RAZER CORTEX

MASTER GUIDE

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.

CONTENTS

1. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Windows® 10 / Windows® 8.1 / Windows® 8 / Windows® 7
- Internet connection
- 250 MB 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.

1. Visit razerzone.com/cortex/download to download the latest version of the Razer Cortex installer.
2. Launch the downloaded installer.
3. Follow the onscreen instructions to complete the installation.
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,

1. From the Windows **Start** menu, go to your **Control Panel** and select **Programs > Uninstall a program**.
2. Right-click on the Razer Cortex entry in the list and select **Uninstall**.
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 login details. If you are not an existing Razer Synapse user, register as follows:

1. Launch the Razer Cortex from the Start menu.

2. Click **CREATE ACCOUNT** at the bottom of the window.

3. Enter a valid **Email** address and **Password**. Re-enter your **Password** for confirmation.

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.
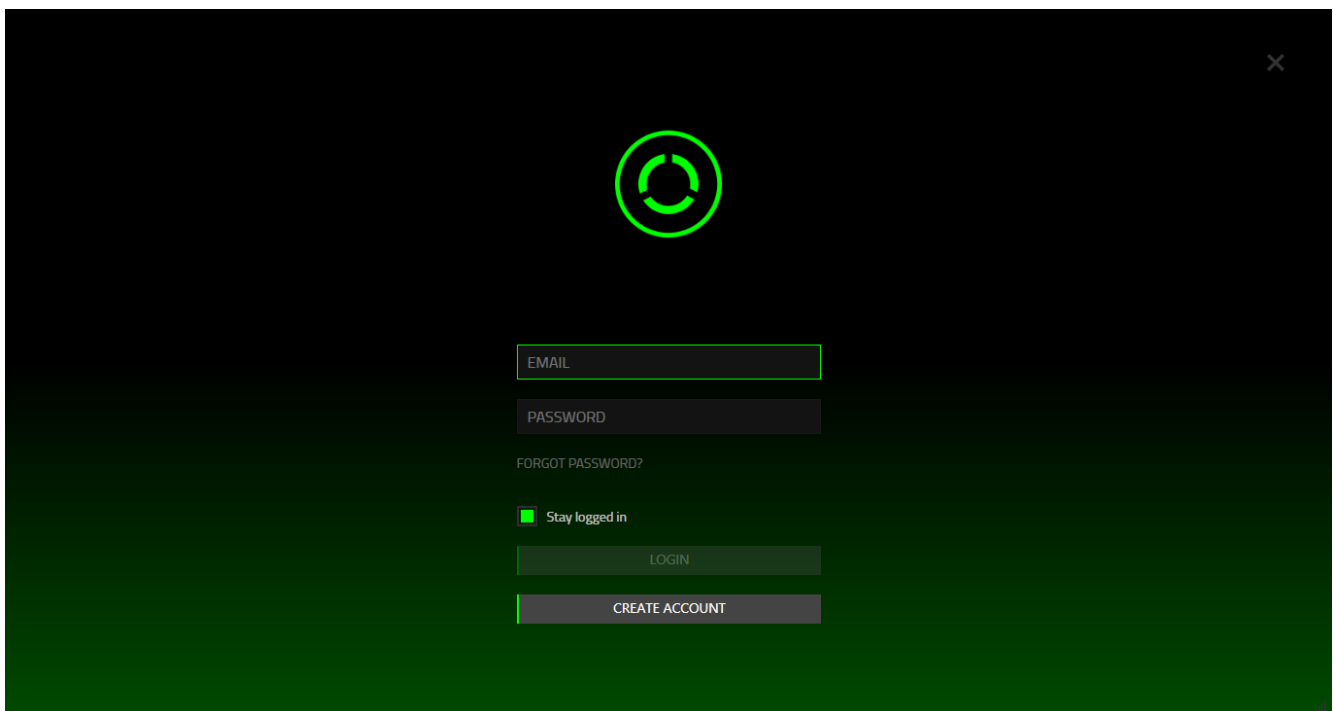

5. Click **CREATE ACCOUNT**.

6. Check your email inbox for an account verification email from Razer.

7. Verify your Razer Synapse account by clicking on the link in the email.

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:

1. Launch Razer Cortex from the Start menu.
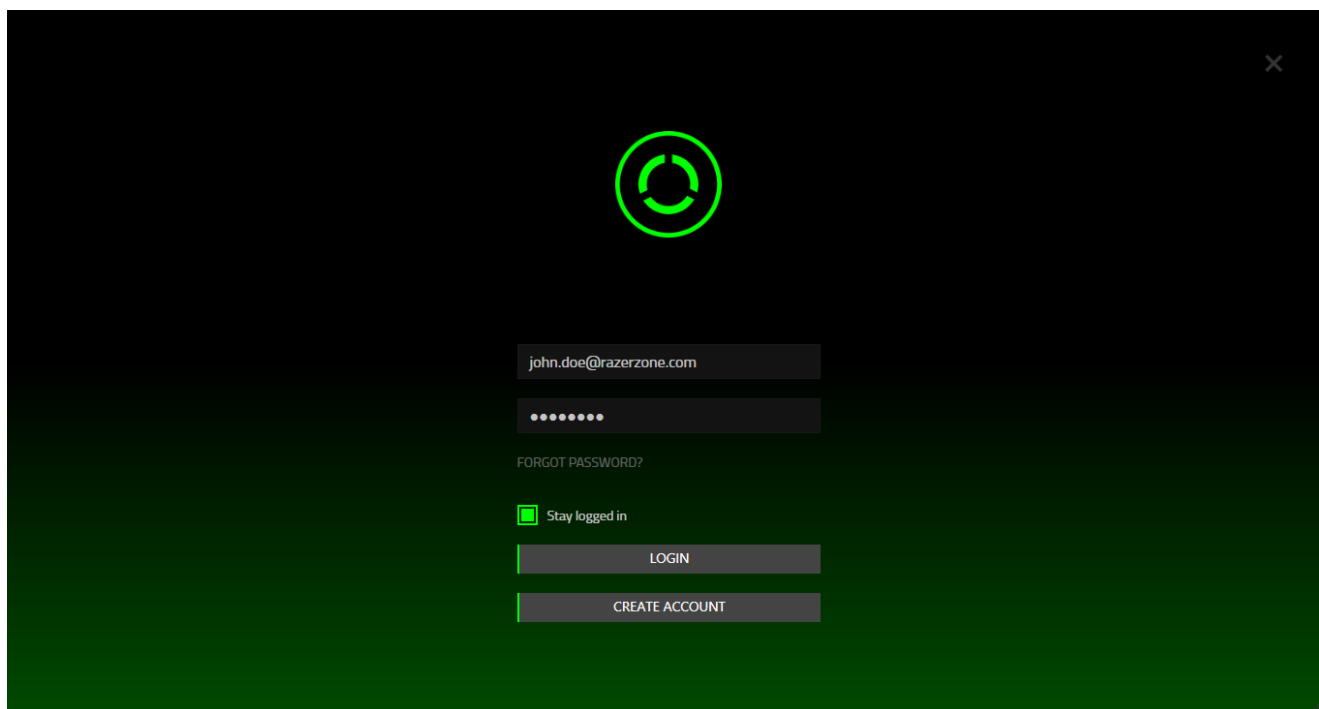
2. Enter the **EMAIL** address and **PASSWORD** of your existing Razer Synapse account.
3. Check the **STAY LOGGED IN** box ONLY IF you wish to automatically login to Razer Cortex using this account each time you launch the software.
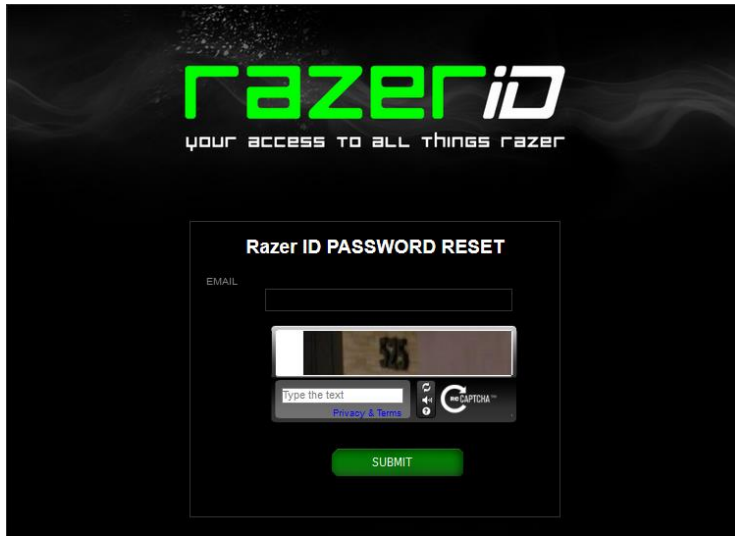4. Click **LOGIN**.

LOGGING OFF

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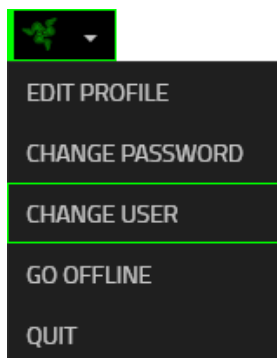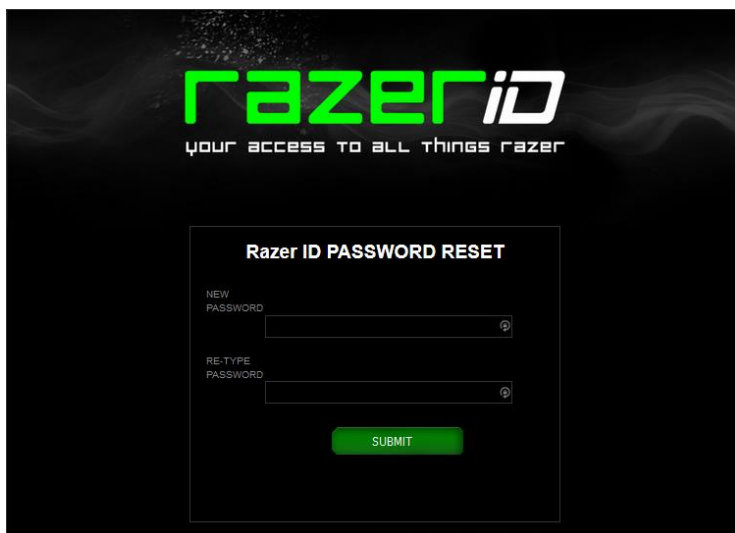
RETRIEVING YOUR PASSWORD

If you have forgotten your account password,

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:

2. Enter your registered account **EMAIL**, type the text verification code shown, then click **SUBMIT**.

3. Check your email inbox for a verification email from Razer. Click the link in the email.

4. Your web browser will navigate to the password reset page as shown in the figure below. Enter your **NEW PASSWORD**, retype it to confirm, then click **SUBMIT**.

5. A success screen will be displayed. You can now login to Razer Cortex using the 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,

1. Launch and login to Razer Cortex.

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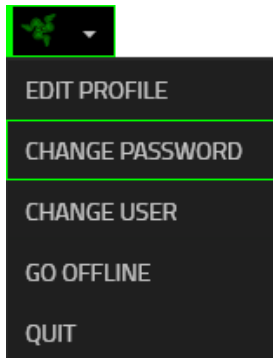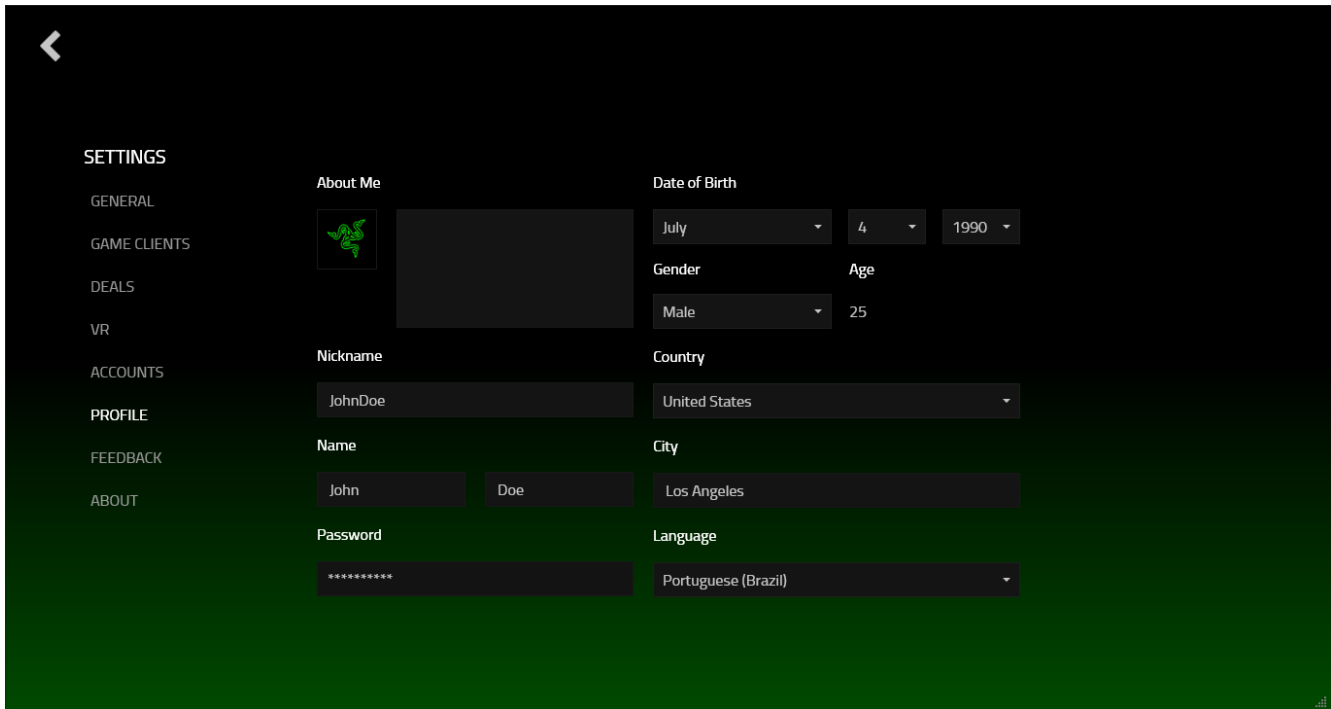

3. In the next screen, enter your **OLD PASSWORD** and the **NEW PASSWORD**. Re-enter the new password then click **SAVE** to confirm the change.
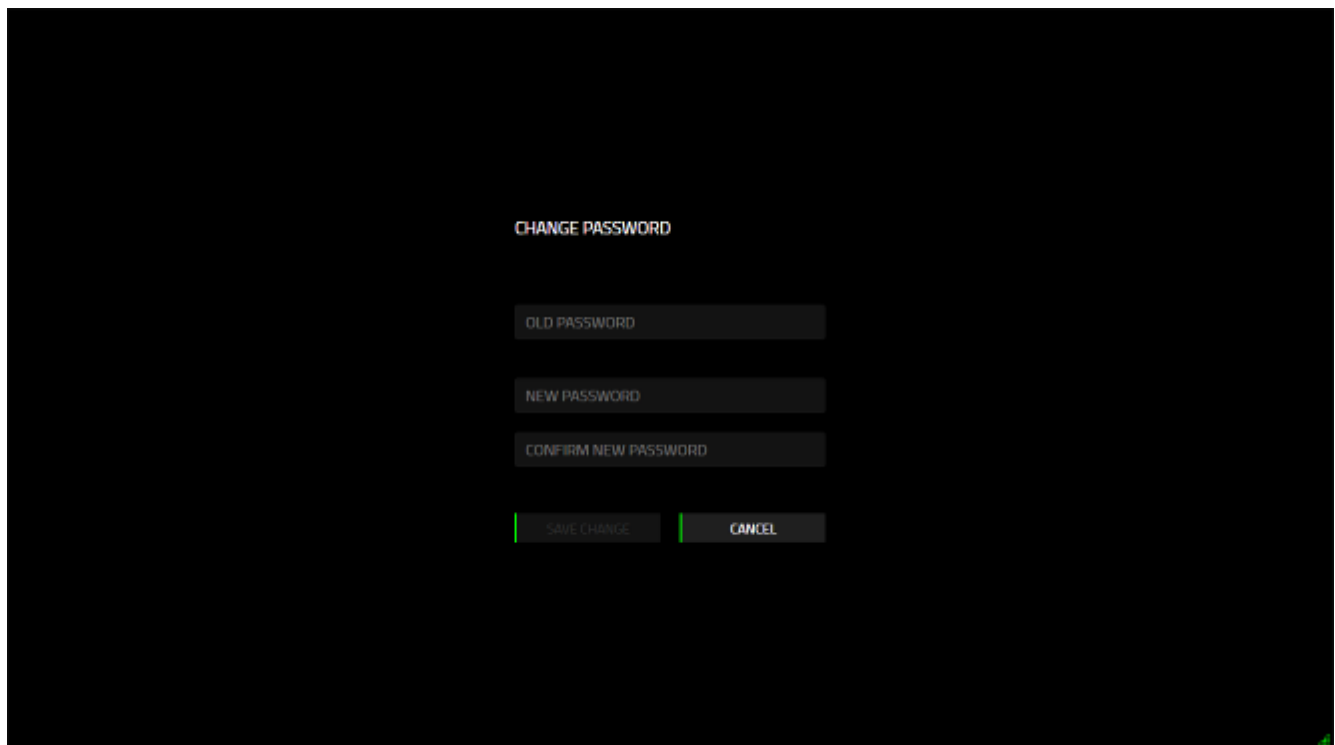
MANAGING YOUR USER PROFILE

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 fields are optional. These may include:

- **Avatar** – Change your display picture
- **About me** – Brief description about yourself
- **Personal details** – Includes 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, the Razer Cortex displays the GAMES tab when launched.
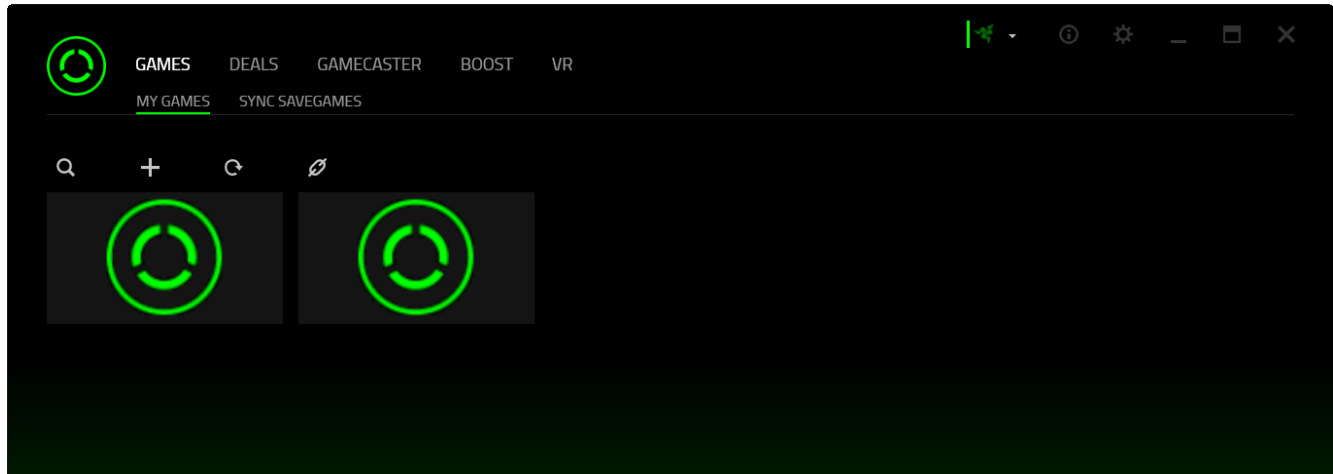
This tab displays a list of your installed games and games on your library. Use the subtabs to access the various functions of Razer Cortex. Please refer to the later sections of this guide for more information on each function.

