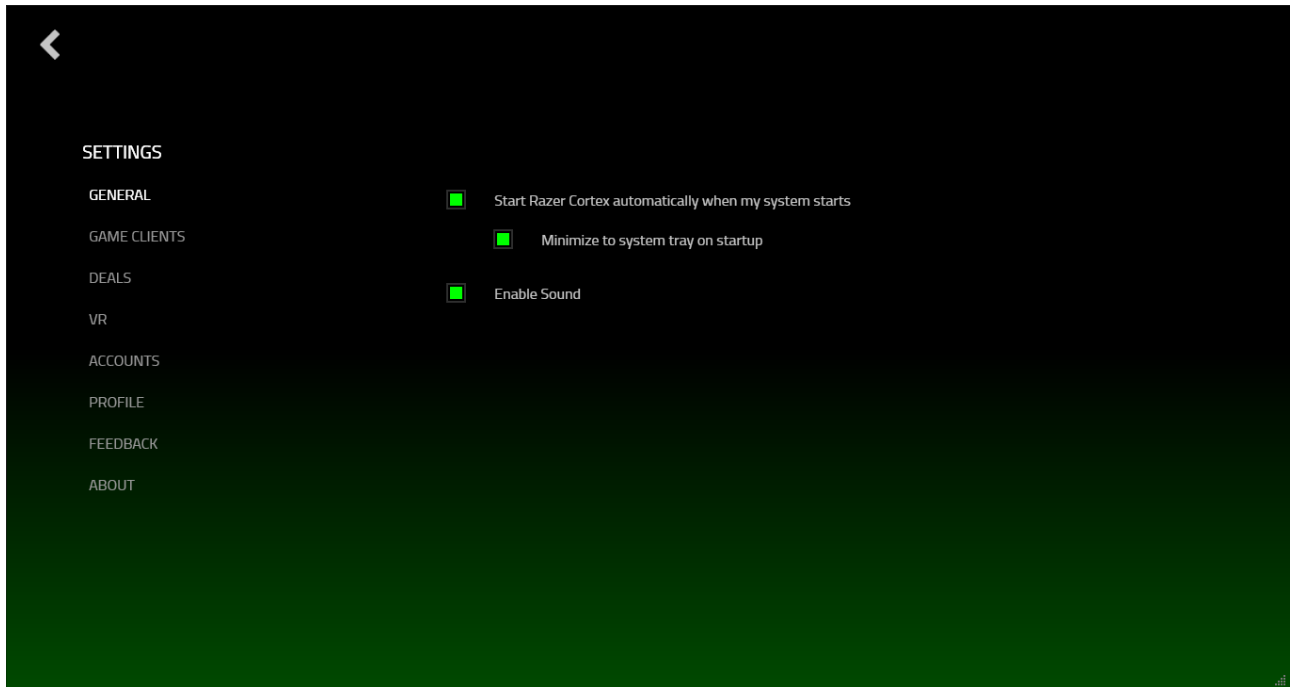


RAZER CORTEX SETTINGS

Razer Cortex provides a number of general preferences to manage the software's behavior.

Step 1. Launch the software and login.

Step 2. From the right of the window, click the  icon.



The GENERAL tab includes options that determine the software's basic behavior including:

- Enable Razer Cortex to be launched when Windows starts
- Run Razer Cortex in the system tray when system first starts up
- Enable the Razer Cortex UI sound effects

5. USING THE RAZER CORTEX

When Razer Cortex is installed and launched for the first time, it automatically scans your computer for installed games it can recognize.

SEARCHING FOR A GAME

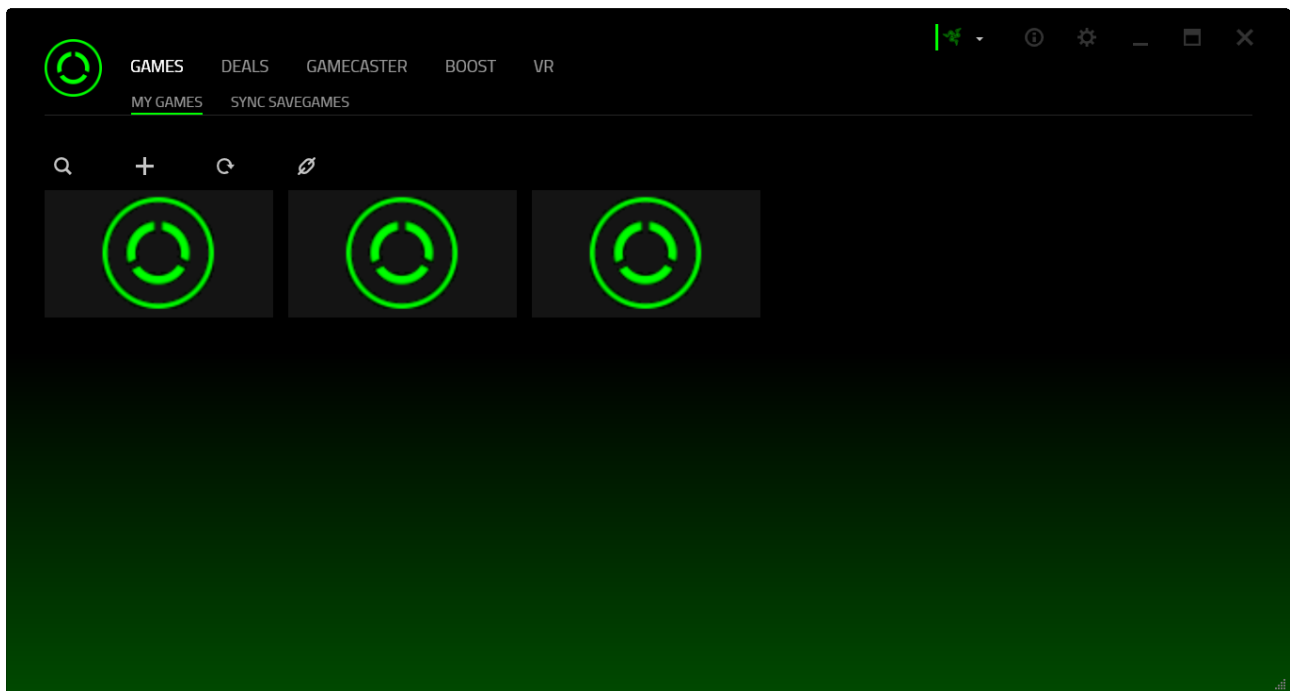
A search function helps you locate a game you wish to run faster and more conveniently.

Step 1. From the GAMES tab, click the  icon.

Step 2. Enter a search phrase into the textbox.

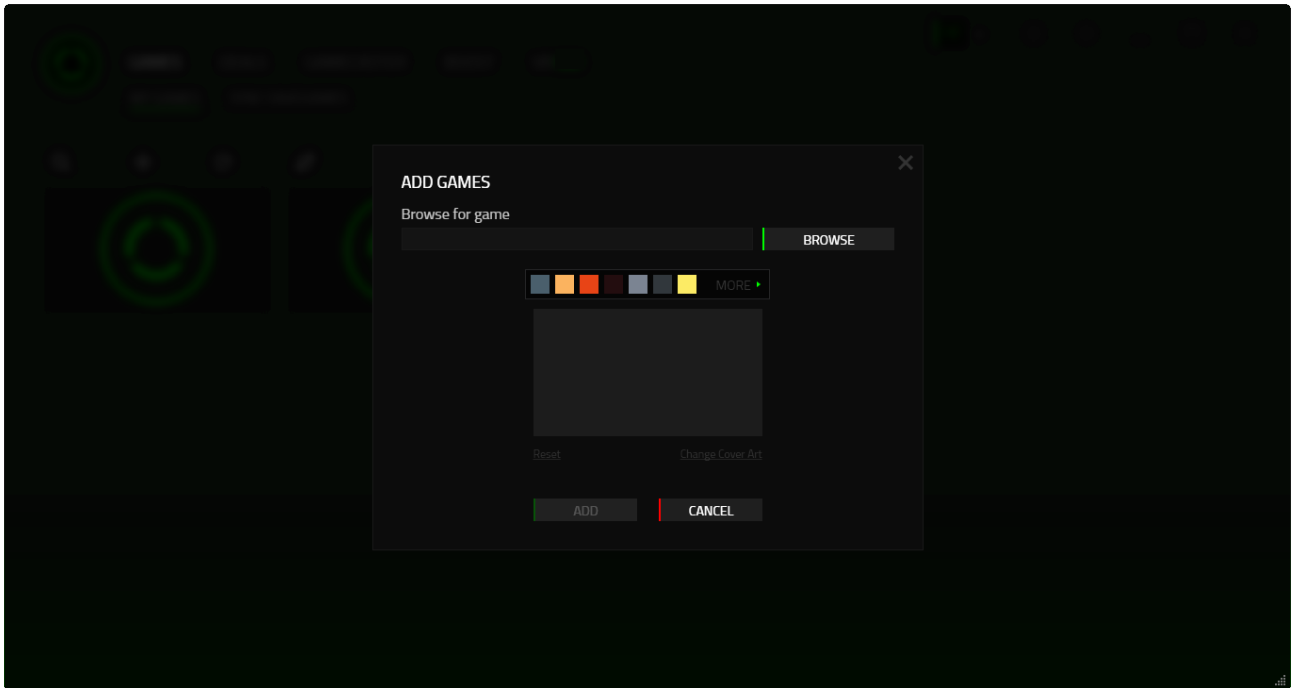
Note: You can tap  to clear the textbox.

Step 3. A list of all games matching this phrase will be displayed.



ADDING INSTALLED GAMES TO THE LIST – MANUAL SELECTION

To add your own game and/or application to this list, click **+** on the GAMES tab. Click **BROWSE** and select the game you want to add.

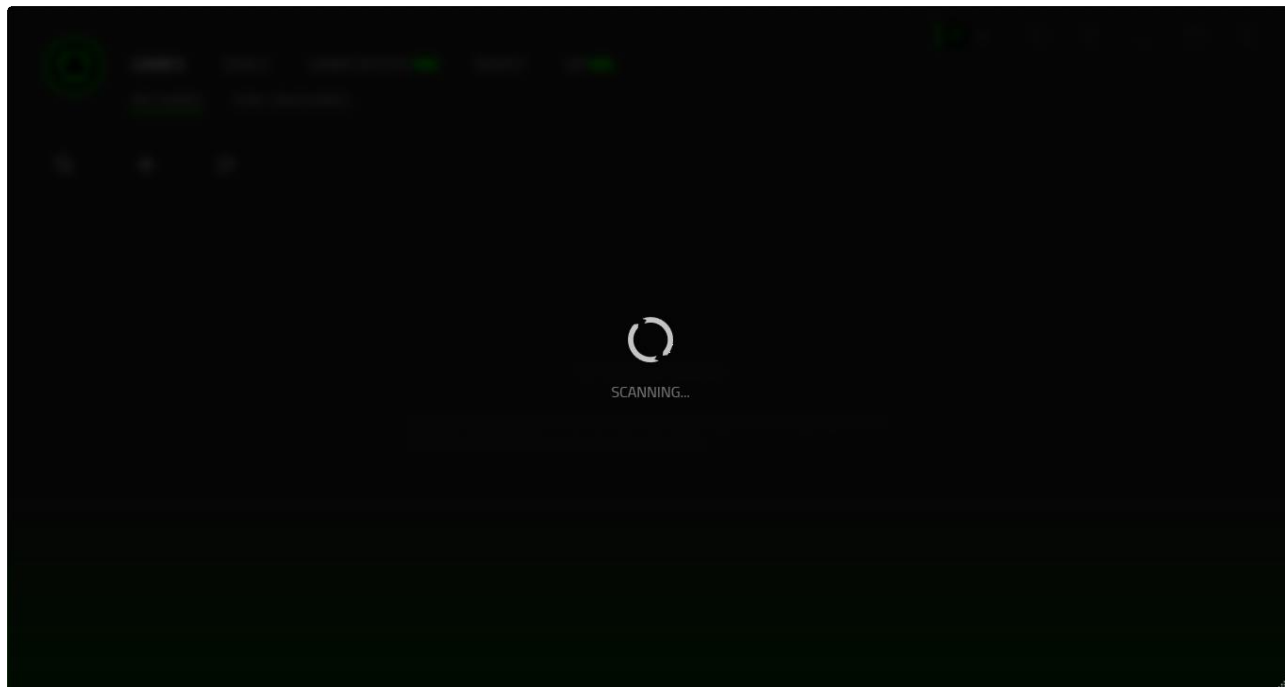


Personalize the look of the game launcher by selecting from over 16.8 million available background colors or selecting your own cover art by clicking **Change Cover Art**.

ADDING INSTALLED GAMES TO THE LIST – AUTOMATIC SYSTEM SCAN

From the GAMES tab, click . Razer Cortex will automatically start scanning your system for recognized games and add them to the GAMES list.

Note: Only games recognized by the Razer Cortex can be added using this method.

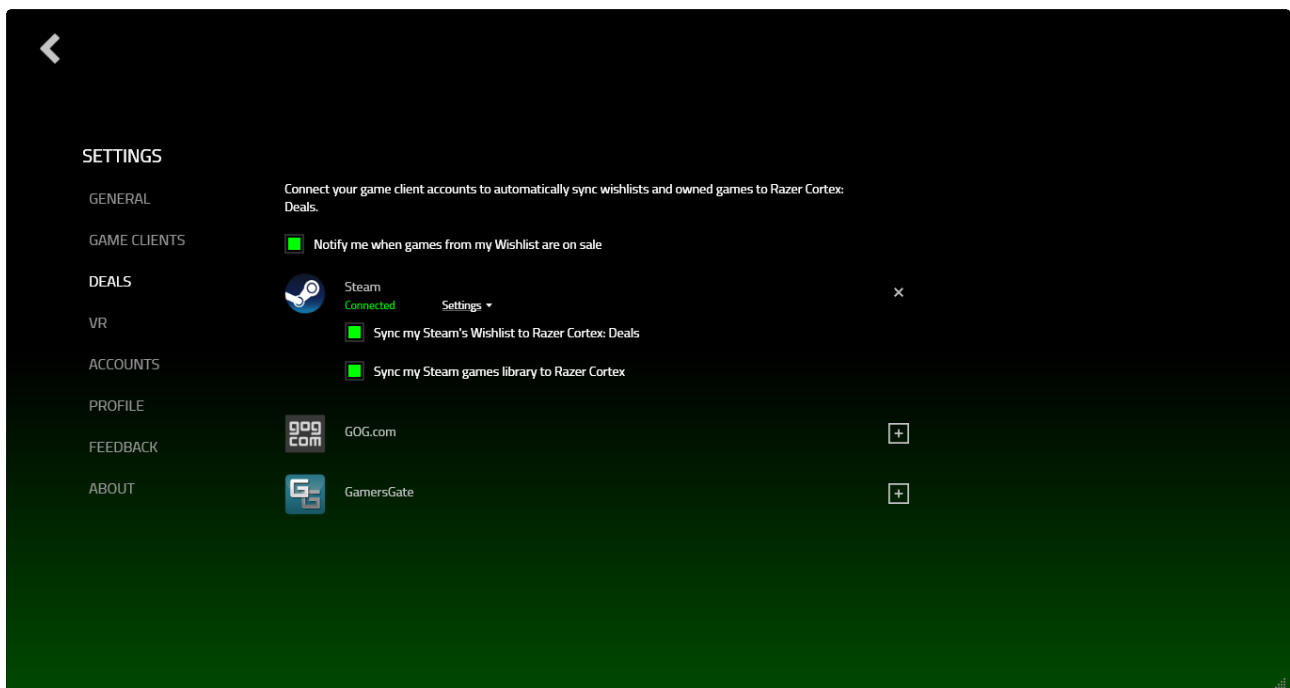


Games found by Razer Cortex through this scan will be automatically added to your GAMES list.

