smartCARS 3 Updates (Legacy)

Legacy: smartCARS 3 has been replaced by CAVacars 2, our own flight tracker. This guide is kept for pilots still using smartCARS 3 and is no longer updated. See the CAVacars 2 Pilot Guide.

This will list any notable updates to smartCARS 3 or our custom plugins.

- smartCARS 3.3 Update - February 2025
- Live Flights Plugin
  - Version 1.1.0
  - Version 1.0.6
- Flight Center Plugin
  - Version 1.1.0
  - Version 1.0.5
  - Version 1.0.6
  - Version 1.0.4

smartCARS 3.3 Update - February 2025

TFDi Design is scheduling a mandatory update to the smartCARS 3 client. Here's what you need to know:

Installation

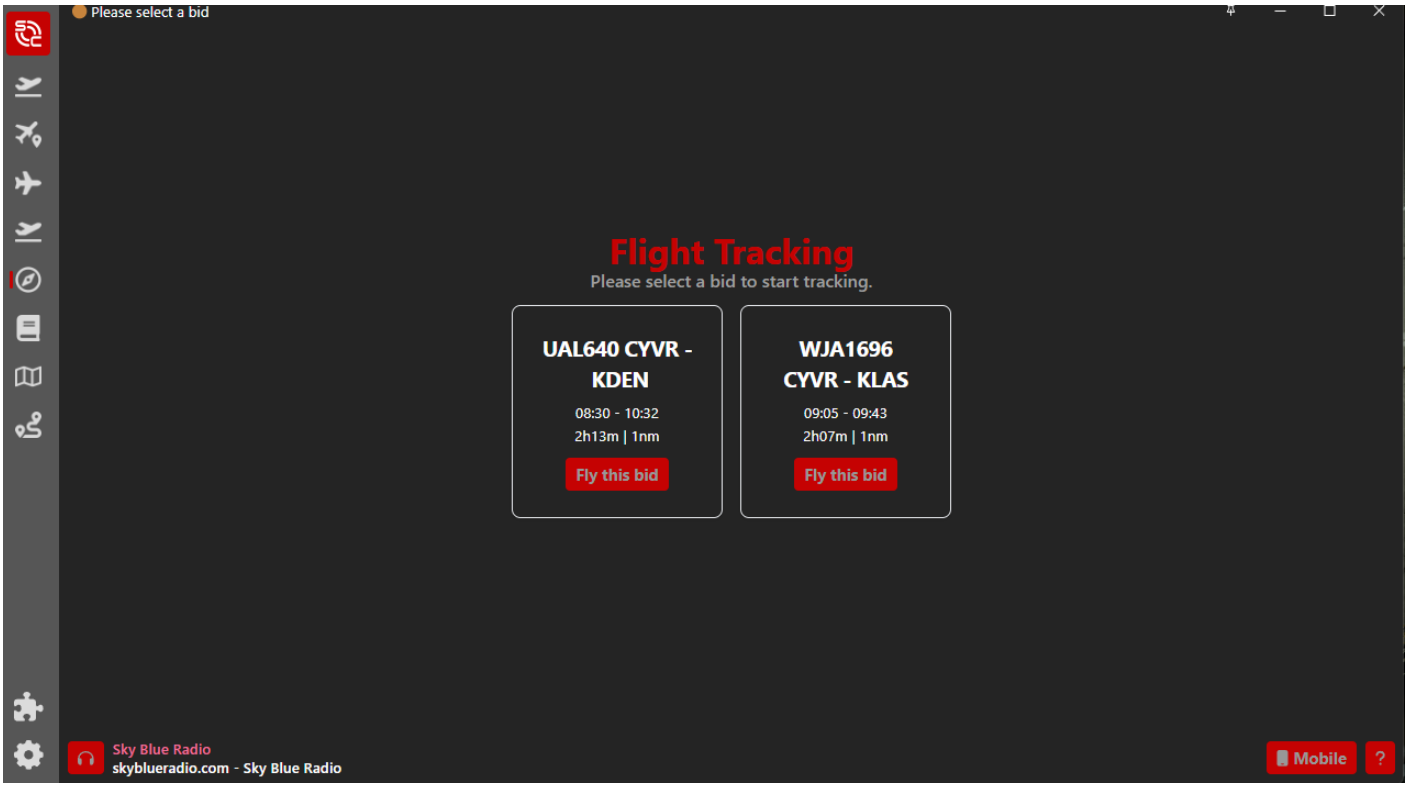
Once the update is available, the next time you launch smartCARS 3, it should prompt you to install the update.

> **Note: This version of smartCARS 3 removes the dependency on FSUIPC.**
>
> If you wish, you may uninstall FSUIPC from your system, unless other tools or add-ons you utilize require it.

> **This also means that Flight Simulator 2004 (FS9) is no longer supported!**
>
> If you are unable to upgrade and wish to continue flying for Canada Air Virtual, please reach out to the Staff Team.