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.
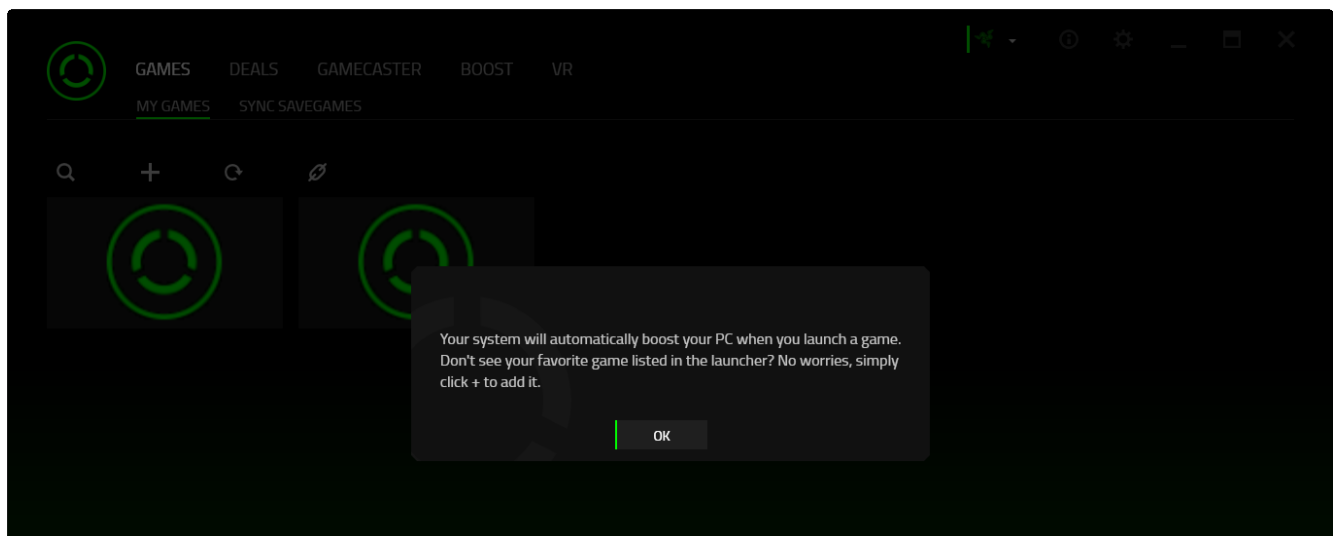
RAZER CORTEX SETTINGS

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

1. Launch the software and login.
2. On the upper right portion of the Razer Cortex window, click the ⚙ icon.
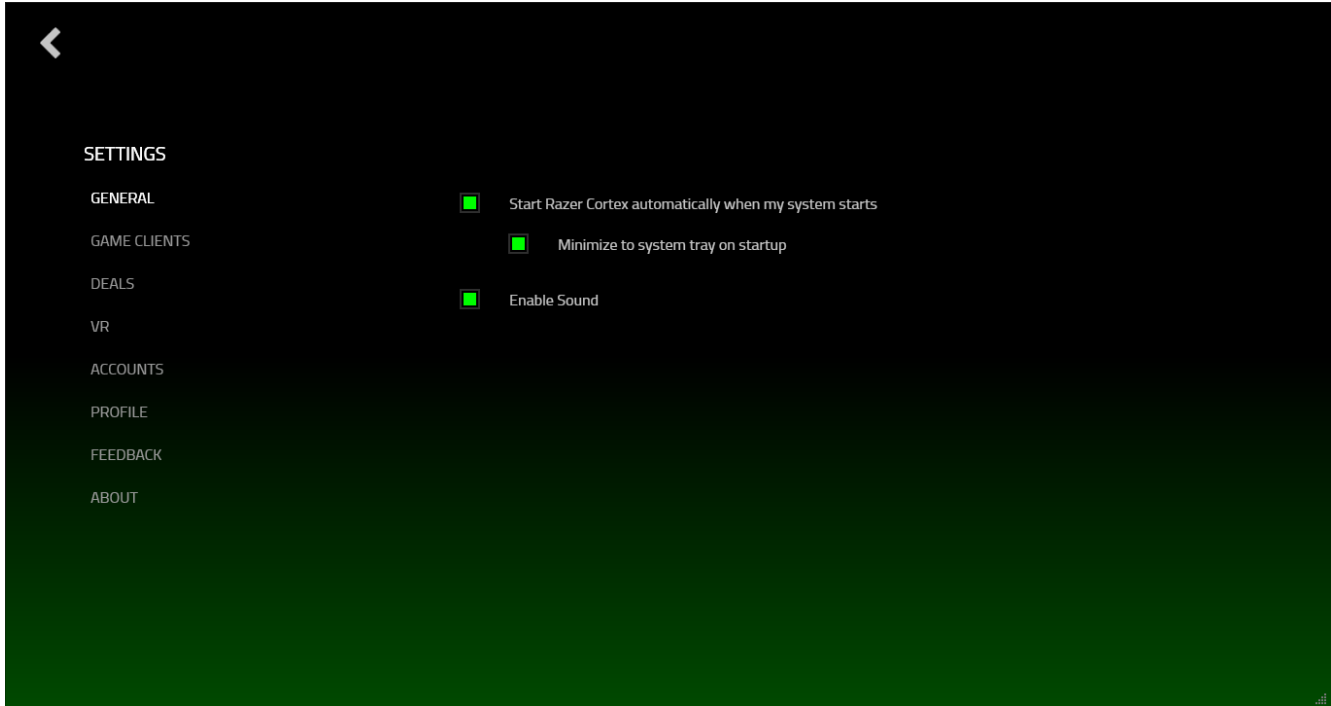
The GENERAL tab includes options that determine the software's basic behavior such as:

- Allowing the Razer Cortex to be launched when Windows starts
- Executing the Razer Cortex in the system tray when system first starts up
- Enabling 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.

1. From the GAMES tab, click the 🔍 icon.
2. Enter a search phrase into the textbox.

   ⓘ *Note: You can tap* ✖ *to clear the textbox.*
3. A list of all the games matching this phrase will be displayed.
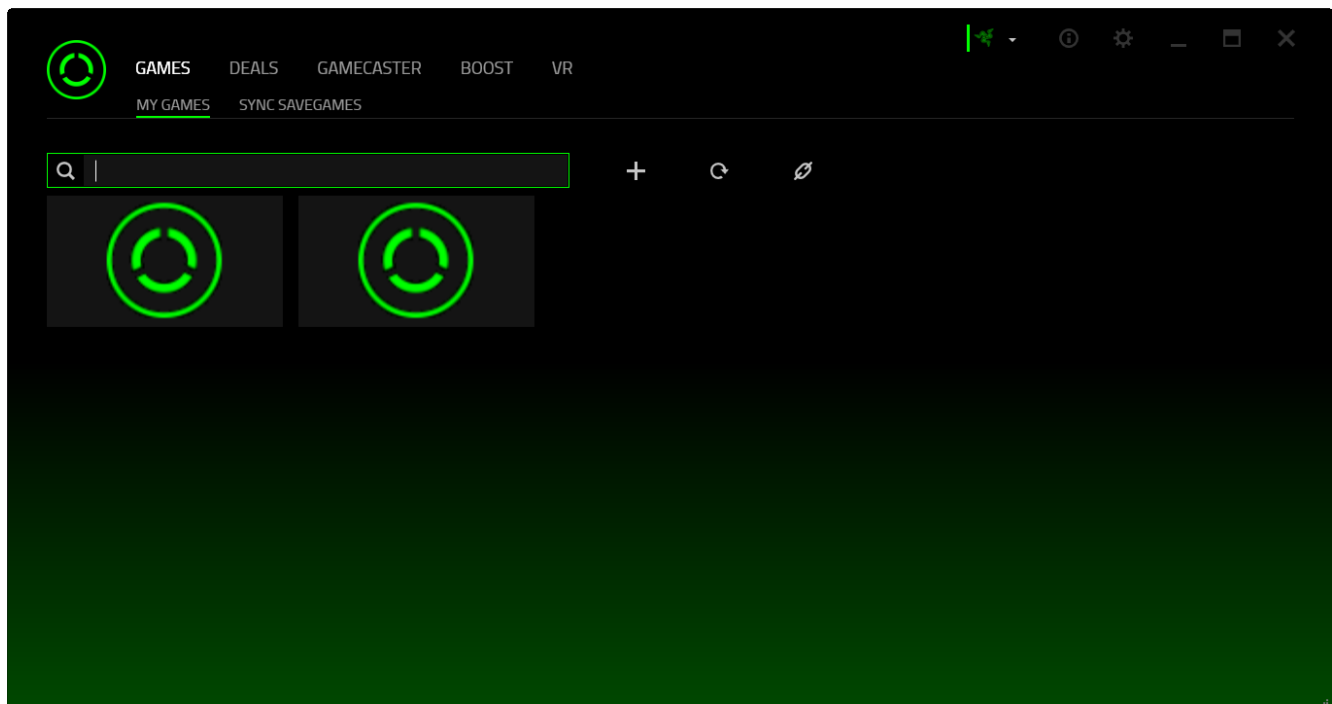
ADDING INSTALLED GAMES TO THE LIST – MANUAL SELECTION

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.
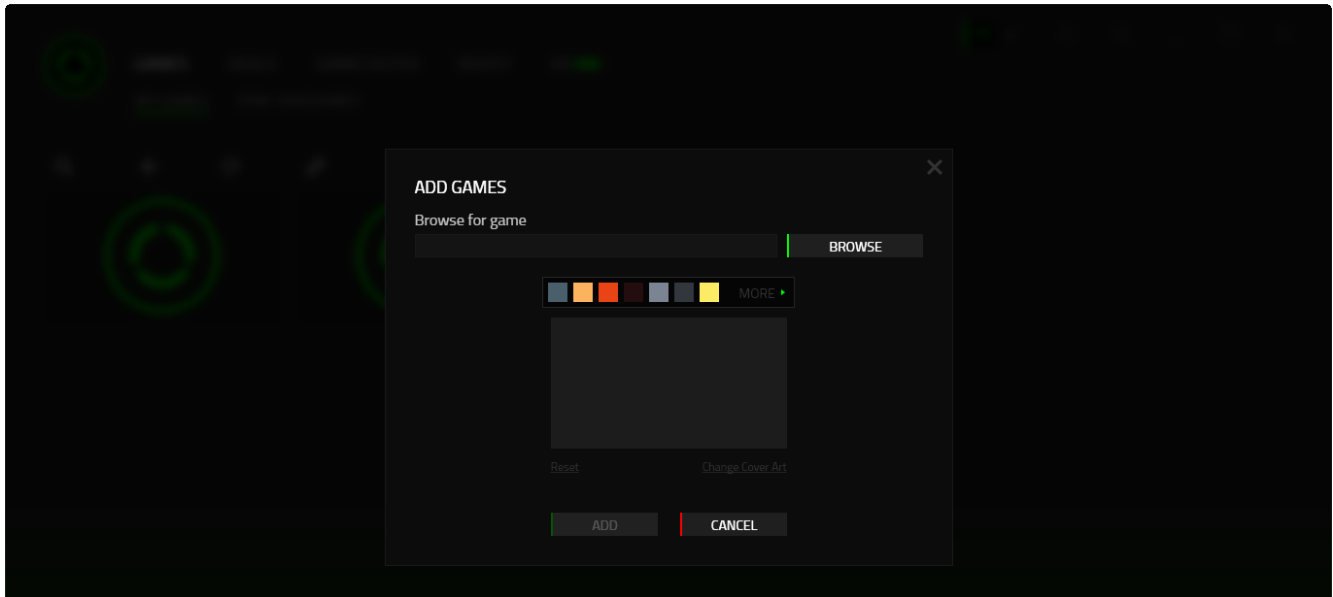

You can personalize the look of the game launcher by selecting from over 16.8 million available background colors or selecting your own cover art by clicking **Change Cover Art**.

ADDING INSTALLED GAMES TO THE LIST – AUTOMATIC SYSTEM SCAN

From the GAMES tab, click ![icon]. Razer Cortex will automatically start scanning your system for recognized games and add them to the GAMES list.
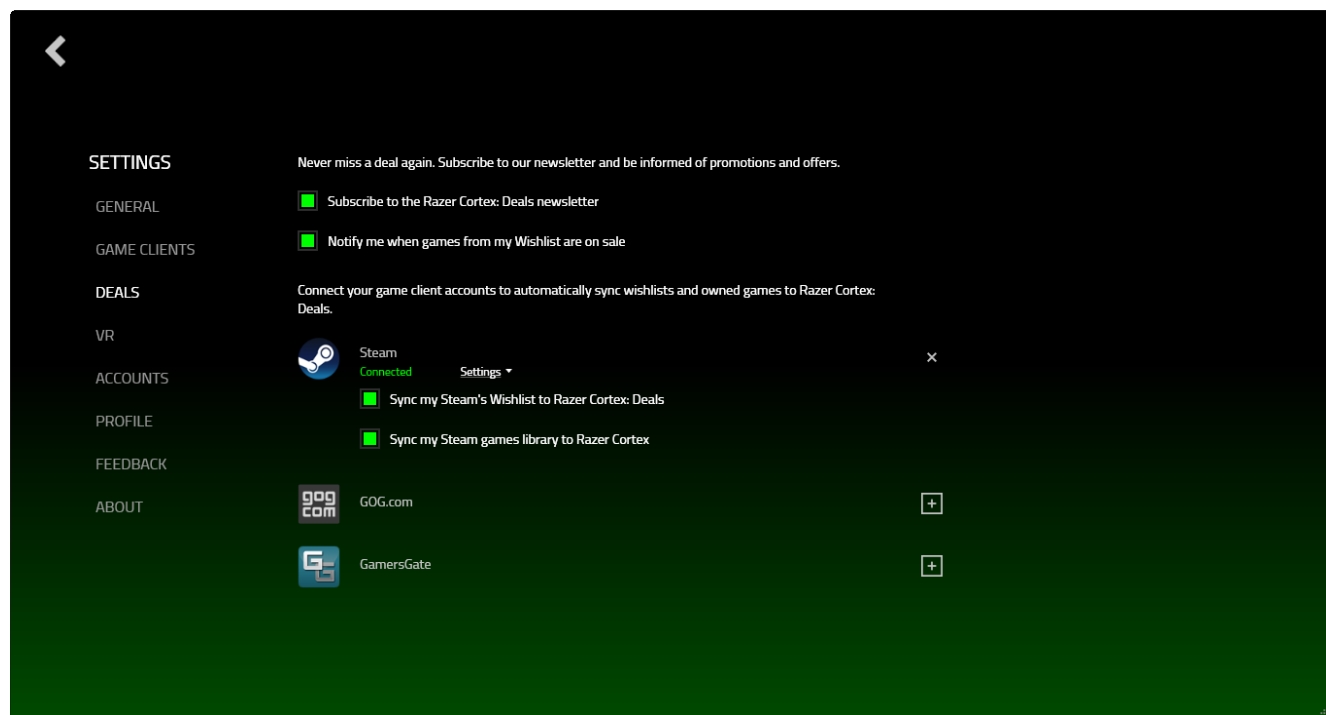
ℹ️ *Note: Only games recognized by the Razer Cortex can be added using this method.*
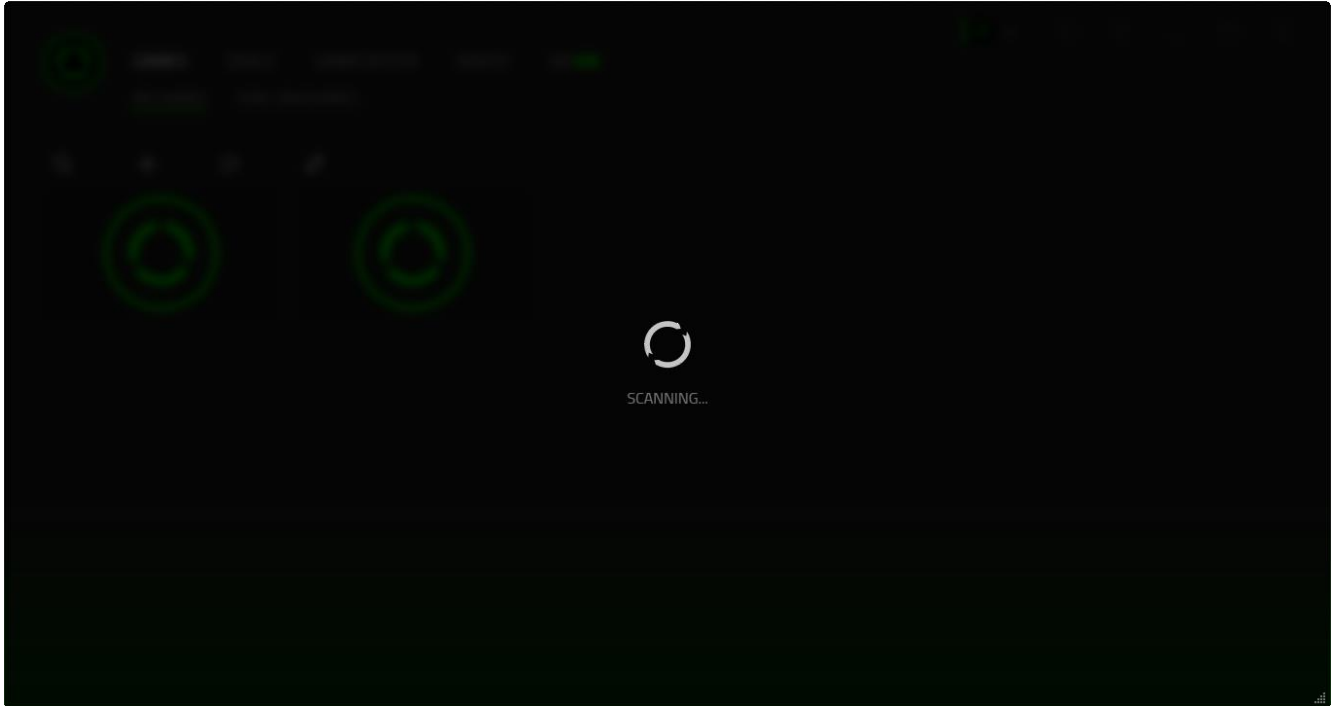
Games found by Razer Cortex through this scan will be automatically added to your GAMES list.

## 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 the Razer Cortex wish list. To unlink your game client, simply go to **SETTINGS > DEALS** and click ⬚.

ℹ️ *Note: Only games recognized by the Razer Cortex can be added using this method.*
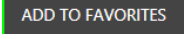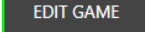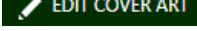
SETTING UP GAME PREFERENCES

You can configure preferences for each game individually. From the game list, click on the game you wish to configure.
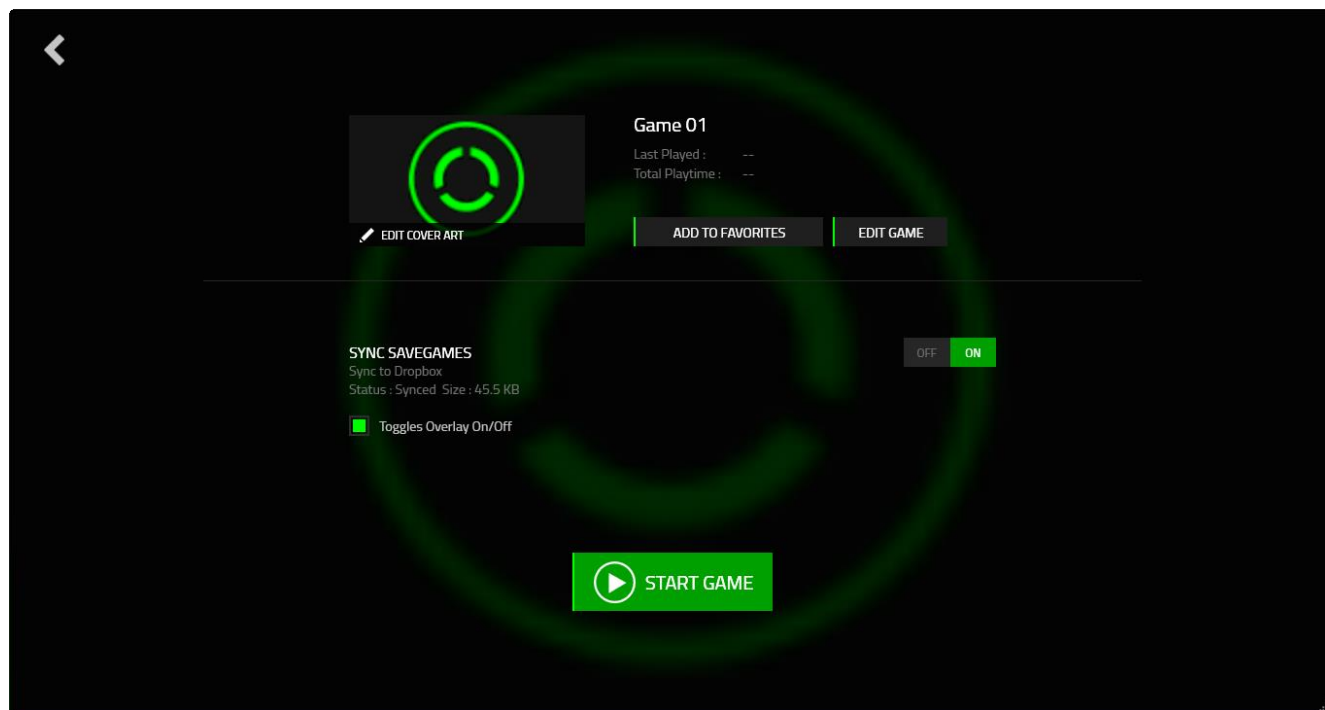
 Note: Click anywhere outside of game details frame or click *to return to the main Razer Cortex interface.*

