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Combat flight simulator games

Of all the previous VR technology applications, military vehicle simulations may have been the most intrusive. Simulators use sophisticated computer models to replicate the vehicle's capabilities and limitations in a stationary - and secure - computer station. Probably the most well known of all simulators in the military are flight simulators. The Air Force, Army and Navy all use flight simulators to train pilots. Training missions may include how to fly in combat, how to recover in an emergency, or how to coordinate air support with ground operations. All three branches use hardware developed by the military as well as from third-party vendors. For this reason, many of the flight simulators they use are different from each other. Often this can cause difficulties in linking systems together - simulated enemies may not appear in one place in the seats of multiple pilots, for example. There is currently a big push to create better networks between simulators to facilitate coordinated training missions. Although flight simulators may differ from one model to another, most of them have similar basics settings. The simulator is located above the electronic motion base or hydraulic lifting system that responds to user input and events during the simulation. As the pilot steers the aircraft, the module he sits twists and tilts, giving the user haptic feedback. The word haptic refers to a sense of touch, so the haptic system is one that gives users feedback he can feel. The joystick with force feedback is an example of a haptic device. Some flight simulators include a fully enclosed module, while others simply have a series of computer monitors arranged to cover the pilot's field. Ideally, the flight simulator will be designed so that when the pilot looks around, he sees the same controls and layout as he would in a real plane. Since one aircraft can have a very different cockpit layout than another, there is no perfect simulator choice that can accurately represent each vehicle. Some training centers invest in several simulators, while others sacrifice the accuracy of convenience and cost by sticking to a single simulator model. In the next section we will look at VR simulators for ground vehicles and submarines. With air travel mostly impossible in 2020, it is tempting to take to the virtual sky. Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020 is probably the best way to do it now, but the game will run you $60, at least, and also cost additional planes. And that probably won't change any time soon. As is the case with most simulator games, flight simulators have a long shelf life. The X-Plane 11, for example, is still a full $60, despite being three years old, and it's over $2,000 worth of DLC. With this type of fare, you will need the best free flight simulators make the sky cheap. There are many many Free-to-play games out there and that include free-to-play flight sims. Our list includes civilian flight sims, all of which are as realistic as possible, as well as battle-driven sims, where developers trade a bit for realism action. While a game like Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020 has more bells and whistles – not to mention better graphics – these titles will at least allow you to soak your toes in this world of flight simulation without spending money. The best free civilian flight simulators GeoFS Available: Web browser If your web service has a strict data cover or your computer just doesn't have enough space, GeoFS works fully in your browser. In this free pc game, you can take off and fly around the world on one of the 20 planes using the joystick, mouse, or your best keyboard. You've probably never run out of space to see, because the sim includes over 30,000 different runways. Want a game on the go? You can fly using your mobile device, too. Setting a throttle and taking off for the first time is very simple. You can quickly adjust controls at any time, as well as put on useful instructions to help your maiden voyage. If you fail to fly multi-engined airplanes, you can always switch to the traditional propeller model. The simulator even includes a hot air balloon, helicopter, and paraglider – just don't start with a paraglider of 30,000 feet in the air. The free version supports massively multiplayer interaction. At any time, you can run into another player flying through the sky or a commercial airliner moving in real time. The weather also changes based on real-time data from the Open Weather Map. This means that in the rain or sleet you experience mirrors, which pilots currently endure in the real world. Want to see where you run into other players? GeoFS is a live map that tracks all pilots. Just right click on any plane and select the starting height and you will immediately appear in the same place. Although the plane models are surprisingly detailed, the environment is ugly. The city below you looks much less like a collection of buildings and more like a wash of green and bee. For 10 euros a year - about $ 12, depending on the exchange rate - you can subscribe to the HD tile that GeoFS pulls from Bing. It's still a browser based game, so don't expect great visuals. No more than that, hd tile corresponds to the detail of the plane models. YSFlight Available: Windows, MacOS YSFlight sometimes feels like it hasn't evolved much since its humble beginnings, but it's not bad. The basic design and visual effects of the simulator, which are less than impressive, take care of low-power computers. However, it still offers a powerful set of built-in features in just a few megabytes. Who can really complain? This sim's homespun history is at its most Aspect. Soji Yamakawa a.k.a. Soji Yamakawa, aka YS, alone created it as a university project in 1999. He continued to develop the project as a hobby over the next few years, although the software has not received a major update for quite some time. You can play a much more beautiful flight sims, but YSFlight keeps it simple and