



vEXS Getting Started Guide

Version 1.1

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Version Control

Version 1.1

Issued: 28/03/2026. Minor changes to initial activity requirements and spelling mistakes

First issue (V1) Date: 14/12/2025

Welcome to vEXS

Hello and welcome to vEXS, The Home of Friendly Low Virtual Fares. Founded in 2017, vEXS is the leading Virtual Airline (VA) simulating the operations of Jet2.com. We are proudly hosted on the vAMSYS platform and we are delighted that you have trusted us to guide you through your virtual career in aviation.

The VA is currently owned and operated by Matt and Dave, who took over from Jack and Eric in Summer 2024. Both had been long-standing members of the vEXS staff team since 2019 taking on roles as Base Managers and later VA Manager. Their strong ties with the community made them the natural choice to succeed Jack and Eric when they decided to take a step back from day-to-day operations. Since taking over, they have carried out a significant overhaul of the VA and its resources, while continuing to build on the strong foundations already in place.

We hope this welcome guide serves as a useful resource for both our new and existing pilots, but if you ever need a little more help, please reach out to us via one of the support methods, or drop into our Discord Server where our staff team and our most active pilots are always happy to help. Full details are in our [Useful Links section](#).

Happy Flying!

Rules and Policies

We'll get the boring stuff out the way first. There is some important information here so please don't just skip ahead to the more interesting bits!

New Pilot Requirements

Once again, we are thrilled that you have joined our ranks as one of our approximately 2,500 active pilots. That said, we understand that a small number of people join our VA and later decide it isn't for them — and that's perfectly okay.

To ensure that everyone on our pilot roster is where they want to be, we ask that all new pilots complete one valid flight with an approved PIREP (Pilot REPort — more on that later) within 14 days of registering. Failure to do so will result in automatic removal from the roster. Only scheduled or charter flights count towards this requirement, and not repositioning or training flights or claims.

The good news is that once you have passed this initial probation period, there are no ongoing activity requirements, and you are free to fly as much or as little as you like.

If now isn't a good time or something comes up and you're unable to fly, don't worry. Simply drop us an [email](#) when you're ready and we'll get you back in the skies as soon as possible. Please only request reinstatement when you are ready to fly, as you will have just 3 days to complete a flight before being removed again. After a second removal, you must wait 6 months before reapplying. If you are still unsuccessful after the 3rd attempt, then unfortunately we will decline any further requests.

Route Updates

We want you to have the most realistic experience possible when flying with us, and a key part of that is maintaining a solid and up-to-date route schedule.

Every day, we receive a direct data feed from Eurocontrol containing all flight plans and updates submitted by Jet2. These are processed through our conversion tools and uploaded to vAMSYS for you to book. This ensures that the most recent, valid flight plan routes are always available and are guaranteed to pass IFPS validation.

As a result, when a new destination is added or a seasonal route resumes, it may not appear immediately. The route will become available once that day's update has been completed.

To ensure we capture the full day's schedule – as evening flights are often not submitted to Eurocontrol until late afternoon – route updates are usually carried out between 1700 and 1900 UTC, though they may run later due to real-world commitments. During periods such as Christmas, or when the staff team are on leave, updates may fall behind by a day or two. Rest assured, the data is still being captured and we will bring everything back up to date as soon as possible. We will endeavour to notify pilots in advance via our Discord server whenever this is expected.

Scheduled routes are initially added with an end date set four weeks in the future. This end date is automatically extended each time the route is flown, meaning it will remain available for at least 28 days after it stops operating in real life at the end of the season.

One-off charter flights are available for 28 days only before being removed.

We also add repositioning, engineering/maintenance, and training flights for you to book. These flights do not award points (only flight hours) and are limited to 7 days to help keep the schedule tidy.

Fleet, Substitutions and Liveries Policy

As part of maintaining realism, we expect pilots to complete their flights using the correct aircraft type for their booking. This means that if you book a route operated by an A321neo, you must not fly an A321ceo or any other variant in its place.

