

Why Is Monster Hunter Rise Stuck on Checking Addon Content? (And How to Fix It)

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In brief

Monster Hunter Rise can hang on the checking addon cache step. Here is what causes it and how to clear the cache so the game starts again.

As an avid Monster Hunter player, I understand how frustrating it can be when you're eager to dive into a new expansion like Sunbreak, only to encounter technical issues. One common problem that many players face is the game getting stuck on the "Checking Addon Content" screen. We can examine this issue in depth and discuss some solutions.

The Problem

When you start Monster Hunter Rise with the Sunbreak expansion installed, the game performs a check to ensure all addon content is present and properly integrated. Sometimes, this process can hang, leaving players unable to access the game.

- The game freezes on the "Checking Addon Content" screen
- The game crashes after being stuck on this screen
- You receive an "Unable to start software" error

Possible Causes

There are several reasons why this issue might occur:

1. Incomplete or corrupted installation: The game files or DLC might not have been downloaded or installed correctly.
2. Outdated system software: Your Nintendo Switch's firmware may need updating.
3. Conflicts with custom firmware: If you're using a modded Switch, there might be compatibility issues.
4. Addon content not properly recognized: The game might be having trouble detecting the Sunbreak expansion.

Solutions to Try

Let's go through some potential fixes for this problem, starting with the simplest and moving to more advanced options.

1. Restart Your Nintendo Switch

Sometimes, a simple restart can resolve temporary glitches:

1. Hold down the power button for about 3 seconds.
2. Select "Power Options," then "Restart."
3. Once your Switch restarts, try launching the game again.

2. Check for System Updates

Ensuring your Switch is up-to-date can often resolve compatibility issues:

1. Go to System Settings on your Switch.
2. Scroll down and select "System."
3. Choose "System Update."
4. If an update is available, install it and try the game again.

3. Verify Game and DLC Installation

Make sure Monster Hunter Rise and the Sunbreak expansion are properly installed:

1. From the Home menu, show Monster Hunter Rise.
2. Press the + button to open the options menu.
3. Select "Software Update," then "Via the Internet" to check for game updates.
4. Once updated, try launching the game.

If the issue persists, you may need to reinstall the game and DLC:

1. Delete the game from your Switch (your save data will be preserved).
2. Redownload Monster Hunter Rise from the eShop.
3. Install the Sunbreak expansion.
4. Launch the game and see if the issue is resolved.

4. Clear Cache and Redownload DLC

Clearing the cache can sometimes resolve issues with addon content:

1. Go to System Settings on your Switch.
2. Scroll down and select "System."
3. Choose "Formatting Options."
4. Select "Clear Cache" and confirm.
5. After clearing the cache, redownload the Sunbreak DLC from the eShop.

5. Use Maintenance Mode (For Advanced Users)

If you're comfortable with more technical solutions, entering Maintenance Mode can help:

1. Turn off your Switch completely.
2. Hold down the Volume Up and Volume Down buttons.
3. While holding these buttons, press the Power button to turn on the Switch.
4. Keep holding the volume buttons until you see the Maintenance Mode menu.
5. Select "Initialize console without deleting save data."
6. After the process completes, set up your Switch and reinstall the game and DLC.

6. Check for Conflicts with Custom Firmware (For Modded Switches)

If you're using a modded Switch, the issue might be related to custom firmware:

1. Ensure your custom firmware is up-to-date.
2. Check if you have the latest sigpatches installed.
3. Try removing any mods or custom content related to Monster Hunter Rise.
4. Reinstall the game and DLC using official sources.

Prevention Tips

To avoid similar issues in the future, consider these preventive measures:

1. Keep your Switch updated: Regularly check for and install system updates.
2. Download games and DLC from official sources: This ensures you have the correct and complete files.
3. Avoid interrupting downloads or installations: Let the process complete without putting your Switch to sleep or closing the software.
4. Maintain sufficient storage space: Keep at least 10% of your storage free to allow for proper game installation and updates.

When All Else Fails

If you've tried all these solutions and still can't get past the "Checking Addon Content" screen, it might be time to seek additional help:

1. Contact Nintendo Support: They can provide official troubleshooting steps or arrange for repairs if necessary.
2. Check online forums: Websites like Reddit or GBAtemp often have community-driven solutions for specific issues.
3. Consider professional repair: If you suspect a hardware issue, a certified technician might be able to help.

Personal Experience and Reflection

As someone who's faced similar issues with other games, I know how disheartening it can be when you can't access a game you're excited about. The "Checking Addon Content" problem with Monster Hunter Rise: Sunbreak is particularly frustrating because it prevents you from enjoying a highly anticipated expansion. In my experience, patience is key when troubleshooting these kinds of problems. It's tempting to try every solution at once, but methodically working through the options often yields the best results. I've found that in many cases, a combination of updating the system, reinstalling the game, and clearing the cache resolves most issues. Remember, you're not alone in facing these challenges. The Monster Hunter community is known for its helpfulness, so don't hesitate to reach out to fellow hunters for support and advice. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a newcomer to the series, we're all in this together.

Conclusion

While the "Stuck on Checking Addon Content" issue in Monster Hunter Rise: Sunbreak can be frustrating, there are several potential solutions available. By systematically working through these troubleshooting steps, you'll likely be able to resolve the problem and get back to hunting. Remember to always keep your system and games updated, and don't hesitate to seek help if you're unsure about any steps. With a little patience and persistence, you'll be exploring the new locales and facing off against fearsome monsters in Sunbreak in no time.