welcoming. In total, this sim provides more than 70 aircraft to fly, covering everything from the Blue Angels F-18 Hornet to the Apache helicopter. You'll also find a wide range of maps that include many well-known regions from around the world. You can even tweak additional features, such as wind variables and day-night component, with relative ease. YSFlight is highly customizable, allowing you to do anything from flying Delta formation to artificial intelligence-based wingmates engaging in aerial dogfights with friends. In doing so, the Atari-style HUB provides detailed information about flight speed, elevation, direction and other relevant information. You can record and replay game footage directly into the program. The big deal, though, is the community. Although the YSUpload tool was retired in 2014, add-ons created by the entire community are still available. Add-ons include everything from new plane models to maps of ground vehicles. With the vastness of the content, YSFlight is much more than a flight simulator. While we emphasize it for our civilian flight capabilities, YSFlight offers air combat, missions, multiplayers and much more. YSFlight includes joystick support, as well as a standard control mouse and keyboard. FlightGear Available: For Windows, MacOS FlightGear is an undisputed champ when it comes to advanced settings and clean, unlimited customization. The root date of the open source software is 1997, but developers and sim's rabid community continues to expand and tweak its extensive map and feature set. The latest updates made it up to current computing standards, making it the most resource-intensive option on our list. If you are not accustomed to the barebones nature of open source software documentation, installation may be a problem. Once you are over this obstacle, however, you can navigate in a beautiful, 3D-resusable environment. You can soar to the Cessna 172 or choose another aircraft of a deep variety that includes the Boeing 777, A6M20 Zero, and Zeppelin NT07 airship. FlightGear's built-in scenery is limited, but you can download different regions and more than 20,000 airports directly through FlightGear's website, BitTorrent, or by purchasing an optional Blu-ray disc. The daunting installation process and interface is also easier using the FlightGear wiki, which helps you perform the installation process and helps you take off, landing and other basic flight procedures. FlightGear has consistently been praised for its ongoing dedication thanks to the enthusiasm of the developer It is also praised for its realism, earning high marks on everything from common flight control to tiny details such as lighting. And while it can be large, bulky, and full of high flying muscles, the abundance of user curator documentation and star support features is enough to keep any newcomers afloat. Google Earth Flight Simulator Available: Windows, MacOS, Linux Do you know google earth desktop client offers built-in flight simulator? It's not a heavy hitter by any means like other options on this list, but it's a neat way to fly across rust-covered areas of Mars or over the moon's barren landscape. To grab a Google desktop client, just navigate to the Google Earth website, select Earth Version from the menu, and download Google Earth Pro for Windows, Mac, or Linux. To access the flight simulator, click Tools from the drop-down menu, followed by Enter flight simulator. Alternatively you can type Ctrl + Alt + A on Windows or Command + Option + A on MacOS. This is a basic setup and, unfortunately, a basic flight sim. Google Earth Flight Simulator has a camera with HUD flying over map data from Google. There is no feedback, no sound, and no cockpit view. It's less of a flight simulator and more of a flight novel ry, which isn't a bad thing. If nothing else, Google Earth Flight Simulator allows you to quickly fly around the planet without worrying about, really, anything. It's more than earth, too. Using map data from NASA, you can fly over the Earth's moon and Mars by clicking on Saturn's icon in the application. Although these scans are not nearly as detailed as the world map, it's nice to change the pace as far as free flight simulators go. Despite its simplified approach, Google Earth Flight Simulator still supports joysticks as well as keyboard and mouse, and comes with two accurately modeled planes – the Viper F-16 and SR22 propeller plane. The best free flight simulators with Combat Digital Combat Simulator Available: Windows Digital Combat Simulator (DCS) is a free-to-play military combat simulation engine. And the engine really is the best way to describe it. Spanning several generations of war and featuring countless high-quality models, dcs is a playground for any military enthusiast. The game looks incredible, well beyond any of the sims of the civil flight mentioned above. The free version gives you a large mission in the area of the Caucasus region, covering much of georgian and black sea, and it includes two planes - the Russian Sukhoi Su-25T and the Second World War North American TF-15D fighter. It also comes with a packed-level editor that allows you to develop and play missions with sophisticated AI weapon systems. DCS is free-to-play, but you need to spend money to get most of it. And, for example, a lot of titles, DCS charges quite a penny. Inches about $2,500 DLC. Campaigns are cheap around $10 each, but you will pay anywhere from $50 to $70 for another aircraft model. The land units are a little more forgiving, priced around $40 each. However, there is a reason why every aircraft is so expensive. DCS also sells modules for many aircraft games that allow you to customize the planes you use most often (and they're much more reasonable at about $6 each). Instead of getting everything, DCS asks you to learn to use the airplanes you have. And if you master them, there are plenty of models waiting in the DLC store. Although dcs is very focused on the fight – that's a well-kept name – it's not focused on fighting with other players. Dcs is a single player experience