Downloadable Flight Training Software

What exactly is Flight Training Software?
The American Flyers Flight Training Software is for Microsoft Flight Simulator FSX which contains interactive lessons for Private Pilot, Instrument Rating, IFR Proficiency, Certified flight Instructor-Airplane or Instrument. The program is designed for you to learn and practice the procedures required to obtain your Private License, Instrument Rating or Instructor Certificate. It does so by providing a virtual instructor who introduces the procedures and then interacts with what you do as you fly the simulator.

What else is included in the software download?
The download also includes the American Flyers Learning Guide. This Learning Guide presents all of the pre-flight instruction needed to fly each lesson in the simulator. It also contains all of the approach charts needed for these lessons.

Is the Software Interactive?
Yes. You will be shown how to accomplish a certain skill in the airplane and then asked to demonstrate it yourself.

What is the value of the course and can it really save me money on my flight training?
The course allows you to learn the procedures needed to obtain a Private License, Instrument Rating or Instructor Certificate and to practice them in the simulator until you are proficient. It has been our experience that those who use this program to become proficient before starting their flight program, or in conjunction with their flight program, are able to finish in less hours and thereby save a great deal of money.

Is the time I spend flying the Flying Professor logable?
It is not logable towards any of the requirements for obtaining a Private License, Instrument Rating or Instructor Certificate but it will minimize the amount of logable hours necessary to achieve proficiency.

What equipment will I need to make the Flying Professor program work?
You will need to have a desktop or laptop computer running Windows XP or newer operating system. You will also need to have a yoke, with a throttle quadrant and rudder pedals. We recommend the CH Products USB equipment which can be added to your software purchase during checkout. Finally, you will need to have an installed copy of Microsoft Flight Simulator FSX software, either the Standard or Deluxe version running, before installing our software.

Does the Flight Training Software work on my mac?
No. The software is only compatible with a PC. If you do not have a PC check out our "school in a box" described on channel 35 of our website. . . here you'll find everything you need to get started using the Flight Training Software.

Where do I find instructions on how to download the software?
Once the software is purchased you will receive an email receipt that has download instructions attached. You may print these out if it makes it easier to follow.

Where can I find out how to install the software lessons once I have downloaded them?
The download file contains an "Installation Instructions" pdf that walks you step by step through the installation process.

Will I need to do anything in particular to set up my flight controls to work with the program?
Yes. The CH Products USB flight controls are plug-and-play, but for them to work most efficiently, they should be calibrated before being used with the lessons. After you have installed the software for the flight controls, click on the Settings menu item on the left side of the Microsoft Flight Simulator screen. Click on the Controls button and notice that you can adjust the sensitivity of the controls as well as program what each of the buttons will do. It is generally a good idea to adjust the sensitivity to the least sensitive positions, i.e. move the sliders all the way to the left. The Assignments button can be used to program which buttons on the flight yoke controls what functions. You can leave the assignments as they are or modify them to your liking. The other button on this menu, Calibrate, should be used before you attempt to fly the simulator to calibrate the yoke and throttle so that they provide a full range of control.
While you are in the Settings menu, there are a few other settings that need to be adjusted. On the opening menu, move the slider labeled Traffic, at the bottom of the screen, until the wording changes to Minimal. This will keep extraneous ATC communications from stepping on your flight instructor's instructions. Then on the Realism tab, move all of the Flight Model sliders to the far left. Also, "uncheck" the box at the top that reads Display Flying Tips.

Where can I find information about how to use the software lessons once they are installed?
The software will download onto your desktop the Learning Guide for the course you purchased. The final section of the Learning Guide contains a Simulator Supplement. This supplement tells you how to set up the flight controls, the settings to adjust on the Microsoft Flight Simulator program to allow the simulator lessons to work most efficiently, how to integrate the lessons with the content of the Learning Guide, tech support information, any charts necessary to "fly" the lessons, and other information to assist you to get the most out of your simulator experience. Please read the supplement before using the software program.

