

Specialist Report: Simugliding

1. Dedicated Glider Simulators

There is nothing really new, there are still 4 glider simulators on the market:

SFS (German) www.sfspc.de/
Sailor of the Sky (Spanish) www.sailorsofthesky.com/
Silent Wings (Norwegian) www.silentwings.no/home/
Condor (Slovenian) www.condorsoaring.com/

However, SFS no longer seems to be being developed. Condor and Silent Wings seem to be the most popular. In both simulators, the behaviour and the performance of the virtual gliders are quite realistic. Virtual Competitions are organised on both simulators

Silent Wings organises the **Silent Wings League** where virtual pilots can enter one of the competition task servers and complete the proposed task (on distances up to 1300km!) . the fastest being listed on the SW League leader board. Competitions take place in Club, standard, 18m or Open class. Strict rules prevent cheating by improving the weather conditions.

For the Condor fans, the Speed Battle Cup has been replaced by the **Sky Battle Club**. The organisers of the 31st FAI World Gliding Championships in Prievidza will run a parallel virtual Condor competition with the same tasks, same scoring and similar weather.

2. Generic Flight Simulators

Fligh Simulator X from Microsoft is still the most realistic generic flight simulator. Thermals can be flown with a DG 808 flying fairly realistically which can be aero-towed.

Wolfgang Piper has developed many additional gliders for this simulator: www.fsglider.de/
Also, more and more commercial, high resolution sceneries are being developed, based on aerial photography. The best sceneries have one point every 5m on their altimetric mesh and a resolution of 1m/ pixel. See, for example, the stunning sceneries of Switzerland, Austria and France:

www.flylogicsoftware.com/site/en/products/FSX/FSXflyCHPROen/FSXflyCHPROen.htm
www.flugwerk.at/products_e.htm
www.francevfr.com/index.htm

Unfortunately, it was reported in early 2009 that Microsoft had closed down their flight simulation activity but it seems that this activity will be taken over by a new company formed by former members of the MS team.

Xplane This interesting simulator can also be used as a fairly realistic glider simulator and still has a community of fans. The latest version is version 9 : www.x-plane.com/

Roland Stuck
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