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.
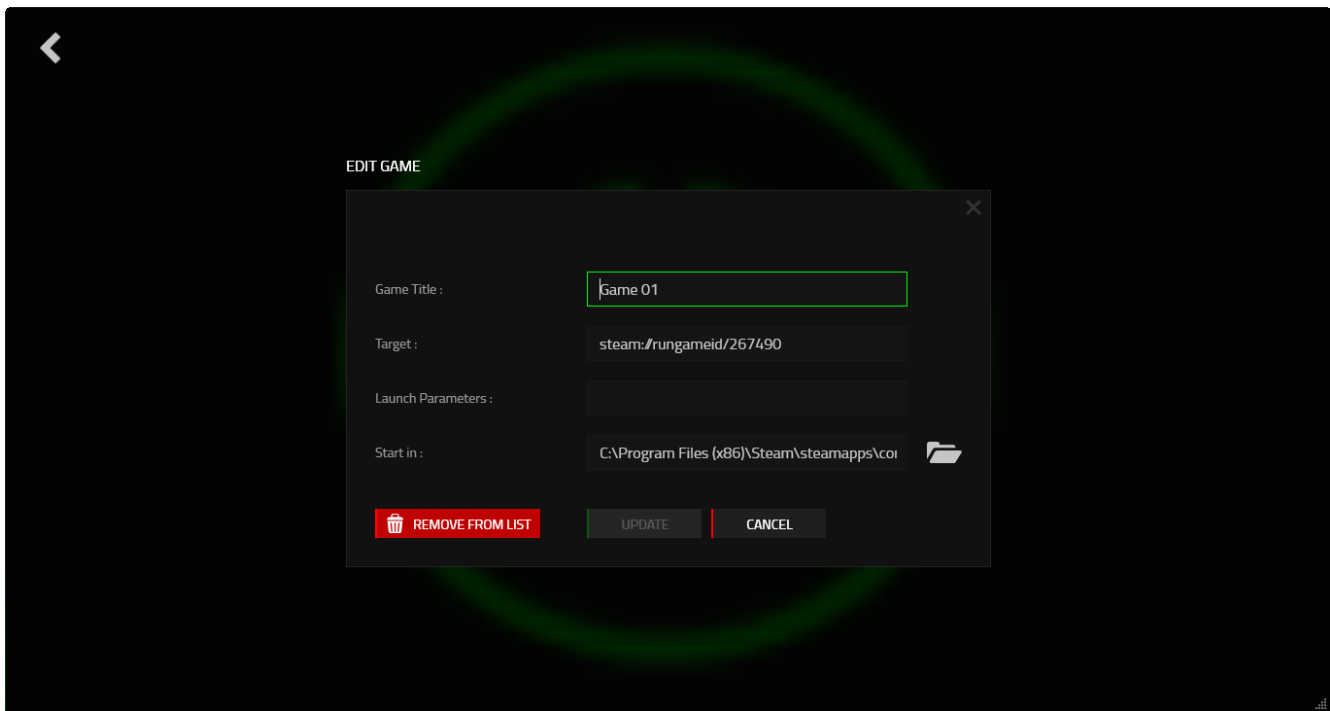
Game preferences include:

- 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 **[▶ START GAME]**. 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.
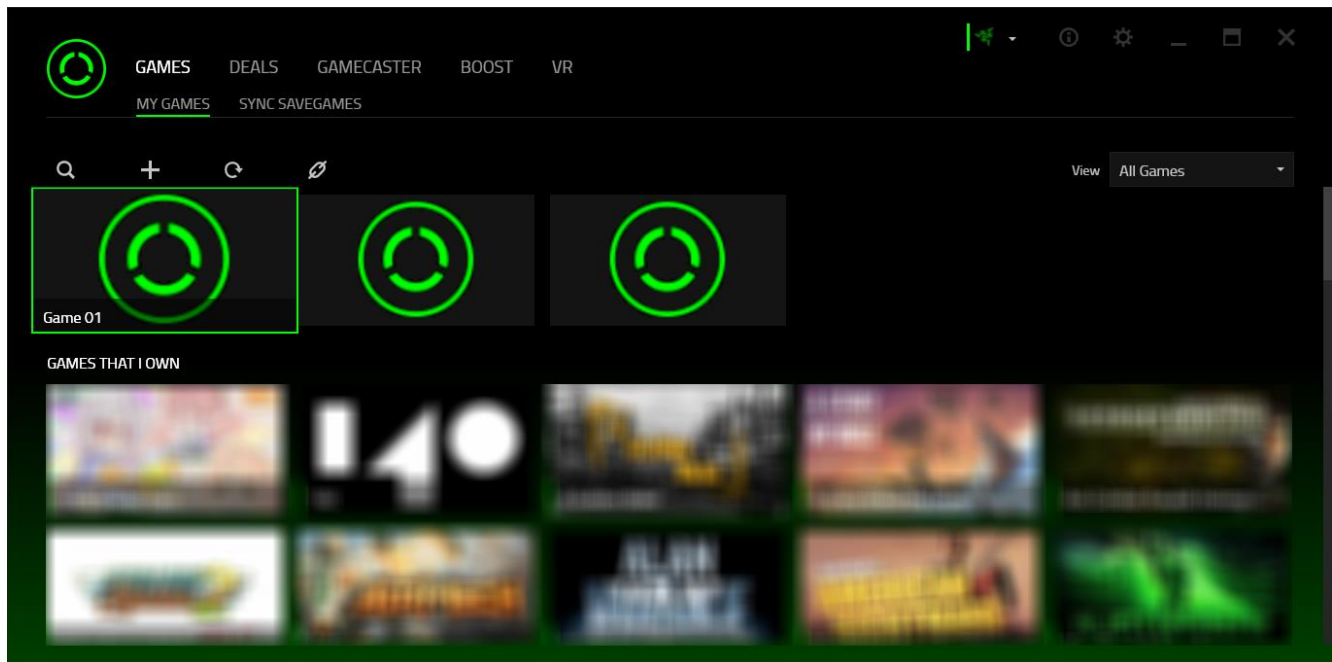
SYNC SAVEGAMES

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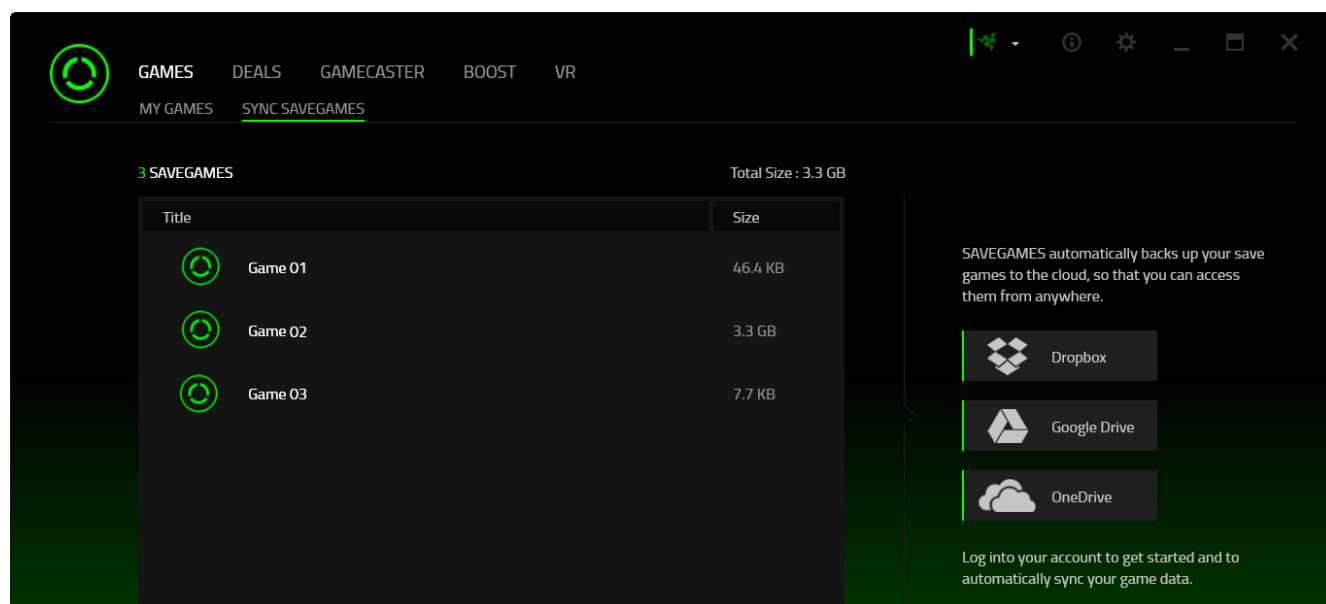
To start using this feature, you will need to log into a cloud storage service.

After you have logged into your account, SYNC SAVEGAMES will automatically create a copy of known game data locations to the cloud.
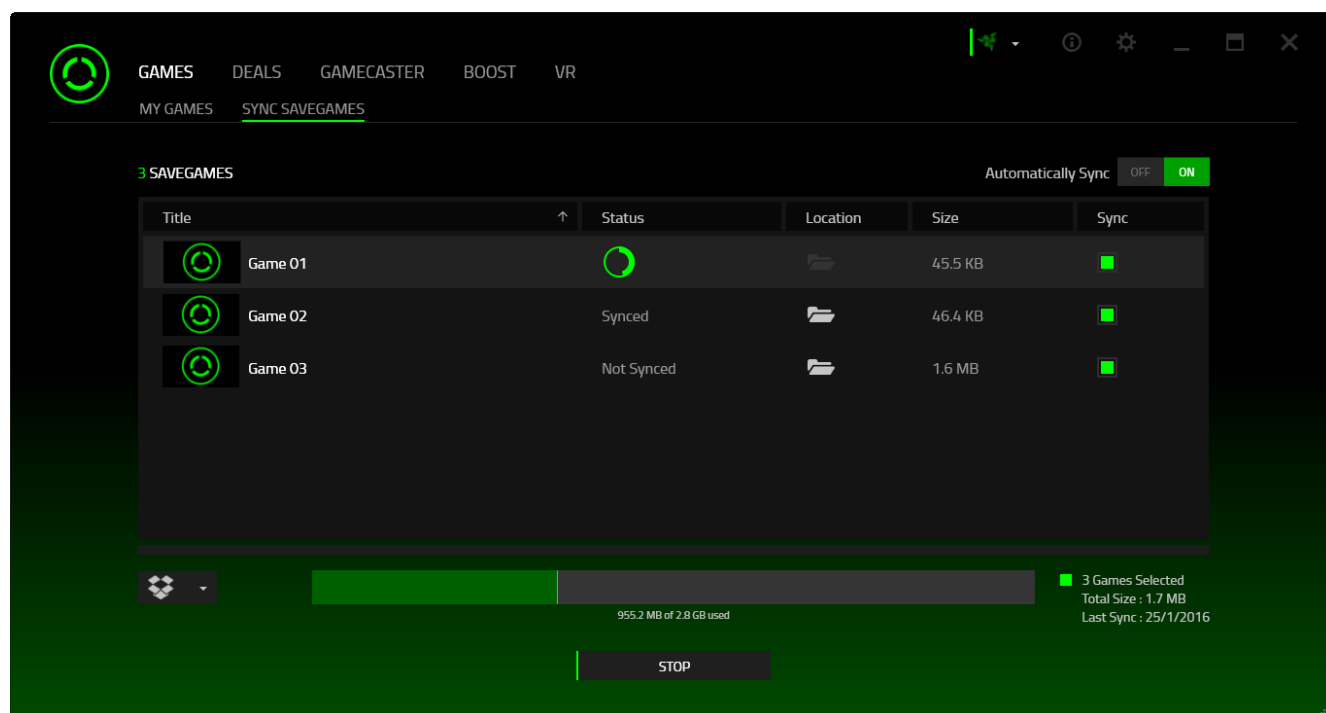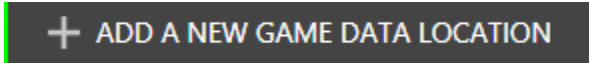
Each game will have an indicator that will show its current status:

- ▪ - 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 you cloud storage.

To change the location of the game data you want to sync, click the icon.
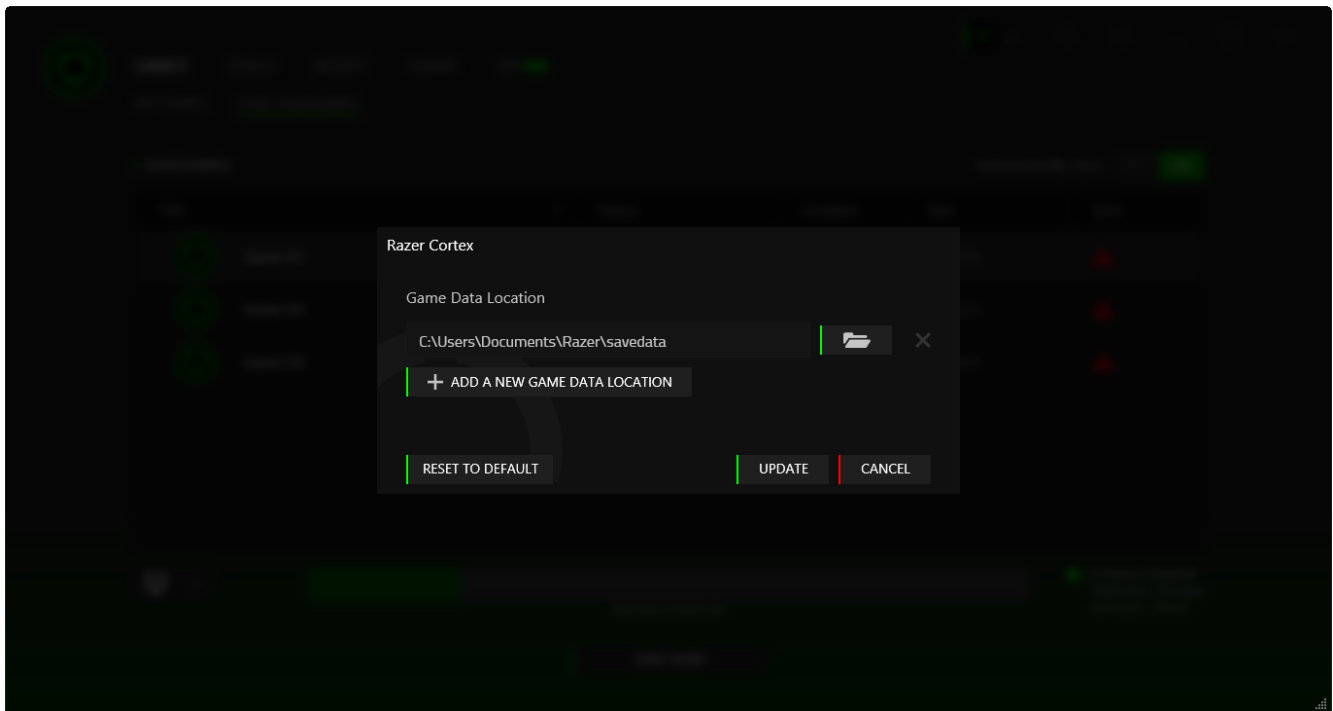
You may also add a new game data location to sync with your cloud storage by clicking the icon.

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.
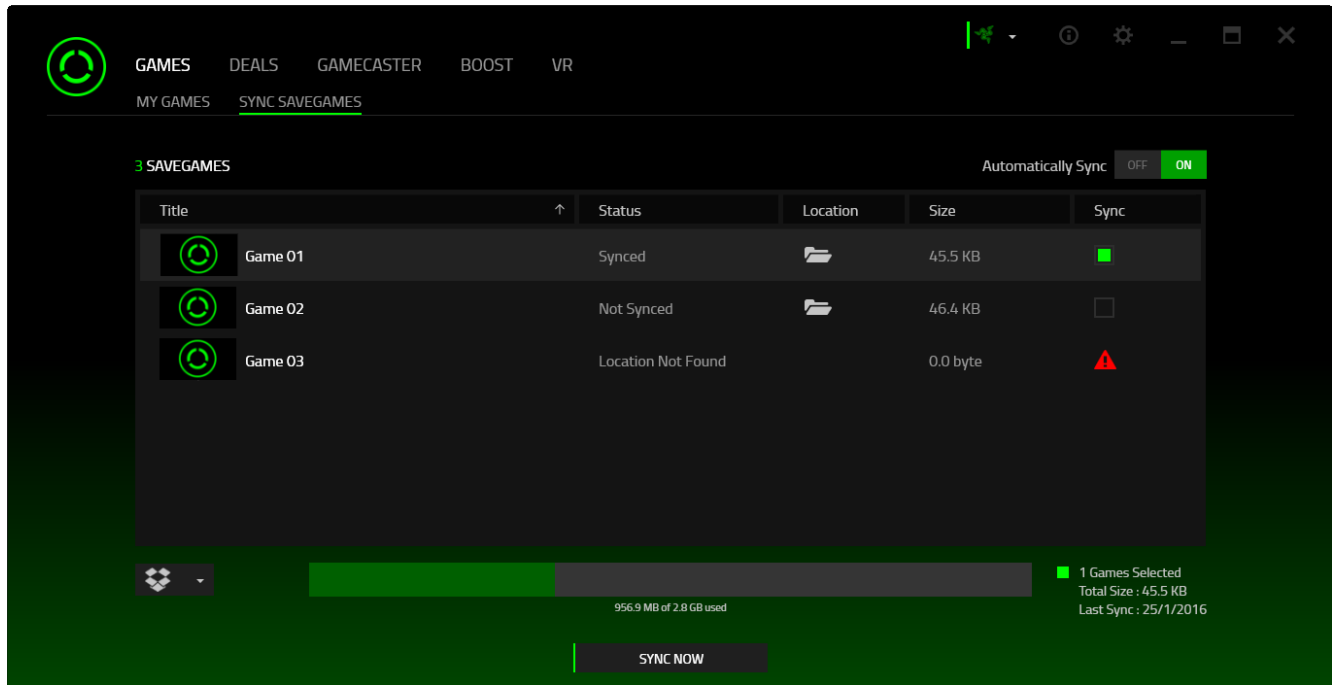
To manually sync all game data, click the [SYNC NOW] icon.