ADDING OWNED GAMES TO THE LIST – SYNC GAME CLIENTS

To add your games from game clients, click . This will bring you to the Deals tab in the Settings menu. Click  and log into the game client to link your account with Razer Cortex. Once linked, Razer Cortex will automatically add your game client's library to the My Games list. Wish listed games found in your game client will also be added to your Razer Cortex wish list.

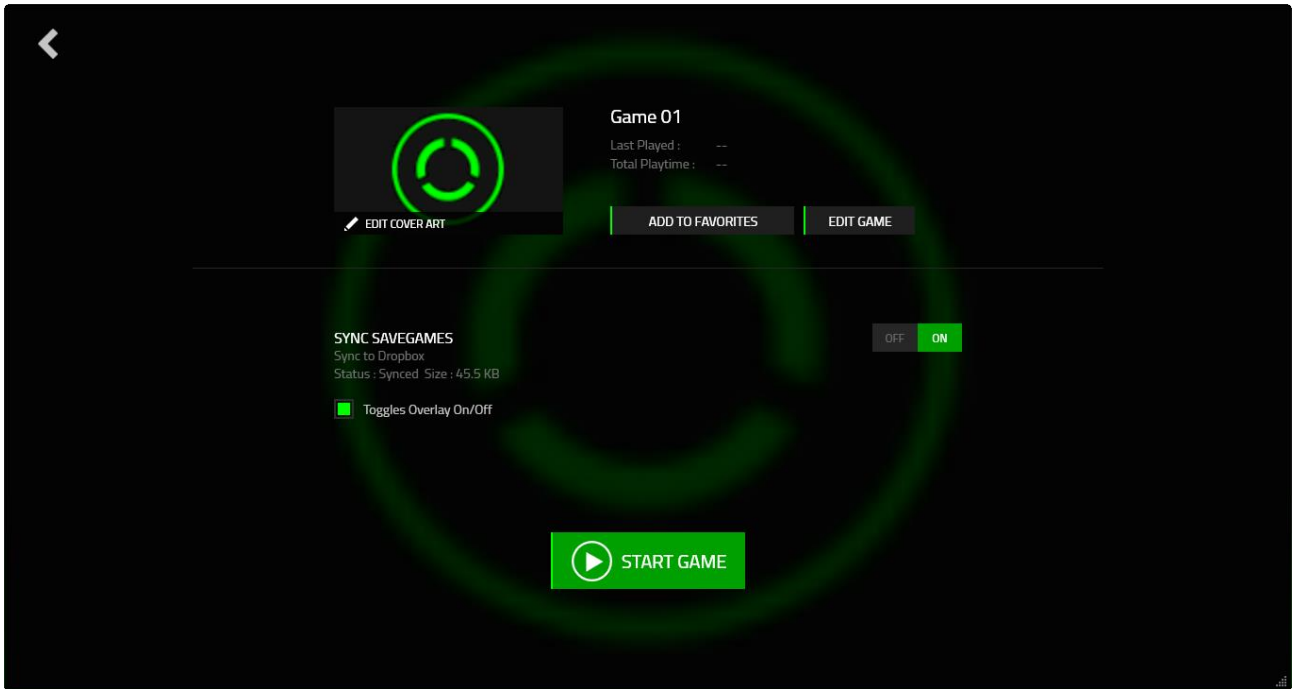
Note: Only games recognized by the Razer Cortex can be added using this method.



To unlink your game client, simply go to SETTINGS > DEALS and click .

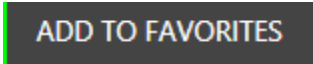
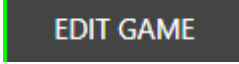
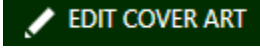
SETTING UP GAME PREFERENCES

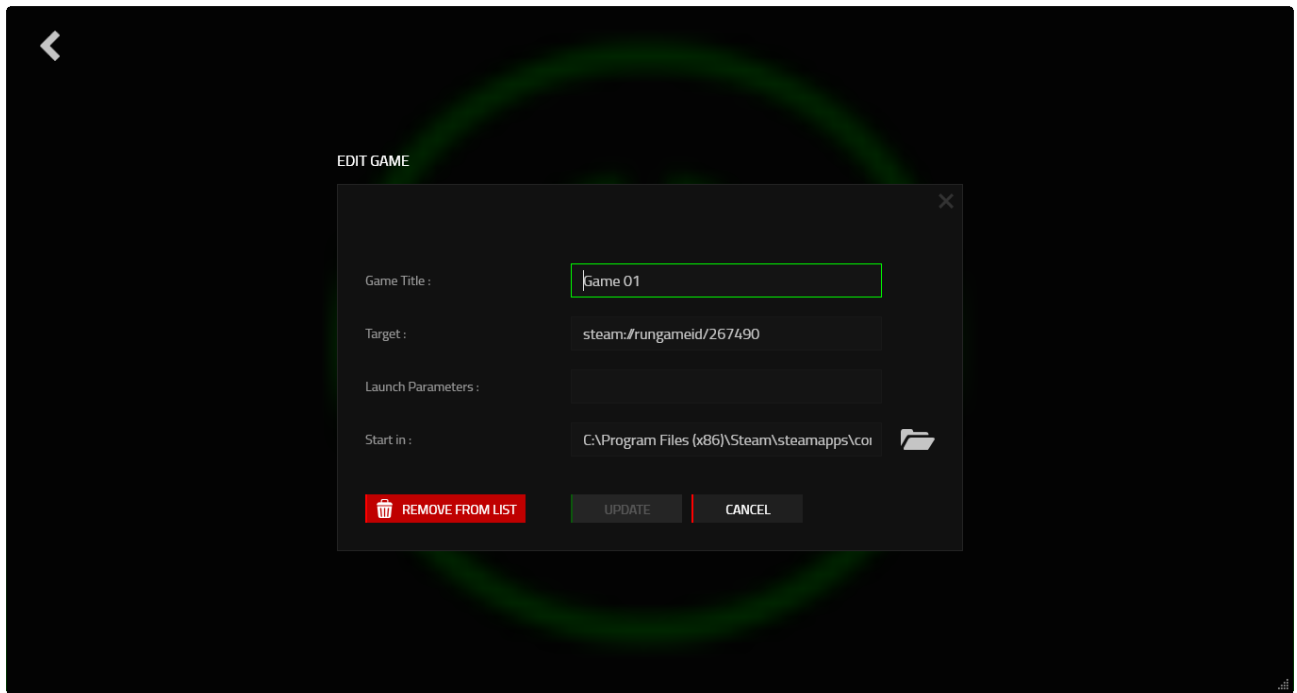
You can configure preferences for each game individually. From the game list, click on the game you wish to configure.



Note: Click anywhere outside of game details frame or click  to return to the main Razer Cortex interface.

Here you can:

-  - Launch the game.
-  - Add/Remove the game from the Favorite list.
-  - Customize this game.
-  - Create or edit the Sync Savegame settings for this game.
-  - Pick an image file to use as the cover art.



Game preferences include:

- Display name to show on the GAMES list.
- Target location of the game's executable file
- Extra parameters to be automatically applied when launching the game. (Optional)
- Directory the game will run in. Click  to select a folder.
- Click **REMOVE FROM LIST** to remove the game from your GAMES list.

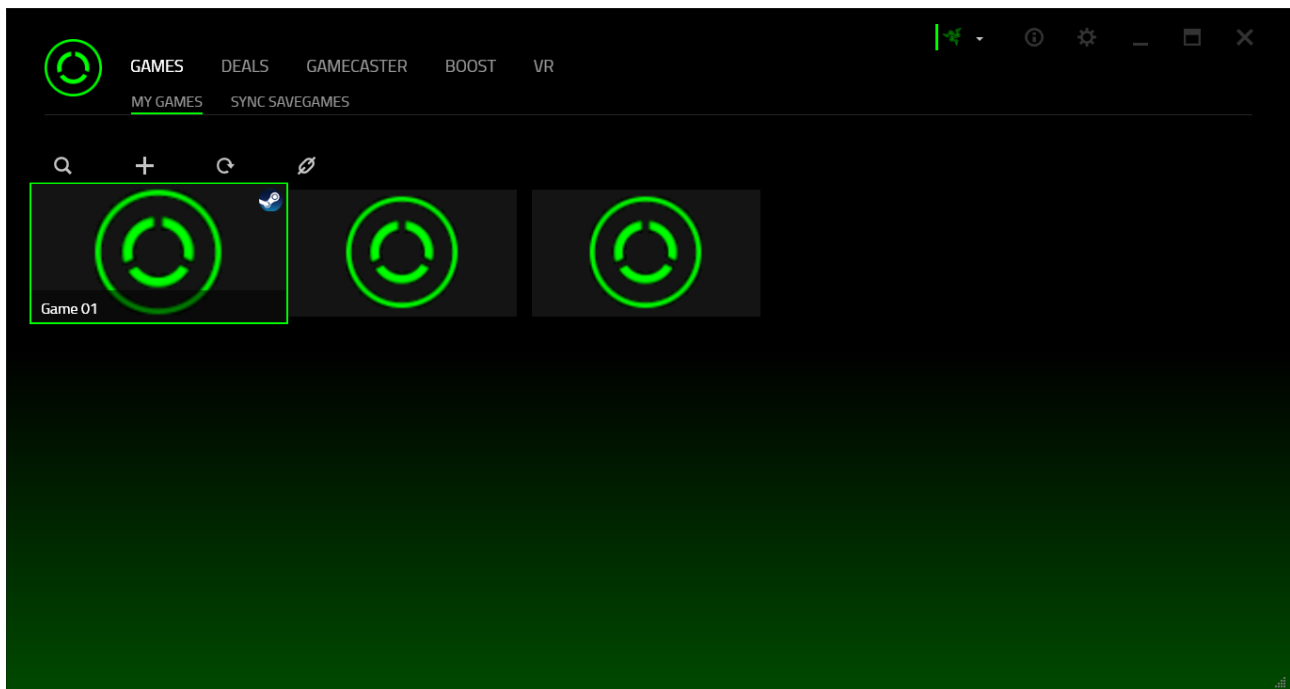
Click **UPDATE** to save the settings.

LAUNCHING A GAME



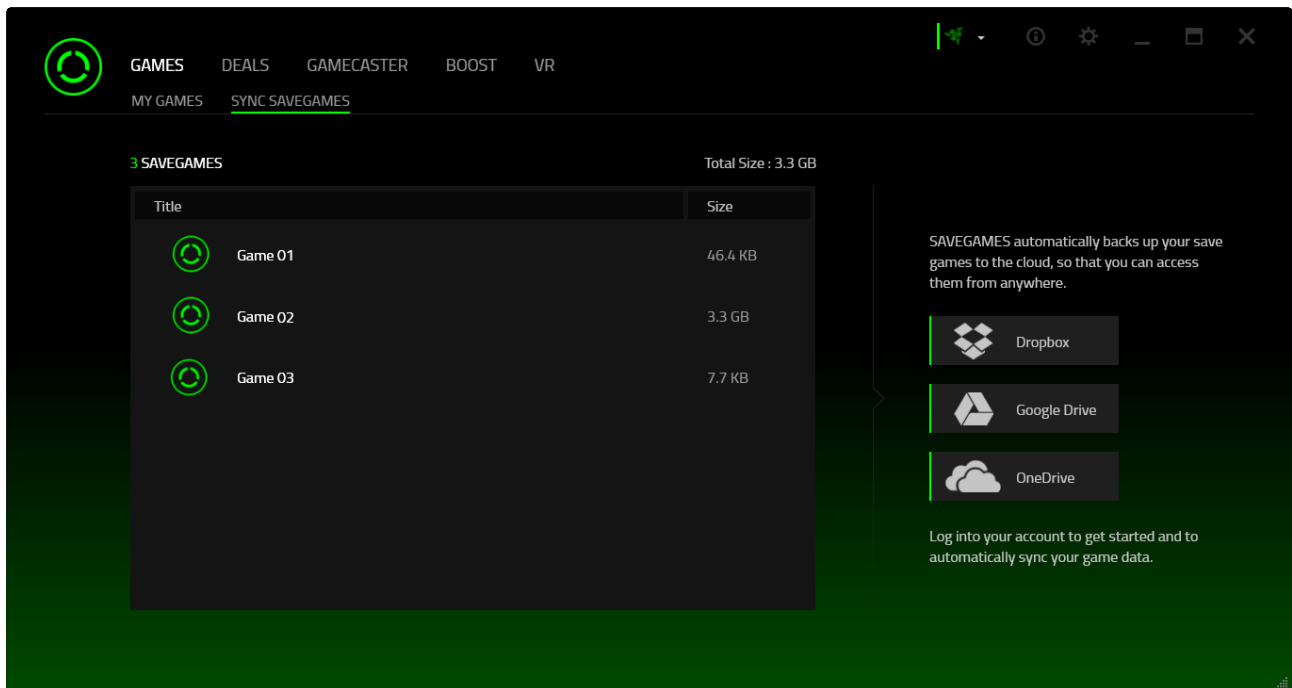
Select a game from the list and click . Razer Cortex will perform the following operations:

1. Toggle Boost on if it was set to turn ON automatically in **BOOST > BOOST**.
2. Activate Game Desktop if the option is selected.
3. Launch the game.
4. Minimize Razer Cortex to system tray.



