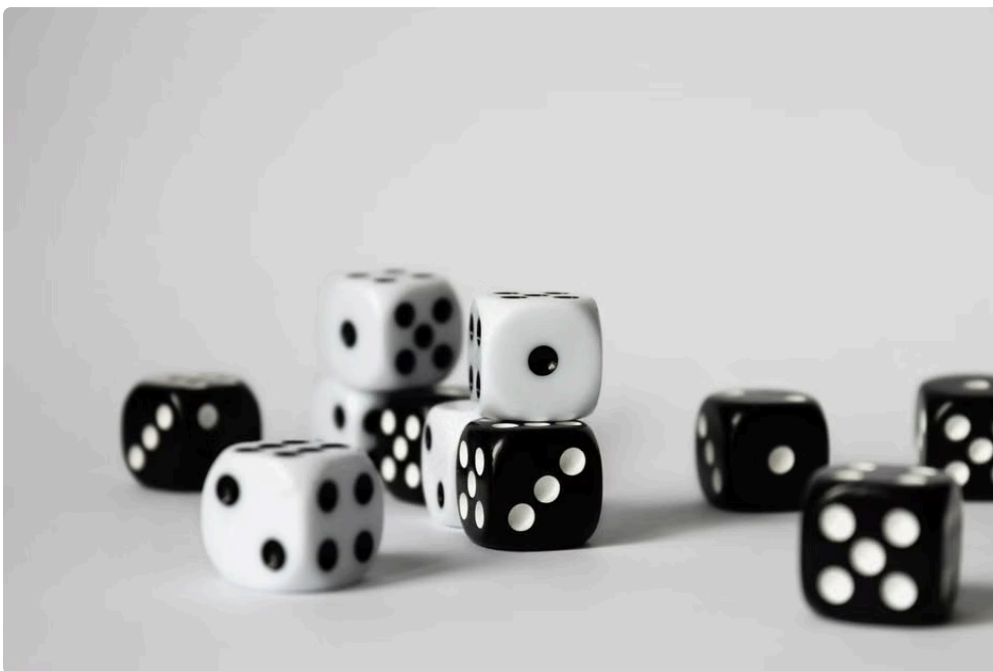


The rise of Megaways slots has reshaped the modern online casino landscape, offering dynamic reels and exciting gameplay. If you've played slots recently—whether on a desktop or through browser-based mobile play on iOS—you've likely encountered a Megaways mechanic. But the pivotal question remains: is Megaways the exclusive domain of Big Time Gaming (BTG), or have other studios jumped on the bandwagon? This post dives into the evolution of slot mechanics, the licensing of Megaways, and how studios like MrQ and Blueprint fit into the picture.

The Evolution of Slot Mechanics: From Cabinets to Dynamic Grids

Slots were once confined to physical cabinets, limiting reel sizes and payline arrangements. This hardware constraint kept slots relatively uniform. However, as software took over, especially with the rise of browser-based mobile play and iOS platforms, developers gained freedom to explore complex reel behaviors and diverse game structures.

Today, "slots" refer to a broad category encompassing myriad structures: classic fixed paylines, multi-line slots, expanding reels, and dynamically changing reels—like Megaways. The category evolved from simple three-reel games to titles that feature hundreds of thousands of ways to win.



Dynamic Grids and Megaways

Megaways slots feature a dynamically changing grid size on each spin, altering the number of symbols per reel and potentially producing hundreds of thousands of paylines. This revolutionary mechanic was introduced by Big Time Gaming, fundamentally different from traditional fixed paylines.

But isn't every variable reel count a Megaways game? No. It's a common mistake made by some commentators who call every variable grid "Megaways." Big Time Gaming's Megaways is a specific mechanic with a licensing agreement that controls its usage.

Big Time Gaming: The Originators and Owners of Megaways

Big Time Gaming developed Megaways in 2015, allowing up to seven reels with 2-7 symbols each and varying paylines on every spin. The mechanic redefined volatility and engagement by offering unpredictable win structures, combined with cascading reels that remove winning symbols and create new opportunities on the same spin.

BTG retains the intellectual property rights to Megaways and controls licensing strictly. Any studio wishing to develop slots using the Megaways mechanic must secure a license from BTG. This preserves the innovation's distinctiveness and ensures quality control, which benefits operators and players alike.

Other Studios and Megaways Licensing

So, can other studios make Megaways games? Yes, but there are conditions. The mechanic is not exclusive to Big Time Gaming's internal titles, but the studio licenses it selectively. Studios with the BTG Megaways license include Blueprint Gaming, a significant player that produces numerous Megaways slots, some tailored for operators like MrQ.

Blueprint has embraced the mechanic while adding their own twists on bonus features and themes. This approach helps diversify the Megaways catalog beyond BTG's own games. For example, Blueprint's "Fishin' Frenzy Megaways" or "Genie Jackpots Megaways" show how other studios integrate cascades and post-win behavior mechanics familiar to Megaways fans.

What About Studios Without Licensing?

Some smaller studios experiment with variable reels and cascading features without the official Megaways license. These mechanics share similarities but are not Megaways. These games don't carry the official branding and usually differentiate with alternative names like "Reelways" or "Ways to Win."

From a player's perspective, it's important not to confuse these. The real Megaways games come with BTG's licensing seal, which guarantees the mechanic's integrity and the dynamic reel structure.

Key Mechanic Features in Megaways and Their Impact

Feature	Description	Effect on Gameplay
Dynamic Reels	Reel height changes each spin, ranging from 2 to 7 symbols per reel	Creates variable numbers of paylines; up to 117,649 ways to win
Cascading Reels	Winning symbols explode and are removed, allowing new symbols to fall	Multiple wins in a single spin; increases excitement and potential payouts
Post-Win Behavior	Features triggered after cascades, such as multipliers or respins	Boosts potential rewards through bonus rounds or extra chains of wins

The Role of Browser-Based Mobile Play and iOS in Megaways Popularity

Worth noting is that these features only fully shine with platforms that support smooth, responsive gameplay. Slots using Megaways mechanics benefit from browser-based mobile play compatibility across iOS and Android devices. This accessibility means fixergrammar.com players can experience the complex reel dynamics and cascading animations on smaller screens without sacrifice.



For example, MrQ, a notable UK-focused operator, offers a mobile-friendly portal optimized for quick load times and responsive touch controls. Megaways slots perform well here, as the dynamic grids adapt cleanly to various viewport sizes. Given the trend toward mobile gaming dominance, this factor plays a major role in Megaways' widespread adoption.

Summary: Other Studios Can Make Megaways, But Licensing Matters

- Big Time Gaming owns and licenses the Megaways mechanic.
- Blueprint is a key licensee producing Megaways titles for operators like MrQ.
- Other studios use similar dynamic reels but cannot legally brand their games as Megaways without a license.
- The mechanic's innovation lies in dynamic reels, cascading wins, and complex post-win bonus features.
- Mobile and browser-based compatibility on iOS and other platforms have helped Megaways gain mass appeal.

In conclusion, while the Megaways mechanic was introduced by Big Time Gaming and is their intellectual property, the licensed nature allows for expansion and creativity among other studios. This ensures the mechanic remains fresh but controlled, giving players novel experiences without diluting the brand.

So, next time you see a Megaways slot on MrQ or another operator, remember you're experiencing an innovation born from software freedom but made accessible through careful licensing and platform support.