

Corrections and Updates for [Microsoft® Flight Simulator as a Training Aid: A Guide for Pilots, Instructors, and Virtual Aviators](#)

January 9, 2007

Copies of [Microsoft® Flight Simulator as a Training Aid: A Guide for Pilots, Instructors, and Virtual Aviators](#) appeared in early January 2007. Inevitably, the first printing contains a few glitches, noted below.

- Introduction, p. x: A phrase in the last sentence of paragraph 4 should read "...navigating with the VOR system...."
- Chapter 2, p. 19: The last sentence in the second paragraph should read: "...why do we so often insist on encumbering an inexpensive, multipurpose, portable, PC-based simulator with costly, complicated accessories and then use it only as if it were a complete cockpit?"
- Chapter 4, p. 78: In the section "Using the Autopilot with the Practice Flights," the second paragraph should read "...point to the heading knob for the heading indicator or HSI and roll the mouse wheel forward or back...."
- Chapter 4, p. 83: The discussion of flight videos on this page does not include information about an undocumented feature in Flight Simulator X. For more information about this new video feature, see the section [Recording FSX Videos.pdf](#) later in this document.
- Chapter 8, p. 140: The "Flaps/Landing Gear" row in the table accompanying the ILS descent screen capture should read "APR/DN" to match the configuration shown in the illustration.
- Chapter 12, p. 190: The text in the last paragraph ("Use the Practice Flights in this section...") should appear after the heading "VOR navigation" at the top of p. 191.

Recording .AVI Videos in Microsoft® Flight Simulator X

The discussion of flight videos in Chapter 4 (p. 83) of [Microsoft® Flight Simulator as a Training Aid: A Guide for Pilots, Instructors, and Virtual Aviators](#) does not include information about Video Recording, an undocumented feature in *Microsoft® Flight Simulator X*. This document describes how you can use the hidden Video Recording feature to save videos to your hard drive in [.avi](#) format as you fly Flight Simulator X.

Note that the feature discussed in this document is separate from the Flight Video feature described in the Flight Simulator Learning Center. That feature works like the flight data recorder described in Chapter 4 of [Microsoft® Flight Simulator as a Training Aid](#) and in the topic “Flight Videos” in the [Flight Simulator X Learning Center](#).

Important Considerations

Before you jump into creating videos with the Video Recording feature, note the following important considerations:

- The Video Recording feature creates huge files. For example, recording about 30 seconds of video in Flight Simulator X generates an .avi file more than 1 GB in size. Recording long sequences in Flight Simulator with the Video Recording feature rapidly consumes hard drive space and quickly generates unwieldy .avi files that may prove difficult to edit and convert to other formats.
- Microsoft has not published system requirements for and other information about this feature, and I can't offer specific guidance beyond the advice in this document. Suffice it say here that recording videos requires a fast computer with lots of system memory, a large, fast hard drive, and a high-performance video card. For more information about recommended computer systems, see the following articles on the [Flight Simulator Insider](#) Web site:
 - [Optimizing Visuals and Performance](#)
 - [What's Your Frame Rate? \(Part 1\)](#)
 - [What's Your Frame Rate? \(Part 2\)](#)

You can also find links to more information about PCs, video cards, and other computer accessories on the [Flight Simulator page](#) at [BruceAir.com](#).

- The .avi videos that you record are stored in the folder:
C:\My Documents\My Videos\Flight Simulator X Files
- As a practical matter, you'll want to convert the .avi files that the Video Recording feature produces into another format, such as [Windows Media Video \(.wmv\)](#) or [MPEG](#). You can use video-editing applications like [Windows Movie Maker](#) (which you can download from Microsoft) to edit and convert your Flight Simulator videos into other formats. You can learn more about video-editing software from [the reviews at PC World](#) and other Web sites.

Using the Video Recording Feature

The following discussion is my unofficial guide to the Video Recording feature. It will get you started recording videos in Flight Simulator X, but it is not a complete, official treatise on the topic. I can't guarantee that the following procedures will produce acceptable results on your system, and I haven't experimented with such options as recording video from multiple monitors. If Microsoft decides to document the feature in detail, you'll find information about it on the [Flight Simulator Insider](#) Web site.