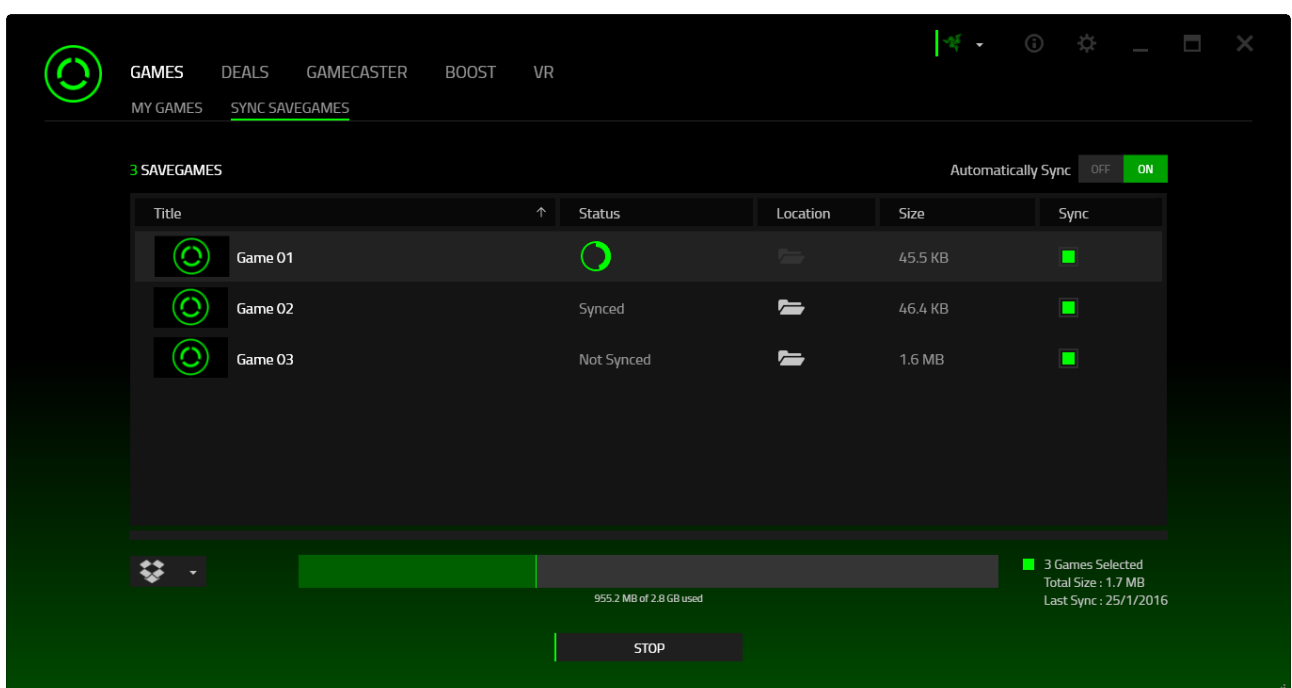
SYNC SAVEGAMES

This tool lets you backup your game data (such as game saves, systems settings, and add-ons) from your computer to a cloud storage service so that you can access it anywhere.



To start using this feature, you will need to log into a cloud storage service.

After you have logged into your account, SYNC SAVEGAMES will automatically create a copy of known game data locations to the cloud.



Each game will have an indicator that will show its current status:



- Currently syncing local game data with cloud game data

Synced

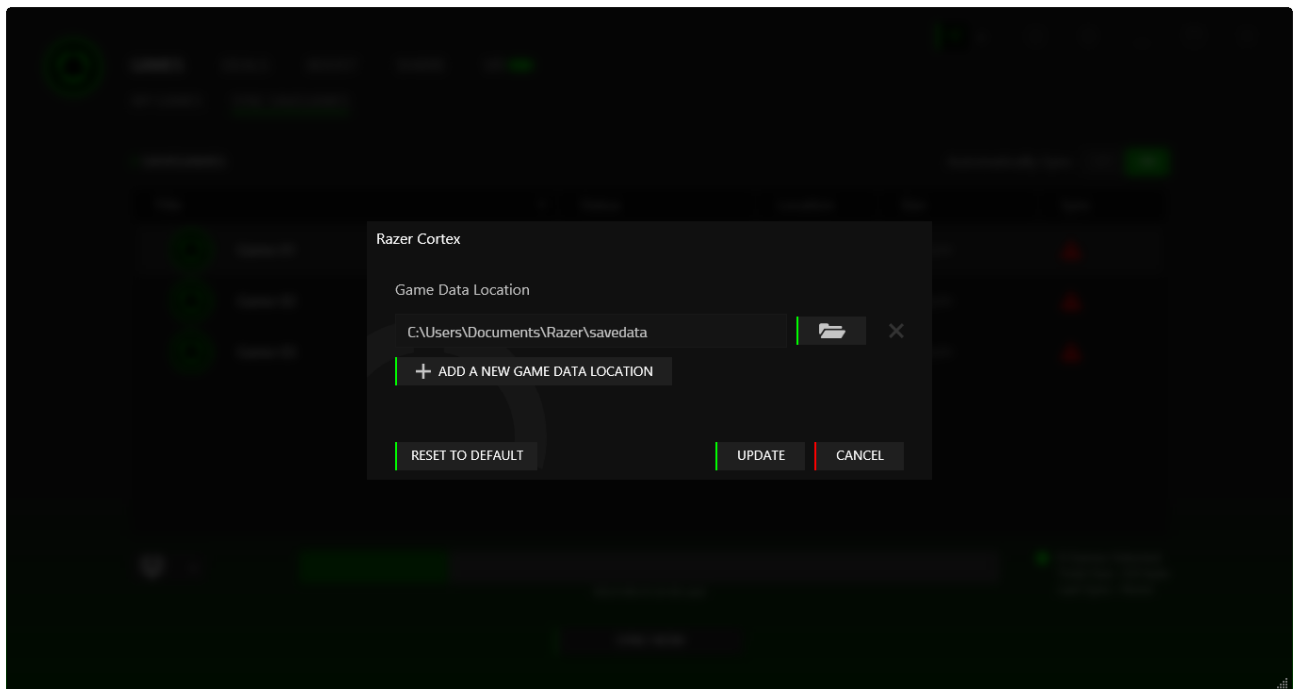
- Cloud game data is in-sync with local game data

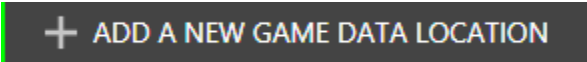
Not Synced

- Local game data cannot sync with cloud game data

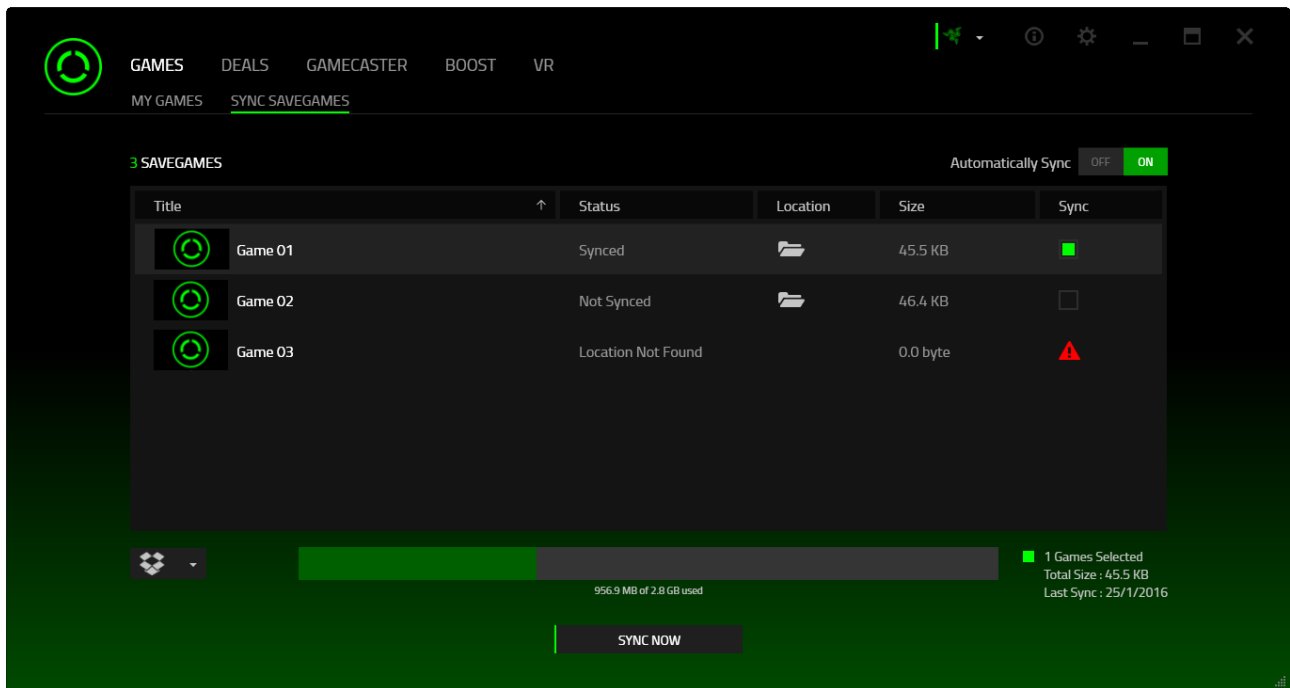
The status bar below the game titles indicates the overall syncing progress while the bar graph below the status bar indicates the capacity of your cloud storage.

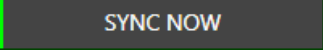
To change the location of the game data you want to sync, click the  icon.



You may also add a new game data location to sync with your cloud storage by clicking the  icon.

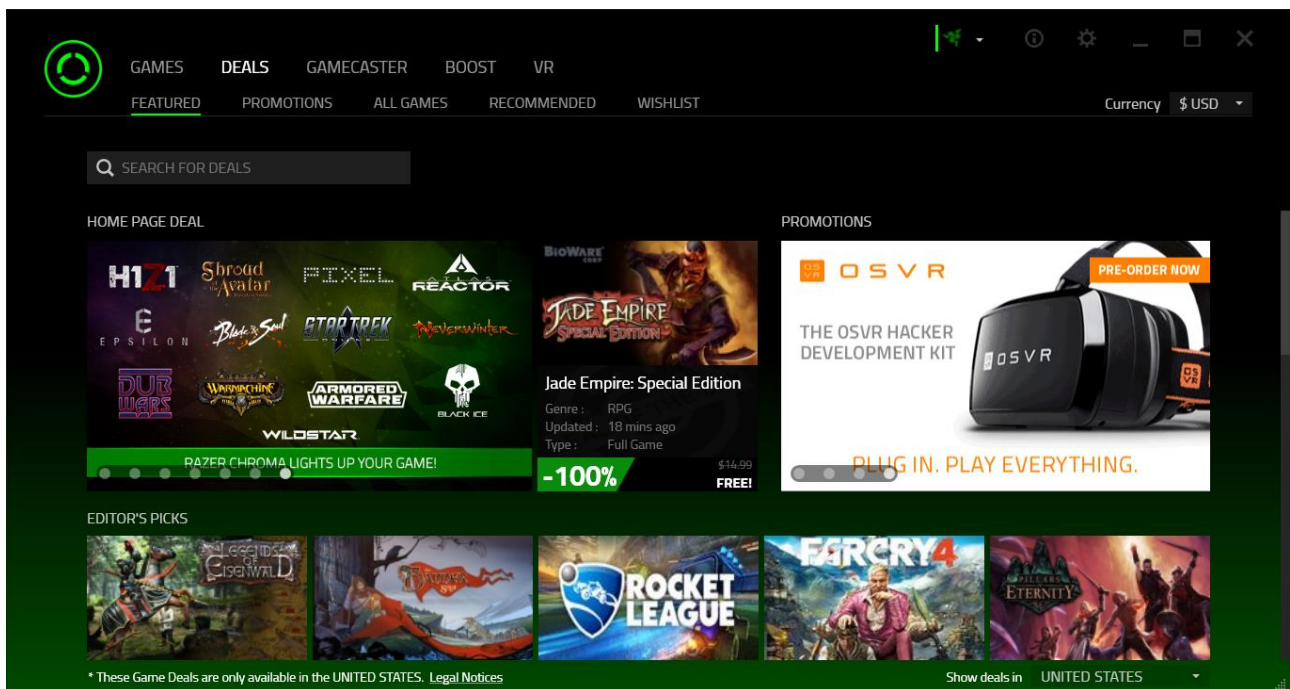
Games that have known game data locations will automatically be selected to sync, as indicated by the  icon. Game data that exceeds 100 megabytes (100 mb) will not automatically sync and you will need to click the  icon to manually sync it. Games that have unknown game data locations will have the  icon and you will need to manually locate their respective game data locations.



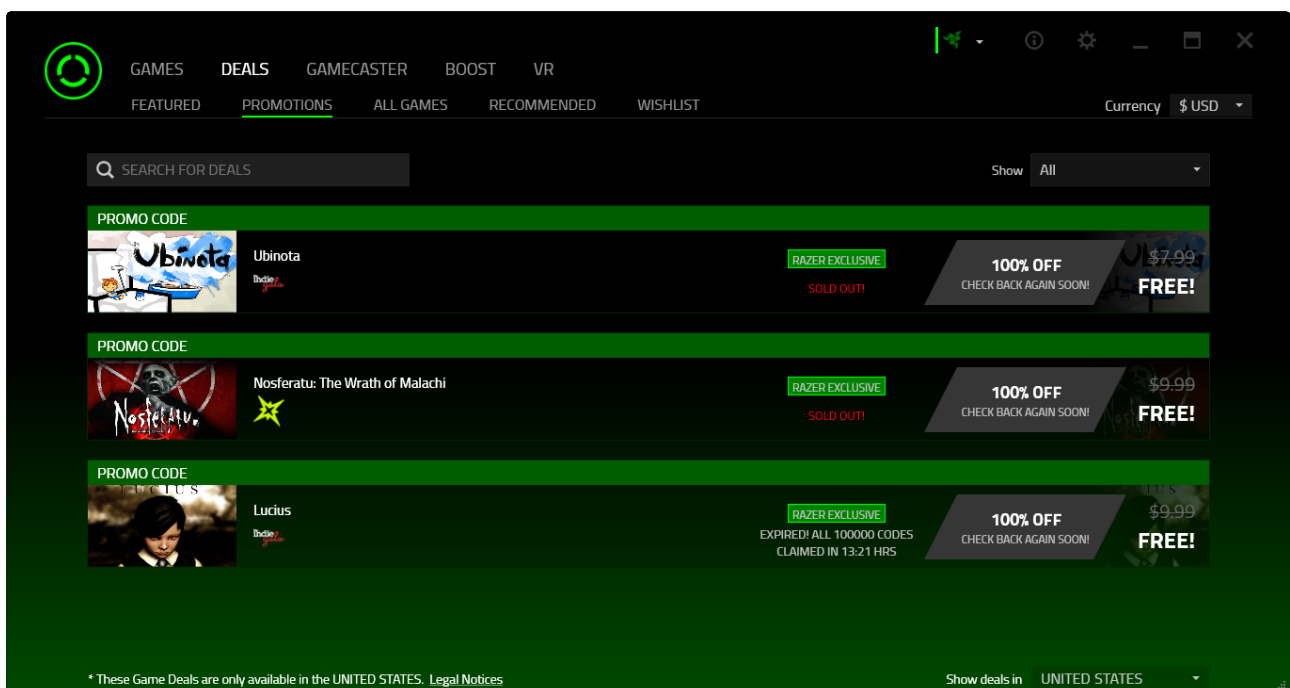
To manually sync all game data, click the  icon.