We recognise that some simulators lack certain aircraft types, so we have introduced a limited number of approved substitutions, outlined below:

B737-300: In P3D (all versions), FSX, and MSFS 2020, you may use the PMDG 737-700 in place of the -300, but only when using the liveries we provide. This substitution applies exclusively to the B737-300. The B737-700 may not be used on any B737-800 route.

X-Plane 11 and 12: No substitutions are currently accepted, as add-ons are available for all of our aircraft types on these platforms.

MSFS 2024: The A321XLR and A320 will not be accepted in lieu of the A321 or A321neo. Likewise, the B737 MAX 8 will not be accepted on B737-800 routes.

You must also complete each flight using a valid livery for the aircraft type flown. Any real Jet2 registration may be used, provided it matches the correct aircraft type. For example, registration G-JZBJ may be flown on any B737-800 route, even if the flight was operated by G-GDFY in real life or on your booking.

You are welcome to use any of the liveries we provide in the [Hangar](#), or third-party liveries sourced elsewhere, as long as they represent real, current Jet2 aircraft and correct aircraft–livery combinations.

Points and PIREP Scoring

Once you complete a flight, your PIREP is automatically scored by vAMSYS, and you are awarded the relevant points, bonus points, and flight hours. Occasionally, a PIREP may require review by a member of our staff before it is officially accepted. Don't worry – unless the status shows "Reply Needed," you are free to continue booking and flying additional flights. We encourage you to check back once your PIREP has been reviewed, as staff may leave useful comments for you.

The automatic scoring system is very black-and-white and does not allow for subjective judgment. If you notice something in the scoring that you don't understand, or believe is incorrect, you can leave a comment on the PIREP after submission. This will bring it to the attention of our staff for review.

We will be publishing a separate document detailing our key Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the scoring criteria for each aircraft type. In the meantime, we encourage you to review the information available here before your first flight with a new aircraft type:

<https://vamsys.io/phoenix/documents/scores>

All Accepted PIREPs are awarded Flight Hours. Flights marked "Scheduled" or "Charter" are also awarded points. Bonus Points are only available for participation in events.

Rejected PIREPs are awarded flight hours only. Points and Bonus points are not awarded. Invalidated PIREPs are not awarded.

Ranks

Our structure contains a total of 8 Pilot Ranks which have an increasing Hours, Points and Bonus Points requirement. The ranks are designed so that a pilot flying a balanced mix of shorter and longer flights, should achieve the requirements for each rank at a similar time.

Rank	Points	Hours	Bonus Points
 Cadet	This is the initial rank awarded to all new pilots, there are no hours or point requirements		
 Second Officer	1,500	30	300
 First Officer	9,000	200	2,000
 Senior First Officer	18,000	400	5,000
 Captain	42,000	900	10,000
Ranks if Captain and above have access to an additional channel in our Discord Server.			
 Senior Captain	80,000	1,500	20,000
	150,000	2,500	40,000

 Yorkshire Captain	This Rank is by appointment and on application only and requires a minimum of 2 years' service and acceptable flying experience.		
 Captain Boycott	250,000	4,000	90,000
	This Rank is by appointment and on application only and requires a minimum of 5 years' service and acceptable flying experience.		

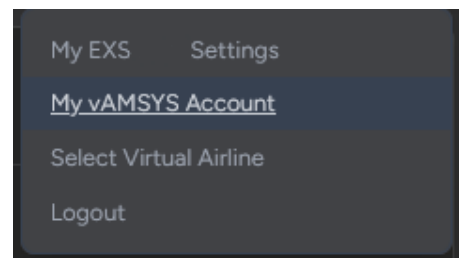
Booking, Flying and Submitting your PIREP

Now we've got the admin out the way, let's move onto the exciting bit of completing your first flight with us. If you've flown with a vAMSYS based VA before, then this should all be very familiar to you, so feel free to skip ahead to the next section, but even experienced users might spot things they didn't know before.