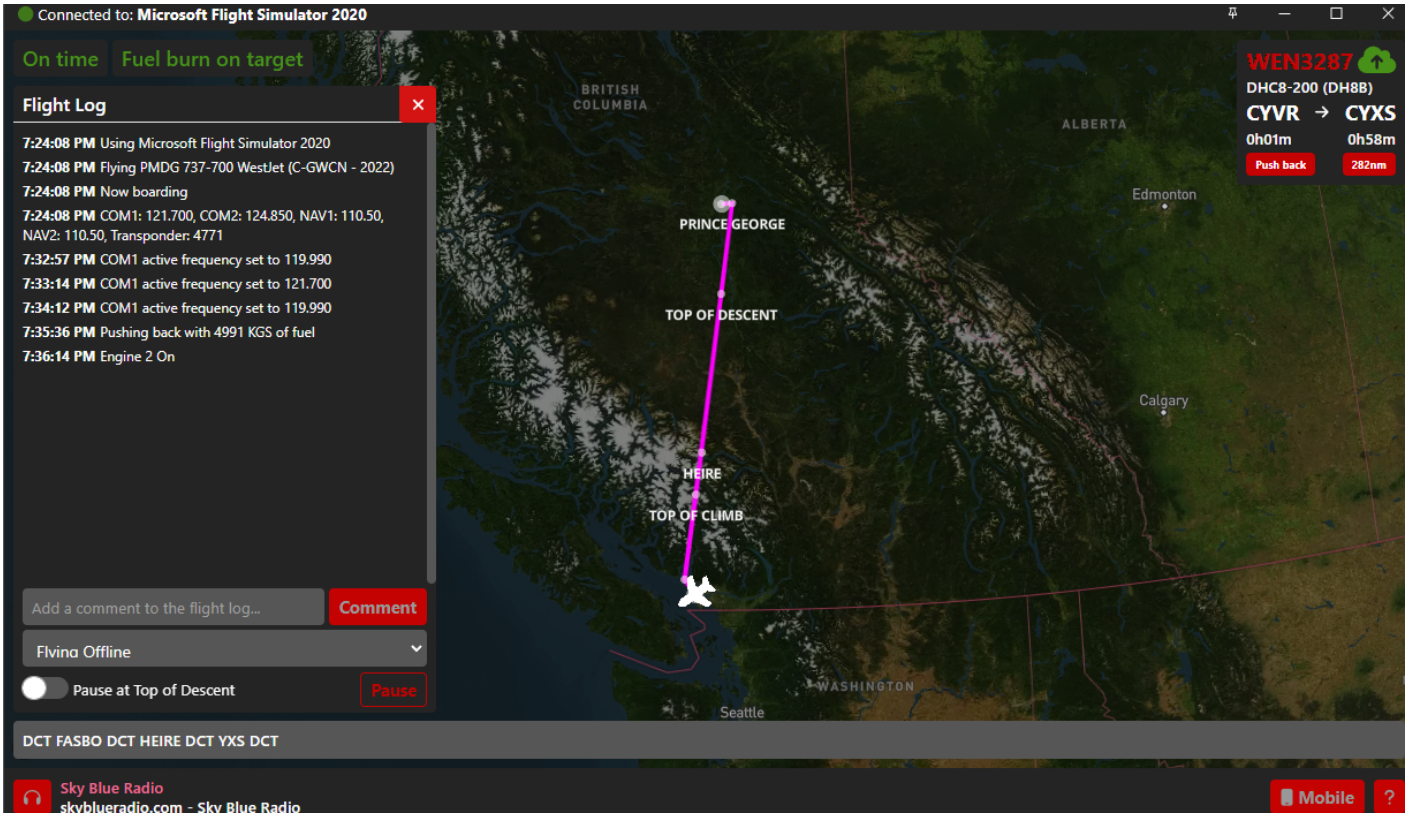
New Features

This new version will detect your airplane location and simulator connection and automatically start a flight if the criteria are correct, such as location in the sim. In case of multiple possible matching Dispatches, you will be presented with an option to pick the flight you're going to fly.



Changes

The Flight Tracking screen will now display your flight on a 3-dimensional globe. You can open the left side pane to view the tracking data that is being recorded in the flight log. This is also where you can enter comments or choose to Pause at Top of Descent.



Canada Air Virtual Custom Plugins (Flight Center, Live Map)

Our custom plugins are fully compatible and have been tested with this new version. There are no changes or issues anticipated here.