6. RAZER CORTEX: DEALS

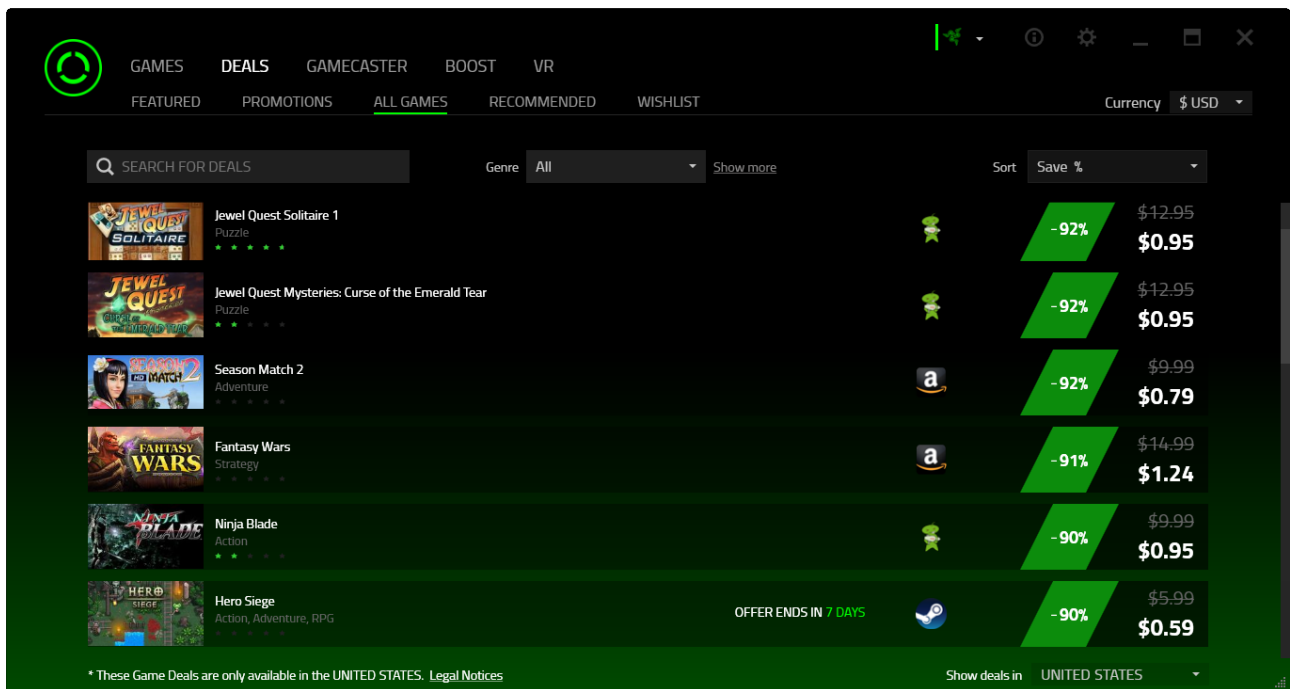
Razer Cortex is a one of a kind software that allows you to search for amazing games at excellent prices. Find the best deals, check out new releases, see what's popular, or choose from our editor's picks on the **FEATURED** tab.



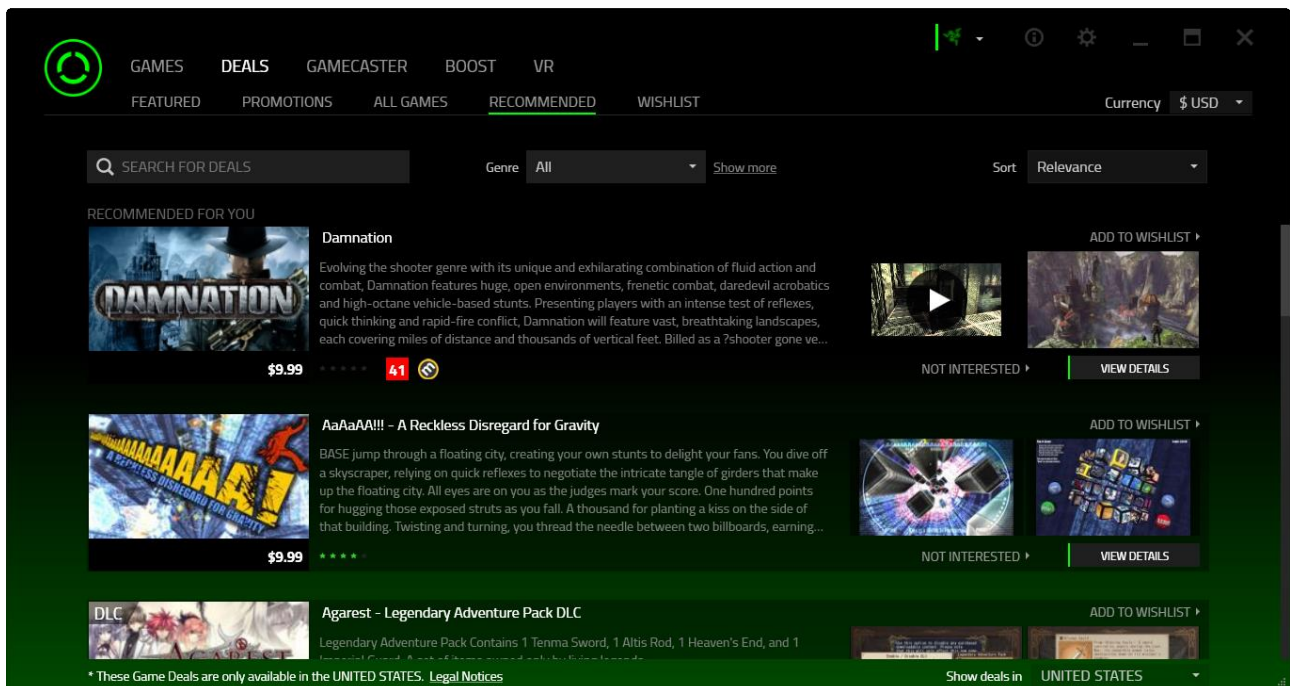
View all Razer exclusive deals, both past and ongoing, on the **PROMOTIONS** tab.



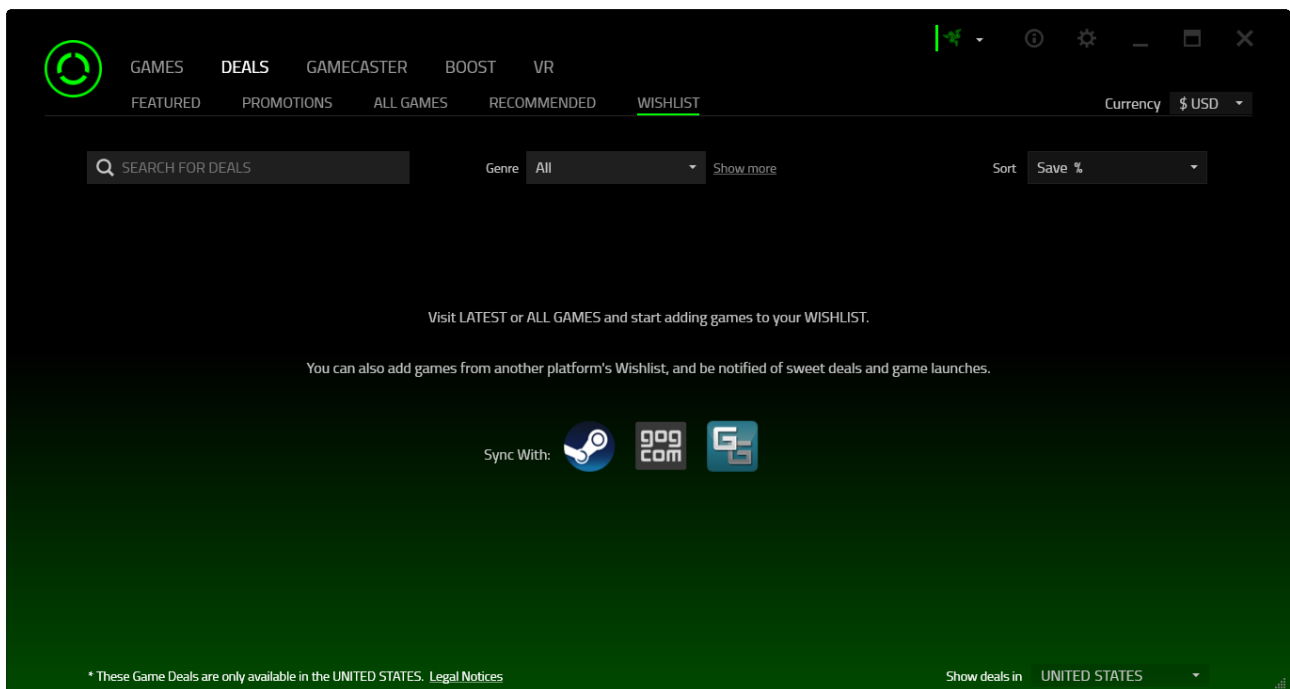
Using **ALL GAMES**, you can search for all the games on our database and sort them out by discount, price or title. You can also filter out games based on genre and distributor.



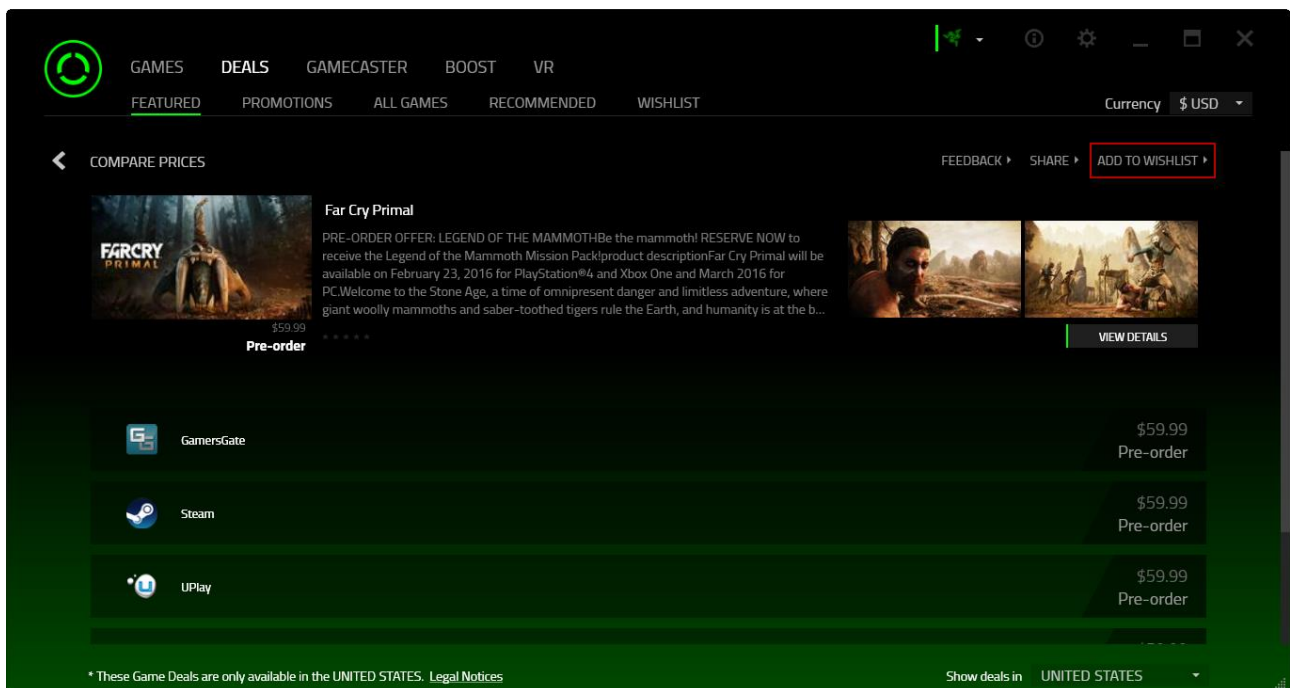
Use **RECOMMENDED** to discover games based on games you want, games you own, and what other gamers with similar taste are playing.



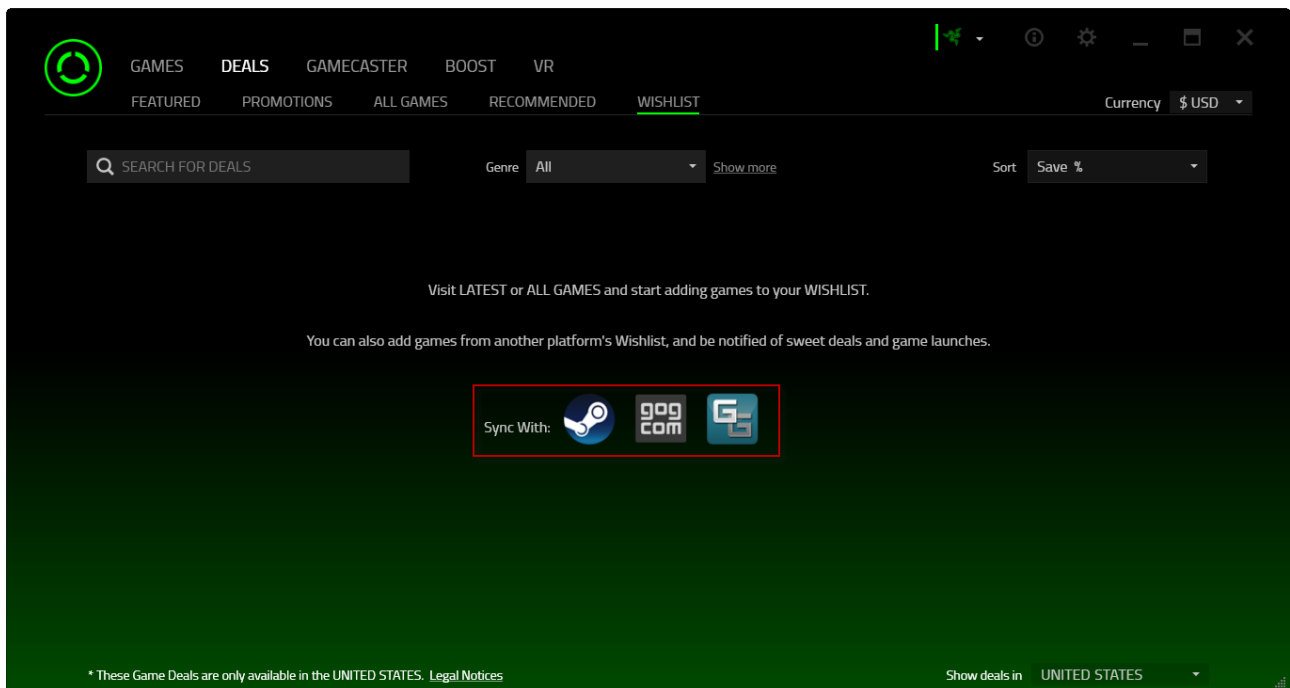
WISHLIST allows you to be kept up-to date on your most anticipated game and receive notifications when the game you want goes on sale.