Your Profile

If this is your first time on vAMSYS, then it's worth taking a look at your profile to make sure you're getting the optimum experience. If you click on your name at the top right of the screen, you'll get a small menu popup. There are lots of different settings available, but I have highlighted a few key ones are

- VA settings: Default units, preferred online network, Simbrief OFP format
- vAMSYS account: Social, Online, and 3rd Party pages; link Discord and Navigraph accounts
- Online networks: Enter VATSIM and/or IVAO IDs for bonus points



Linking your discord account is essential if you would like to join our Discord server. You can also link your Navigraph account so flights can be dispatched with simbrief later on. If you have a Navigraph subscription, this also unlocks extra detail layers in our mapping tools. Finally, you have an "online networks" section where you can enter Vatsim and IVAO IDs for extra points when you fly online.

Pegasus

Pegasus is the tracking software that is used by all vAMSYS VAs to log and track your flight. You can find a link to it under the "Resources" tab on the vAMSYS homepage <https://vamsys.io/phoenix/pages/acars>

There are versions available for Windows, macOS and most Linux Distributions. The Windows version supports MSFS version 2004 onwards, P3D versions 1-5, and X-plane 10-12. macOS and Linux support Xplane 10-12 only.

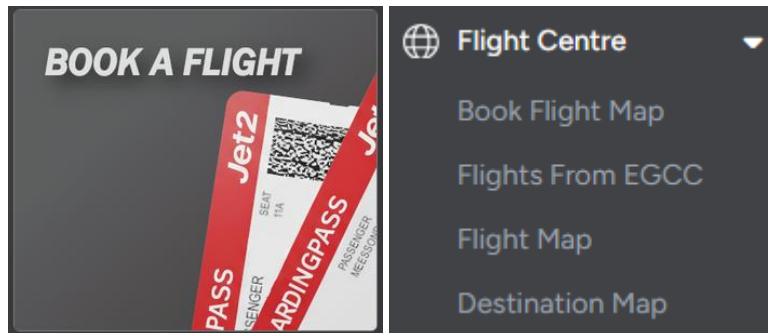
macOS users will need to ensure they have the latest version of .NET Runtime 9 installed. There is a link to this on the resources page mentioned earlier. MSFS and P3D users will also need to install FSUIPC, the free version works fine and there is no need to buy the premium edition.

Xplane pilots on Windows and Linux do not need to install anything additional and Pegasus will default to using the native UDP connection to the simulator as long as "Send Network Data Output" is checked under Network Configuration.

There is no need to run any of these applications in “privileged” or “administrator” modes unless you are already running your simulator with elevated permissions. In this case, Pegasus (and FSUIPC if used) must also be ran with the same permissions.