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.
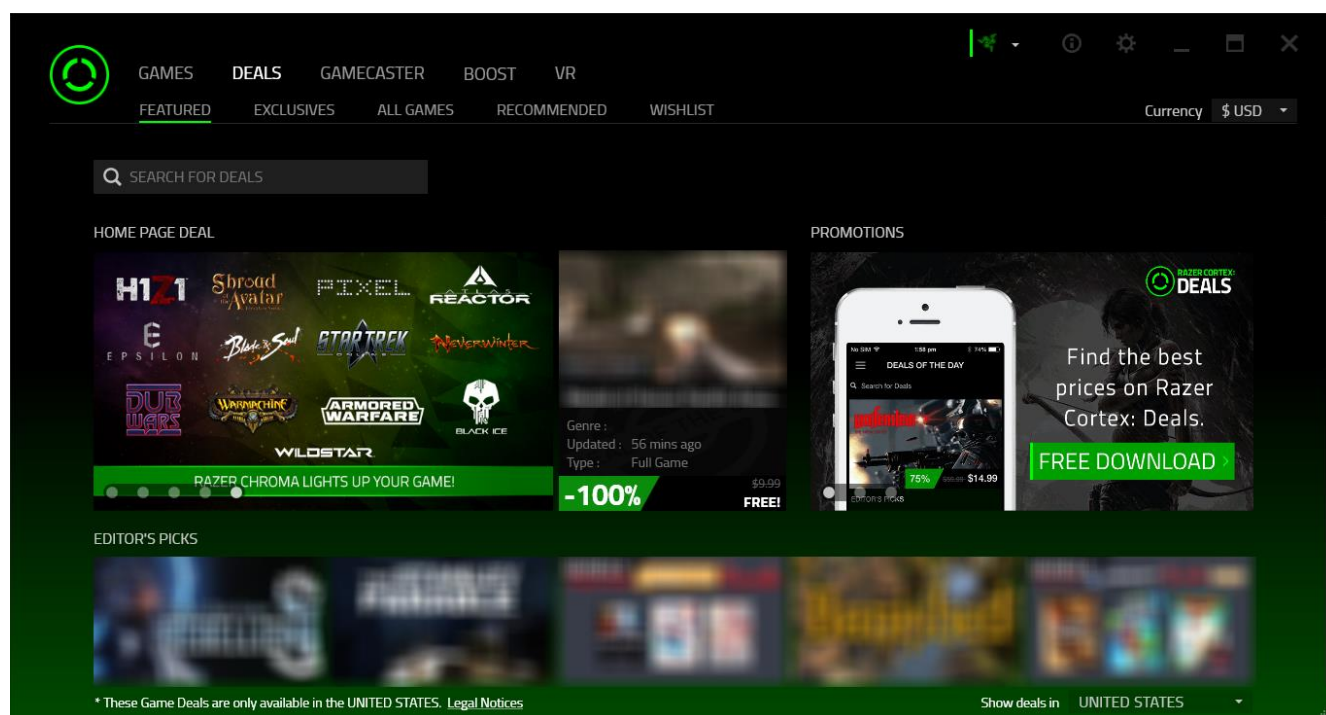
View all Razer exclusive deals, both past and ongoing, on the **EXCLUSIVES** tab.
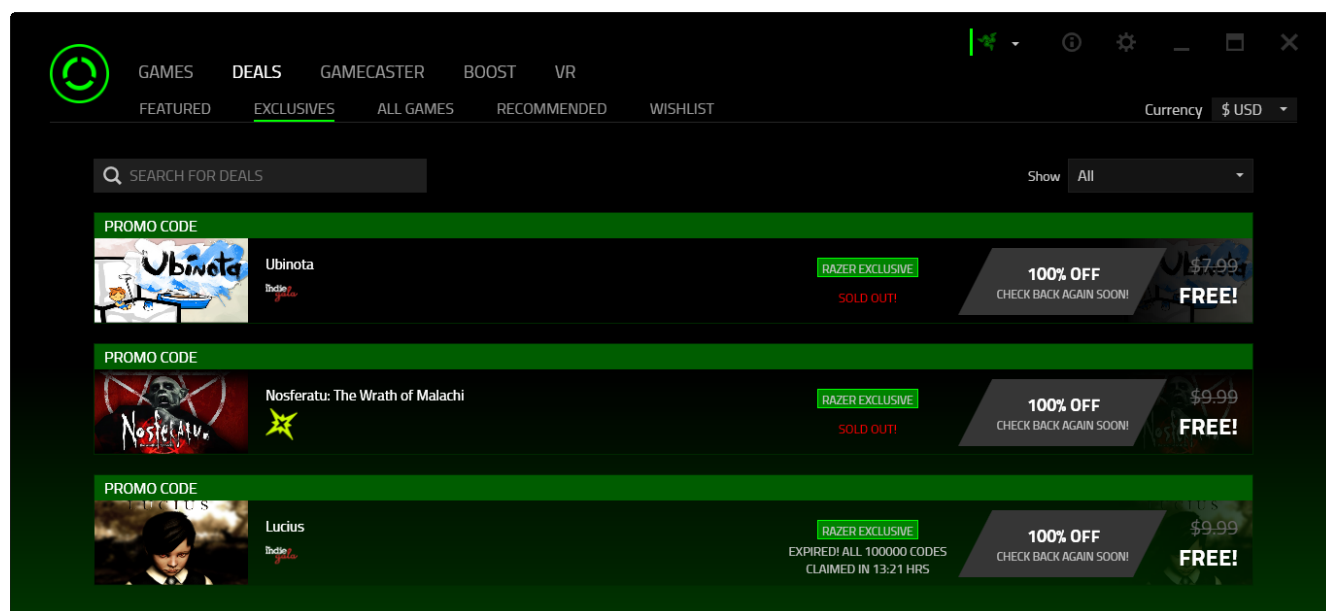
Using **ALL GAMES**, you can search for all the games on our database and sort them out by discount, price or title. You can also filter out games based on genre and distributor.
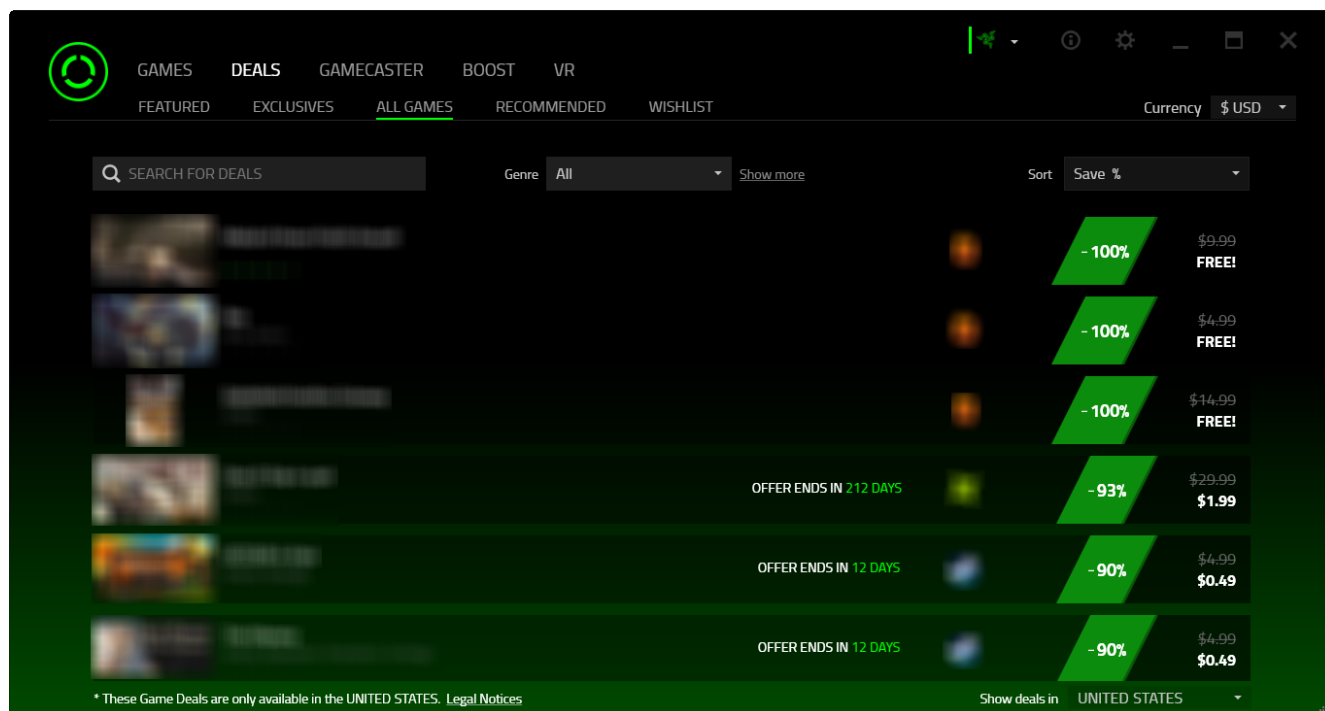
Use **RECOMMENDED** to discover games based on games you want, games you own, and what other gamers with similar taste are playing.
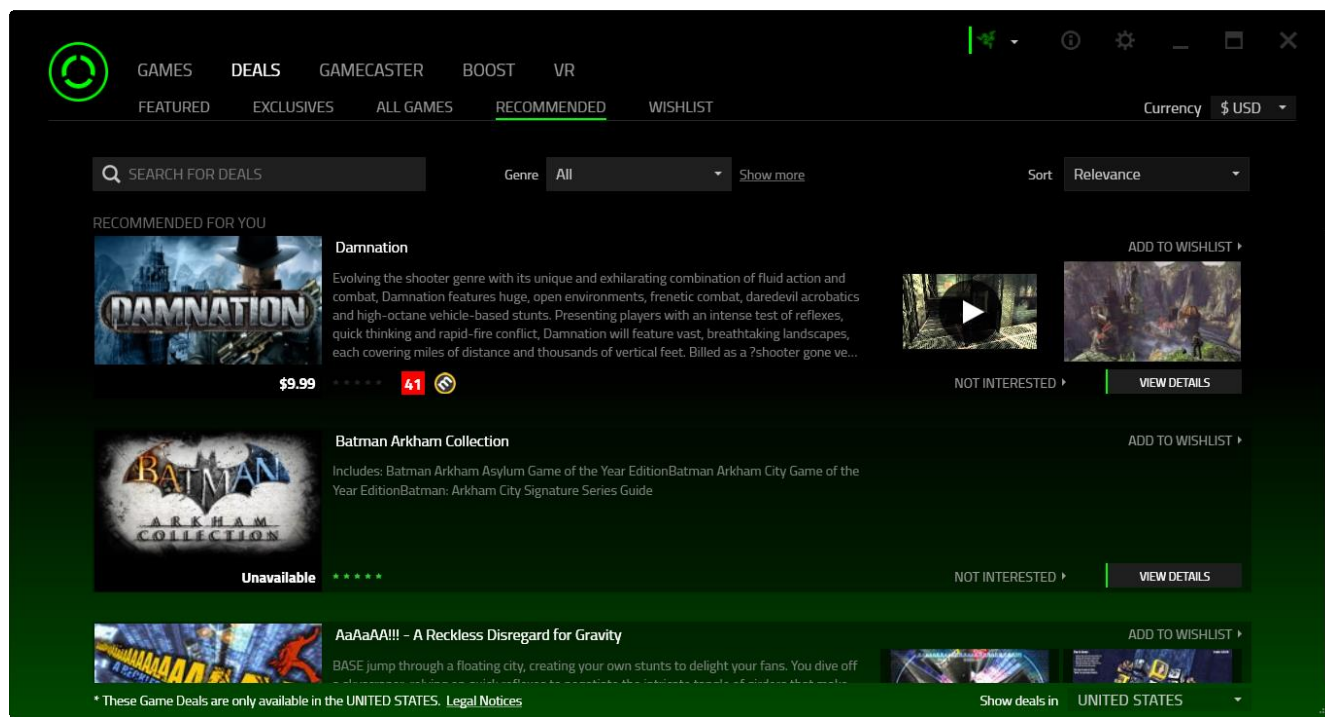
WISHLIST allows you to be kept up-to date on your most anticipated game and receive notifications when the game you want goes on sale.
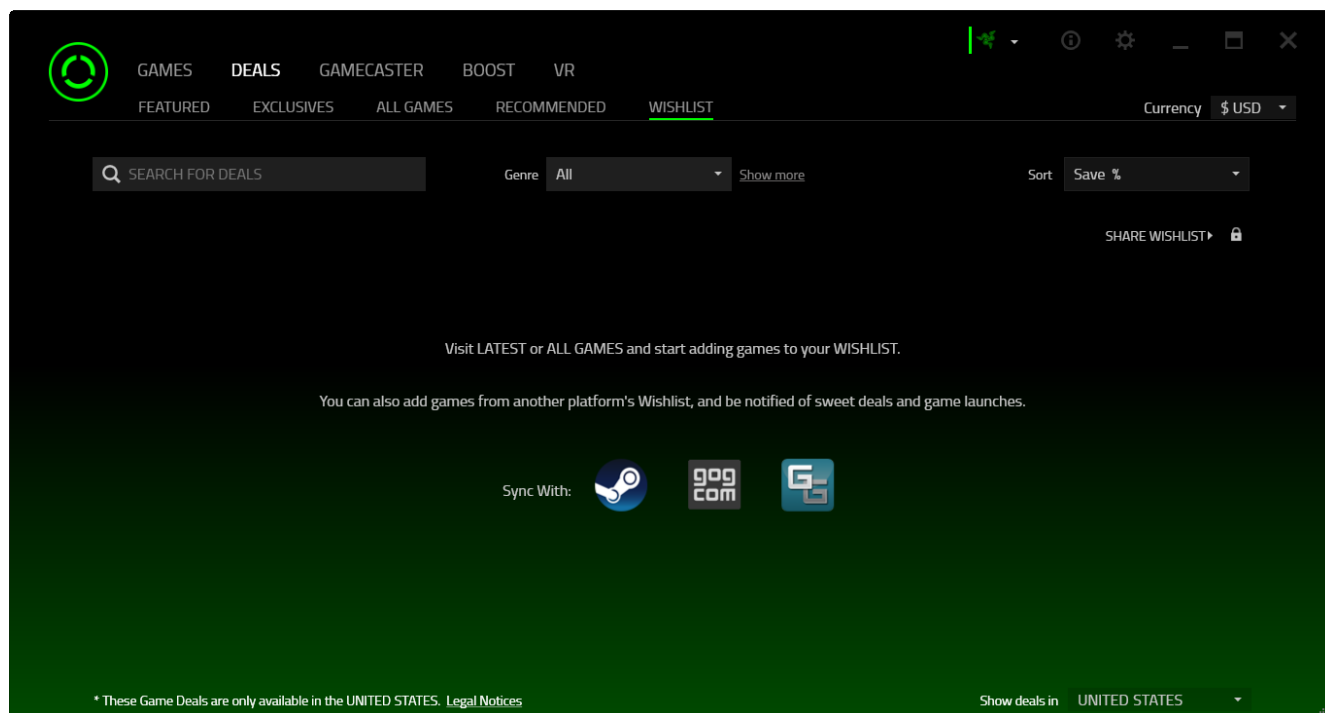
You can add games on your wishlist, by clicking on a game's profile or details section.
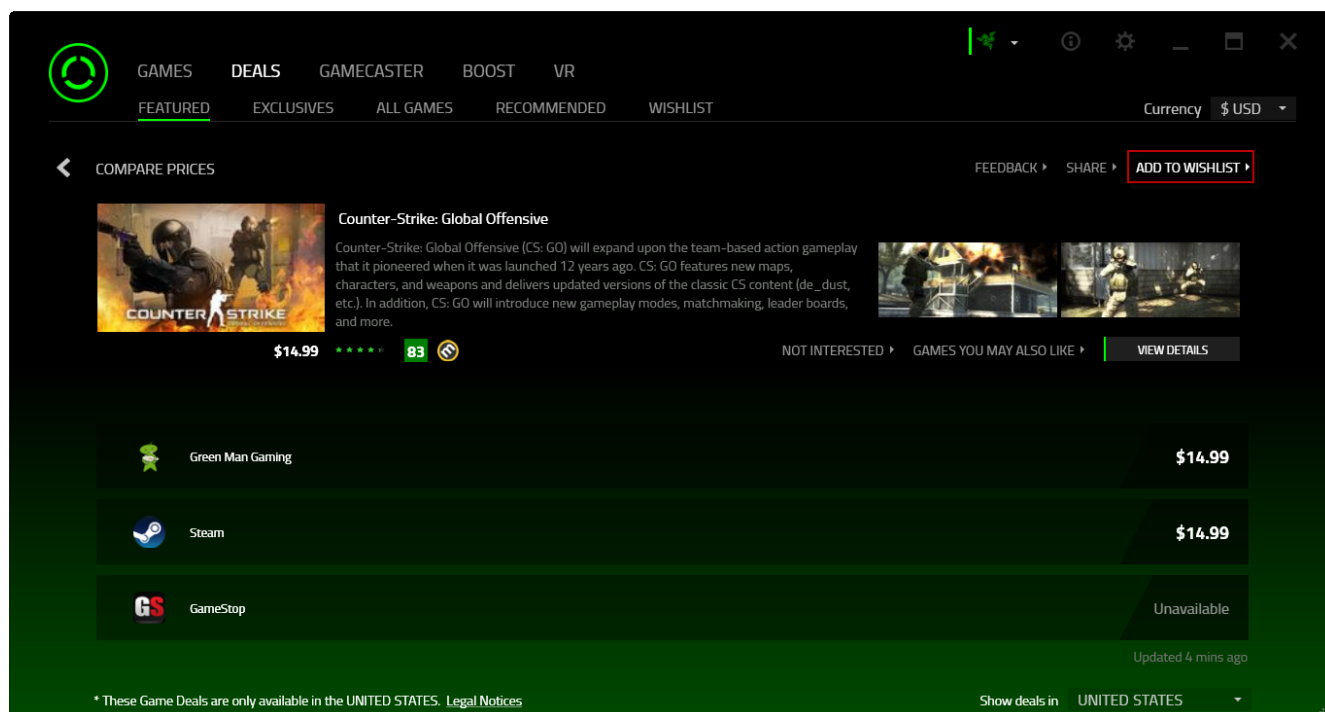
You can also sync your wishlist from game clients that are listed on the Wishlist tab and share your wishlist to the public.
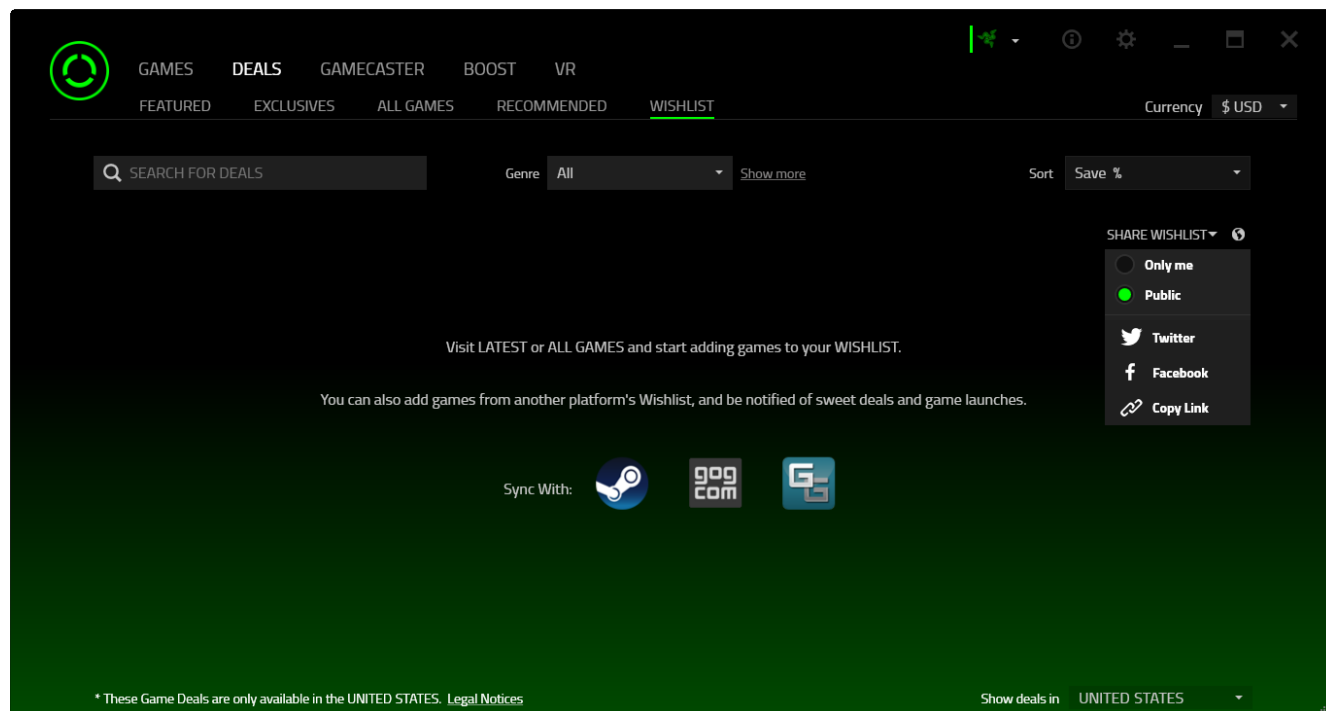
To enable wishlist notifications via email, go to **SETTINGS > DEALS** and select **Notify me when games from my Wishlist are on sale.** From here, you may also enable subscription for the Razer Cortex: Deals newsletter.
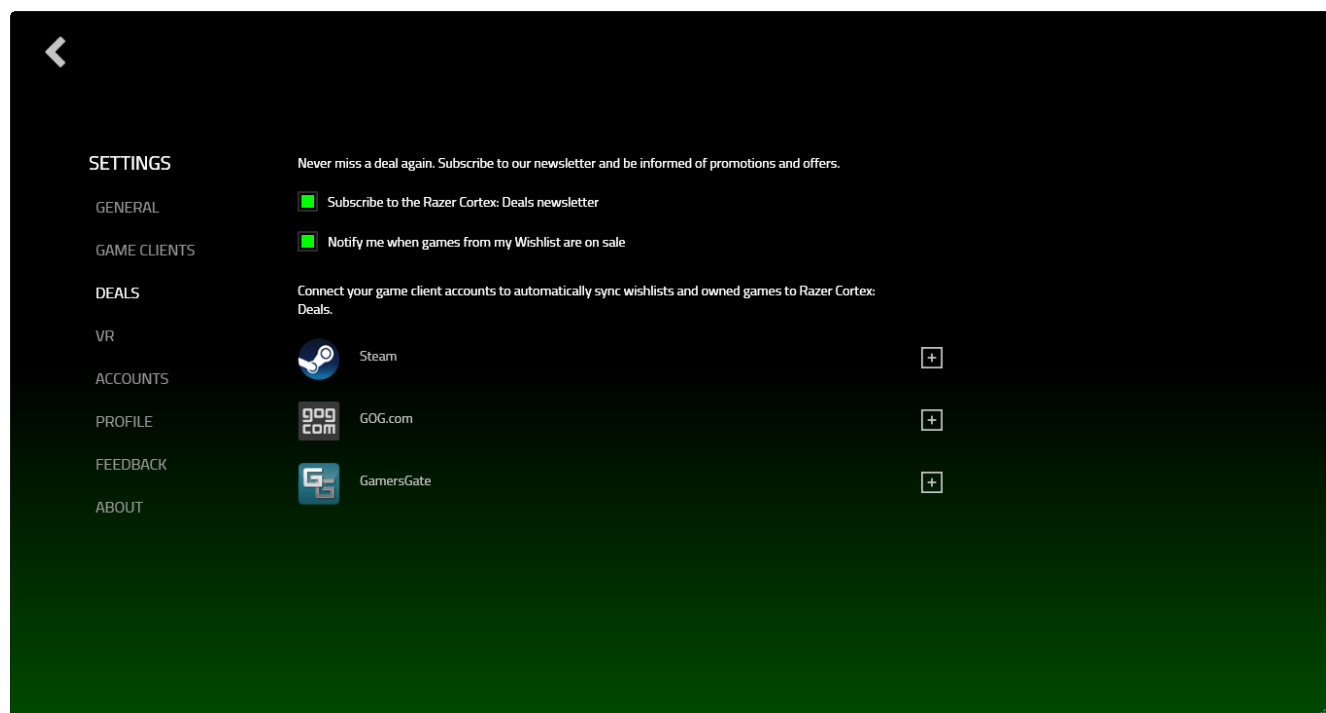
7. RAZER CORTEX: GAMECASTER