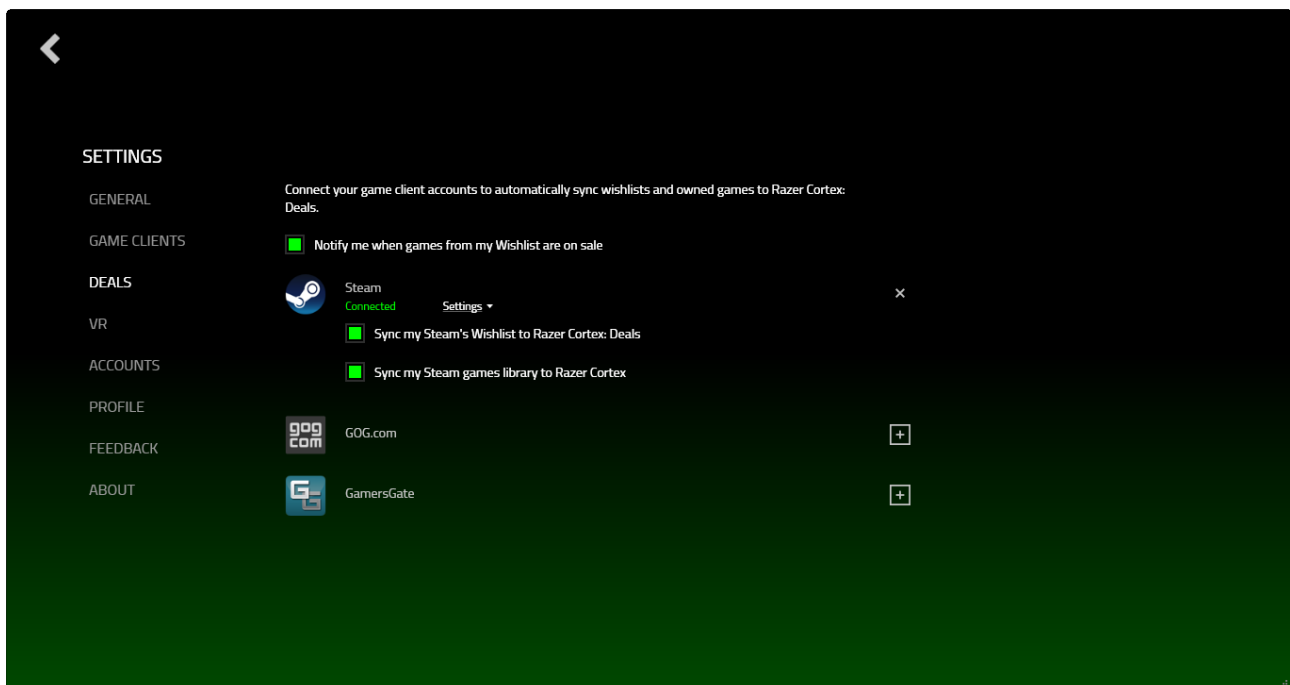
You can add games on your wishlist, by clicking **ADD TO WISHLIST** on a game's profile or details section.



You can also sync your wishlist from game clients that are listed on the Wishlist tab.



To enable wishlist notifications via email, go to **SETTINGS > DEALS** and select *Notify me when games from my Wishlist are on sale*.

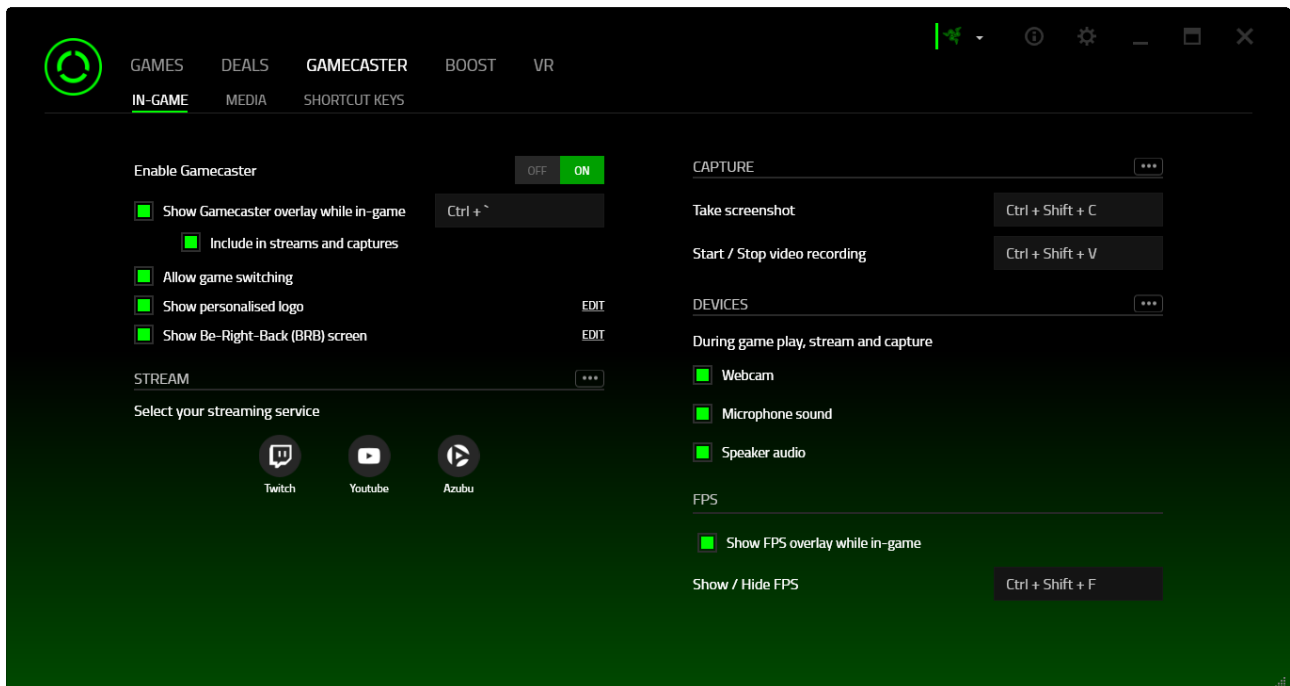


7. RAZER CORTEX: GAMECASTER

With a push of a key, Razer Cortex allows you to stream, record, and take screenshots of your game without compromising your system's performance.

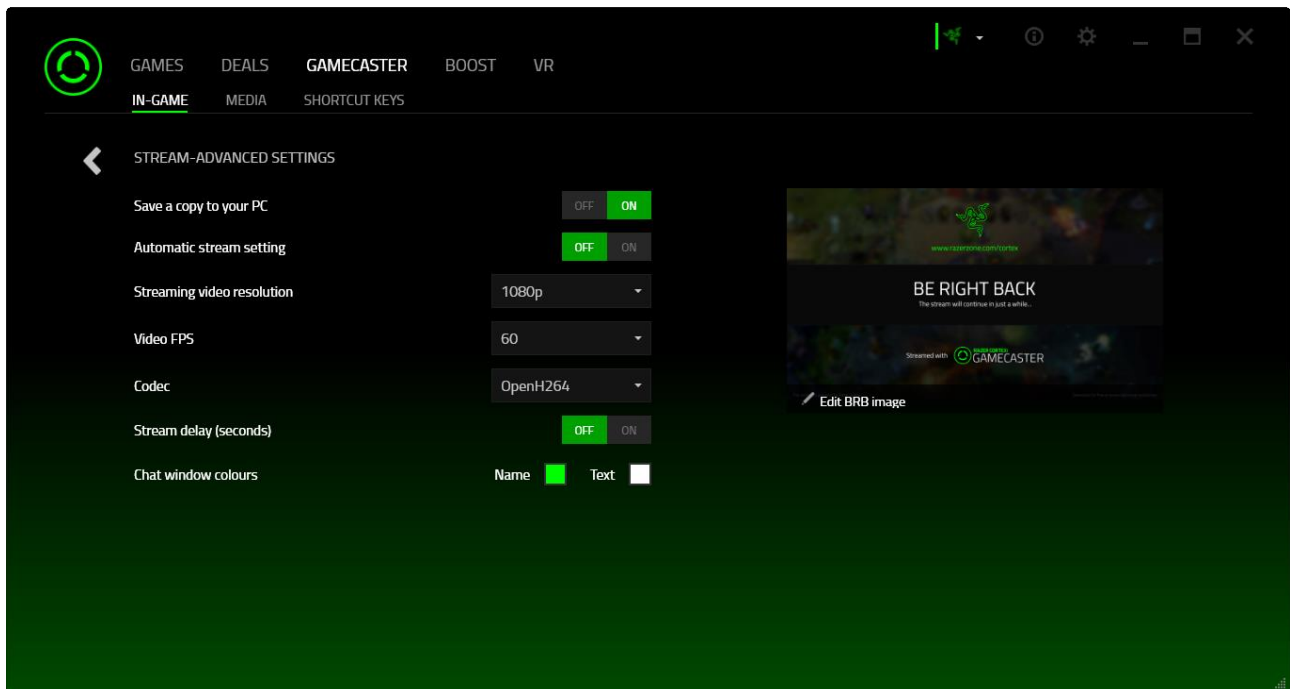
IN-GAME

When Gamecaster is toggled on, a number of options and features are enabled. One particular option is the Gamecaster overlay which appears while you are playing a game. This overlay by default is hidden when streaming or taking screenshots however, you can enable it by selecting the option to include it in streams and captures. The *Allow game switching* option gives you a continuous streaming or recording enabling you to have uninterrupted videos when switching between games.

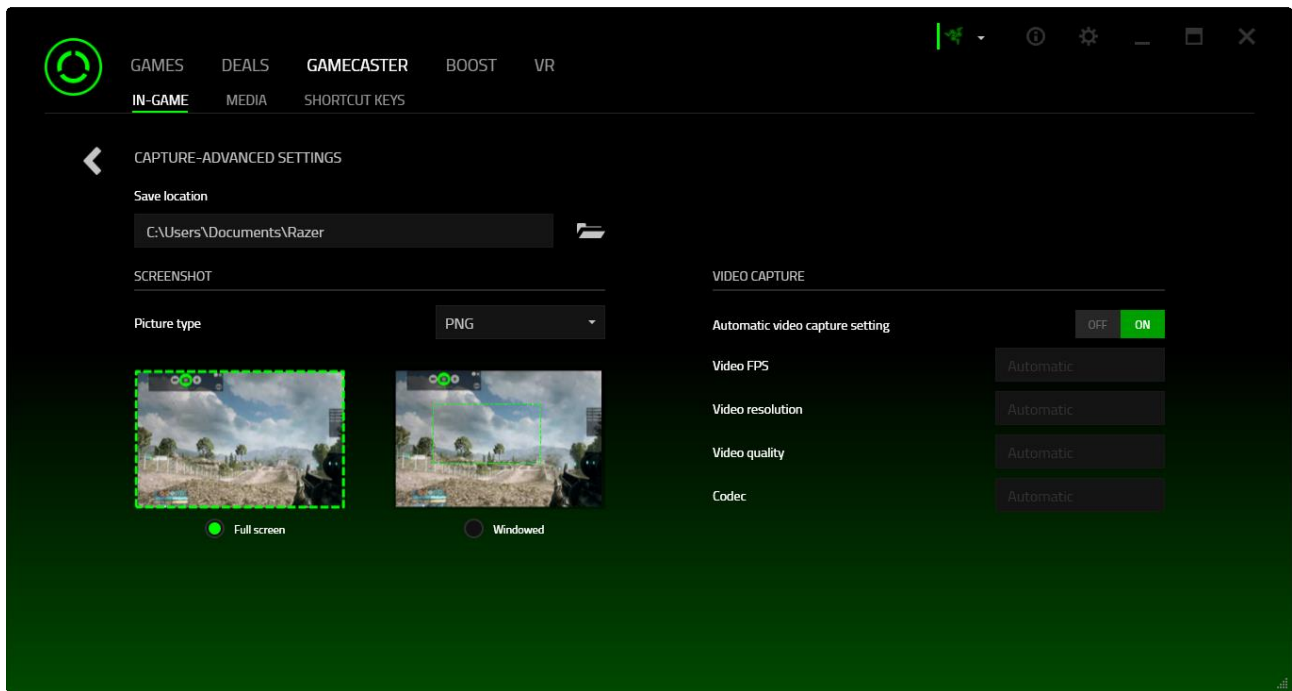


If you have the pro version, you can customize the look of your videos by adding your personalized logo and a Be-Right-Back (BRB) screen.

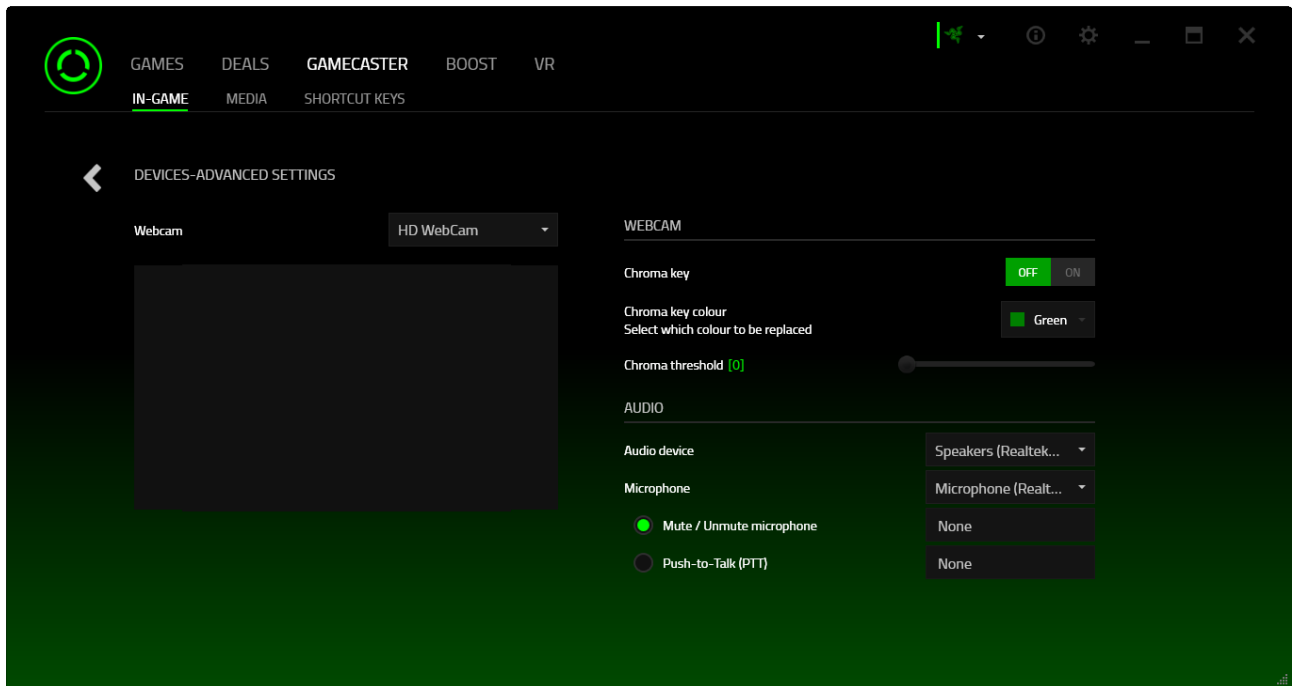
The **STREAM** option allows you to select the streaming service you want to use. Clicking the  button will reveal advanced settings which includes saving a copy of the video to your PC, adjusting the stream settings, and adding delay. If you have the pro version, you can access additional options for streaming such as higher video resolutions, increased frames-per-second, using different codecs, and the ability to customize the chat window colors.