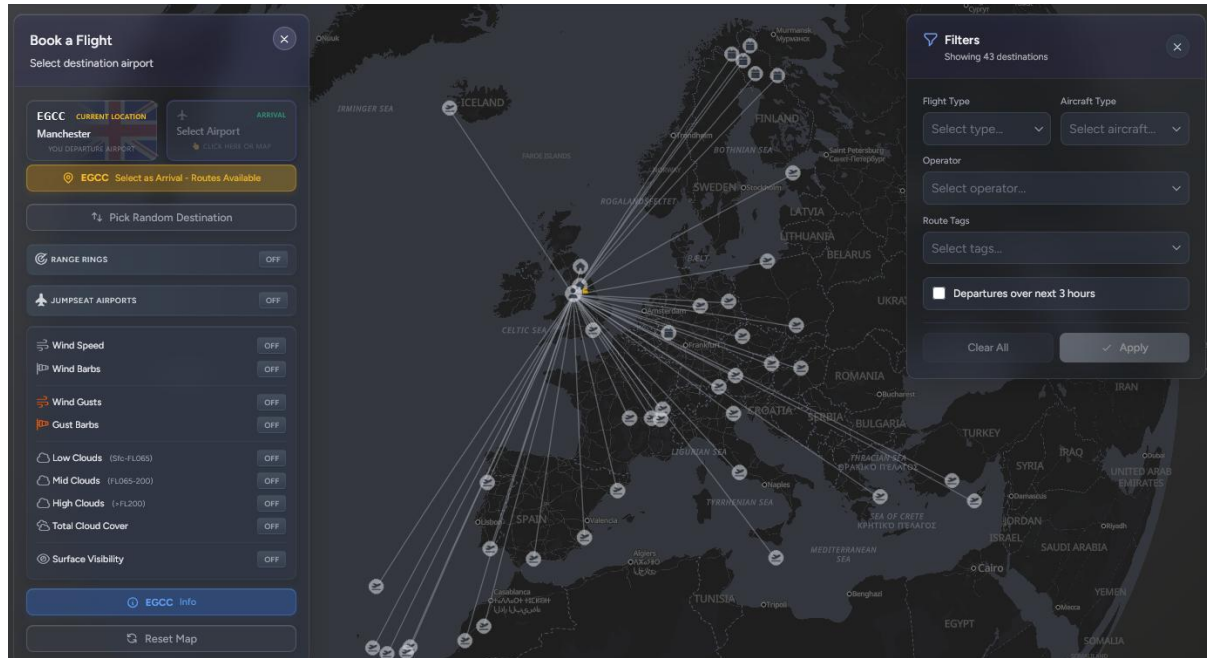
Making your first booking

Before you can fly, you need to create a booking. This can be done by clicking the “Book a Flight” button on the homepage, or from the “Flight Centre” menu on the left-hand side.



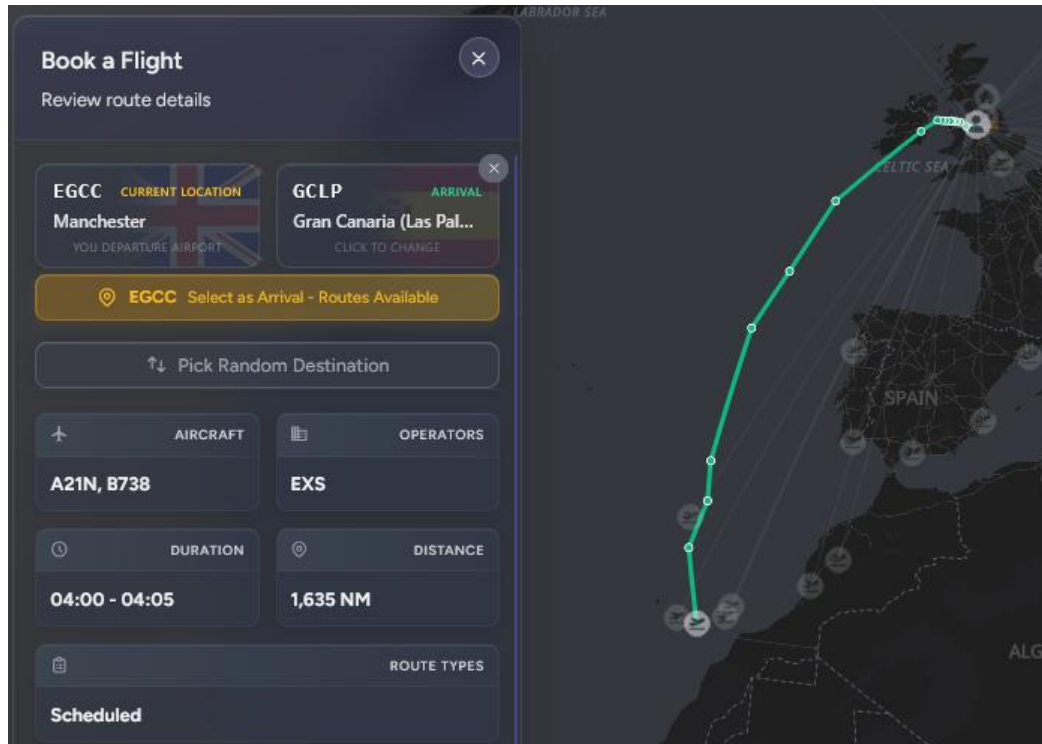
The Flight Map shows you where all of your colleagues are currently flying, as well as details about their flight. The destination map is great for seeing our entire route network, not just the flights available from your current location. It's also handy if you want to jumpseat to another location if you don't have the time or aircraft available to complete the flight yourself.

Flights from [ICAO] gives you a tabular view of the flights you can book from your present location, which is useful if you are browsing/booking from a device with a small screen where the map may be cumbersome, such as on a mobile or tablet. For now though, we'll stick to the flight map.



