

Compass

Guide to taking screenshots

There are many different ways and tools used for taking screenshots. This guide details one way to take screenshots and is just one of many successful ways to take them

Tools

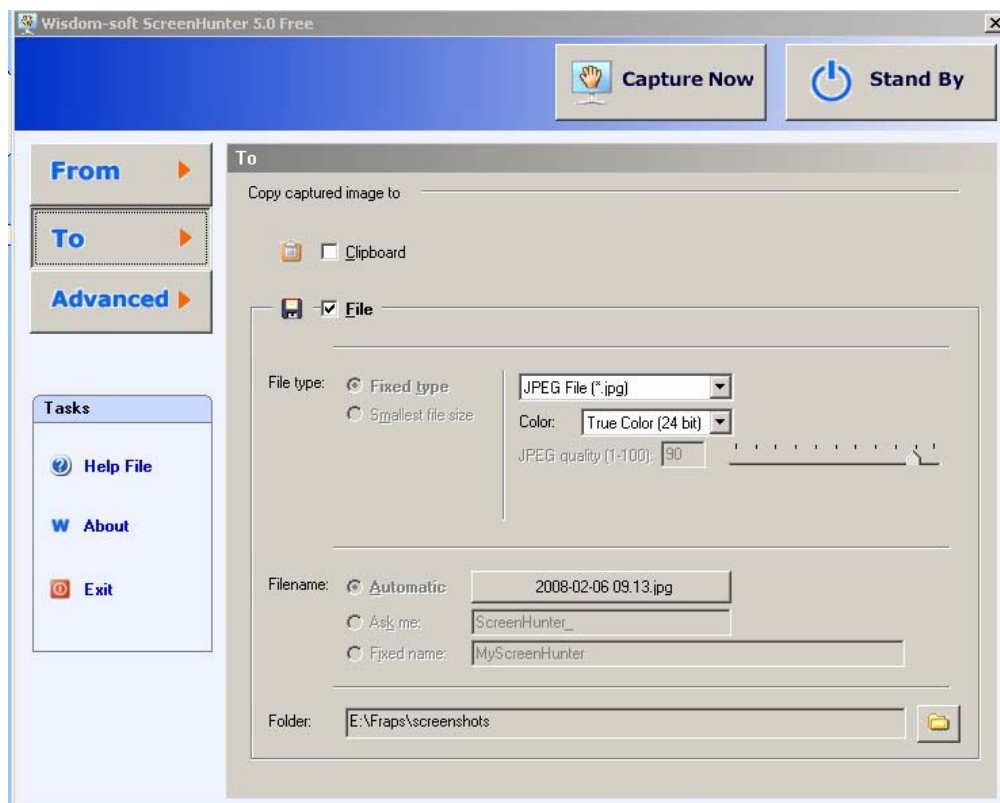
Screenhunter: a free, easy to use screenshooting program that takes screenshots by pressing a single predefined key at any time during flight, saving it to a new filename each time. (The printscreen key is a good one to use) <http://wisdom-soft.com/products/screenhunter.htm>

Picasa by google: a great tool to allow you to display, sort, view and crop screenshots (or any graphic)

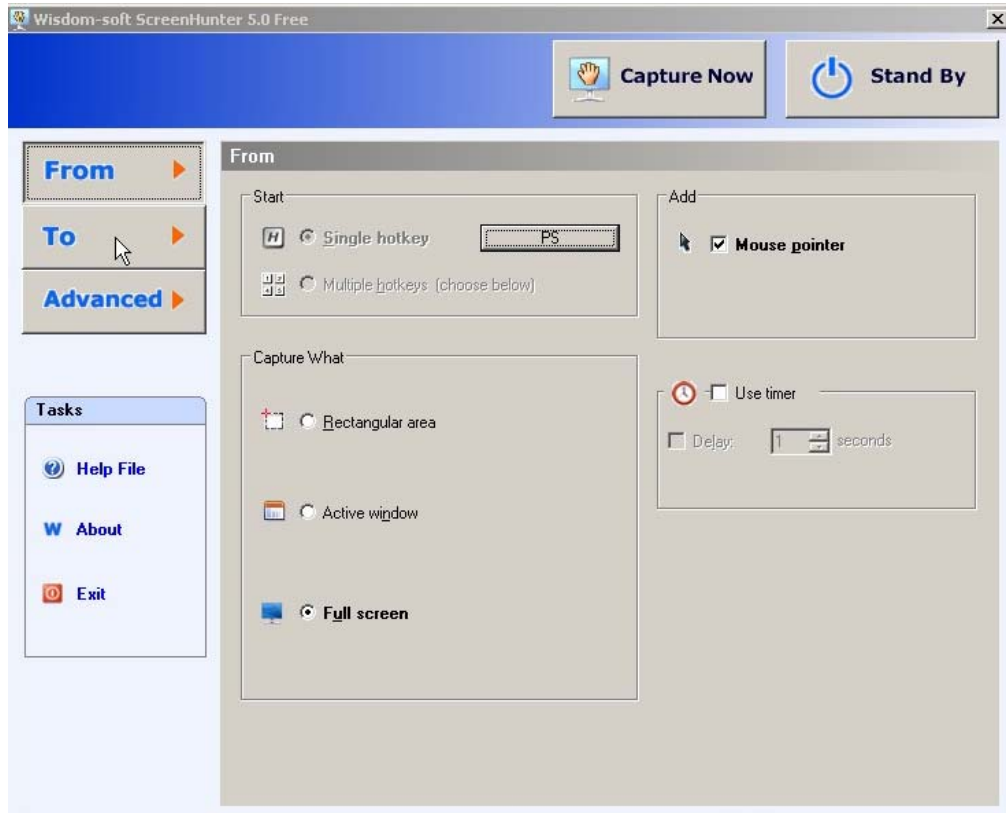
FSRecorder (<http://www.fs-recorder.net/>): Allows recording and playback of flights, similar as the instant replay and video recorder built into FS, but with a lot more features.

