R4i Save Dongle Review

By Mario Savvides

Ok, now this is an interesting piece of kit. It's a Save Dongle from the R4i Team! It allows you to back up game saves from your physical copies of games for 3DS and DS! For me, this is excellent because I constantly worry about losing my game saves so it essentially allows you to backup saves, and then put them on the card if you need them at a later date. But does it work? Is it easy to use? How's the quality? What is the meaning of life? I can answer all those questions except for the last. 😊

Build Quality

PC

GAME

Save R4i Dongle

| Windows 7 | Windows Vista | Windows XP | Windows 2000 | Windows Me | Windows 98/98SE |

R4i SaveDongle Functionality

Save R4i Dongle

* Fully support 3DS/NDSi/NDSL original game cart.
* Backup game savers from 3DS/NDS/NDSi original game card to PC, to avoid game saver been accidently overwrite.
* Restore game savers backup from PC to 3DS/NDS/NDSi original game cart through USB
* Editing game savers(level, experience, money etc...) becomes possible.
* Allow game savers to be share between users.
  a. User can share or download game savers from official web site and forums.
  b. Game savers sharing allow user jump to certain game level
* Upgradeable dongle firmware through USB for support new games and new features.
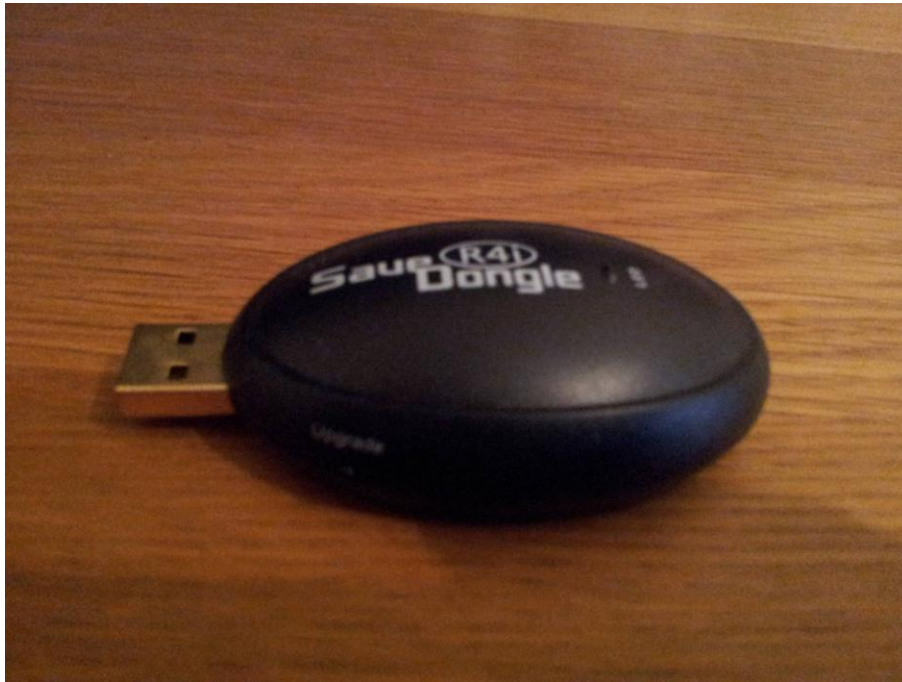* User friendly software interface to manage the save file.

* Before using SaveDongle, you need to install the driver that is available at www.r4i-sdhc.com
* User can share or download game savers from special area of www.r4i-sdhc.com and www.games-engine.com