The flight map will give you a spiderweb view of all the available routes. Various weather overlays for flight planning are available in the menu on the left-hand side, or the filters menu can be used to narrow down your search by Flight type, Aircraft Type or Route Tags. We use these tags to give you an idea of the expected flight duration (0-1 hours, 1-2 hours etc) for when you have limited time, and also to display the AIRAC cycle that route is validated against.

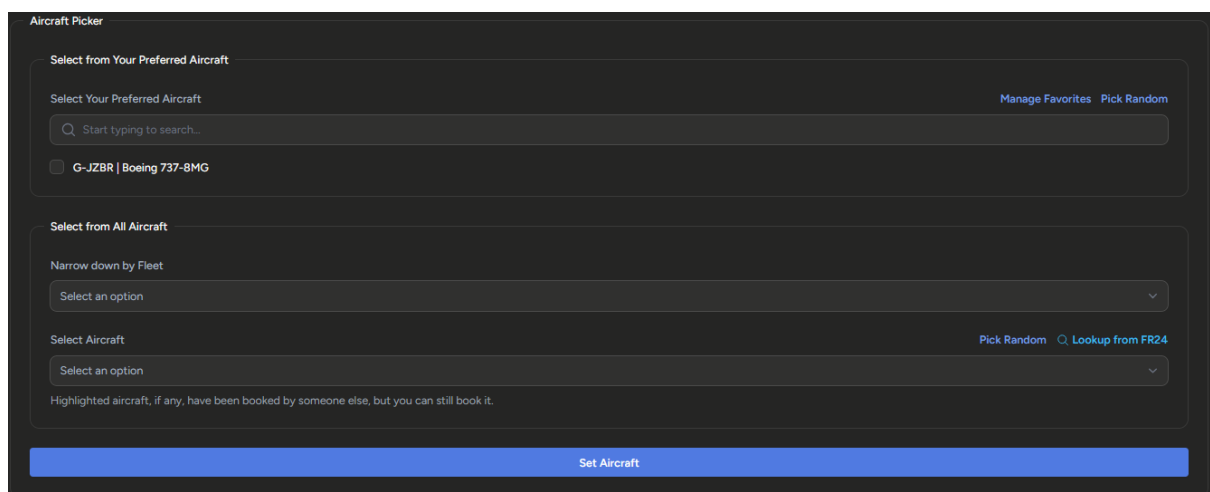
Hovering over a destination will give you some preliminary information about the location, as well as showing what routes can be booked as your onward or return journey. Clicking the destination will draw the actual flight plan routing as well as detailed information about the route. If you're happy with your choice, scroll down to the "Dispatch Flight" button, or click on another destination if you've changed your mind.



Where multiple options exist for the selected route, you'll be shown a table of different routes to pick from, otherwise you'll be taken straight to the dispatch page.

There's a lot to process on the dispatch page which may seem daunting at first, but we'll break it down into manageable chunks. Most of the options you select now will be remembered for subsequent bookings.

First is your aircraft selection. If you have a favourite aircraft set which are usable on this route, these will be shown first, or you can find any other aircraft in our airline using the dropdown boxes underneath. You can bookmark your favourite aircraft under Resources> Aircraft.



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Once the Aircraft is set, you are forwarded onto the full booking screen. Here we have the Dispatch Details, Flight Options, Payload configuration and Simbrief settings (if applicable).

Dispatch Details

Aircraft* [Aircraft Picker](#) [FR24 Lookup](#) Callsign Flight Number Dispatch via SimBrief

G-JZBR | Boeing 737-8MG EXS99DR LS1747

SimBrief Airframe Profile Manage Profiles & Defaults

B737-800 | GJZBR Update Airframes

Cost Index Flight Level Your Departure Time* UTC +0 Time Setter

6 370 2025-12-14 00:39

Routing

EKLDAD UY53 WAL L10 PENIL M144 BAGSO DCT DIRUM DCT OMOKO T16 NAVIX DCT LIDRO DCT ORTIS

Under Dispatch Details, you'll see the callsign and flight number configured for the route. You can change these if you need to but we recommend keeping them as the real-life ones. (Note, Vatsim pilots may find their callsign is already taken, you can check if someone else is already using your chosen callsign by visiting <https://callsigns.vexs.uk>)

If you have your simbrief profile linked, you can enable dispatch with simbrief which enables custom airframe profile configured in simbrief as well as the full simbrief dispatch section further down. You can also see the Cost index, Flight Level, Routing and expected departure time here too. The departure time is *your* expected departure time based on when you made the booking, rather than being the departure time of the real-world flight.