My limited experiments with the feature, however, lead to the following suggestions:

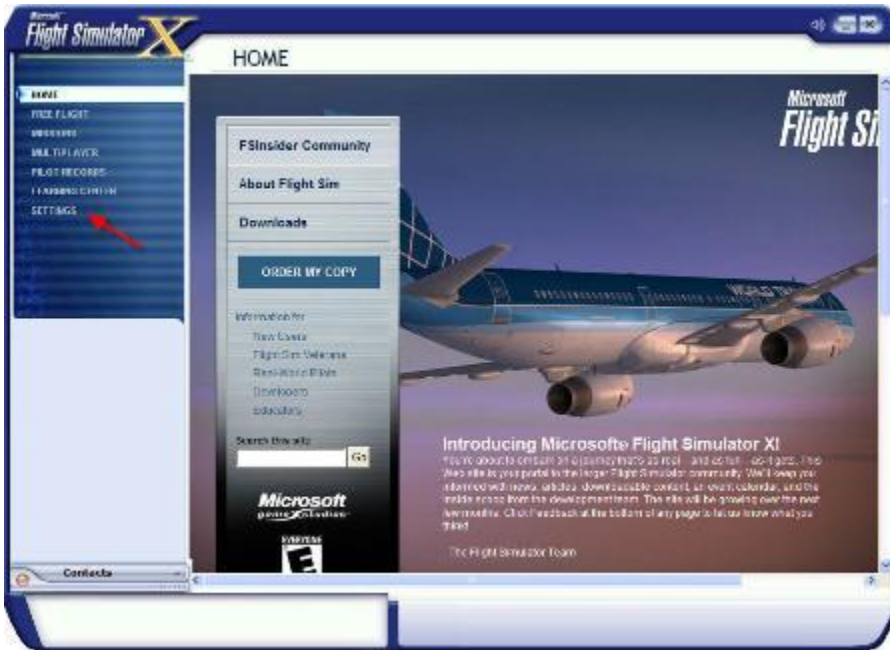
- Set the screen resolution in Flight Simulator to 1024 × 768 before recording .avi video. Higher resolutions seem to produce cropped images unless you run Flight Simulator in windowed mode. For more information about full-screen and windowed modes, see the topics [Using Views and Windows](#) and [Optimizing Visuals and Performance](#) in the [Flight Simulator Learning Center](#).
- You can record .avi video while running Flight Simulator in either full-screen or windowed mode. While Flight Simulator is running, press ALT+ENTER to switch between full-screen and windowed modes. For more information about this subject, see the topics [Using Views and Windows](#) and [Optimizing Visuals and Performance](#) in the [Flight Simulator Learning Center](#).

Configuring Flight Simulator X to Record Video

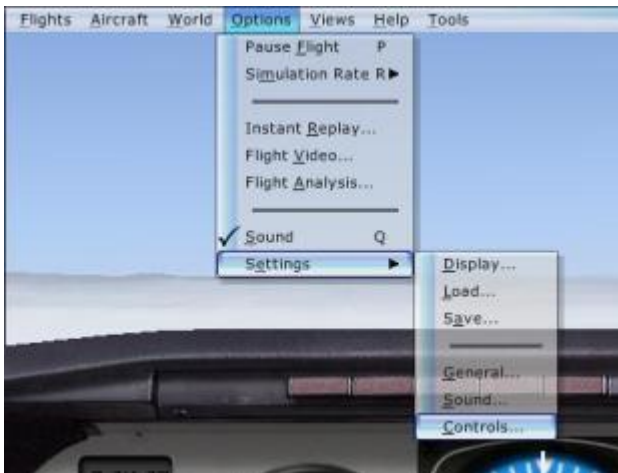
The Video Recording feature in Flight Simulator X is not available as a command on a menu or as one of the default key commands. To use the feature, you must use the **Settings** command to assign the Video Recording action to a key combination or joystick button.

To display the Settings options in Flight Simulator X

- From the Home screen in Flight Simulator X, click the Settings option.



