

Microsoft Flight Simulator includes all world airports

29th February, 2020



The Microsoft airplane game Flight Simulator has been upgraded to include every airport in the world. This means gamers will have a choice of over 37,000 airports to take off from and land at. The upgrade has added over 13,000

new airports to the previous version of the game, which included 24,000 airports. The game includes international hubs like New York's JFK and London Heathrow. It also includes tiny airports like rural, grassy landing strips and runways that are in the middle of deserts or on the top of mountains. The 37,000 airports in Flight Simulator have been manually designed to look like the real airports. Designers used satellite images and Bing Maps to do this.

The graphics are also much better in the latest release of Flight Simulator. The designers put a lot of work and effort into increasing the level of detail you see. Gamers will see windsocks blowing in the wind and service vehicles driving around the roads next to the runways. The markings on the runways in the game are the same as those on the real runways. Lead game designer Sven Mestas said: "To reach a new level, we needed a new approach. We decided to innovate by editing airports from real satellite pictures. This technique involves editing each airport manually. This means we paid particular attention to detail to bring every airport a step closer to reality."

Sources: pcgamer.com / ladbible.com / rockpapershotgun.com

Writing

Using a flight simulator game is better than really flying. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

airplane / game / flight / simulator / choice / airports / international / runway / desert / designer / detail / wind / vehicles / level / approach / innovate / satellite / reality

True / False

- a) Gamers will be able to simulate landing at more than 37,000 airports. T / F
- b) Microsoft has more than doubled the number of airports in the game. T / F
- c) The new game does not include landing strips of desert runways. T / F
- d) Designers used Google Maps to create the graphics for the airports. T / F
- e) Designers want to add windsocks in a future version of the game. T / F
- f) The game's runway markings are the same as in real-life runways. T / F
- g) A designer said each airport in the game was edited manually. T / F
- h) A designer said airports in the game are exactly the same as in reality. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. upgraded | a. stage |
| 2. choice | b. done by hand |
| 3. previous | c. most recent |
| 4. manually | d. selection |
| 5. images | e. top |
| 6. latest | f. improved |
| 7. detail | g. method |
| 8. lead | h. earlier |
| 9. technique | i. exactness |
| 10. step | j. pictures |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How important are graphics in video games?
- c) How important are video games to you?
- d) What other simulator games would you like to play?
- e) Would you like to be a pilot?
- f) Which is better, flying or using a flight simulator?
- g) What will games be like in 50 years from now?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the game developers?

Phrase Match

1. upgraded to include every
 2. over 37,000 airports to take
 3. added over 13,000 new airports
 4. tiny airports like rural, grassy
 5. manually designed to look
 6. The graphics are also much better
 7. windsocks blowing
 8. We decided to innovate by
 9. we paid particular
 10. bring every airport a step
- a. editing airports
 - b. landing strips
 - c. in the latest release
 - d. like the real airports
 - e. attention to detail
 - f. off from
 - g. closer to reality
 - h. airport in the world
 - i. in the wind
 - j. to the previous version

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about flight simulators?
- b) Do you think flight simulators are fun?
- c) What is your favourite video game?
- d) What would it be like to fly a real airplane?
- e) Why does this game need to have 37,000 airports?
- f) What do you think of flying?
- g) Which do you like better, taking off or landing?
- h) Is it better to land on top of a mountain or on a grassy strip?

Spelling

1. Flight Simulator has been agpreudd
2. the previous ersovni of the game
3. grassy landing trissp
4. in the middle of rtsseed
5. ynaalmul designed to look like the real airports
6. Designers used ttsailele images
7. The riahpsgc are also much better
8. service eiehclvs driving around the roads
9. we needed a new hoarpacp
10. We decided to noavneti by editing airports
11. we paid particular oatettnin to detail
12. bring every airport a step closer to ayletri

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. h	4. b	5. j
6. c	7. i	8. e	9. g	10. a

Role Play

Role A – War Games

You think a war game is the best simulator. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their simulators. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): being Harry Potter, scuba diving or flying a plane.

Role B – Being Harry Potter

You think being Harry Potter is the best simulator. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their simulators. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): war games, scuba diving or flying a plane.

Role C – Scuba Diving

You think scuba diving is the best simulator. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their simulators. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): being Harry Potter, war games or flying a plane.

Role D – Flying a Plane

You think flying a plane is the best simulator. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their simulators. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): being Harry Potter, scuba diving or war games.

Speaking –

Rank these

- Racing an F1 car
- Walking on the moon
- Being US President
- Being Harry Potter
- Scuba diving
- War games
- Being an eagle
- Flying a plane

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.