The Flight Options section is where you can select if you are flying on an online network, as well as if you are sharing the flight with a co-pilot.

The Payload section is where you can configure the number of passengers on your flight, as well as any baggage. These are randomly generated but are loosely based on expected seasonal passenger loads. Note: Jet2 does not carry any cargo on its passenger services, so the options for selecting this are hidden.

SimBrief Settings

Map [Nicer Route Map](#) Navlog ETOPS Stepclimbs

Whether or not to generate Flight Maps. Whether to calculate a waypoint log. Fuel calculations will be less accurate with it disabled. Whether to calculate an ETOPS scenario, if the route requires it. Whether to calculate step climbs. Also ensures compliance with non-standard FIR cruising levels and airway restrictions. We recommend to always turn it on.

TLR NOTAMs FIR NOTAMs

Whether to calculate takeoff and landing performance. Whether to include airport NOTAMs. Whether to include airspace NOTAMs.

Alternates: 1 Alternate

Alternate Management

Alternate Finder Takeoff Alternate Enroute Alternate Primary Alternate

Fuel & Weight

Fuel & Weight Info Taxi Out: 12 mins Taxi In: 10 mins MEL: mins

ATC: mins WXX: mins Tankering: mins Extra: mins

Min FOB: mins Min FOD: mins Contingency: Reserve:

Save SimBrief settings for next Dispatch Preview SimBrief Flight Plan Preview SimBrief Overrides

The final section is all the simbrief settings for dispatching and generating your OFP. I won't go into each one here but the Primary Alternative will be pre-filled based on Jet2's preferred alternates list.

FLIGHT SIMULATION ONLY – NOT FOR REAL WORLD USE

Once your happy, click “Create Booking” to be taken to the booking summary page. Here you will find all the information about your flight, your OFP, as well as links to download your plan from simbrief to load direct into the simulator.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

CALLSIGN | FLIGHT NUMBER

EXS99DR | LS1747

BOOKING | ROUTE NUMBER

#3490570 | #9792160

DEPARTURE

EGCC / MAN

Manchester

ARRIVAL

GCLP / LPA

Gran Canaria (Las Palmas)

STD

00:39

DURATION

04:00

DISTANCE

1,633 NM

STA

04:39

ETD

00:39

ETA

05:12

METAR

EGCC 132320Z COR AUTO 19006KT 110V230 9999 NCD 09/05 Q1018

GCLP 140000Z 35010KT 9999 BKN035 17/13 Q1013 NOSIG

NOSIG

Airport Information

METAR-TAF.com

Favorite

Airport Information

METAR-TAF.com

Favorite

PILOT INFORMATION

AIRCRAFT

G-JZBR

Boeing 737-800 | B738

COST INDEX

6

FLIGHT LEVEL

370

PASSENGERS

183

LUGGAGE

1,411 kg

FREIGHT

0 kg

Aircraft Information

Favorite

ROUTE TYPE

Scheduled

NETWORK

VATSIM

ROUTE

EKLAD1Y EKLAD UY53 WAL L10 PENIL M144 BAGSO DCT DIRUM DCT OMOKO T16

NAVIX DCT LIDRO DCT ORTIS ORTIS5C

SID RESTRICTION: Only valid for RWY 23 Departures. For 05, reroute ASMIM L975 WAL.

REMARKS

On the right-hand side, there are buttons to change your booking, prefile your flight on your chosen online network, cancel your booking, or submit a manual claim.

Manual claims should be an absolute last resort and all flights should be tracked through Pegasus. Please read the instructions carefully and follow them in full if you do need to make a claim, as incomplete submissions will be rejected.

Let's Fly!