SaveDongle
Fully Support 3DS,NDSi,NDSL
Original Game Cart

CE

9 878681578581 5

MADE IN CHINA

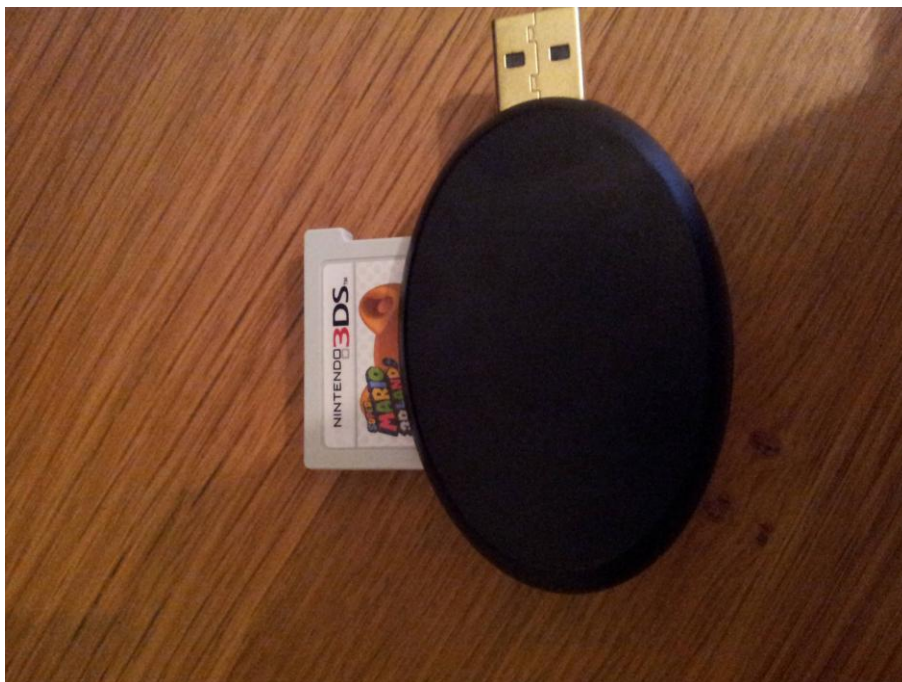Fully Support 3DS,NDSi,NDSL Original Game Cart