Once the software is installed, how do I access the lessons?
The lessons are incorporated directly and seamlessly into the Microsoft Flight Simulator program as Missions. To access the courseware, start FSX and when the program opens, click on the Missions link in the menu system on the left side of the screen. At the top of the Flight Simulator X window, click on the Category drop down menu, then click on the Instrument Rating Program folder and double click on the desired lesson.

How do I progress through the software lessons?
The simulator lessons are a one-for-one match with the flight lessons in the Private or Instrument Learning Guide. You simply progress sequentially through the material lesson by lesson. You first read the pre-flight material until you have comprehended the concepts and then you fly the corresponding simulator lesson and practice until you are proficient.

How many individual lessons are there and how long are they?
PVT: For the Private there are twelve lessons that cover takeoff and landings, emergency operations, climbs, descents, cockpit orientation, VOR orientation and much more. They are varying lengths and include over 20 hours of training.

IRA: For the Instrument there are twelve lessons that cover basic attitude flying, IFR navigation, VOR, NDB, GPS, and ILS approaches, holding patterns, DME arcs, and a three leg IFR cross country flight. They are of varying lengths and include over 20 hours of training.

CFIA: For the Certified Flight Instructor Airplane there are 19 lessons that cover an array of material. This program will help develop and sharpen your instructing skills, some lessons that are included: teaching Normal Take-off and Landings, 180 Power-off Approaches, Basic Attitude Instrument Flying just to name a few.

CFII: For the Certified Flight Instructor Instrument there are 13 lessons that cover an array of material. This program will help you develop and sharpen your instructing skills, some lessons that are included: teaching GPS Approaches, Leg 1, 2,3 of an IFR Cross-country, and Holding Pattern Procedures just to name a few.

Is there any way to evaluate my performance after I have completed a lesson?
Yes. After completing a lesson, you will be given the option of viewing a Flight Analysis. This analysis will allow you to review your flight path, including altitude, heading, and airspeed deviations, which will provide a visual performance map by which to evaluate your performance.

Should I fly each of the lessons more than once?
Definitely. Just as you have to review lessons in the airplane, it is necessary to review each of the lessons until you feel comfortable with the procedures and are able to complete them with proficiency.
What airplane does the program simulate and can I change the airplane to a different model?
The Flying Professor courseware simulates the Cessna 172R model. The 172 is and has been the industry standard for training for many years. Microsoft FSX does allow you to change aircraft, however the timing of the lessons would be thrown off by using an airplane other than the Cessna 172 and the lesson would not work properly. However, after you have become proficient with the lessons, you can do some "free flying" in other models and practice what you learned in the course.

If for some reason I need to pause the program, can I do so?
Yes. At any time simply by pushing the letter "P" on the keyboard, the program will pause. Pushing the letter "P" a second time causes the program to resume.

Is there anything else I should keep in mind while using the Flying Professor program?
Yes. It is VERY important that you follow exactly the directions given by the instructor. The program uses certain events to trigger the next event. If you do not do as instructed, the next event might not be triggered and it will appear as though the program is no longer working. An example might be when you are told to climb or descend to a certain altitude. The program uses the event of reaching that altitude to trigger the next instruction. The same would be true if you were told to taxi to the end of the runway but instead you performed an intersection takeoff. Of course, this does not mean you have to perform the flight maneuvers perfectly. It simply means that you need to follow instructions.

The sound while using my Flight Training Software does not seem to be working correctly, can this be fixed?
Yes. If you have Windows 7 you might run into this issue. You will need to go in to the control panel and change the sound settings. To do so, find your sound settings and there should be a communications tab. Under this tab select the radial that says Do Nothing. If you still have further problems please contact American Flyers Technical Support.

If I run into something that is not working as it should, is there technical support that I can take advantage of?

Yes. For difficulties involving login issues and download problems call 800-268-6198. For difficulties with making the program work properly once it has been installed, email a description of the specific problem to simsupport@af.tv and you will receive a response within a few hours.