

What is Underworld?

Underworld is a location-based massively multiplayer online game simulating the trade on the global black market. Using GPS inside your iPhone/iPod Touch, you become a trafficker in the criminal world, which exists parallel to your everyday life.

While moving between real-world locations, your goal is to trade various stuff: buy low and sell high. In the places you go to you find and make deals with the real people online.

You start as a small-time dealer with a goal to be a famous distributor, make a fortune and dominate the world. Money gives you power: superior status, access to better commodities, high trafficking volumes, independence from loan sharks and a lot more.

Getting started

To make a deal, you have to buy something first and then push it with a higher price. That's the job. Go to the market screen to view available offers in your area.

Market screen

You have one screen for each commodity you can deal with. The top row of every screen represents you, your price & stock. The rows below show the best offers available in your range.

To purchase something, tap on the offer and select a desirable amount.

Pushing

Ok, let's say you bought some cake. Now what? That's where your real headache starts. You have to predict the best price for the cake and wait until you find the demand for them. Setting your price 10-20% higher than your purchase price would be a good start.

To set your price, scroll the market screen to a certain commodity and tap on the row picturing yourself. Choose a price. Now wait a bit, does it sell out or not? If it does, you can raise the price for better profit. If not, you can either lower your offer or wait until the demand changes or even physically move to another place and try your luck there.

Offline work

Important note about selling - your offers are seen by other dealers and junkies even if the game isn't running on your phone right now. Although the offers are available at the same place where you've launched the game last time. So if you've moved to another spot and want your offers to be available exactly here, you have to launch the game and let it detect your new coordinates.

Go for more

If you are having troubles selling some commodity, you can (and should) try another one. The amount of commodities available to you can be increased by purchasing an upgrade in the "Tradeable items" equipment section.

Economy in Depth

How do you make profit? Well, there is a supply (joy labs) and demand (sugar addicts) all over the game world, you can find them everywhere you go.

Labs produce sweets and sell it at some (usually low) price.

Addicts are in constant need for the stuff and they got money for it.

Your job as a dealer is to connect their needs.

Looks simple, right? The thing is each game location has no such joy lab and sugar addict that would meet each other's needs. So you have to act as a middle-man and move the commodity between the locations.

If you buy some stuff from a local sweets supplier, you have to push it somewhere else. You have two options for that. First, you can set a price good enough for the dealers from other places to see it and buy from you. Second, you can physically move to another area and find demand for your stuff there.

Local demand & supply situation changes from time to time, several times a day usually. After the change you will notice that there are new labs & addicts instead of the old ones, and they are producing & purchasing new things and at new prices.

World, Map

Tiled world

The whole game world is divided into the small zones called "tiles" or "places" or whatever you want to call them :) Each tile holds its specific demand & supply situation: labs, addicts, their prices & needs.

Joy Labs & Sugar Addicts are always local - you will be able to see & trade only with those based in your current tile.

Map screen

When you open the Map screen, you see your current tile and its borders. There are also icons placed everywhere over the map. These are junkies, labs and real people around you.

Tapping on any of those icons will bring a details window. This way you can explore your local demand & supply situation, read people's shouts or send them messages.

You will also notice people's icons. Some of them are located right on the map, meaning the real person being at the same tile as you are. Others are drawn over the black area on the borders. These are the real people from other zones closest to you. The number of distant zones available to you depends on the Trade Area equipment level.

Trade area

You can increase your visibility level (thus visible players count) by purchasing an upgrade in the "Trade area" equipment section. Remember that increasing your visibility range only shows you more people from other places, which means you will have more cheap offers available.

Finance, Loans

Underworld is all about money. Although managing your finances isn't too hard - buy low, sell high and don't forget to pay out your debt to the loan shark.

Money screen

Your current amount of cash is visible at the bottom of the market screen.

Tapping on that number will bring a Money screen, where you can control your loans and view recent deals history.

Loans

When you first start the game, all the available cash you have on hands is actually a loan gained from a loan shark. Debt payouts are **automatically withdrawn** from your cash every ~24 hours.

Your total debt amount, next payout time and the number of payments left are present in the Money screen. You can't return the part of the debt manually (at least in the current version of the game).

Borrow more, but be careful!

If you find yourself in the need of more cash, you can increase your existing loan or get a new one by clicking "More" button in the Money screen. Loan shark applies 20% commission and the number of parts the debt payout is divided into depends on the amount of gained cash. Maximum loan size is decided by the total amount of money you have previously returned to the loan shark.

Don't mess with the loan shark! Fail a couple of payouts and you'll find yourself sleeping with fishes one beautiful morning.

Profile, equipment

Open your profile by tapping Profile button (guy with a hat) in the market screen. This screen allows you to control your character's appearance (nickname & avatar), edit the shout and control your equipment.

Editing your appearance is pretty simple - just tap Edit button in the top right corner and there you go. Notice this big red button called New Game - yep, it really does reset your character and you start all over again.

Shout is your short status message visible by other players. You can write there whatever you want, but please don't be rude or inappropriate in any other way :) Underworld is a world where the dealers respect each other.

Upgrading your equipment improves your performance. You can carry more stuff, operate with more expensive commodities, evade cops better, etc.

What you have to know is that every next upgrading step (doesn't matter in which category) will cost you twice as much. So make sure your upgrading decision is well-thought! Don't blow your last cash on upgrading too - you always need a good amount of trading capital.

Ranks

Your rank shows how cool & powerful you are in the Underworld. Rank is increased by 1 point every time you purchase a new equipment upgrade.

Messaging

While your shout is the way to broadcast your message to the community, the game possesses player-to-player direct messaging too.

You can drop a note to another player from the Purchase screen (tap Profile button in the top right corner) or from the player details screen in the Map (Envelope button). You can see all the conversation you have in the Profile screen.

You can't send messages to a Joy Labs and Sugar Addicts (yet). It is also impossible to answer to the messages you will get from the 'scripted' characters, like your buddy Joey or a loan shark Max, or else.

Police

If you are going to trade big time, you will definitely notice the main obstacle on your way for being famous & powerful dealer - cops. Yep, this gets somewhat annoying sometimes, but what do you do - trafficking business is not the safest way to make a living :)

Here is what you should know. First, the more expensive sweets are more dangerous. If you don't possess a good police protection don't try to make a fortune working with higher commodities.

When you get busted, you are going to lose the amount of cash involved in the deal. If you know your protection level is too low to get involved with a certain commodity you can try to buy it anyway but in small portions. Upgrade the protection equipment to be able to operate faster.

Protection level can be improved in Profile. Also remember that even the best protection level doesn't guarantee you total safety when you are dealing with high-level sweets.

Carry space

Carry space is an amount of items you are able to carry at once. Having a good carry space level gives you ability to trade large quantities and diversify your stock well.