that stands out because of its wide-ranging editor and gorgeous visuals. Instead of quick dogfights, you participate in elaborate campaigns and missions, either those by the community or those you designed for yourself. In addition, the game comes with a VR mode that supports Oculus, HTC, and Valve headphones, although you will need to use a gamepad or keyboard and mouse while in VR. War Thunder Available: Windows, MacOS, Linux, PlayStation 4, Xbox One No War stirs as much fascination with World War II. Memorable battles. Stirring stories of good and evil. All this nourishes society's obsession with this era. However, despite all the pain and suffering caused by this war, the result is fiction usually leans against romanticism. For flight enthusiasts, this war brings air superiority to the fore, with air carriers expanding to reach the air force across all oceans. Set in this period of aerial innovation, Kara Thunder offers a more action-oriented flight experience that allows players to pilot any of the hundreds of different aircraft on five major powers (USA, Germany, UK, USA, USA and Japan). The game features some different modes, too, allowing both hardcore simulations and relaxed, arcade style gameplay. As such, newcomers and veteran aces will feel at home. War Thunder includes an online multiplayer component, with most battles pitting two sides of 16 players against each other. These battles often emphasize dogfighting, with the aim of reducing the number of enemies or incorporating ground targets. Players can also participate by means of land vehicles, including tanks and anti-aircraft vehicles. Pilots get points they can use to increase their stats as they complete goals and win battles, which in turn unlocks new planes and adjusts components such as visual range and G-force tolerance. Of course, dedicated players can spend real world money to get these in-game perks faster, although they won't have any inherent advantages over those who unlock them with sheer persistence. The game offers three broad archetypes. Fighters are agile good dogfighting. Attackers are slightly slower planes with huge weapons designed to take down armored targets. Bombers are heavily armored aircraft with huge payloads that can wipe out clusters of ground forces. All three categories have unique strengths and weaknesses, so victory will depend on teams using a healthy combination of three. War Thunder operates under the freemium model. There is no charge to start playing, but the content is not fully available at first. The game also supports cross-play, which allows PC players to compete with either Xbox One or PlayStation gamers, but not both simultaneously. Rise of the Flight Available: Windows Battlefield 1 brought World War I back into the mainstream, but it still tends to live in the shadow of its successor. Maybe it's because the war took place 31 years ago or because Kaiser Wilhelm doesn't make it as nefarious a villain as Adolf Hitler. Whatever the reason, people tend to forget the Great War out of the occasional Ernest Hemingway novel. It's a shame because WWI is strewn with iconic technological advances, especially when you believe it was the first major war to use airplanes. Ace pilots of the era – like the Red Baron – were international celebrities, fighting air duels that became the stuff of legend. Recognizing gallantry old school dogfights, Rise flight forces participants to pilot the seat of classic WWI aircraft, including the iconic Fokker DR.1 triplane. The first thing players could notice is sim's extraordinary commitment to authenticity. This makes the aircraft thoroughly detailed, from the chassis down to the gauges lining the cockpit. This focus on juicy detailing extends to the name at various levels, too, acting as massive re-creations of actual sites on the Western Front. While the fight is the main draw, the sim can tempt you to just fly around and take the view of Verdun. The game also has some different modes, including custom scenarios, multiplayer battles, and a campaign that recreates several historic battles. In addition, there are several ways to adjust the controls, so whether you want a mouse and keyboard or tactile authenticity of the flight stick, you can play Rise flight so that feels most comfortable for you. Like War Thunder, Rise flight has some expensive microtransactions. Still, you can get a lot from the free version. We recommend reading through II./JG1_Hotlead an extensive Steam Guide to get the most out of it. World of Warplanes Available: Windows, a MacOS Air spinoff of the tank world, aptly titled World of Warplanes puts players in big battles against each other, allowing them to pilot everything from wooden biplane to WWI modern jets. Like tank world, Warplanes follow the freemium model - you can start playing free, but a number of planes require players to buy them with real money or in-game currency. At first, players only have access to the Great War's primitive warbird. Players earn currency by winning what they can spend to unlock more advanced planes. Earning enough to buy a new plane can take some time, however, and there are scores of vehicles you can unlock too. Warplanes are probably the most arcade focused game on our list. Control is streamlined down to essentials, so there is no need to fiddle with dozens of gauges. While it makes it easier for rookies to learn, it eliminates quite a bit of the depth and authenticity that many people value in flight sims. You can start a dogfight easily, but the fight lacks the hallmark of the nuances of more realistic simulators. Games of various locales – all of which will be familiar with the history of buffs – are excellent visually so players can enjoy the views even if they are not blown away by the name of the inherent lack of depth. The progression system and its resulting hearty plane selection should keep many players trying to unlock new tools. For those who want a more casual combat game, especially the one they can play with friends, World of Warplanes is an option. Editor recommendation suggestions