Configuring screenhunter

1. Configure screenhunter to automatically create new a new picture file with a unique name in a particular directory for each keypress. Use full screen mode.



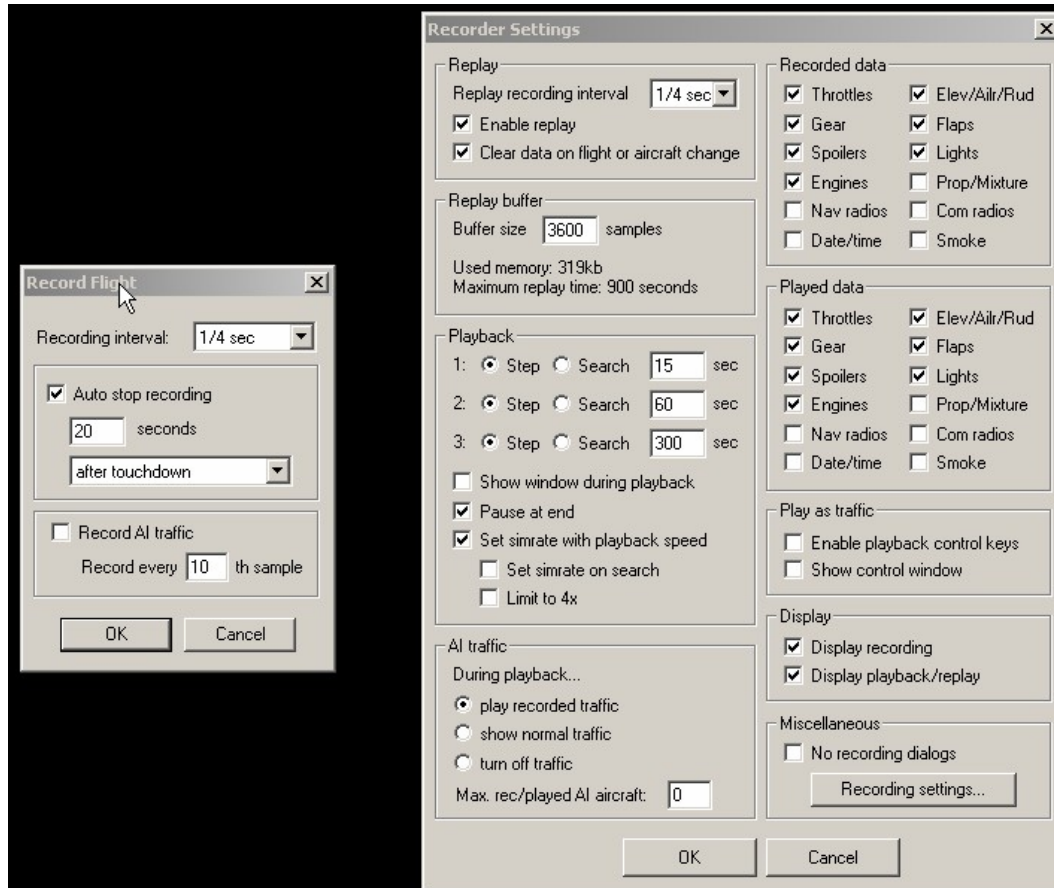
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Configuring FS-Recorder

It's best to setup FS-Recorder to stop recording automatically 20secs after landing. Configure this in the Settings menu. The rest of the settings as below



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Taking screenshots

When you see something that you might like to use later, press the predefined screenhunter key. If you find a better angle press it again, and whenever you want to take a shot. Screenhunter will save each of these as separate file for later review.

But I'm too busy to take shots!

This is where FS-Recorder helps. It's not easy to take good shots and fly well during busy phases of flight, such as landing. When flying online, pausing causes understandable problems to other aircraft and this is where fs-recorder comes in very handy.