That's everything setup now, so it's time to jump into the cockpit. Once your simulator is fully loaded, parked on stand with the engines off, fire up and login to Pegasus. If you only have one booking, you'll be taken straight to it, and as long as everything connects up as it should (Tip, check the status bar at the top!) you should be good to click the “Start Flight” button. From this point on, everything you do in the sim is tracked and logged, and will become part of the scoring at the end. You can minimise it to the background, or keep it open on another monitor if you want to keep an eye on things, but for now your free to grab your EFB and your checklist, and get on your way.

A good way to check everything is working properly and reporting back to us, is to see if you can see yourself on the live flight map.

Assuming all goes well, a few hours later you'll be landing at your destination, ready to offload another batch of happy holiday makers. Once you're parked-up on the stand, and have shut down your engines, Pegasus will automatically log your flight as complete. Before you go, switch back to the Pegasus Screen and click the “Submit PIREP” button. That sends your log to us to record the flight as complete, and is when you are scored and awarded for your efforts.

FLIGHT SIMULATION ONLY – NOT FOR REAL WORLD USE

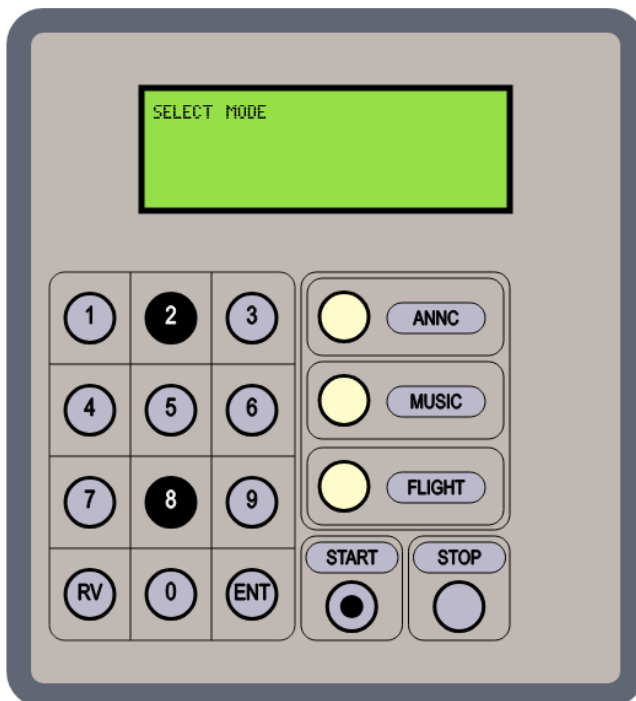
All that's left to do now is have a review of your PIREP back on vAMSYS to see if there's any areas for improvement, and book your next flight with us, because nothing beats a vEXS holiday!

Further Resources

vPRAM

Also known as “The Announcements Machine”, vPRAM is our fully featured system based on a real Boeing Pre-Recorded Announcement Machine. Loaded with recordings of every real announcement used onboard, so you can add another layer of realism to your flight simulation experience.

This tool is exclusively for you as a vEXS member, so it is password protected and we politely ask you don't share the password outside the VA. The password can be found under Resources> Announcements Machine and is updated every couple of months. A notice is usually posted on Discord when this happens.



There is a numbering guide which details the different codes needed to play each announcement, as well as a usage guide for when to play each one.

To start, Select ANNC or MUSIC, and enter the number of the announcement or playlist you want to recall. Click ENT to load the file, crosscheck the description on the matrix display before hitting START to start the playback.

The announcement will automatically stop and reset at the end of the file or you can stop it prematurely by hitting STOP.

Finally, the system has been tested on Edge, Chrome and Firefox, but is known to not work on Opera. We have not tested any other browsers at this time.

Useful Links

Main Website: <https://vexs.uk>

Email: help@vexs.uk

Registration Link: <https://vamsys.io/register/friendlylowfares>

vAMSYS login page: <https://vamsys.io/login/friendlylowfares>

Helpdesk: <https://helpdes.vexs.uk>

vPRAM: <https://vpram.vexs.uk>

Hangar (files, downloads, liveries etc): <https://hangar.to/EXS7>

Discord Server: <https://discord.gg/49yn4V6>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/vexsuk>

X/Twitter: <https://x.com/vEXSuk>