CARD ➡ PC   PC ⬅ CARD

Save R4i Dongle

Fully Support 3DS,NDSi,NDSL Original Game Cart

The box it comes in looks like an R4i DS box but just with the "Save Dongle" written on it. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it would have been nice to see a slightly different design to differentiate but heck, it's not the box I am reviewing, it's the actual product, right? The dongle itself is very well made and the shell feels nice and fixed. I would have no worries about dropping this as it definitely won't break from that. It has a hole in the side of the unit where you can place original DS and 3DS carts. It protrudes slightly out of my laptop but this isn't really a big issue as you won't be keeping in there for long periods anyway.
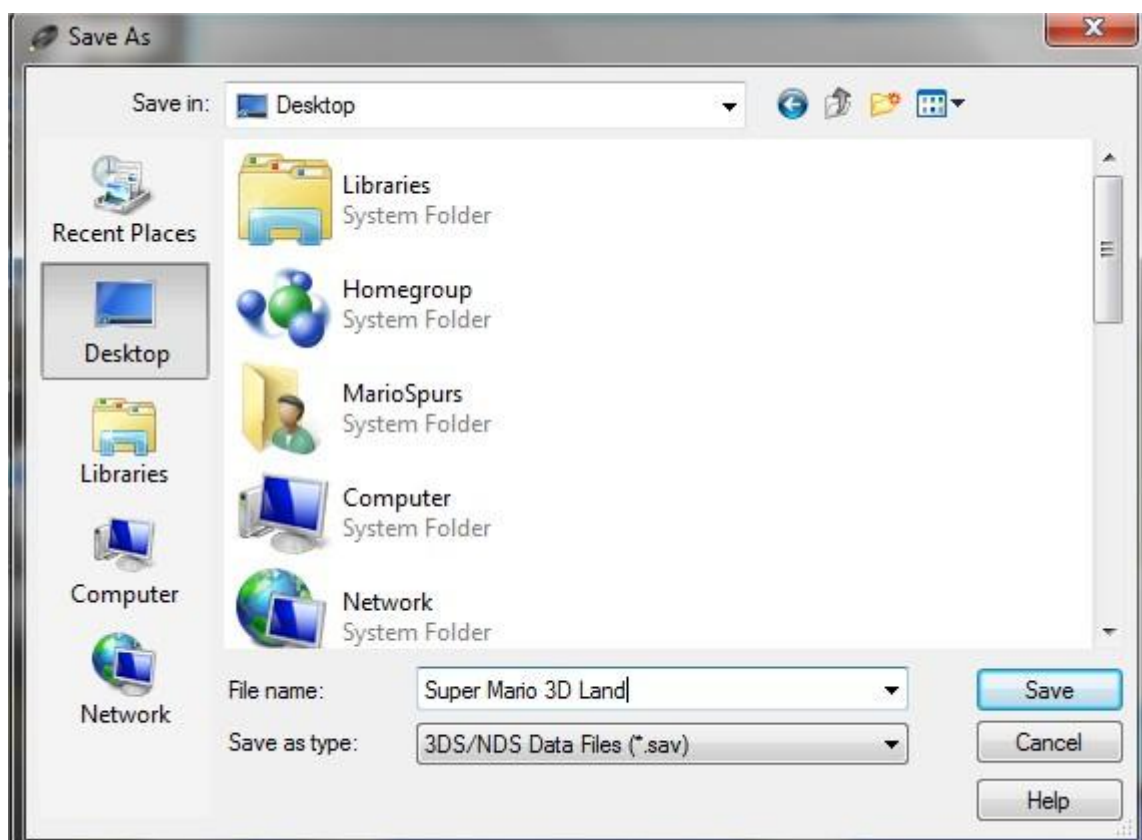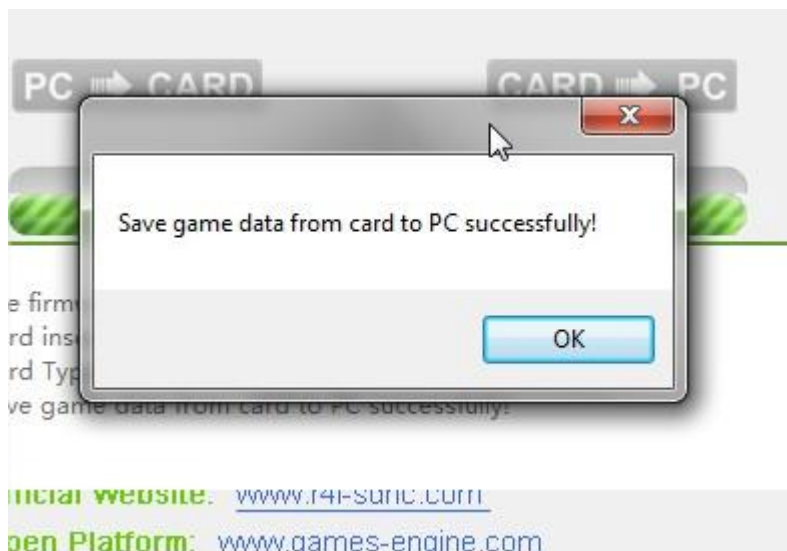
How it works