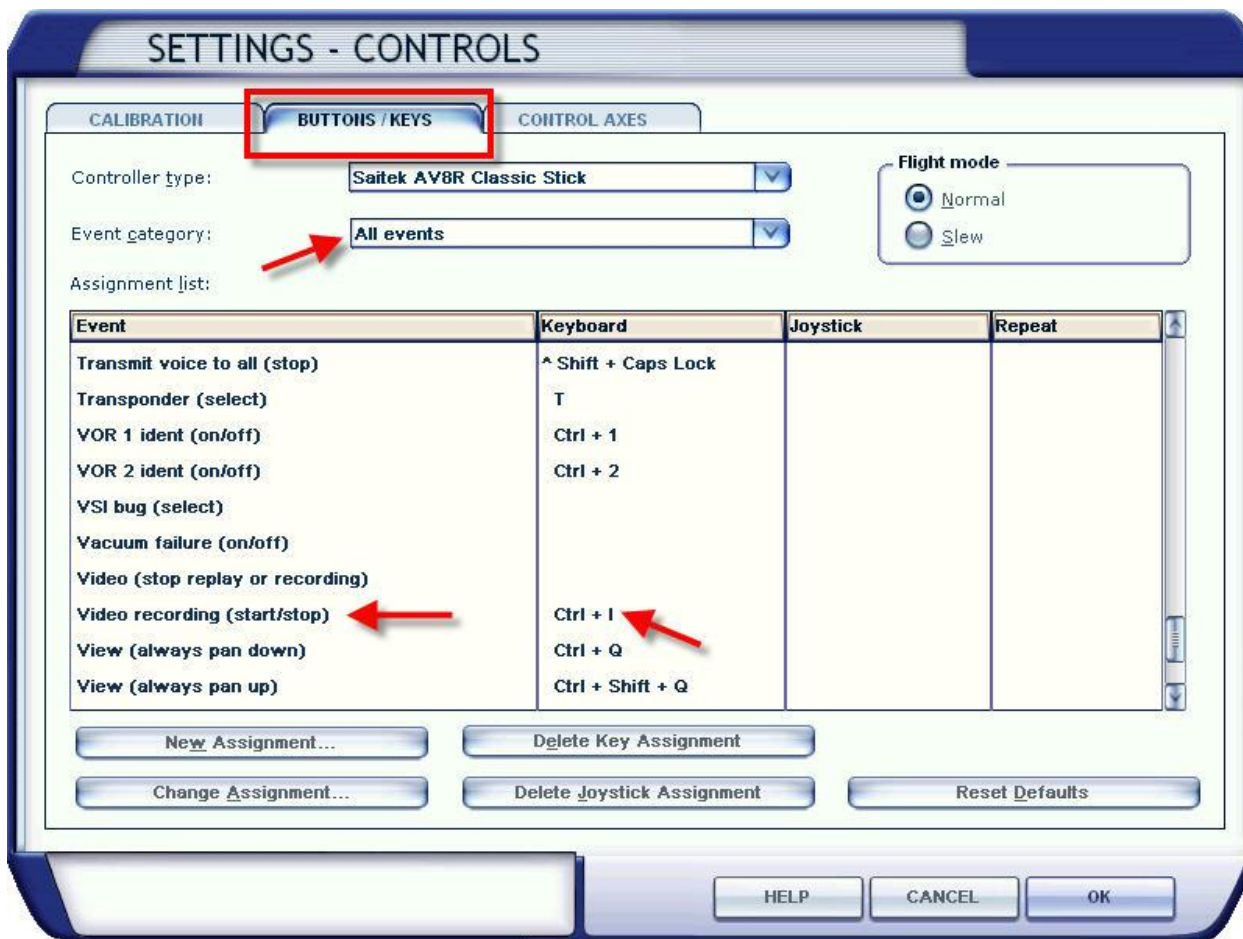
- Or, if Flight Simulator is running, on the **Options** menu, click **Settings**, and then click **Controls**.



To assign a key combination to the Video Recording feature

1. In the Settings window, click **Controls**.
2. In the **Settings-Controls** dialog box, click the **Buttons/Keys** tab.
3. Scroll through the **Events** list and select **Video recording (start/stop)**.
4. To assign a key combination or joystick button to this event, click the **New Assignment** button and then press the key combination that you want to use. I assigned **CTRL+I** to this function because it was available in my configuration, but you can use any key combination you choose.
5. Click OK.