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.
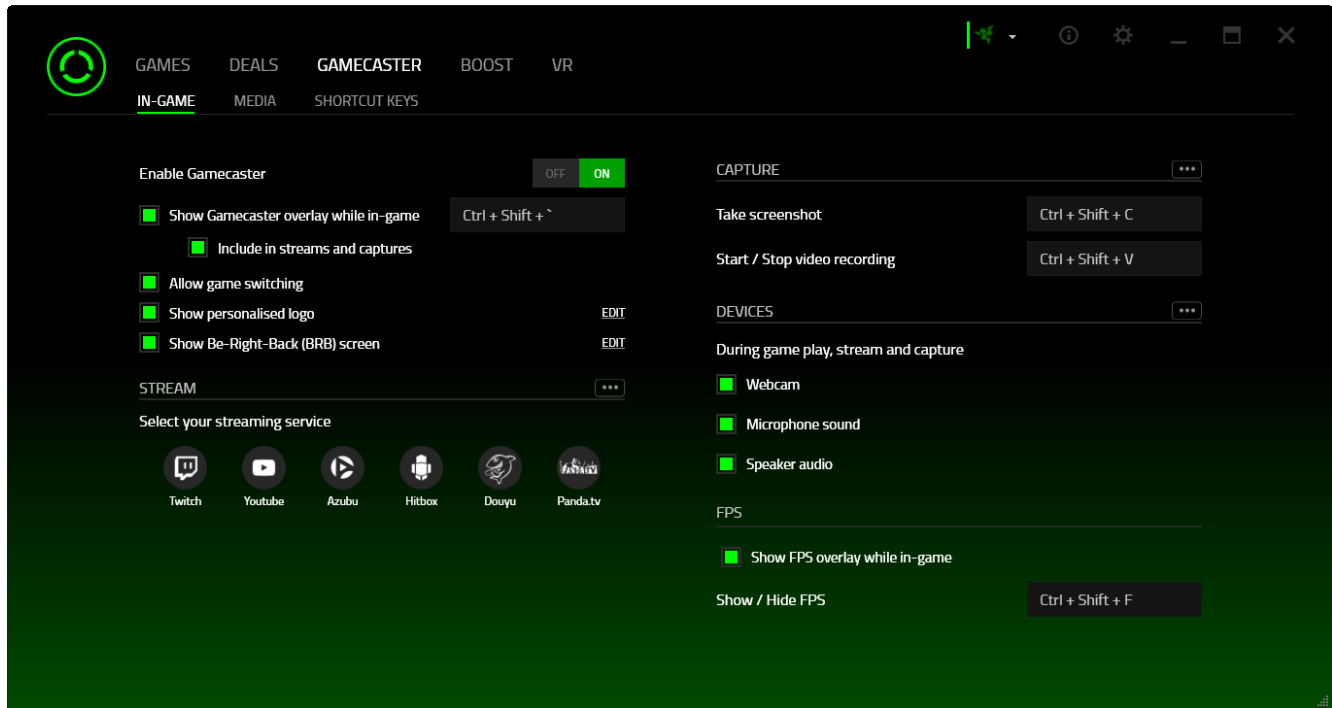
One particular option is the Gamecaster overlay which appears while you are playing a game. This overlay by default is hidden when streaming or taking screenshots however, you can enable it by selecting the option to include it in streams and captures.

The Gamecaster overlay includes the FPS overlay and the webcam window. The overlay also includes the Gamecaster widget which you can access when you click the Razer Cortex icon. If you have the pro version, it will also include the personalized logo overlay.
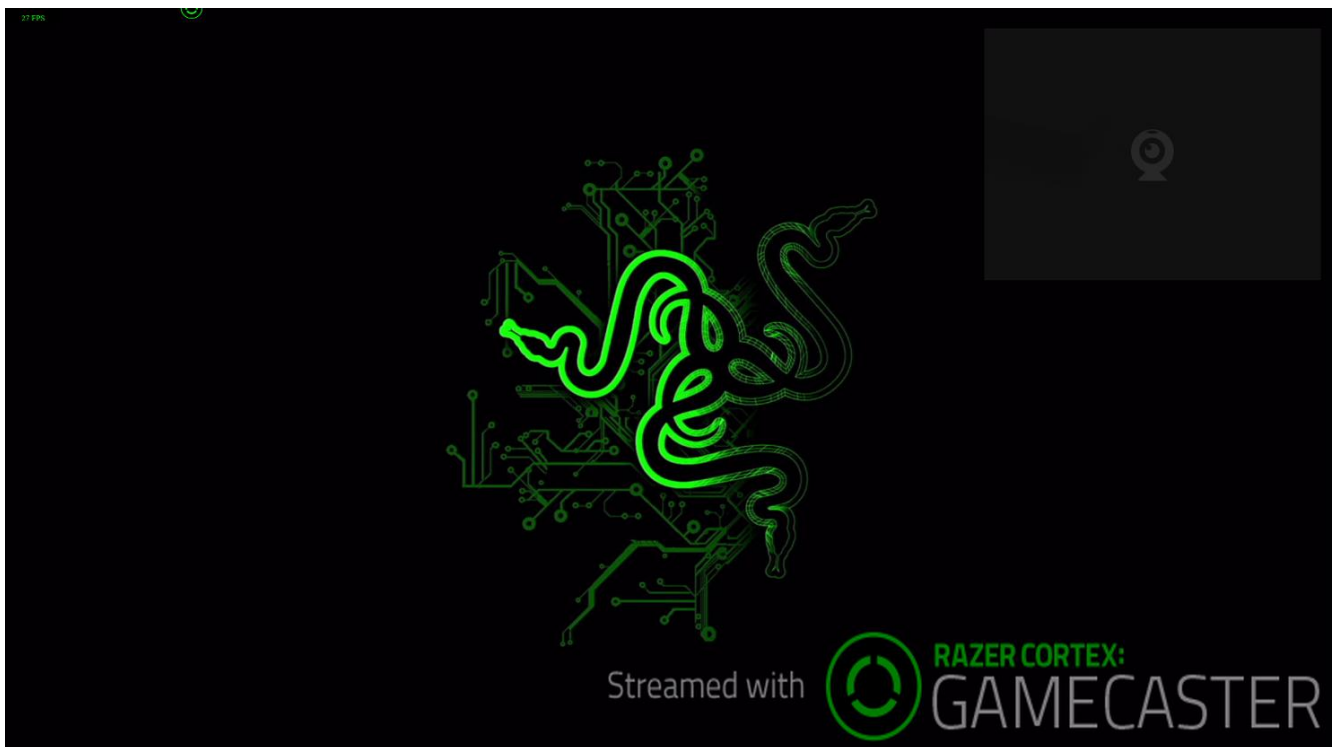
The Gamecaster widget allows you to quickly access options such as record ⬚, screenshot ⬚, and stream ⬚. Clicking the ⬚ button will reveal additional settings which includes enabling your webcam window ⬚ and activating the on-screen annotations ⬚. Click the ⬚ icon to hide the widget and return to the Razer Cortex icon.
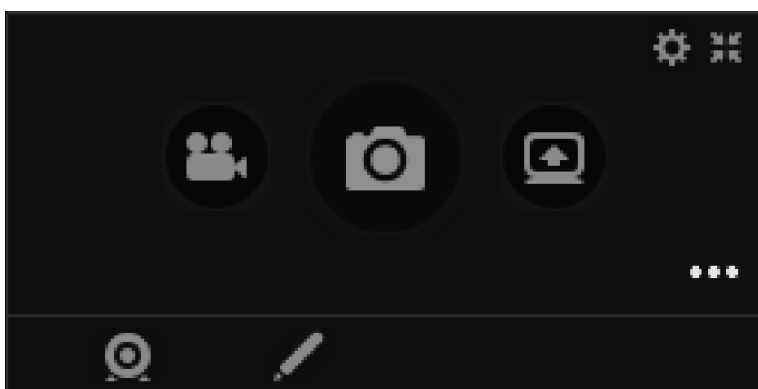
Clicking the ⚙ icon will show the settings window.
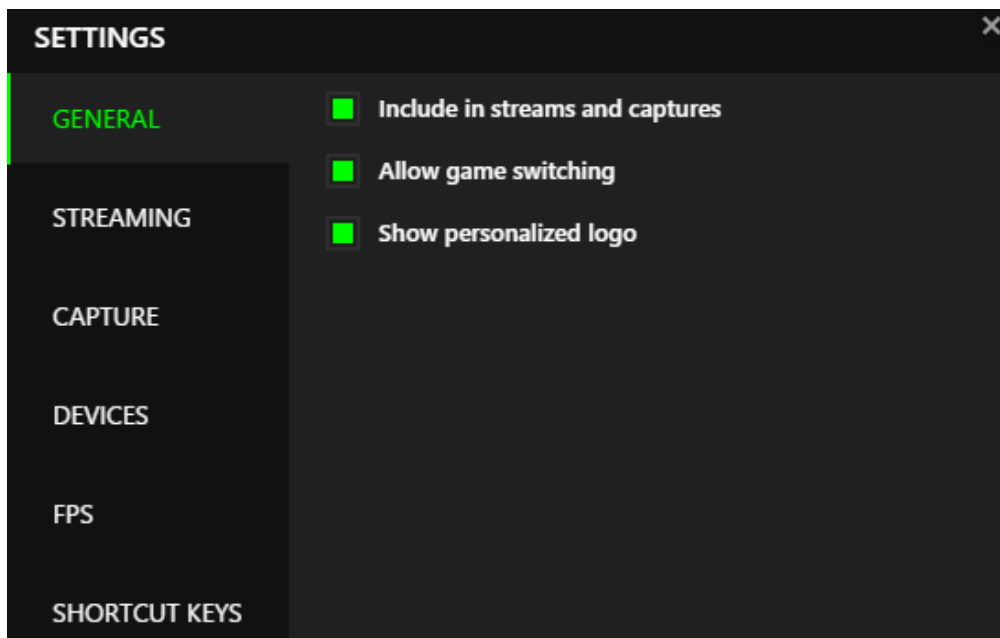
From here, you can access the following options:

- **GENERAL** - enable or disable the Gamecaster overlay in streams, video recording and screenshots, game switching and personalized logo.

- **STREAMING** - enable or disable saving a copy of the stream on your PC, change the hotkey for streaming, edit the chat window colors, and select a streaming service.

- **CAPTURE** - change the hotkey for taking a screenshot, switch between fullscreen or selective screen capture, change the hotkey for video recording, and edit video capture settings.

- **DEVICES** - select webcam, change the hotkey for the webcam window, enable or disable speakers, enable or disable microphone, change the hotkey for muting/unmuting the microphone, change the hotkey for Push-To-Talk, enable or disable the Chroma key, and edit the settings for Chroma key.

- **FPS** - change the hotkey for the FPS overlay, enable or disable the FPS overlay, edit the FPS overlay color.

- **SHORTCUT KEYS** - change the hotkeys for numerous functions.

Clicking the ▪▪▪ button on the webcam window and personalized logo will show the transparency slider which allows you to change the opacity of the overlay.
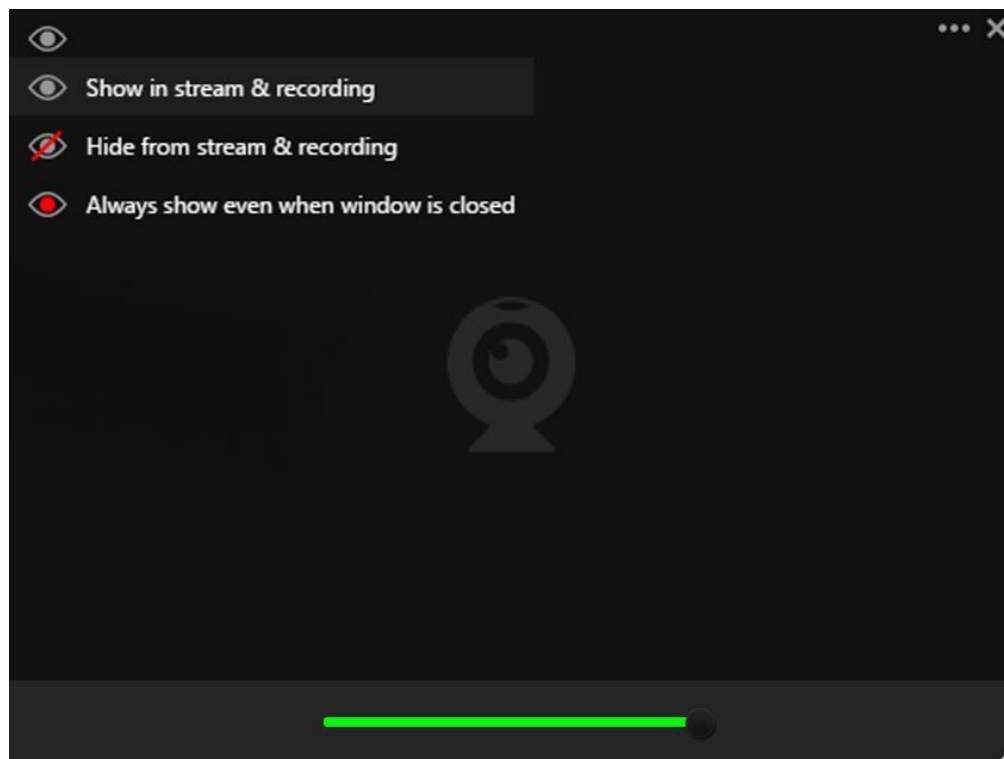
You can customize the visibility of any window by clicking on the 👁 icon and selecting the desired effect. The 👁 icon will show the corresponding window to the streaming and recording as long as it is also open in-game, the ⦸ icon will hide the window from the stream and recording even if it is open in-game, and the ● icon will show the window to the stream and the recording even if that window is closed in-game.

The **Allow game switching** option gives you the ability to continuously stream or record, enabling uninterrupted videos even when switching between games.
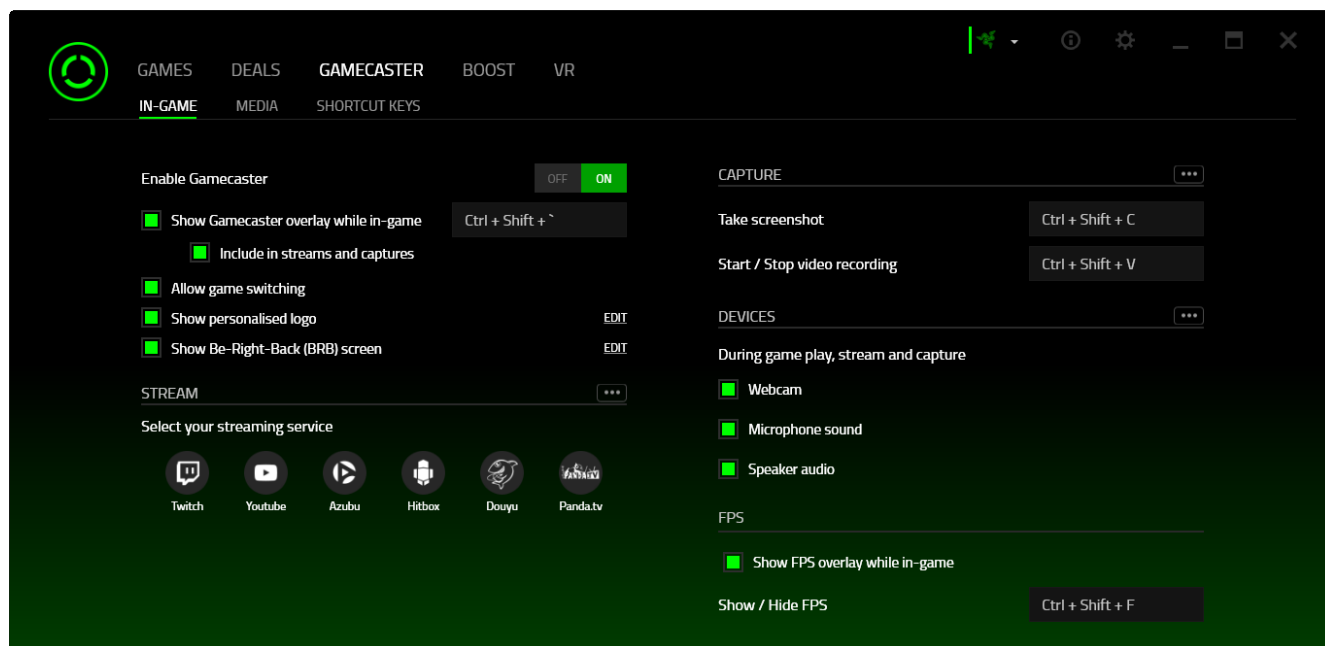
If you have the pro version, you can customize the look of your videos by adding your personalized logo and a Be-Right-Back (BRB) screen.