Firstly, before you can transfer save files from your games to your computer, you will have to install some drivers. These are available on the site but is quite hard to find which frustrated me a little. Once you have installed the driver however and installed the program that will transfer the files, this tool is a joy to use. It automatically detects whether you have a 3DS cart in it or a DS cart in it and it's simply clicking what you want to do and watch the program quickly do it.
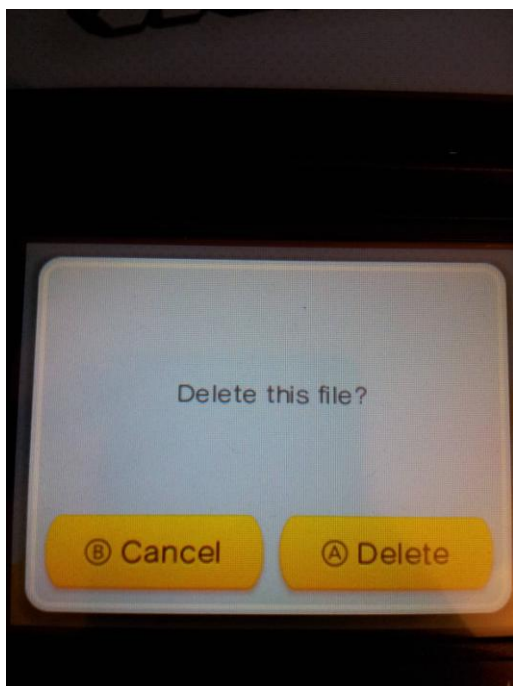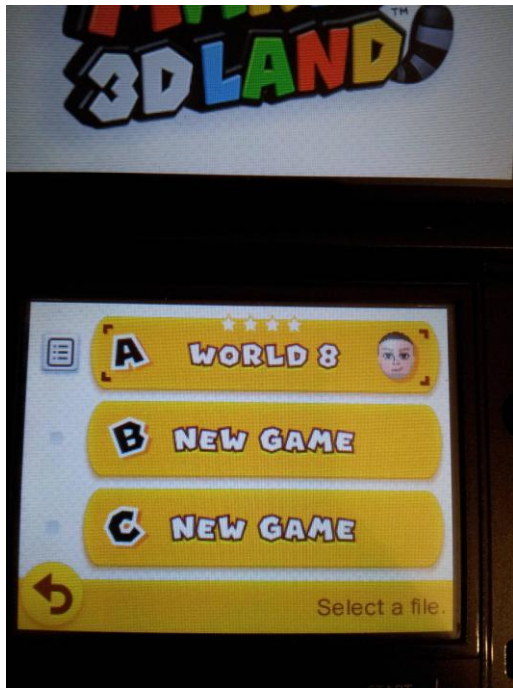
Simply click "Card -> PC" to open up the save screen where you can write the name of the save file and where to put it
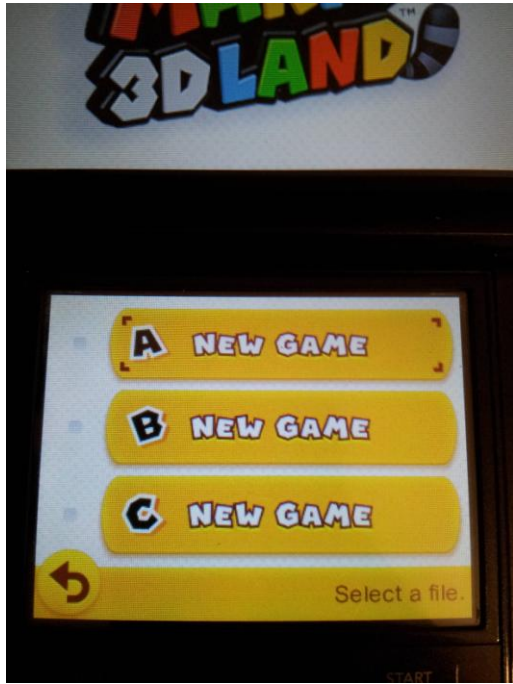

Once you click save, the program runs and in seconds, your save file is backed up onto your PC or Laptop!

R4i SaveDongle V1.0

GAME SAVE SIZE: 128K   GAME INFO: unknown

PC ➡ CARD   CARD ➡ PC

The firmware version is 1.0!
Card inserted!
Card Type: 3DS

Official Website: www.r4i-sdhc.com
Open Platform: www.games-engine.com

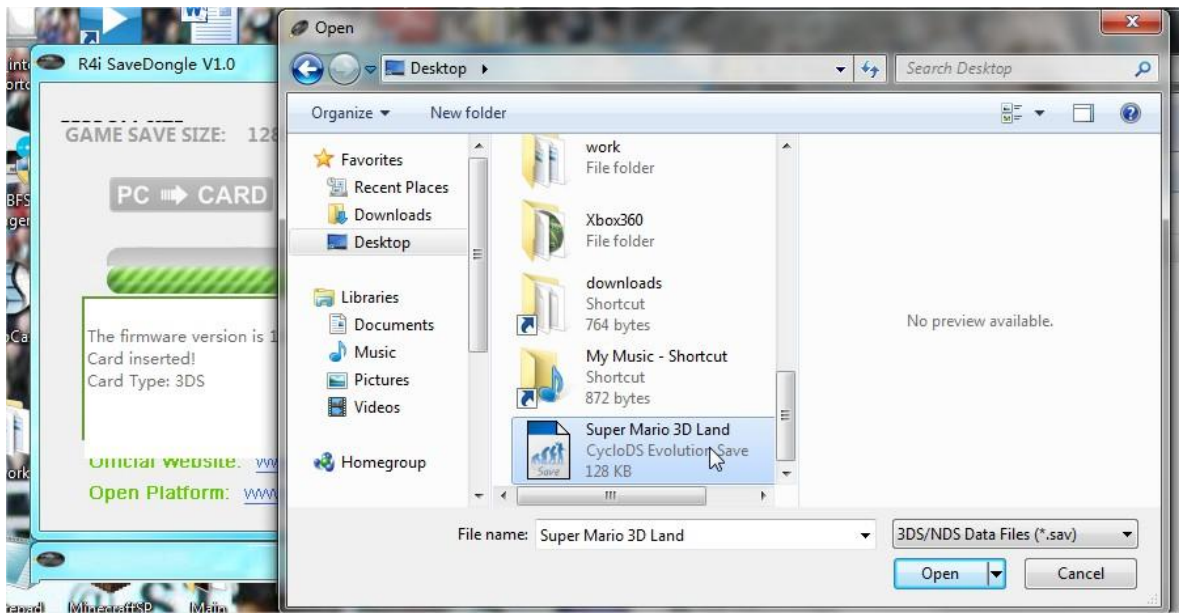Save game data from card to PC successfully!

