Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020 (MSFS) is the next generation of one of the most desirable franchises. Developed by Asobo Studio and published by Xbox Game Studios exclusively for Windows 10 and Xbox One, it is the eleventh major iteration in the *Microsoft Flight Simulator* series, preceded by *Flight Simulator X (FSX)*.

It simulates the entire Earth using textures and topographical data from Bing Maps. Three-dimensional representations of the world's features, such as trees, buildings, and water are generated using Microsoft Azure technology. Pre-release videos show an astounding degree of realism. Microsoft is progressively releasing updates and videos of their latest developments. On all accounts, this latest edition of the flight sim franchise is showing outstanding potential for the flight simulation community. It is available through a number of simulation retail outlets or accessed through the Steam portal. Third party developers are producing aircraft and scenery packages compatible with this amazing platform.

Microsoft Flight Simulator is one of the longest-running, best known and most comprehensive home flight simulator programs on the market. First released in 1982, it predated Windows by three years.

It features include a wide range of different types of aircraft, worldwide scenery and airports, missions and the ability to share aircraft with others. Later versions included air traffic control. Microsoft withdrew from further development and marketing of the product in 2009. It was taken up by Dovetail Games and made available as the online *FSX Steam Edition*. Many flight simmers still use the FS2004 and FSX editions of the simulator. Boxed or online copies of *FSX* are difficult to find these days. In 2019, Microsoft surprised the flight sim community by announcing it was developing a whole new simulator program in *Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020.*

FSX: Steam Edition is the re-release of Microsoft Flight Simulator X Gold Edition (FSX) on the Steam digital platform. Steam also offers a huge range of features such as multiplayer, chat, messaging, video sharing, aircraft sharing and air traffic control.

FSX: Steam Edition requires a digital "handshake" with Steam at the start of a session. After that point you may go offline and continue your session without interruption. The Multiplayer facility is significantly more stable than the old Microsoft Gamespy application. Dovetail Games is continuing to develop and make available additional downloads and products to enhance the initial default package.

Aerowinx Precision Simulator is a stand-alone flight and systems trainer for professions and the keen flight simmer. It enables you to run a flight deck mock-up by feeding several monitors through networked computers, or run a single computer for solo training. Panels can be zoomed, panned or divided. A range of add-ons are available to enhance the experience and add complexity to the set-up.

Training meets reality with Lockheed Martin's **Prepar3D** simulation software. Prepar3D (P3D) allows users such as private pilots, commercial organisations, militaries, and academia immersive and experiential learning to create training scenarios across aviation, maritime and ground domains. Prepar3D furthers the development of Microsoft ESP technology while maintaining compatibility with Microsoft Flight Simulator X, allowing many thousands of add-ons to be used within Prepar3D. While strictly developed for the professional and commercial domains, P3D is available to home flight simulation enthusiasts through a licencing agreement. Many simmers have adopted P3D as an alternative to FSX or X-Plane.

X-Plane is currently the world's most comprehensive and powerful flight simulator for personal computers and offers the most realistic flight model available. X-Plane includes detailed 3-D scenery for more than 33,000 airports around the world. Terminal buildings, hangars, jetways and more make these airports feel alive.

The latest iteration, X-Plane 11, has a brand-new user interface, a new level of quality in the included aircraft, and support for virtual reality headsets. X-Plane contains includes more than 30 aircraft in the default installation. In addition, more than 1,400 additional aircraft models can be downloaded free from X-Plane.org.

Digital Combat Simulator, or DCS, is a free-to-play digital battlefield combat game. Developed primarily by Eagle Dynamics and the Fighter Collection, it was released in 2008. The developers aim is to offer the most authentic and realistic simulation of military aircraft, tanks, ground vehicles and ships possible.

The free download includes a vast mission area of the Caucasus region and the Black Sea that encompasses much of Georgia. It also includes a flyable Russian Sukhoi Su-25T ground attack aircraft and the famous World War II American TF-51D fighter. An additional two dozen or more aircraft are available for purchase.

GEFS online is a free, online flight simulator based on worldwide aerial imagery. Whether you are a licensed pilot practicing VFR, an aviation enthusiast or just looking for some fun flying a plane in beautiful sceneries, you can enjoy GEFS quickly and directly from your web browser.