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.
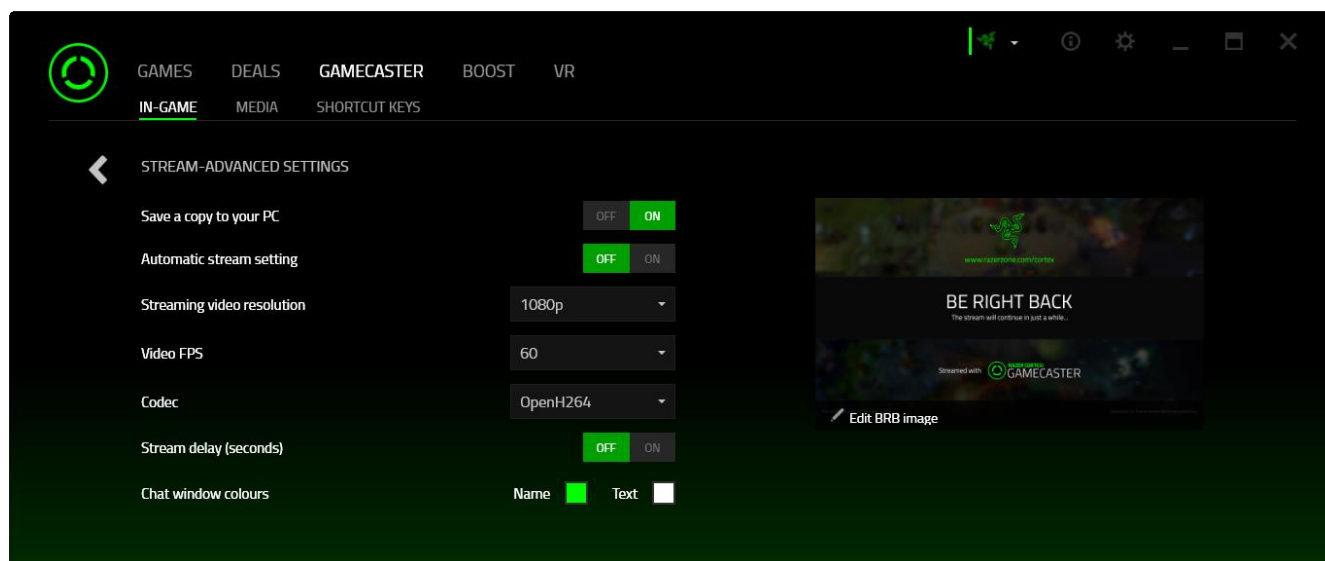
The **CAPTURE** option allows you to customize the hotkeys for taking screenshots and starting or stopping a video recording. Clicking the ▥ button will reveal advanced settings which includes selecting a save location for your game captures, selecting a format for picture, and changing video capture 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.
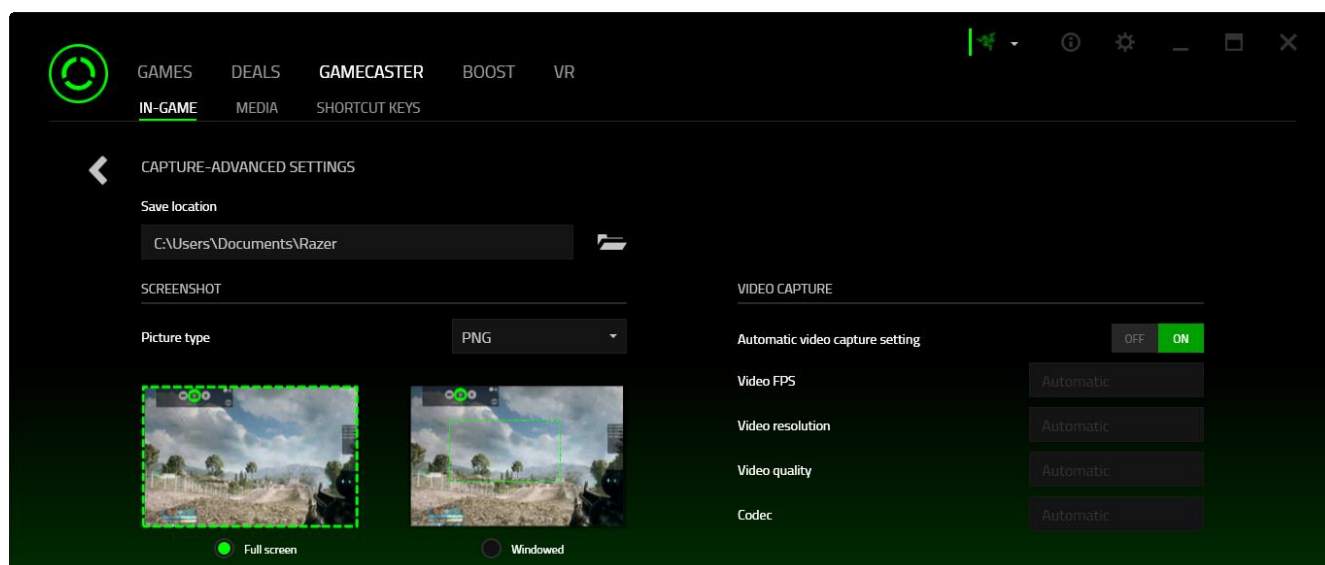
The **DEVICES** option allows you to choose which input is used when recording videos or streaming. Clicking the ▥ button will reveal advanced settings here you can select the webcam, audio device, and microphone to use. You can also set the hotkeys for the mute/unmute microphone toggle and the Push-To-Talk (PTT) function. If you have the pro version, you can access additional options such as Chroma key (Green screen effect), Chroma key color, and Chroma threshold.
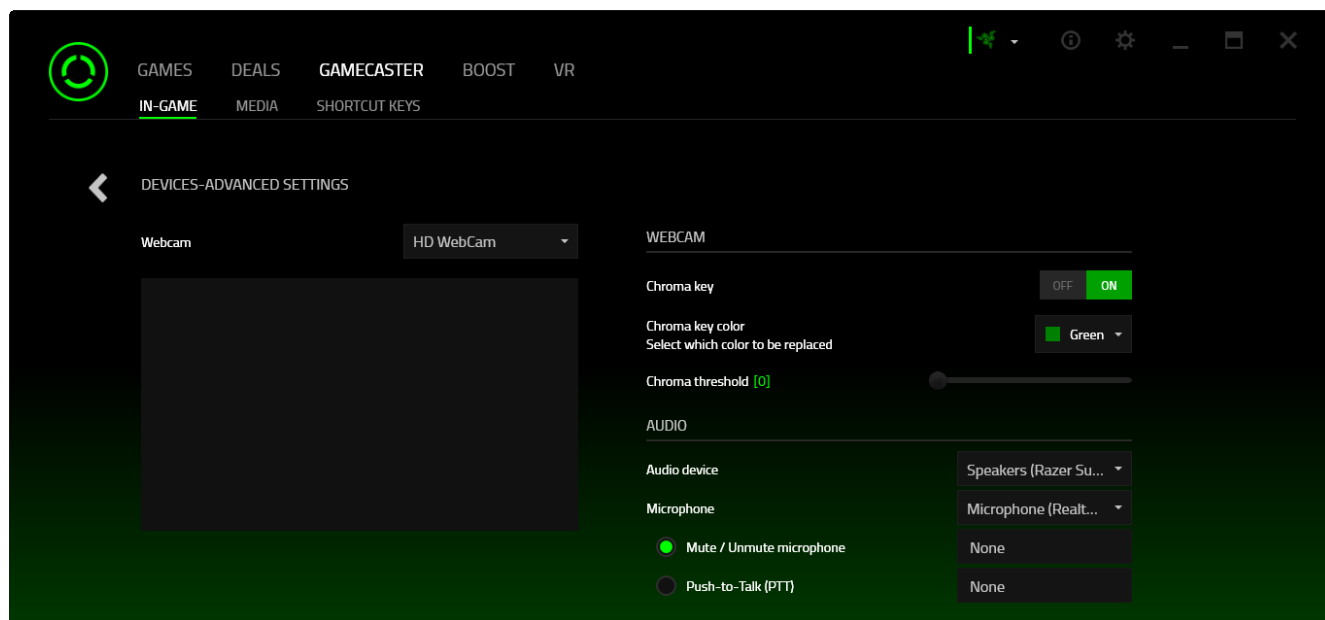
If you have a Razer Stargazer plugged in, you may use your Razer Stargazer camera as a major companion to your game recordings and broadcastings. To do this, simply tick the Webcam checkbox on the **Gamecaster > Devices** section then click the ▬ button.
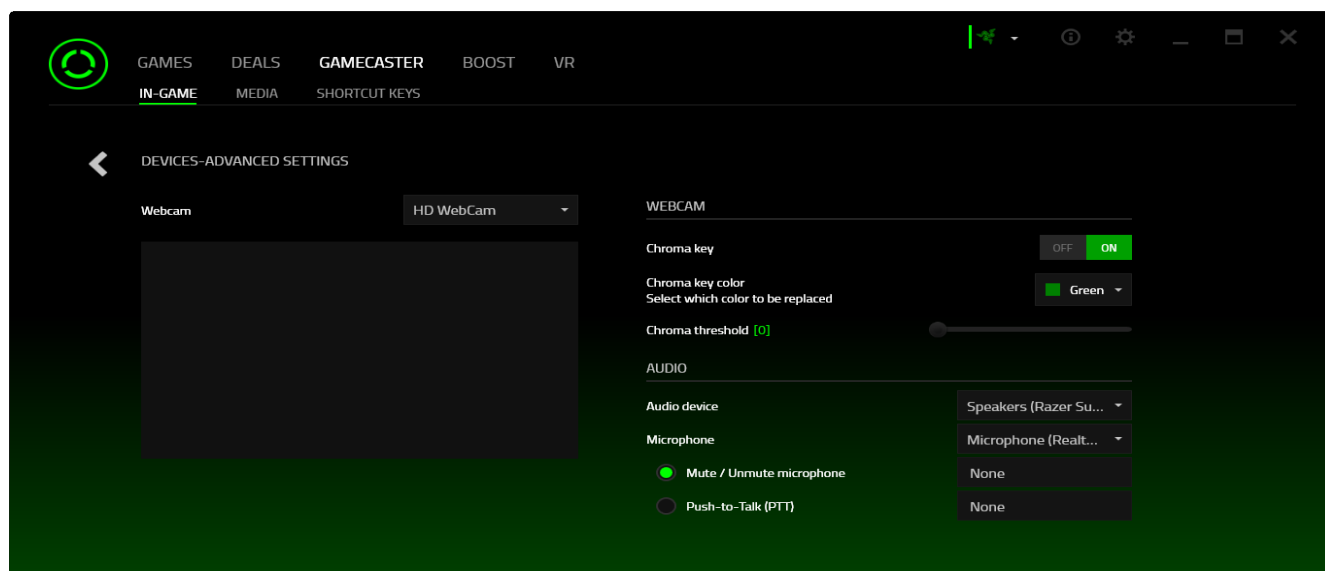
From the Devices-Advanced Settings, select Razer Stargazer HD webcam on the list. You may then select any of the following options:

- **Original** – Allows you to use the regular preview of your camera.
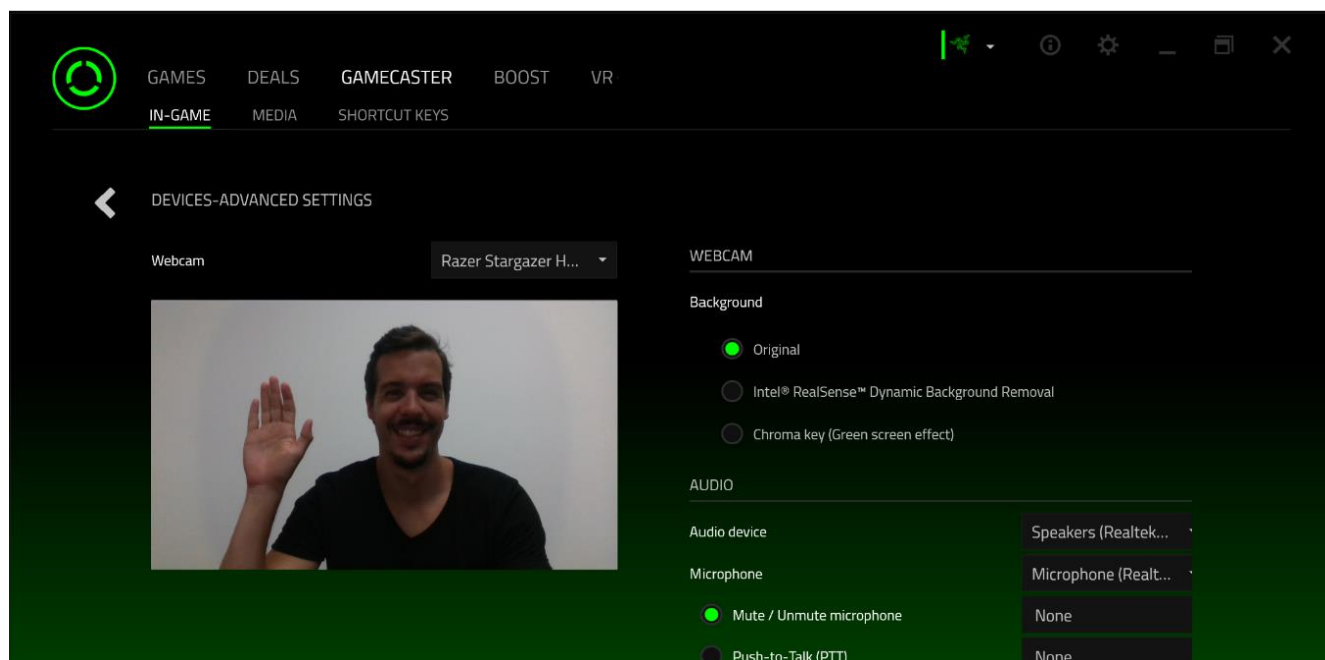
- **Intel® RealSense™ Dynamic Background Removal** – Enables you to use background removal without using green backdrops.

  > ⓘ *Note: If you have not yet installed the Intel® RealSense™ Software Development Kit (SDK), the Intel® RealSense™ Dynamic Background Removal option will show 🔴 indicating that some components have to be downloaded and installed first.*
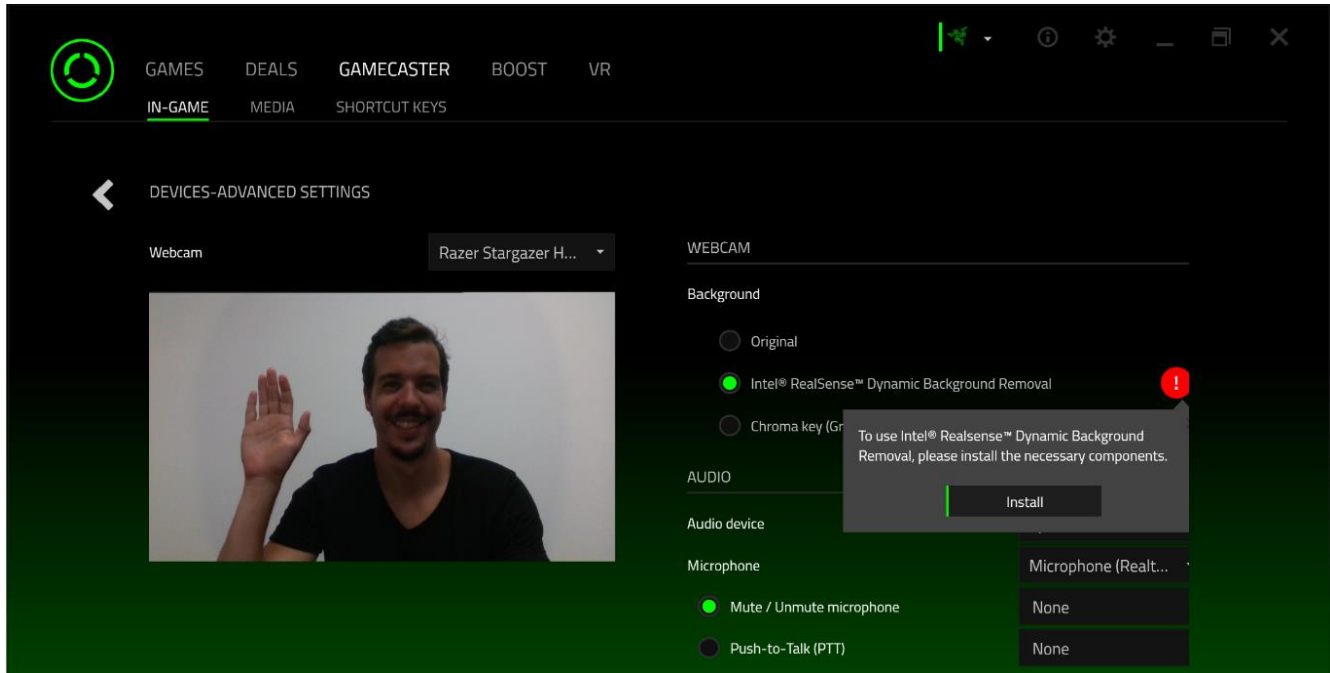
- **Chroma Key (Green screen effect)** – Enables you to replace a selected chroma key color with a transparent background.

  Simply select **Chroma Key (Green screen effect)** on the Background section, select the correct Chroma key color from the dropdown list, then adjust the slider of the Chroma threshold to control the transparency range

  > *NOTE: Make sure that the selected chroma key color is similar to the backdrop of your camera feed. In addition, you may have to adjust your room's lighting to eliminate visible shadows on the backdrop.*
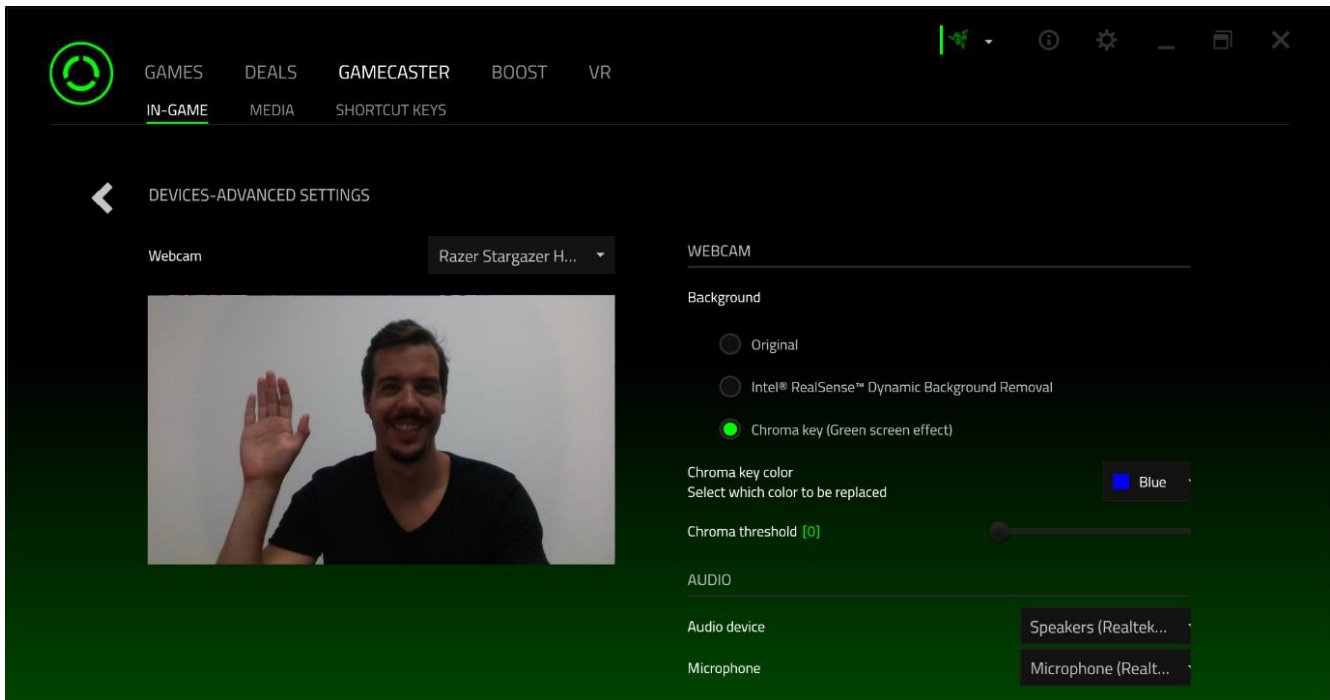
If you have a Razer Ripsaw plugged in and as long as it is plugged into your pc, you will have the Gamecaster upgraded to the Pro version for free and gain access to the Gamecaster Viewer under the Devices option.
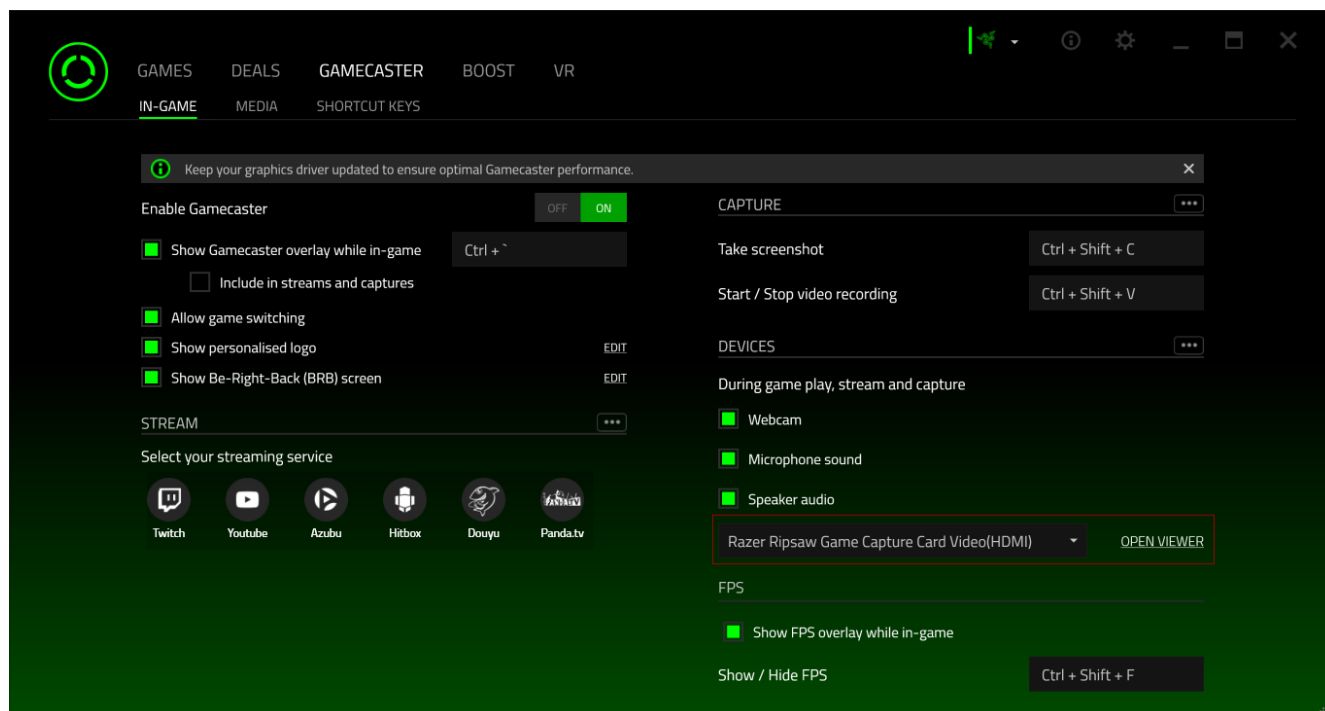
The Gamecaster Viewer acts as a video feed for your Razer Ripsaw where you can stream your games. The viewer also enables you to configure the overlay settings before launching a game, starting a stream, or recording a video.
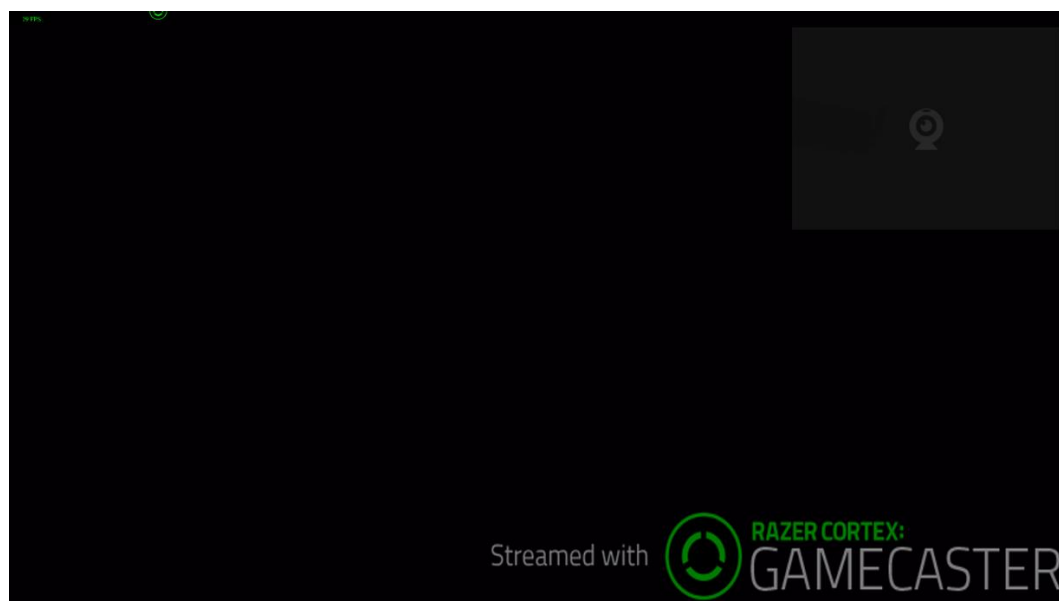
MEDIA

