***StarCraft*** is a [military science fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_science_fiction) [real-time strategy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real-time_strategy) [video game](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_game) developed by [Blizzard Entertainment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blizzard_Entertainment). The first game of the *[StarCraft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/StarCraft_(series)" \o "StarCraft (series))*[series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/StarCraft_(series)" \o "StarCraft (series)) was released for [Microsoft Windows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows) on 31 March 1998.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-releasedate-0) With more than 11 million copies sold worldwide as of February 2009, it is one of the [best-selling games](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_best-selling_video_games) for the [personal computer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_computer).[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-bestselling-2) A [Mac OS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mac_OS) version was released in March 1999, and a [Nintendo 64](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nintendo_64)adaptation co-developed with [Mass Media Interactive Entertainment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/THQ) was released on 13 June 2000.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-64release-1) *StarCraft* has had its storyline adapted and expanded through a series of novels, the [expansion pack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expansion_pack) [*StarCraft: Brood War*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/StarCraft:_Brood_War) and two authorized add-ons. The game's sequel, [*StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/StarCraft_II:_Wings_of_Liberty), was released in July 2010.

Set in the 26th century, the game revolves around three species fighting for dominance in a distant part of the [Milky Way](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milky_Way) galaxy: the[Terrans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terran_(StarCraft)), humans exiled from Earth skilled at adapting to any situation; the [Zerg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zerg" \o "Zerg), a race of [insectoid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Insectoid" \o "Insectoid) aliens in pursuit of genetic perfection, obsessed with assimilating other races; and the [Protoss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protoss" \o "Protoss), a [humanoid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanoid) species with advanced technology and [psionic abilities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psionics), attempting to preserve their civilization and strict philosophical way of living from the Zerg. The game has been praised for pioneering the use of unique factions in real-time strategy gameplay[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft" \l "cite_note-ignr-3) and for a compelling story.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-GSpot-4)

Many of the industry's journalists have praised *StarCraft* as one of the best[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-Edge-5) and most important[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-6) video games of all time, and for having raised the bar for developing real-time strategy games.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-GspotAward-7) *StarCraft*'s [multiplayer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiplayer_video_game) is particularly popular in [South Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Korea), where players and teams participate in [professional competitions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/StarCraft:_Brood_War_professional_competition), earn sponsorships, and compete in televised tournaments.[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starcraft#cite_note-pop-8)