Why was Texas Hold 'Em Poker a Windows Ultimate Extra instead of a built-in game?



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Windows Vista came with a variety of in-box games. Old stand-bys like Freecell were given a facelift, and some new games were been added, like Purble Place. Other games were available as a separate download as part of the (disastrous) Windows Ultimate Extras. In particular, one of the games was Texas Hold 'Em Poker. Why was this game made a separate download?

Global cultural sensitivity.

In the same way that Minesweeper changed to accommodate sensitivity to land mines, the Poker game was removed from the list of default games in deference to parts of the world in which gambling is illegal (which includes many parts of the United States) or at least severely frowned upon.

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