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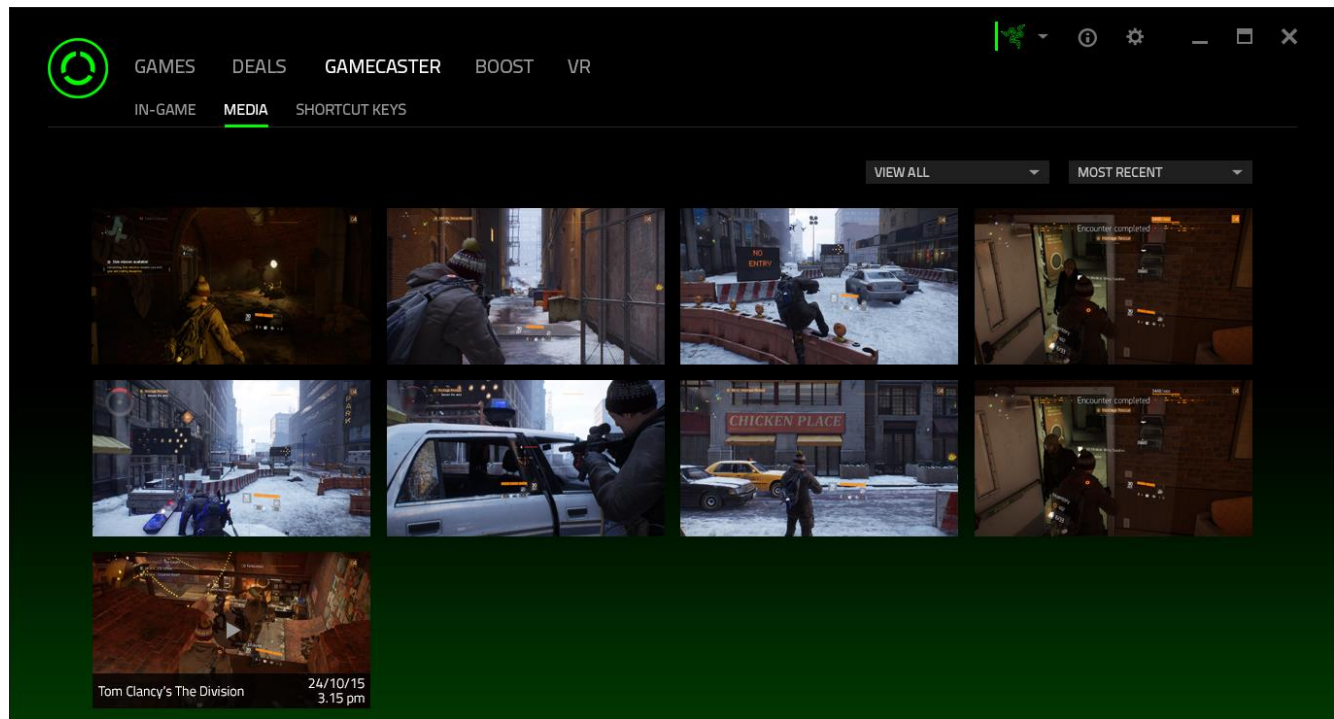
SHORTCUT KEYS

View and customize your hotkeys for overlay, streaming, and capturing media content.
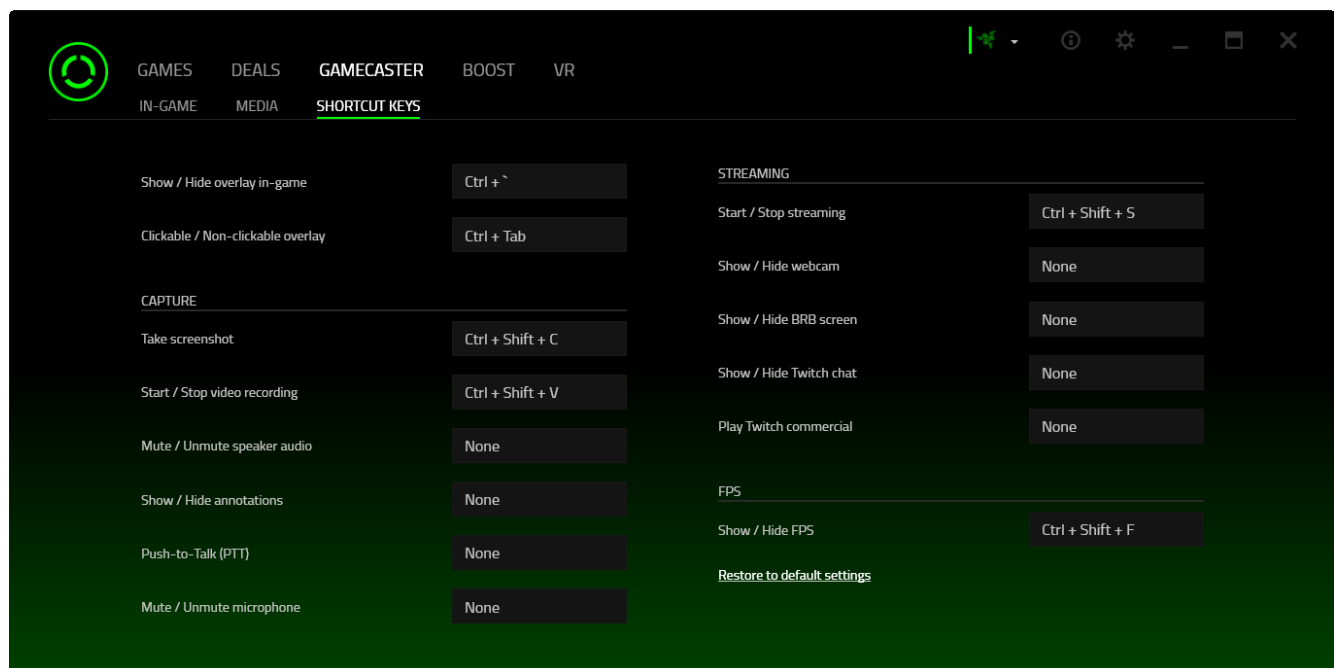
8. RAZER CORTEX: BOOST

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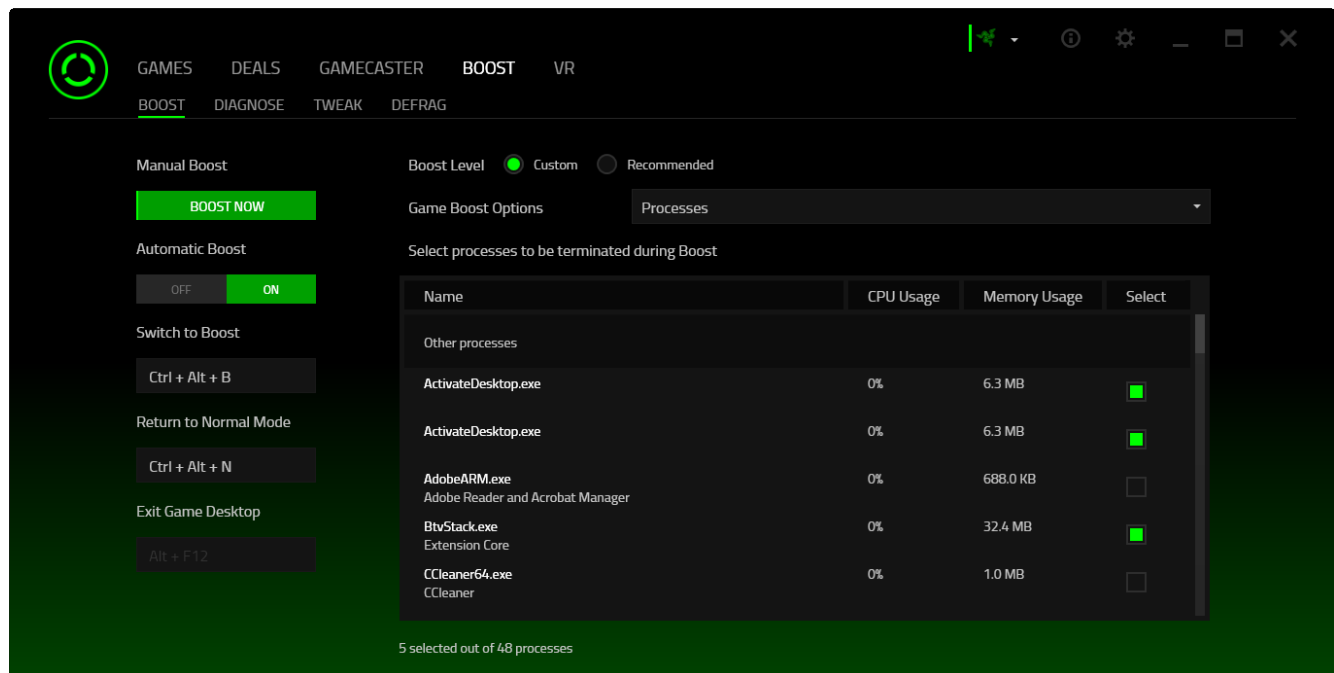
To the left, set up the ways you wish to toggle boost on/off. This includes:

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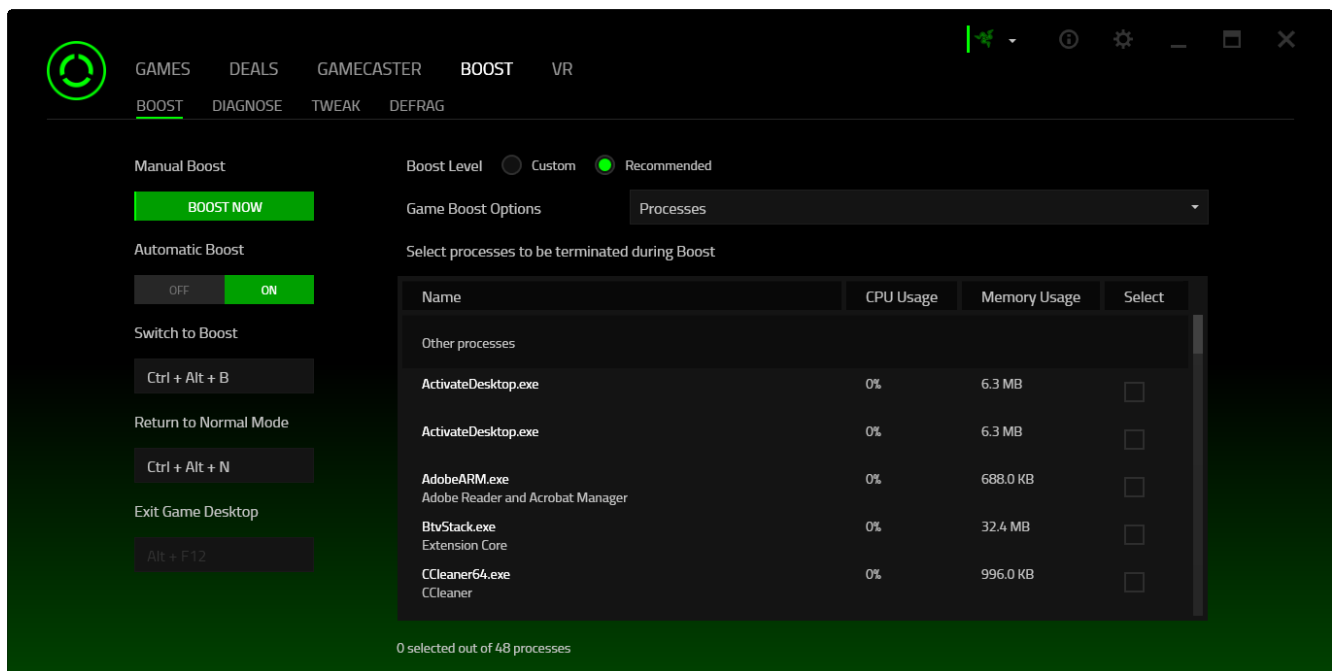
Others provide a number of Windows settings that can be adjusted by Razer Cortex to further enhance the game performance on your computer. This includes:

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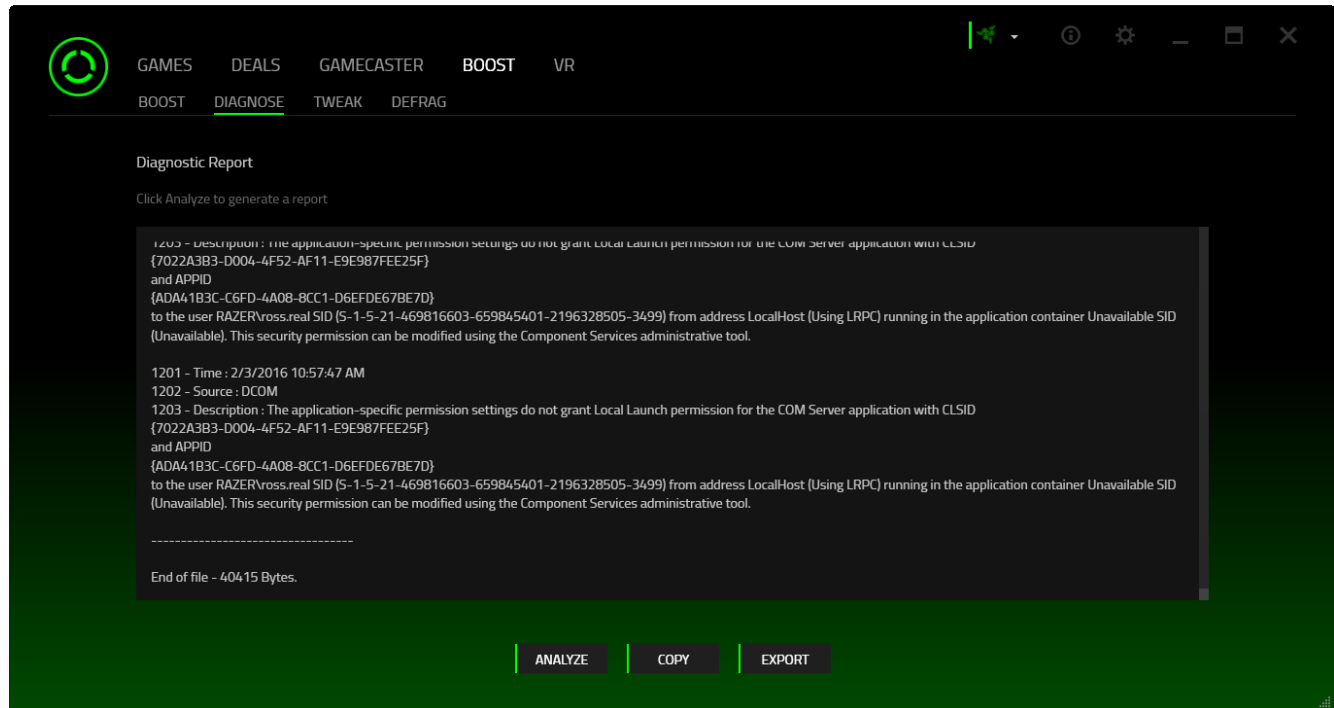
Click **Analyze** to begin the diagnostics. Click **Copy** to copy the report to clipboard or click **Export** to save the report into a .txt file.

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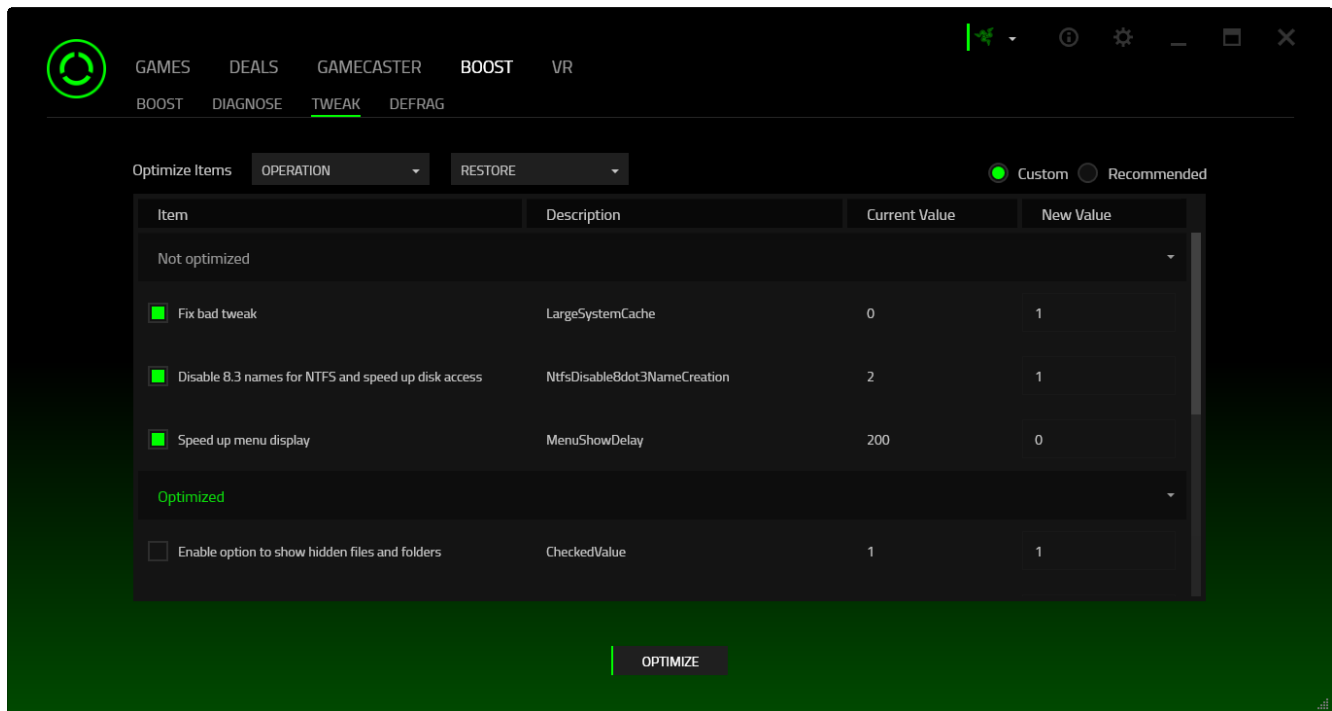
Click **OPTIMIZE** to start the optimization process. You can **RESTORE** all settings to Windows default or even Import and Export settings from/to a file using the **OPERATION** menu.