OK

That's it. Done! To test if this actually worked I deleted my Super Mario 3D Land save file after backing it up (crazy, right?) and then put it back on from my Laptop to my game cart. Here are the results...

3D LAND

A   WORLD 8

B   NEW GAME

C   NEW GAME

Select a file.

Delete this file?
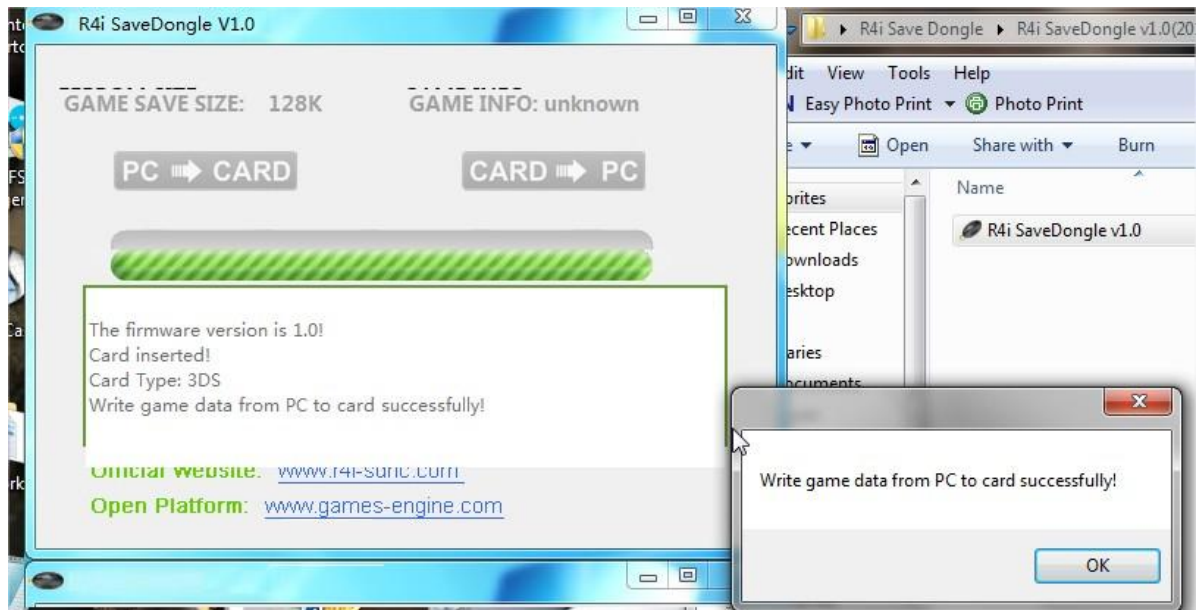
Ⓑ Cancel   Ⓐ Delete

Now that it's deleted, I put my game cart back in the save dongle then choose the option "PC -> Card" from the program and open up the Super Mario 3D Land save file I backed up before.

Surely enough, it's back in all its glory! Works perfectly! The process was quick and painless also. So, overall, I would definitely recommend this piece of kit to anyone who is worried about their game saves or has a brother or sister who wants to play a game but there is only 1 save file. Time to give my final verdict.

Build Quality: 8 / 10

Effectiveness: 9 / 10

Ease of use: 10 / 10

Overall: 8.5 / 10

Recommended!