

# Step-By-Step Guide

To keep an airplane in the air—and to land it safely on a runway—a real-world pilot must understand and manage many controls. There's a lot to know about Flight Simulator, too, but that's part of the fun and challenge.

## Navigating through Flight Simulator

After you install and start Flight Simulator, use the links on the left side of the screen to navigate among the screens. If you're an experienced Flight Simulator pilot, you already know a lot about flying. Your task will be to learn about the latest Flight Simulator features.

If you're a new Flight Simulator pilot, you'll need to spend a little more time getting up to speed. The best way to learn involves a lot of exploring: start by exploring with Missions. Keep flying, learning, and having fun.

To get the most out of the latest Flight Simulator features, you may want to try exploring in the following order:

## Home

The Home page has news and insider information about Flight Simulator from the FSInsider Web site.

## Missions

Missions combine story, events, and audio to create a more structured kind of experience than you find in Free Flight. The tutorial Missions help new Flight Simulator users get started flying and the other Missions challenge Flight Simulator veterans to try something new.



To fly a Mission, click **Missions** on the left side of the screen, then select a **Mission** from the list.

## Learning Center

The **Learning Center** is your source for information about Flight Simulator. Here you'll find dozens of articles covering the basics of flying, including **Using a Joystick**, **Using the Mouse in the Cockpit**, **Using Weather** and much more.



Navigating through the Learning Center is much like browsing the Web; each article includes related links that connect you to other articles.

To look for information in the Learning Center, use the four tabs at the top of the **Learning Center** screen. **Key Topics** presents a visual way to explore major themes in Flight Simulator. The **Site Map** offers a comprehensive table of contents that lists every article in the Learning Center by title. And the **Index** allows you to find articles by keywords or themes, much as you would use the index of a book.

The Learning Center includes a tab for **Lessons** with flight instructor Rod Machado. Learn real-world flying skills at every level, from student to airline transport pilot.

## Free Flight

In Flight Simulator, the whole world is available to you. In **Free Flight**, choose your aircraft, your starting location and time, and the weather... then start flying. This is your chance to be a bush pilot, airline transport pilot, air mail pilot, air racer, glider pilot, private pilot, or just about any other sort of aviator that you can imagine. To design your own adventure, click **Free Flight** on the left side of the main screen.



## Multiplayer

You can act as a Flight Simulator air traffic controller or share the aircraft with another pilot over the Internet or a LAN.

Direct other pilots from the control tower in multiplayer mode or observe air traffic from an air traffic controller's perspective. The multiplayer **Tower** feature provides a highly realistic level of air traffic control interaction in Flight Simulator.

How about live instruction on any aspect of flying or using Flight Simulator? You can give or receive instruction with another pilot or friend over the Internet or a LAN using Flight Simulator's **Shared Aircraft** feature.

Flight Simulator also allows you to try formation flying, aerobatic competitions, and air racing with friends and other pilots over a Local Area Network or the Internet through **GameSpy**. To set up or join a multiplayer session, click **Multiplayer** on the left side of the screen.



## Pilot Records

Your pilot records show all that you've accomplished as you explore and master Flight Simulator. **Pilot records** include awards and trophies, your pilot logbook, and photos you take in the simulator.



## Settings

You can adjust Flight Simulator to suit your preferences, or to maximize your computer's performance. The Settings screen lets you adjust your preferences—for Display, Sound, Air Traffic Control, Scenery, Realism, Weather, and much more. To customize Flight Simulator, click **Settings** on the left side of the main screen.



## Other Ways to Learn in Flight Simulator

### Help Buttons

Dialog boxes launched from within **Free Flight** and **Settings** include Help buttons at the bottom. If you would like to read more about a topic, click the **Help** button to open an article with relevant information in the Learning Center.

### Rollover Help

Point to the buttons and tabs on dialog boxes and screens, and look to the bottom-left corner of the screen for an explanation of the button or tab.

### Read about the Aircraft

Aircraft Information articles include detailed information about each aircraft in the Flight Simulator fleet, including its history, flight characteristics, flight notes, and checklists. From the **Key Topics** screen, click on the image labeled **Aircraft Information**, then select the article on the aircraft you want to learn about.

And that's just the beginning of your learning adventures. Now that you know where to discover a wealth of information and answers, you've got lots of aircraft, more than 24,000 airports, and an entire planet to explore.