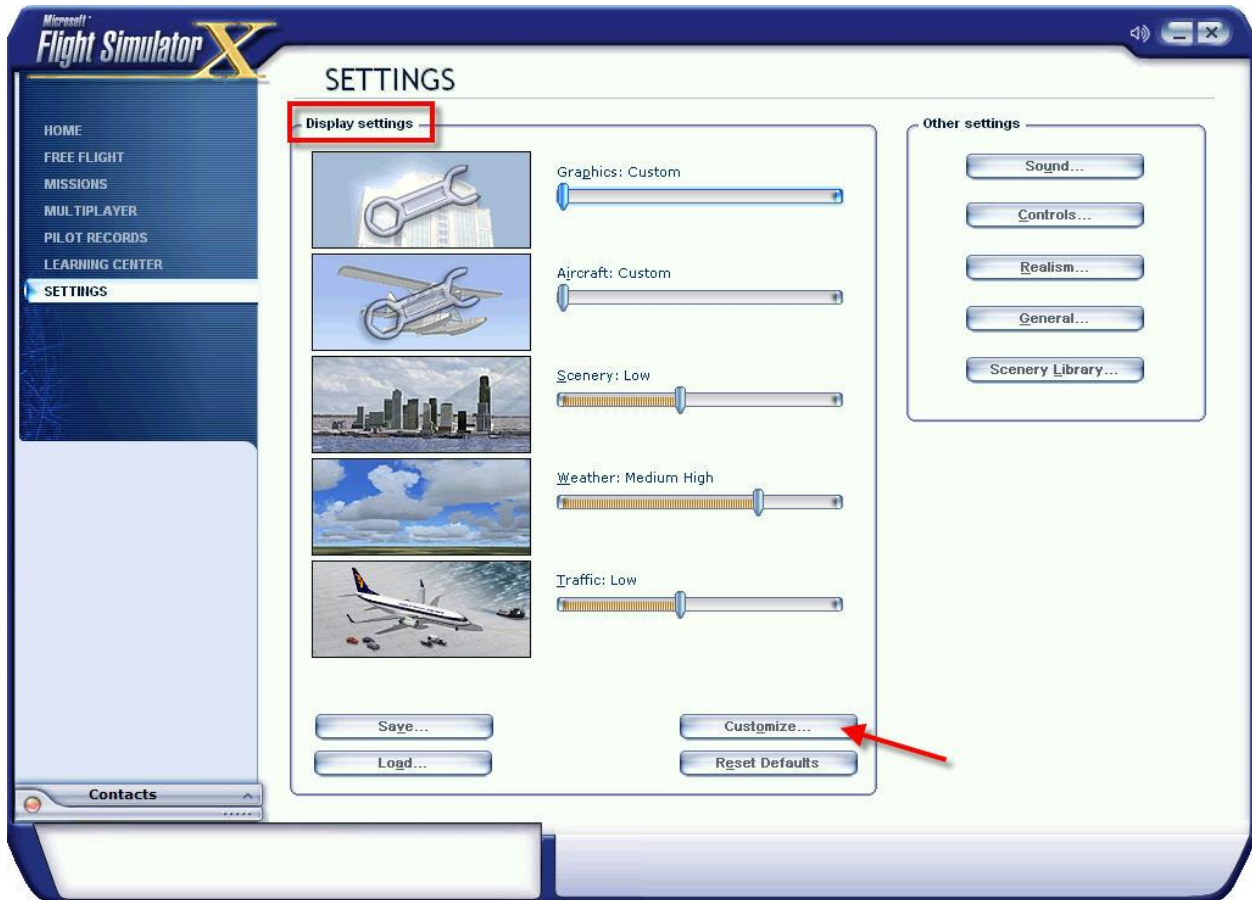




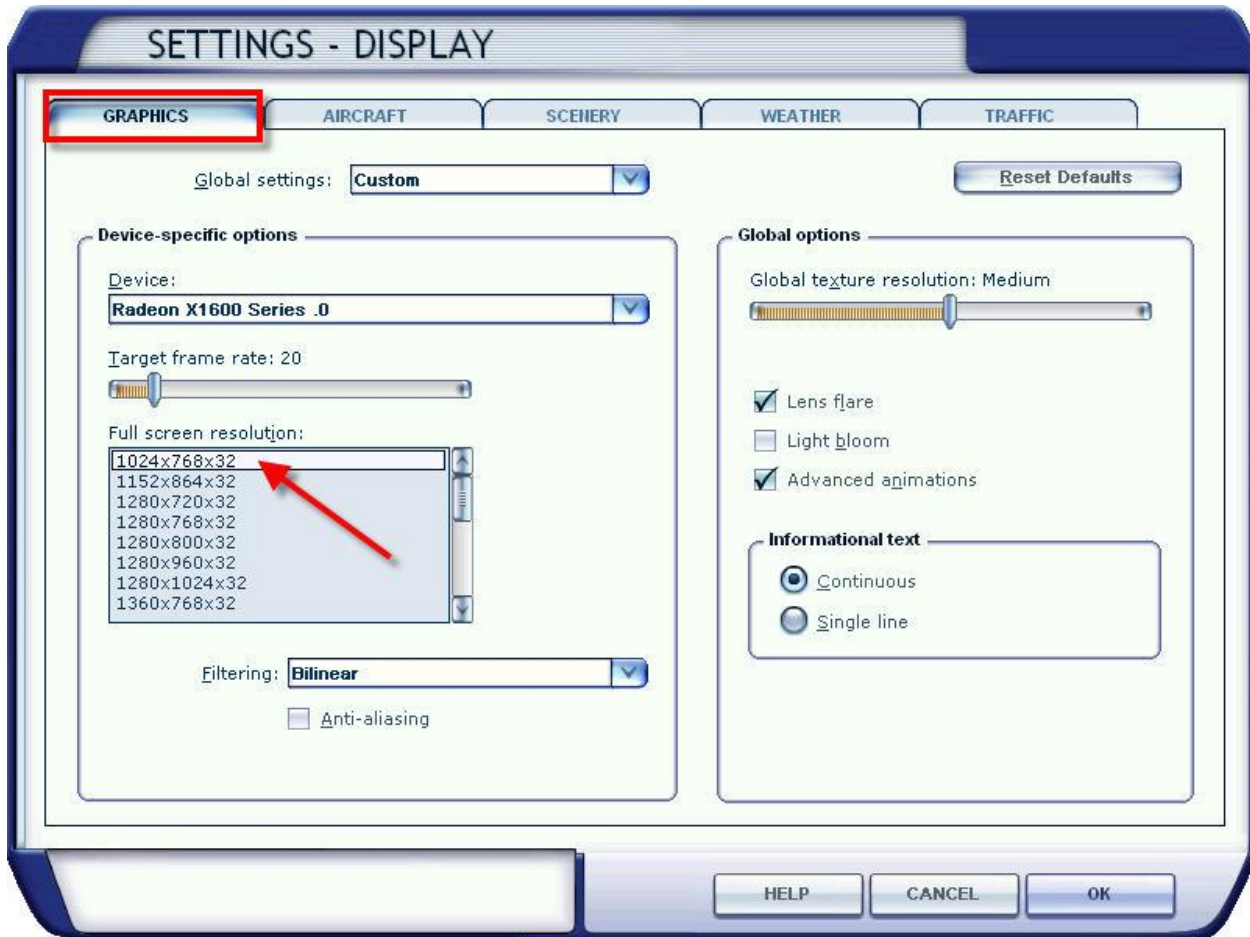
To learn about assigning key combinations or joystick buttons to functions in Flight Simulator X, see the topic "Using the Keyboard" in the Learning Center.

To change the screen resolution of Flight Simulator X

- From the Home screen in Flight Simulator X, click the **Settings** option (see above).
- In the **Settings** screen, under **Display settings**, click **Customize**.



- In the **Settings-Display** dialog box, click the **Graphics** tab. Under Full-screen resolution, select **1024x768x32**.



Recording an .AVI Video

- When you're ready to record an .avi video in Flight Simulator X, press the key combination or joystick button that you assigned to the **Video recording (start/stop)** event. You won't see any indication on screen that recording is taking place.
- To stop recording .avi video, press the key combination or joystick button that you assigned to the **Video recording (start/stop)** event again.