The **CAPTURE** option allows you to customize the hotkeys for taking screenshots and starting or stopping a video recording. Clicking the  button will reveal advanced settings which includes selecting a save location for your game captures, selecting a format for picture, and changing video capture settings. If you have the pro version, you can access additional recording options such as higher video resolutions, increased frames-per-second, and using different codecs.

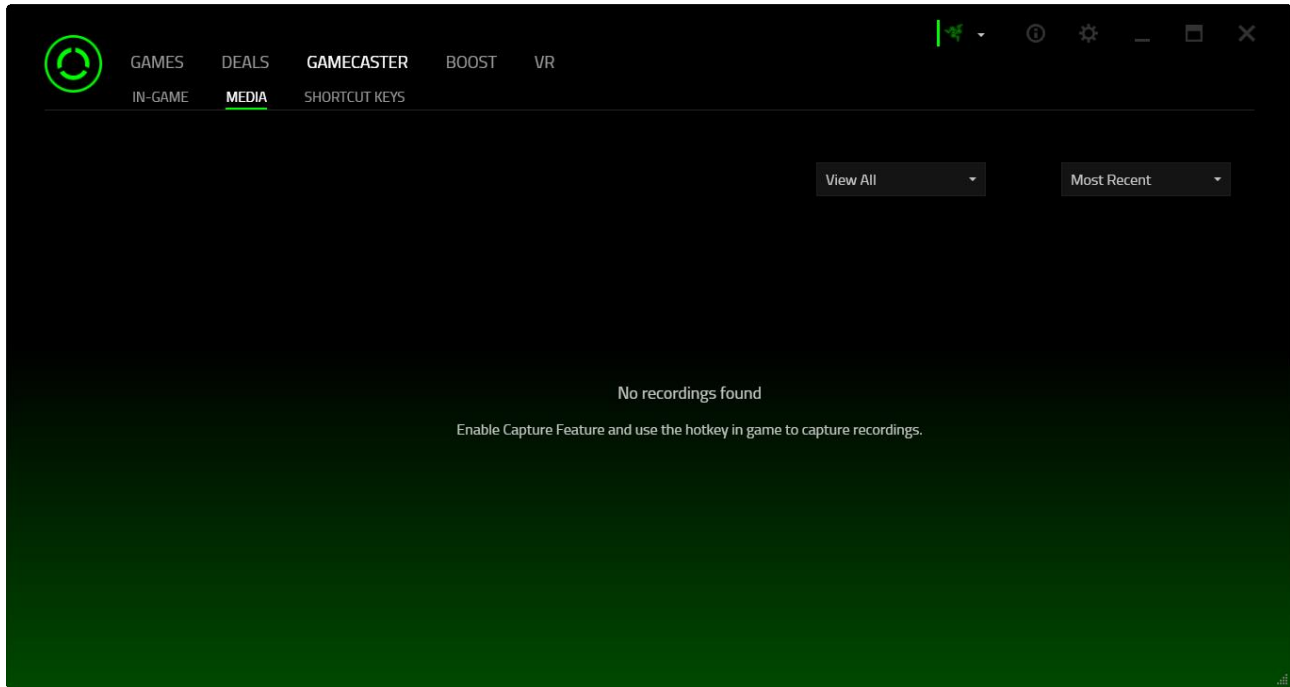


The **DEVICES** option allows you to choose which inputs are used when recording videos or streaming. Clicking the  button will reveal advanced settings which includes selecting a webcam, audio device, and microphone. You can also select whether the microphone uses a mute/unmute toggle or Push-To-Talk (PTT) as well as set hotkeys for these functions. If you have the pro version, you can access additional options such as Chroma key (Green screen effect), Chroma key colour, and Chroma threshold.



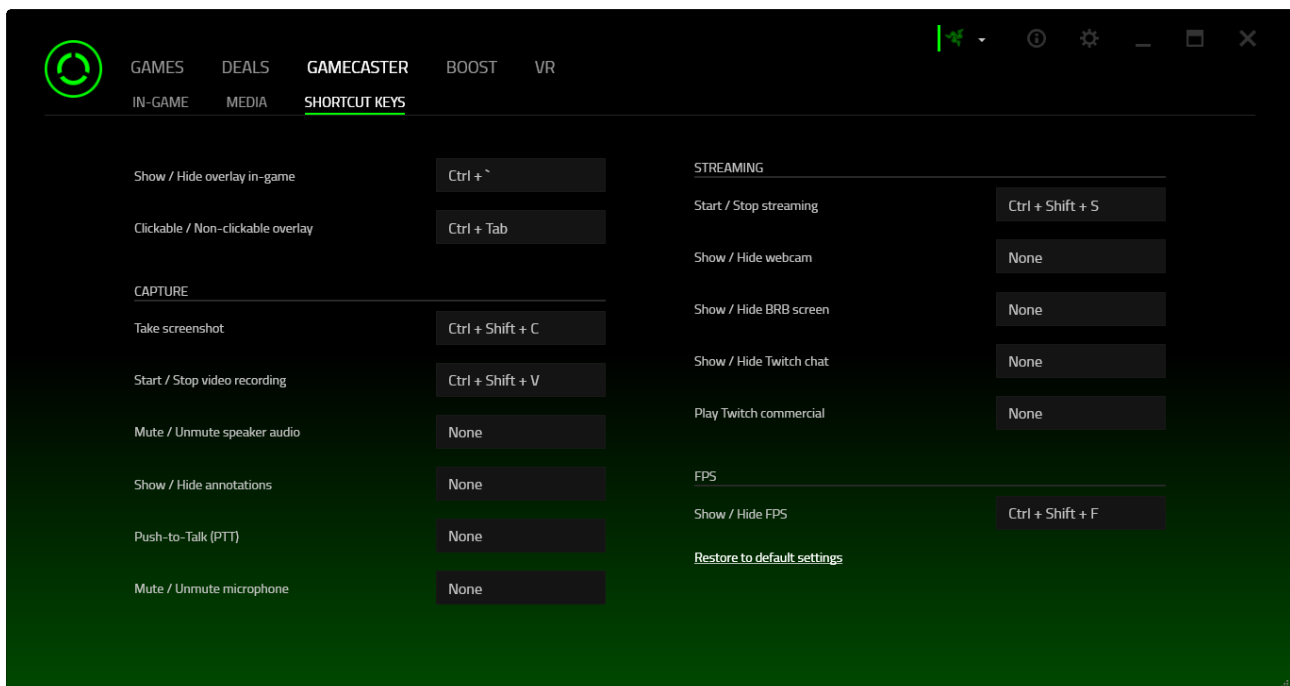
MEDIA

View your media content such as video recordings and screenshots using the **MEDIA** tab.



SHORTCUT KEYS

View and customize your hotkeys for overlay, streaming, and capturing media content.

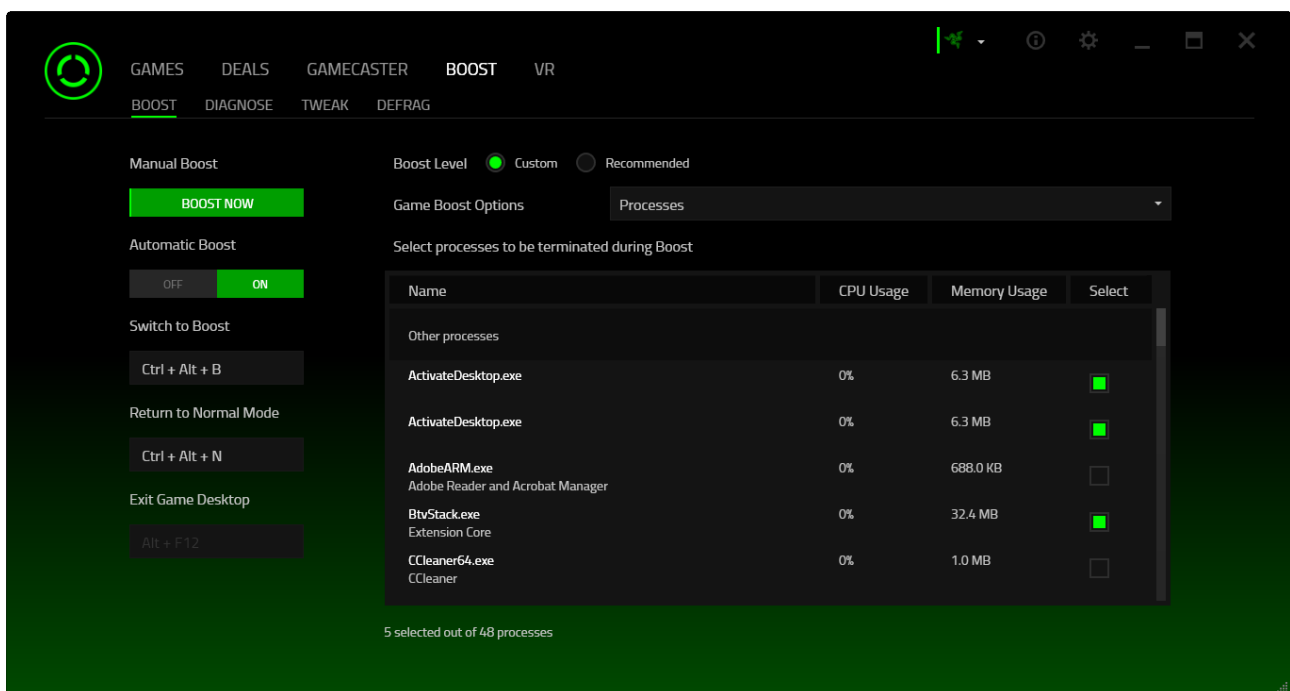


8. RAZER CORTEX: BOOST

Razer Cortex gives you a number of optimization tools to further improve your gaming experience.

BOOST

Razer Cortex allows full control over which processes and services are temporarily stopped when gaming. When Boost is toggled on (either by launching a game or by manually activating boost), a number of processes and services on your computer are suspended in order to allocate more resources for your game. Turning off Boost will restore your computer to its original state.

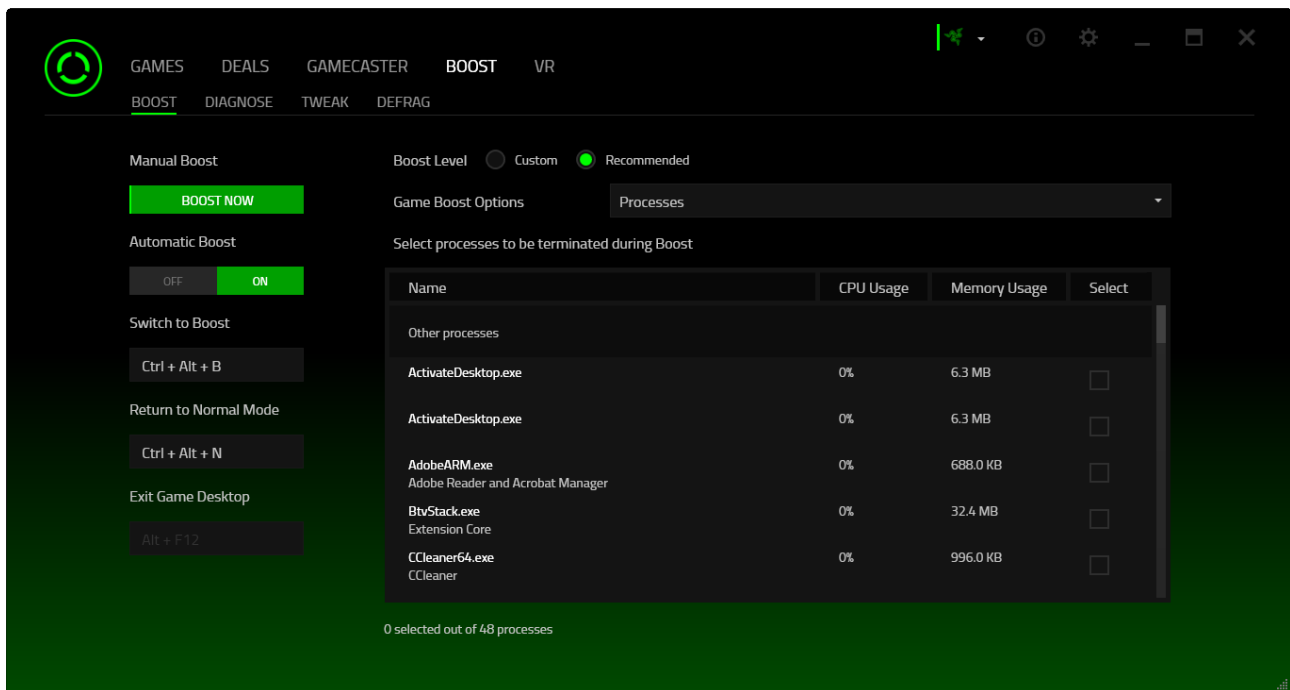


To the left, set up the ways you wish to toggle boost on/off. This includes:

- Turning on/off automatic boost when a game is launched
- Manually boost or restore your PC
- Specify Boost and Restore hot keys to toggle boost on/off respectively
- Specify a hot key to exit Game Desktop mode after the game launches

To the right, customize the various processes and services that will be temporarily suspended when Boost is on. If you are unsure, choose **AUTO** to use recommended boost settings.

WARNING: Suspending Windows services may affect the operation of your system.