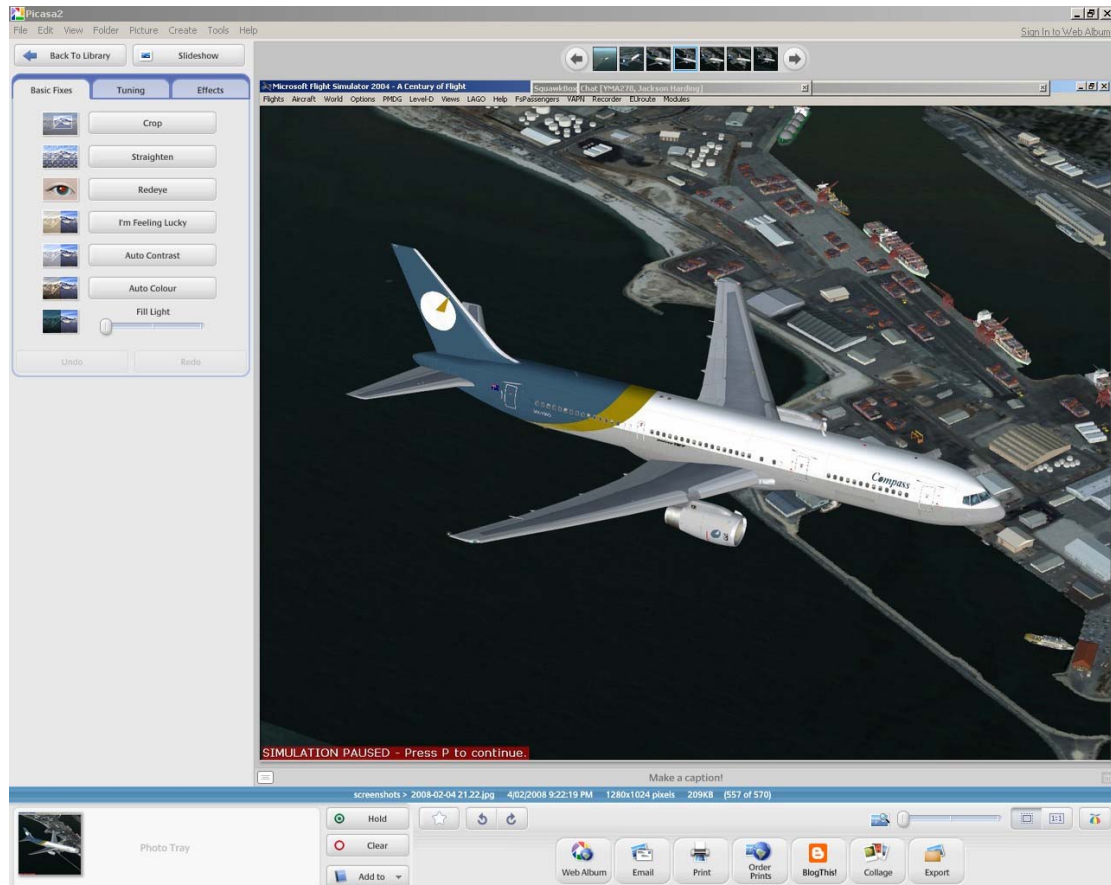
On approach (not too far out, say 7nm out), start the recorder and fly the aircraft. 20secs after landing FS-Recorder will prompt for a filename, save the file and taxi to the gate.

After shutdown go offline, play back the recording you've saved and take screenshots off the recording. Some benefits of Fs-Recorder are that it shows all control surface movements (default replay doesn't) and it has some great tower view options where the tower view to the best position can be moved using the keypad.

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Reviewing and choosing screenshots

Picasa (picasa.google.com) is a great tool for reviewing, cropping and any other small changes. Configure it to read the same directory that you setup in screenhunter. Delete, crop, adjust as required. When ready, Export the picture (File->Export Picture to Folder) choosing resize to 1024 to a folder of your choice ready for posting.



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Step-by-step:

- Fly the landing, recording the section you want to later shoot
- Playback the recording
- Pause the playback at the right spot
- Make sure the settings in the acft are all OK for internal shots (autobrakes often go off, so check this)
- Choose the best view, external or tower, adjust the angle, zoom level.
- Select the right time of day to get the best light
- If really serious, change the weather to suit
- Take the shot
- Open Picasa and delete the shots that didn't quite work. On the shots that did crop out the border and unnecessary background.
- Export it and post it!

Tips and tricks

- Adjust the weather and time of day to get the best shot
- Pause while adjusting angles (in the replay, not online)
- Make sure the mouse cursor is not showing
- Be careful when zooming that the background doesn't look totally unrealistic (blurred and out of focus)
- In spot view (FS9) set the view distance to 500' to get the best view of the background (Views->View Options->Distance).