DEFRAG

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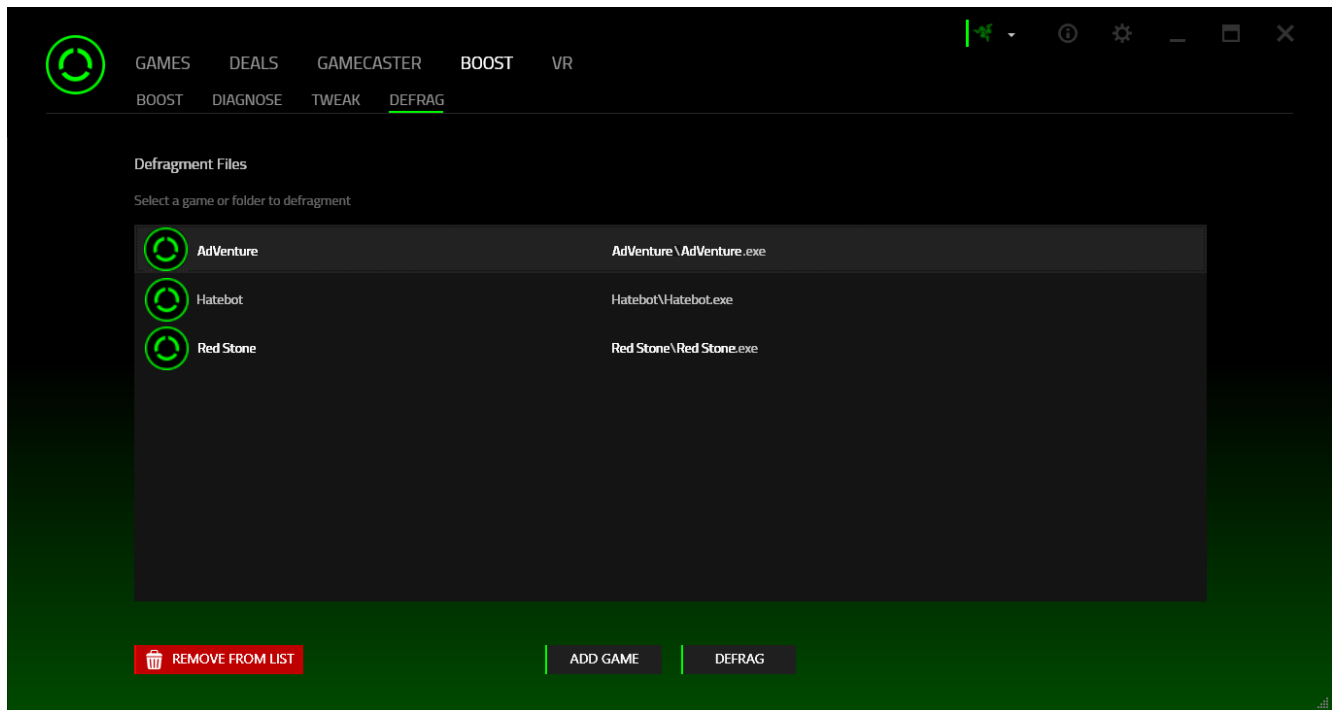

To manually include a game, click **ADD GAME**. Choose a game from the list and click **DEFRAG** to begin. To delete a game from the list, click **REMOVE FROM LIST**.

> ⓘ *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.
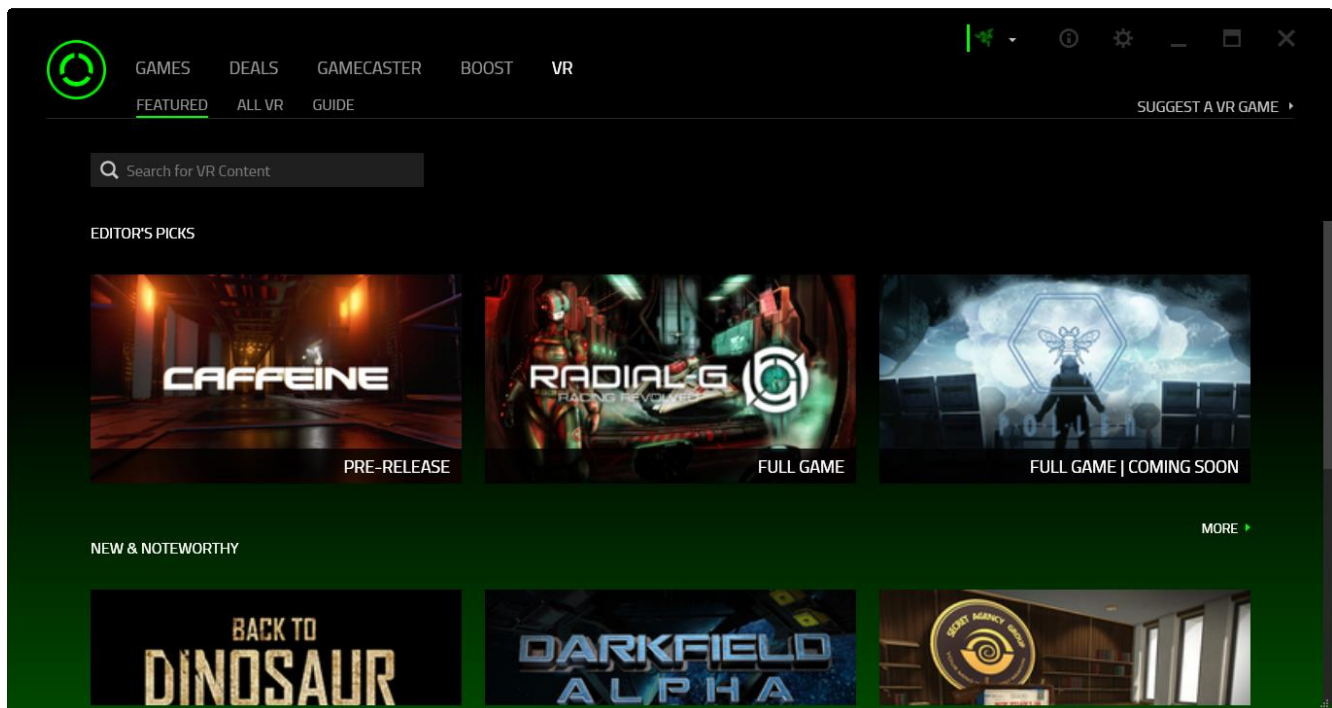
ALL VR

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.
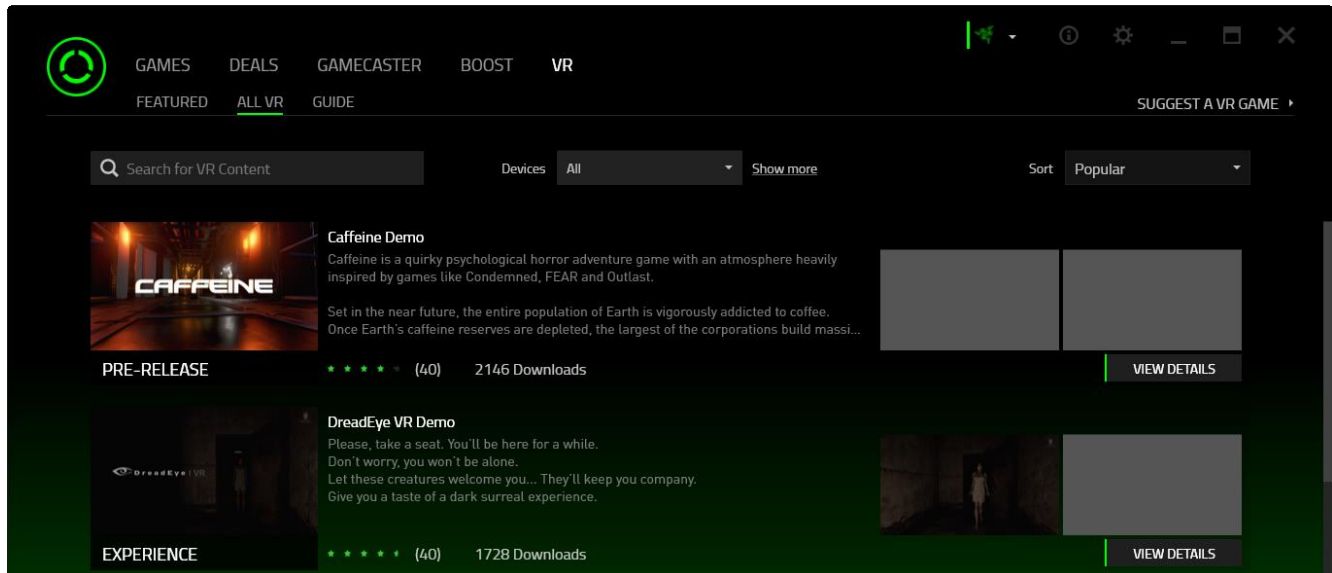
GUIDE

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

10. SOFTWARE ADMINISTRATION

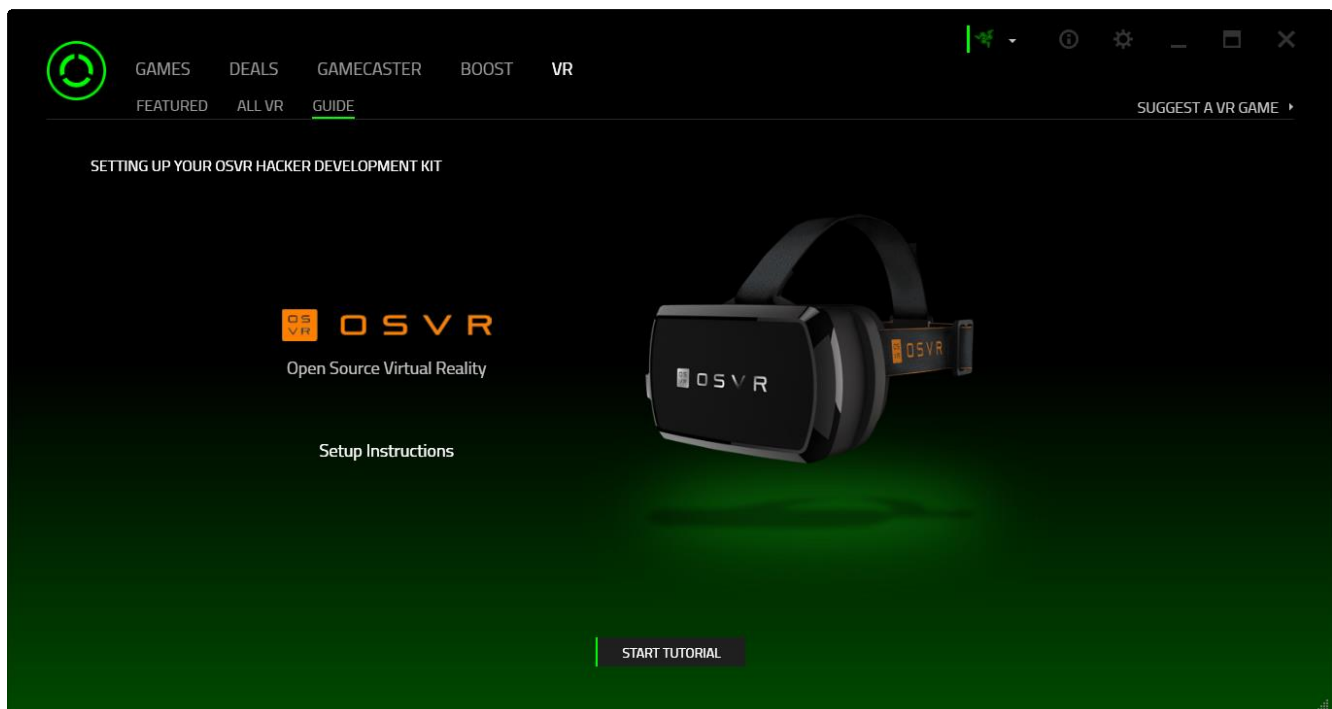## CHECKING YOUR SOFTWARE DETAILS

Click ⚙ on the Razer Cortex window and select **ABOUT**.
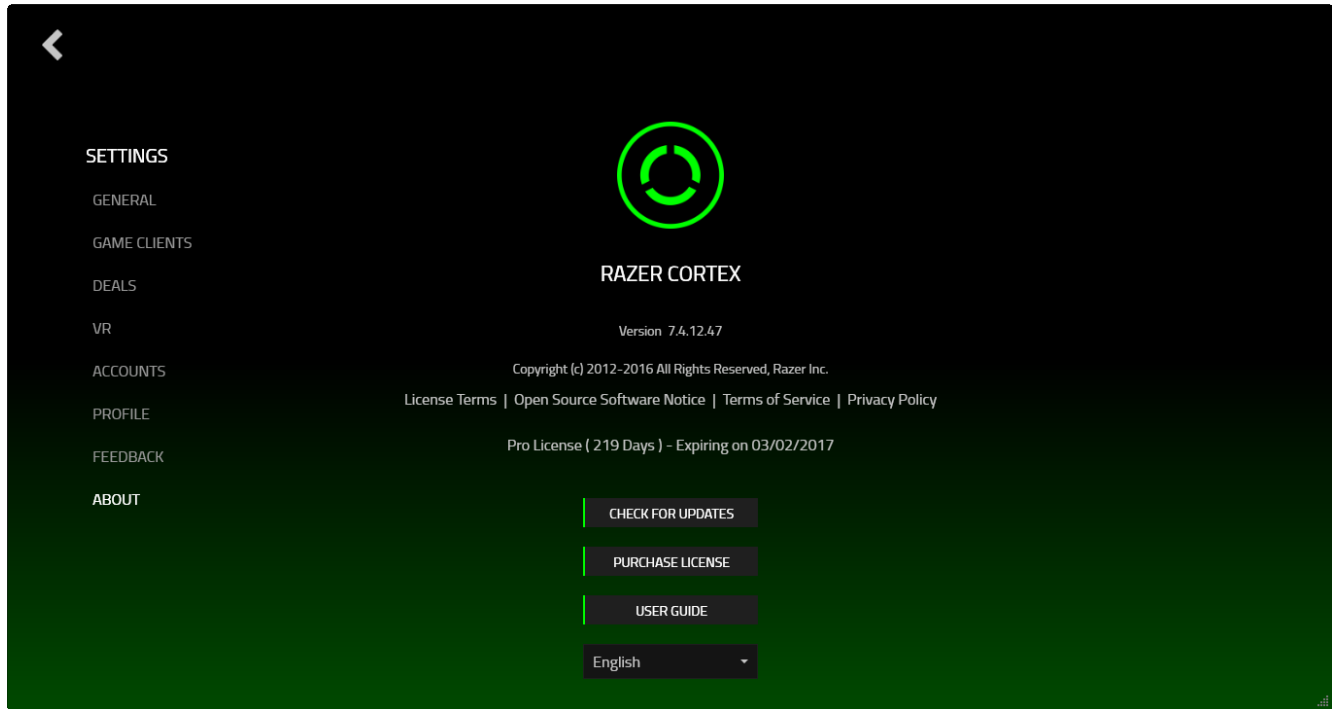
The **ABOUT** tab displays your software's version information and copyright statement.

Here you can also:

- Check online for any Razer Cortex updates
- View the PDF user guide for the software
- Purchase a license for the Pro version
- 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

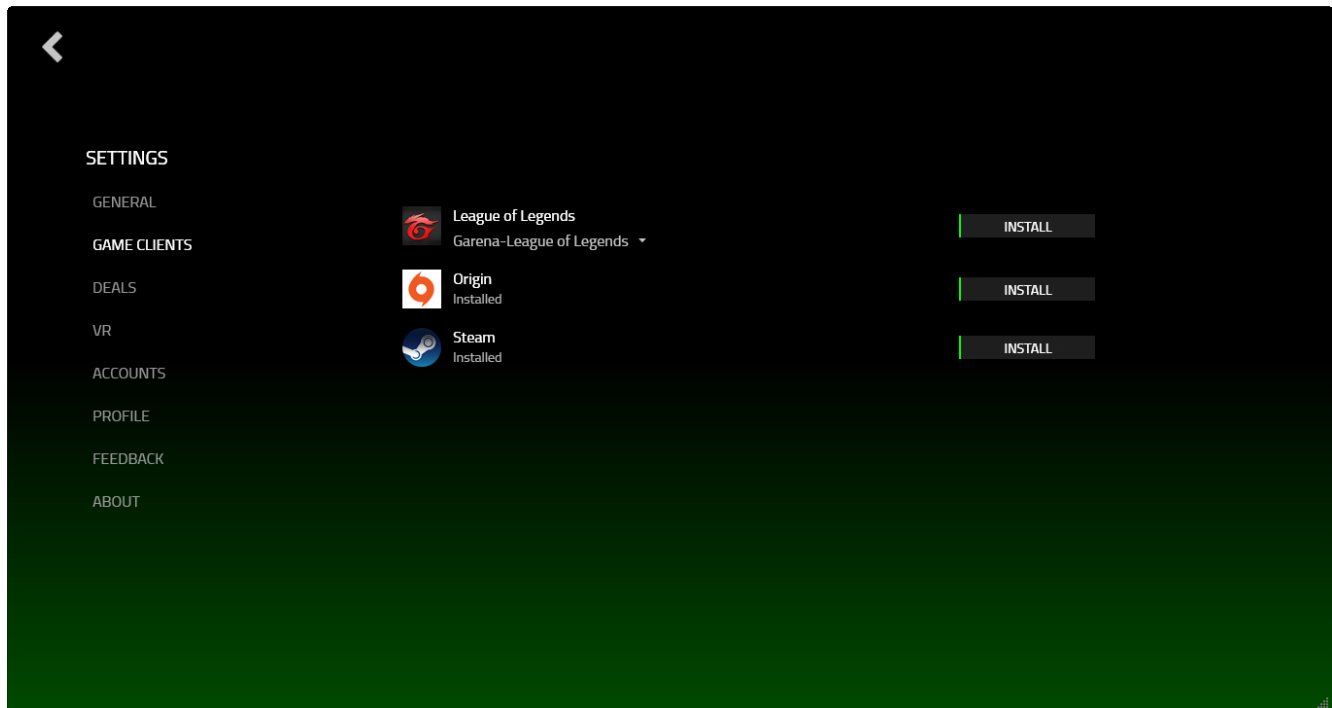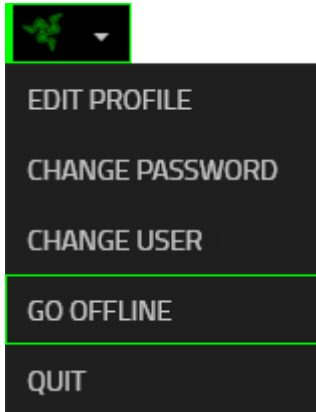Razer Cortex requires an Internet connection to login. Once logged in, you no longer require an Internet connection to use most features of Razer Cortex. Hence, to activate offline mode, click your user name and select **GO OFFLINE**.
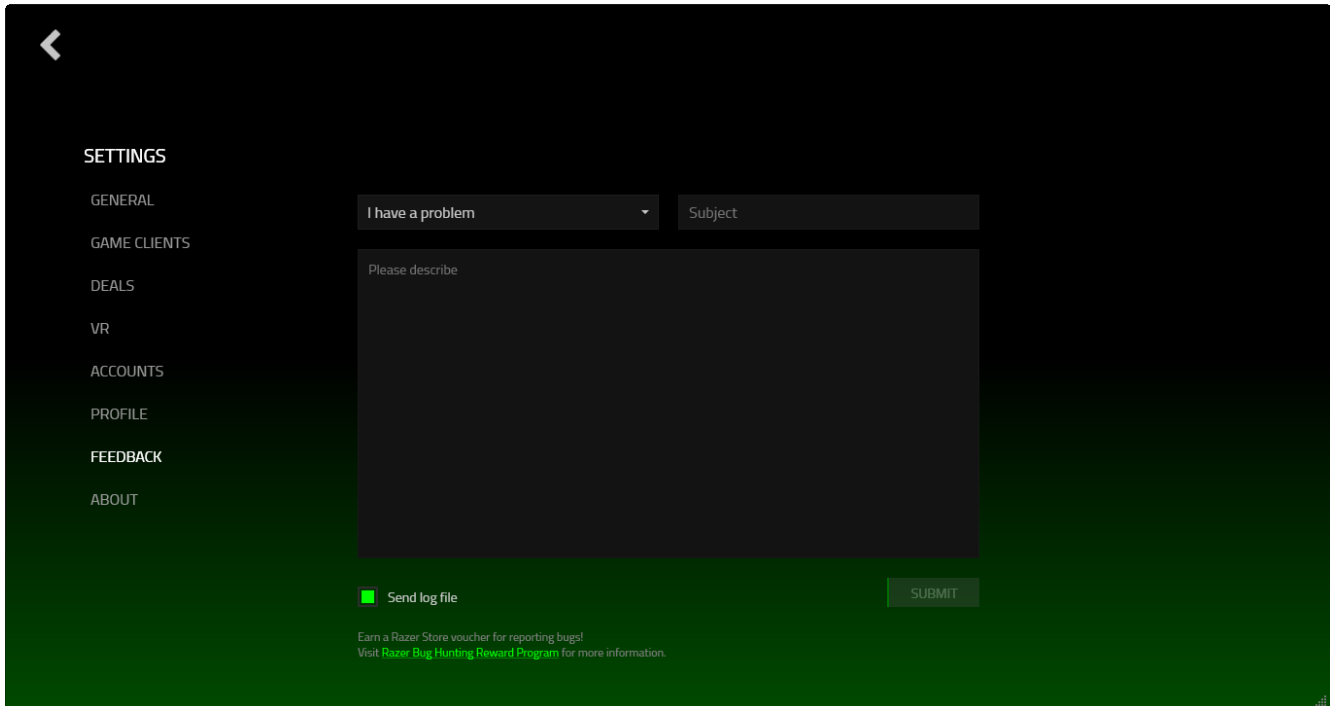

Note that the following features will not be accessible when in offline mode:

- 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 ⚙ from the Razer Cortex window and select the **FEEDBACK** tab.

SETTINGS

GENERAL

GAME CLIENTS

DEALS

VR

ACCOUNTS

PROFILE

FEEDBACK

ABOUT

I have a problem ▾

Subject

Please describe

☑ Send log file

SUBMIT

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 the 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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