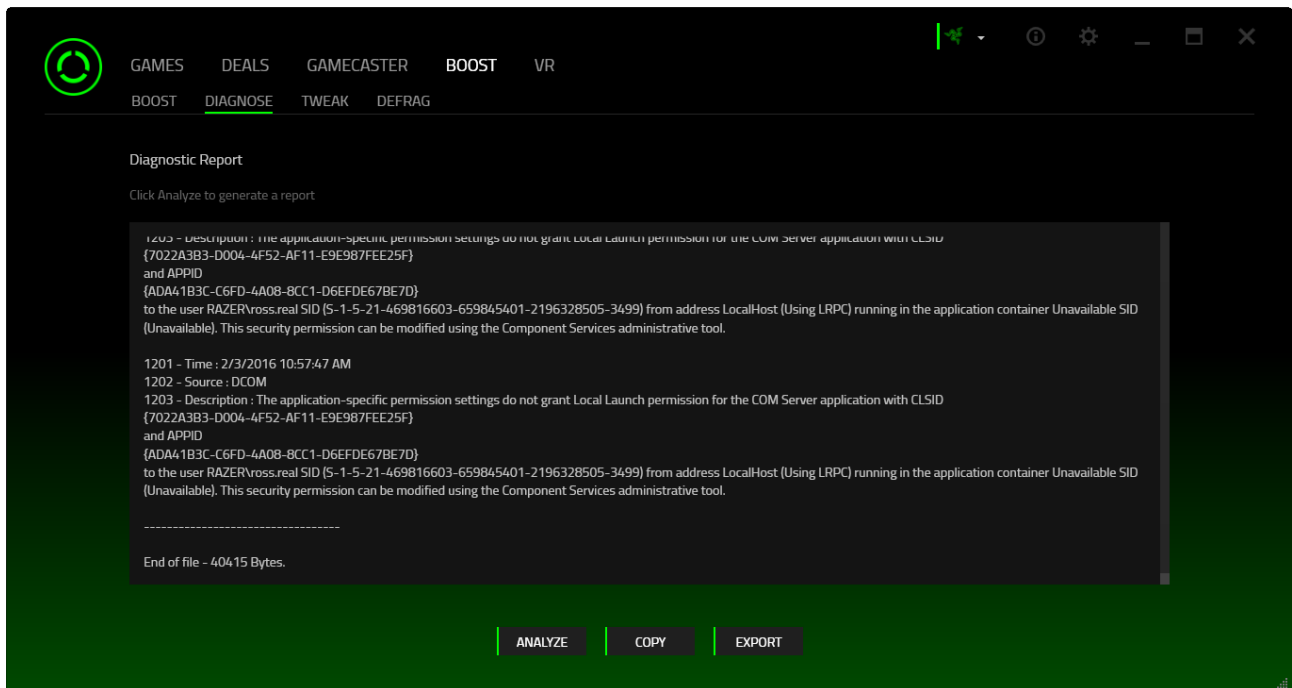


Others provide a number of Windows settings that can be adjusted by Razer Cortex to further enhance the game performance on your computer. This includes:

- Launching the game on “Game Desktop” mode. This reduces the graphical display on your Windows desktop including shortcut icons, taskbar graphical effects etc. You can exit this mode using the Exit Game Desktop hotkey (default: Alt+F12).
- Clean your PC’s RAM to increase available memory. Random Access Memory (RAM) is a temporary storage for various application data in order for them to run faster on your computer. This option cleans your RAM to remove unused application data from the temporary storage, thus freeing up space for your game.
- Clear clipboard. Data from copy/cut operations performed on your system are stored onto your system’s clipboard. This option clears unused clipboard items.
- Change your power settings to high performance. While in high performance mode, your system performance is maximized, providing more processing power to your game. This mode can be power consuming and may generate more heat. If you are using a battery powered computer (such as a laptop), we recommend connecting your system to a power source.
- Close Explorer.exe to increase available memory. This option will close Windows Explorer (including the task bar and all open folders) once Boost is toggled.
- Turn off Automatic Updates to prevent it from interrupting your game. This prevents your system from scanning for system updates online while Boost is toggled on.

DIAGNOSE

Razer Cortex is equipped with a diagnostic tool that lets you generate a report of your computer including information on hardware, software and any error messages. Click the **DIAGNOSE** tab to view the interface.



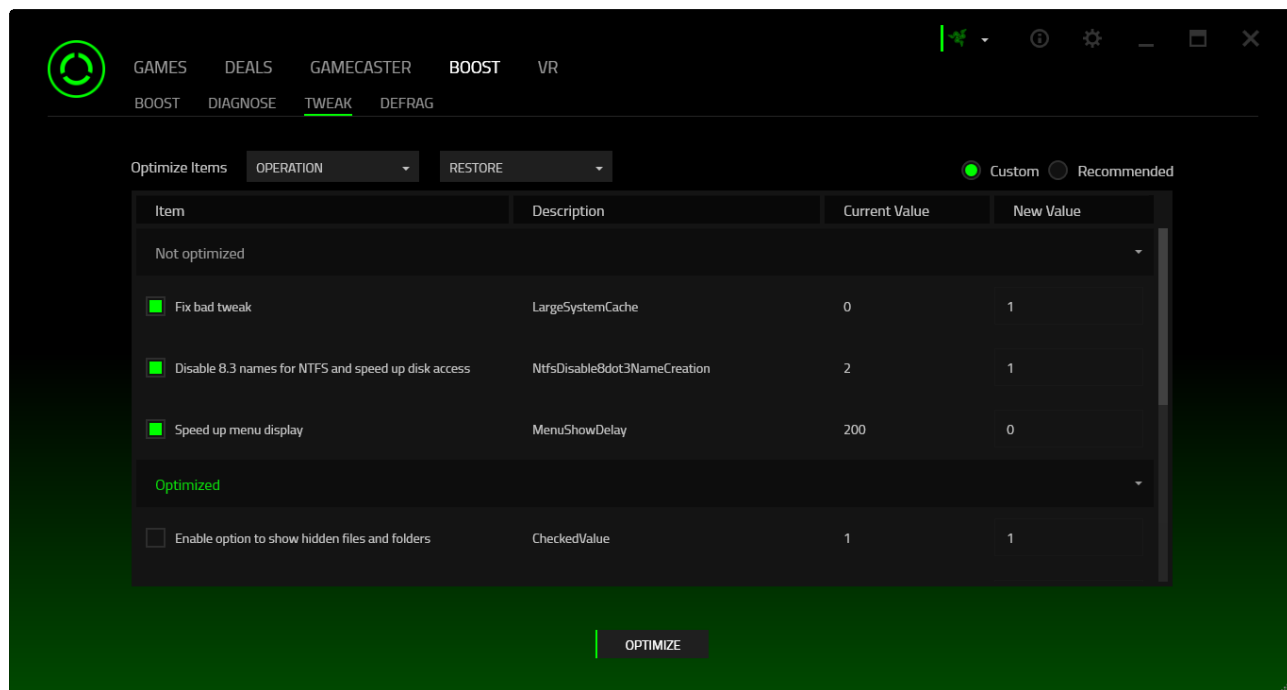
Click **Analyze** to begin the diagnostics. Click **Copy** to copy the report to clipboard or click **Export** to save the report into a .txt file.

You can use this report to analyze the operation of your computer and pinpoint errors that you may be experience. Alternatively, you can even upload the report to online forums or websites to discuss and seek assistance from the online gaming community.

TWEAK

This tool auto adjusts your PC to improve PC performance.

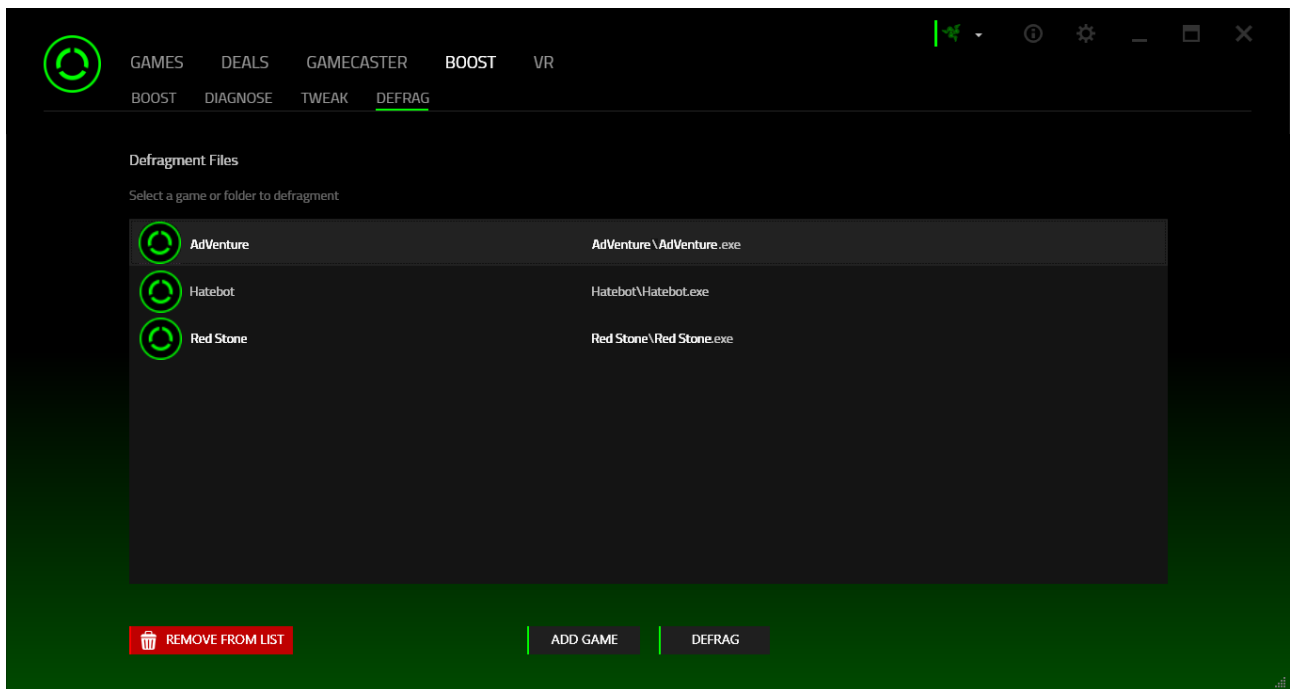
For example, to allow Razer Cortex to increase the number of download sessions over Internet Explorer to 20 downloads per server, check **Increase IE download sessions**. Click **Customize** and enter “20”.



Click **OPTIMIZE** to start the optimization process. You can **RESTORE** all settings to Windows default or even Import and Export settings from/to a file using the **OPERATION** menu.

DEFRAG

This tool chooses and defragments games and folders quickly, making your games load and run faster.



To manually include a game, click **ADD GAME**. Choose a game from the list and click **DEFRAG** to begin. To delete a game from the list, click **REMOVE FROM LIST**.

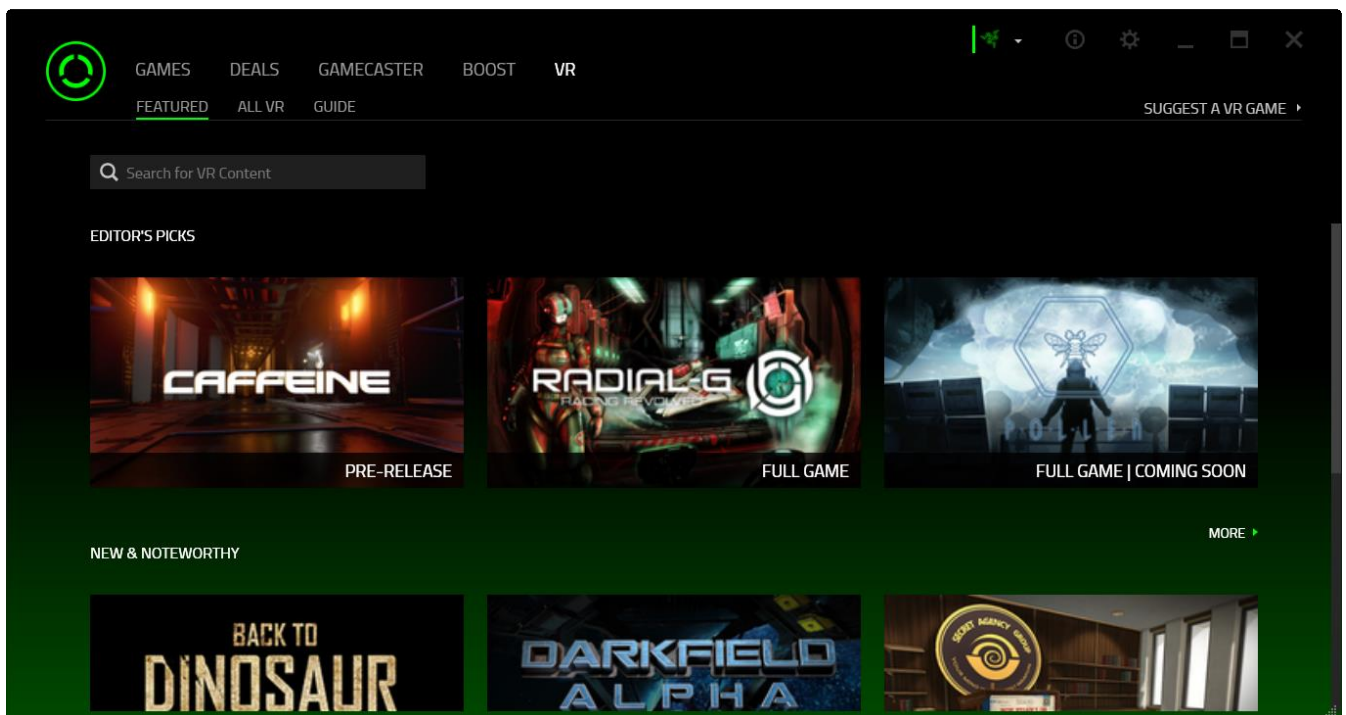
CAUTION: We do not recommend defragmenting games and application data stored on solid state drives (SSD). Unlike a normal hard disk (HDD), a SSD does not read stored data sequentially. Hence, fragmented files do not slow down the speed at which an application stored on a SSD is accessed. Furthermore, due to the way a SSD is built, each write operation wears down the drive. Hence, defragmenting your SSD may reduce your drive's lifespan.

9. RAZER CORTEX: VR

The VR section gives you access to Virtual Reality-enabled games, videos, images, and tech demos so that you can check out new releases and stay up-to-date on the next generation VR experience.

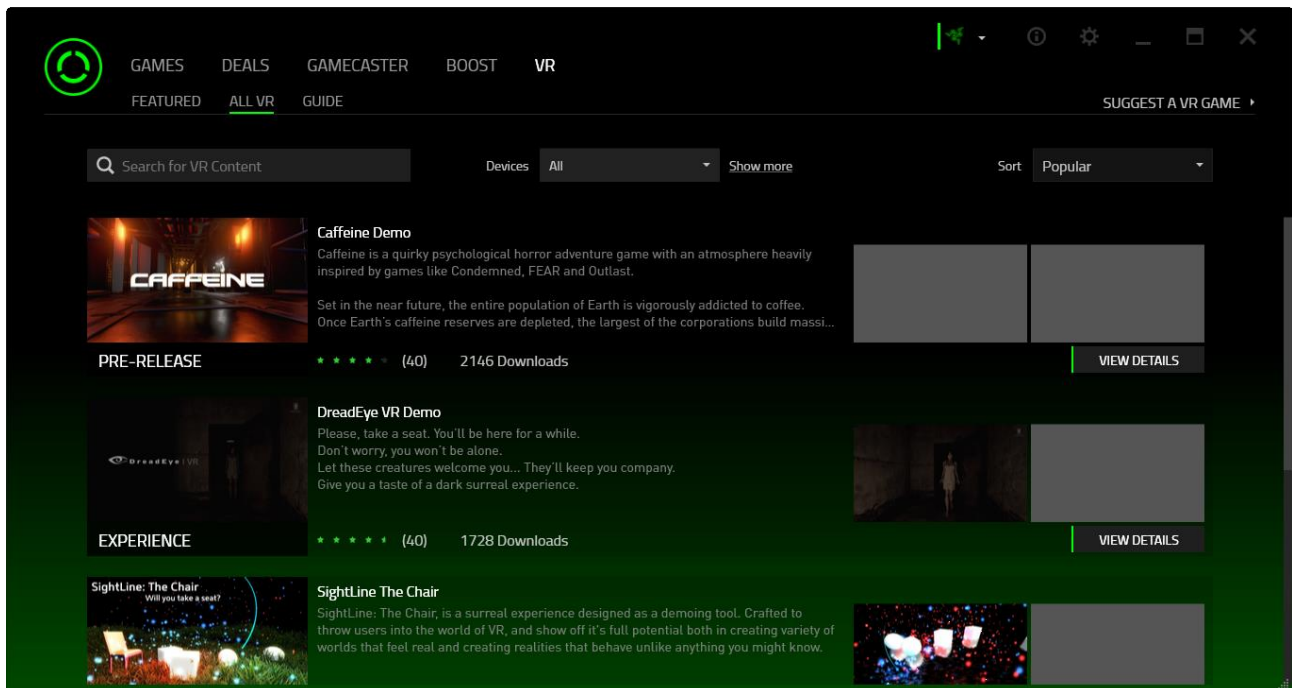
FEATURED

The **FEATURED** tab keeps you updated on the popular, new and noteworthy virtual reality experiences as well as recommendations by our editor.



