AI Flies your aircraft

Table Of Contents

- 1 Definition
- 2 How it works
- 3 Typical use cases
- 4 Technical concept
- 5 How to activate
- 6 Limitations
- 7 Short definition

X-Plane 12 includes a new feature called “AI Flies your Aircraft”; learn more here.

1 Definition

“AI flies the aircraft” is a feature in **X-Plane 12** where the simulator’s built-in artificial intelligence takes control of the currently flown aircraft and flies it automatically.

The feature mainly serves as a **training and assistance tool**.

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2 How it works

When the option **“AI flies the aircraft”** is activated, the simulator simulates a virtual pilot that takes over the flight controls.

The AI can:

- maintain **stable flight**
- perform **takeoffs and landings**
- follow **flight plans and navigation routes**
- operate the **autopilot systems**
- respond to **ATC instructions**
- perform **IFR navigation**

The player can remain in the cockpit and watch how the AI operates the aircraft.

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3 Typical use cases

1. Learning tool
New users can observe how a proper flight is performed.

2. Demonstration of procedures
The AI can demonstrate standard flight procedures and maneuvers.

3. Temporary autopilot replacement
Players can hand over control for a short period.

4. Route observation
The aircraft can follow a route automatically while the user studies instruments or aircraft systems.

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4 Technical concept

The AI uses the same **flight physics and autopilot systems** as human pilots.

It automatically controls:

- flight control surfaces
- engine thrust
- autopilot modes
- speed and altitude
- GPS or radio navigation

The system adapts dynamically to:

- weather conditions
- aircraft type and weight
- flight plan data

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5 How to activate

The function can usually be enabled through the menu:

Code

```
Flight ? AI flies the aircraft
```

Once activated, the AI takes over the flight controls.

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6 Limitations

The AI is primarily designed for **standard flight operations**. Limitations may occur with:

- complex **third-party aircraft**
- unusual **emergency scenarios**
- heavily modified **flight models**
- complex **SID/STAR procedures**

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7 Short definition

“AI flies the aircraft” is an assistance feature in X-Plane 12 where an integrated AI pilot automatically controls the aircraft for training, demonstration, or temporary relief for the user.