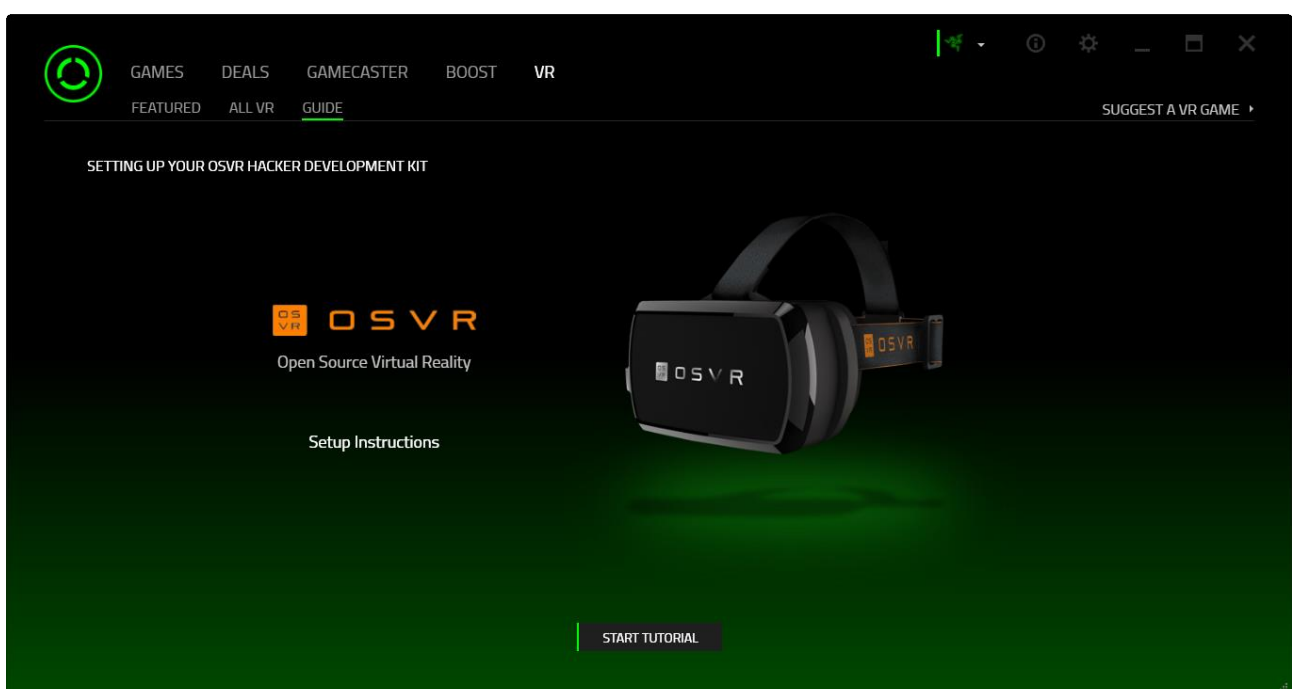
ALL VR

Use the **ALL VR** tab to search for all virtual reality-enabled experiences on our database and sort them out by popularity, name, release date and rating. You can also filter them out based on device, genre and category.



GUIDE

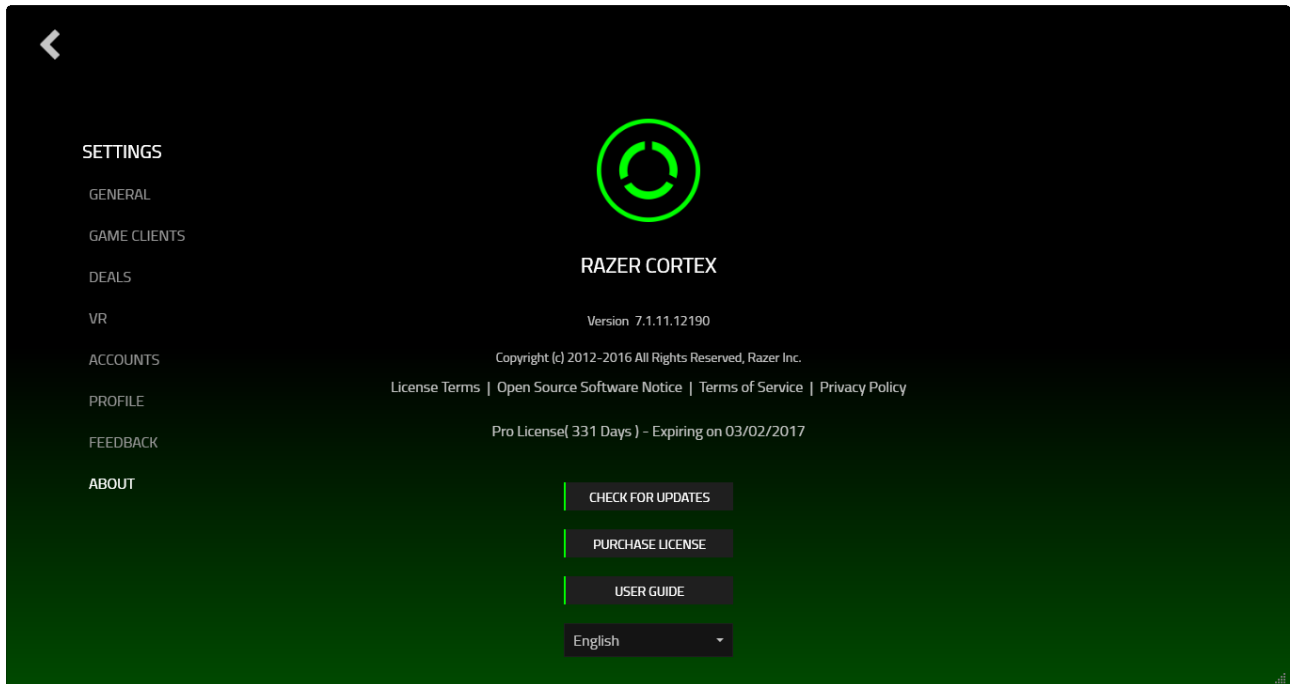
If you have an OSVR Hacker Development Kit, you can use the **GUIDE** tab to setup your virtual reality system.



10. SOFTWARE ADMINISTRATION

CHECKING YOUR SOFTWARE DETAILS

Click on  from your Razer Cortex window and select **ABOUT**.



The **ABOUT** window displays your software's version information and copyright statement.

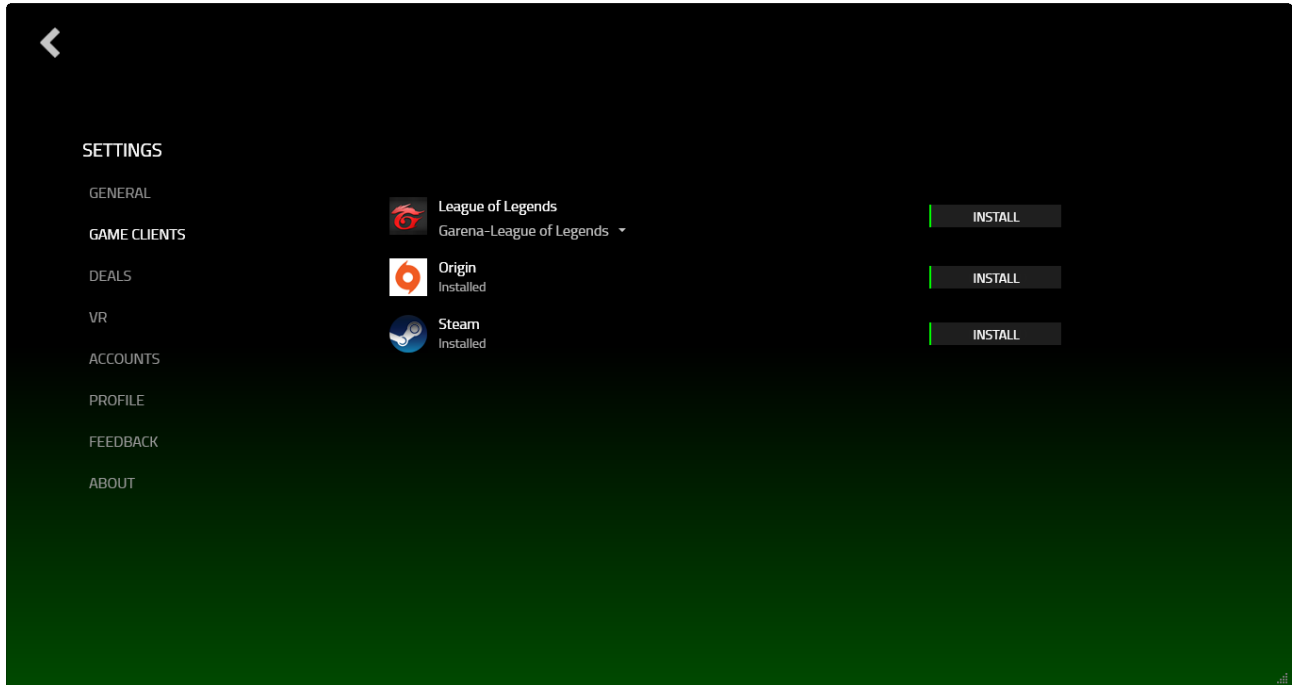
Here you can also:

- Check online for any Razer Cortex updates
- View the PDF user guide for the software
- Submit feedback on the software
- Change the software display language

Click  to return to the main interface.

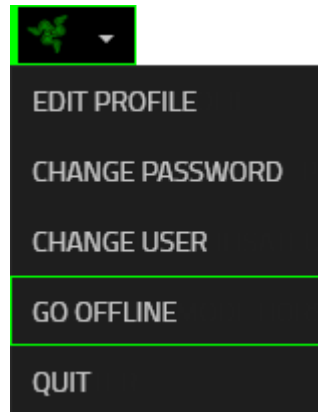
INSTALLING GAME CLIENTS

While on the **SETTINGS** window, select **GAME CLIENTS**. Click **INSTALL** to download and install any of the listed game clients into your computer.



GOING OFFLINE

Razer Cortex requires an Internet connection to login. Once logged in, you no longer require an Internet connection to use most features of Razer Cortex. Hence, to activate offline mode, click your user name and select **GO OFFLINE**.



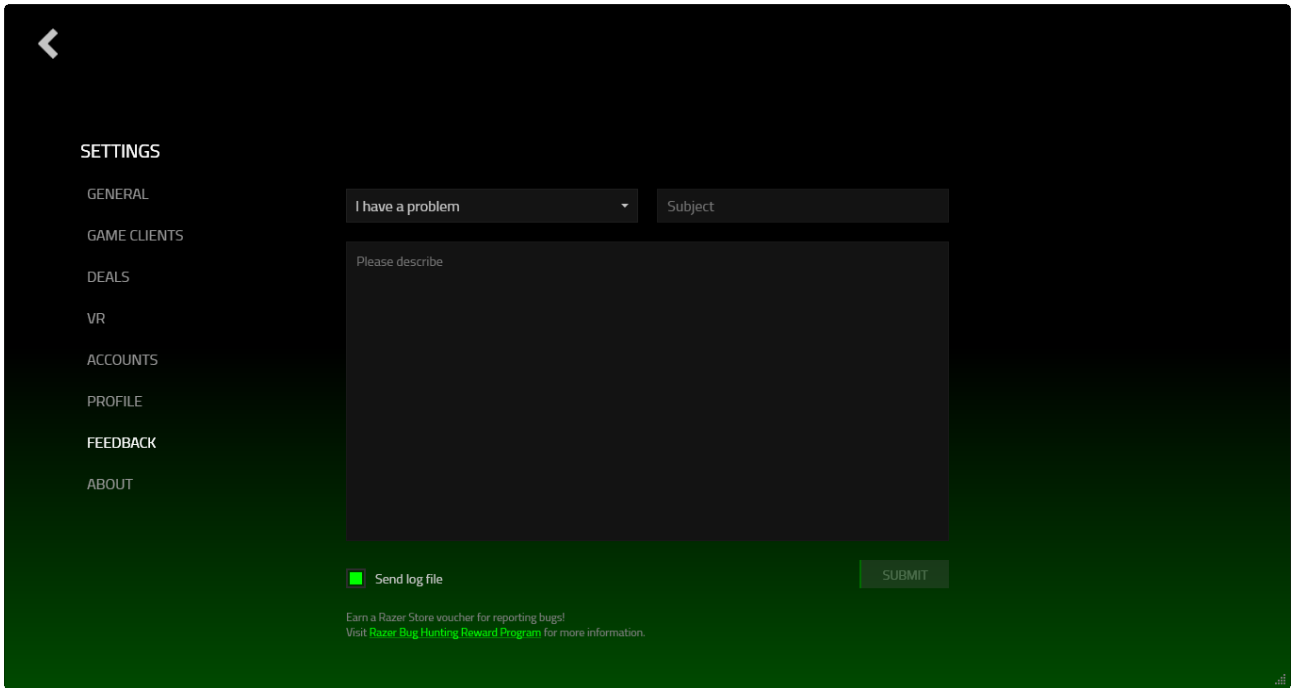
Note that the following features will not be accessible when in offline mode:

- Software update notifications
- Settings and profile update synchronization
- Game support library
- Feedback submission
- Browsing DEALS
- SYNC SAVEGAMES synchronization

SUBMITTING FEEDBACK

Razer Cortex has an inbuilt function to let users send feedbacks and report problems to our developers.

Click on  from your Razer Cortex window and select **ABOUT**. Click the **SUBMIT FEEDBACK** button.



The screenshot shows the Razer Cortex feedback interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with the following options: SETTINGS, GENERAL, GAME CLIENTS, DEALS, VR, ACCOUNTS, PROFILE, FEEDBACK (highlighted), and ABOUT. The main content area has a dark background. At the top, there is a dropdown menu currently set to "I have a problem" and a text input field labeled "Subject". Below these is a large text area with the placeholder text "Please describe". At the bottom of the form, there is a checkbox labeled "Send log file" which is currently checked, and a "SUBMIT" button. Below the checkbox, there is a small text message: "Earn a Razer Store voucher for reporting bugs! Visit [Razer Bug Hunting Reward Program](#) for more information."

If you are reporting a bug, select **I have a problem** in the drop down box. If you are submitting a suggestion, select **I have a suggestion**. Select **Other** if you are submitting general feedback.

Describe your feedback in the textbox below. Please be as detailed as possible. Check **Send log file** to attach your Razer Cortex log with this feedback form. This will be automatically selected when reporting a problem. Click **SUBMIT** to send an email to the Razer Support Team.

11. LEGALESE

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