Official Change Log

Note, crossed out items do not apply to us as we use custom functionality:

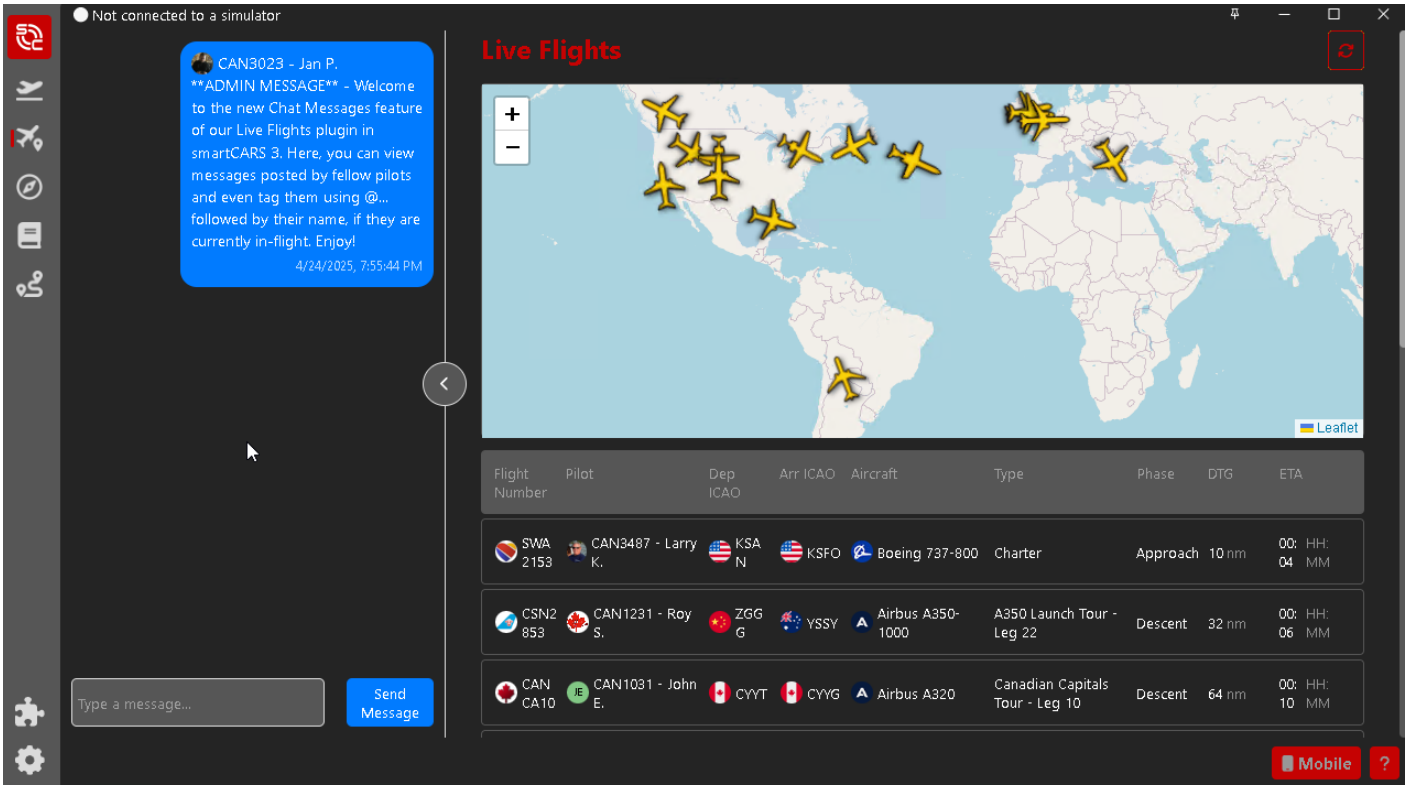
> The changelog is as follows:
>
> - - Added: Automatic flight tracking (with a valid bid)
> - - Added: Always present cancel button to flight tracking page
> - - Added: Remote SimConnect settings
> - - Added: Ability to cancel/attempt to file PIREP after simulator connection loss in-flight
> - ~~- Added: Flight start request system for VAs~~
> - ~~- Added: Ability to edit selected aircraft on bid~~
> - - Added: Always-on-top button/functionality
> - - Added: Enhanced, map-based flight tracking experience
> - - Added: Display of simulator connection status
> - - Added: [smartCARS Pro only] Flight generation system
> - - Added: Discord link on home/profile page (customizable by community)
> - ~~- Added: Suggested flights system~~
> - - Added: Ability to change aircraft via flight tracking page
> - ~~- Added: "View on Map" button on bid flights~~
> - - Fixed: Not properly detecting valid response to TFDi Design flights/create attempt
> - ~~- Fixed: Aircraft box on bids page not selecting originally scheduled aircraft by default~~
> - ~~- Fixed: Aircraft selection during bid not being retained~~
> - - Fixed: Logbook filtering
> - - Fixed: Poor loading performance on logbook
> - - Fixed: Notification padding on profile page
> - **- Changed: Discontinued use of FSUIPC**
> - - Changed: Removed chat system
> - - Changed: Tracking ID is now sent as UUID to community API cancel endpoint
> - - Changed: Loosened access control on local API
> - - Changed: Improved smartCARS map backend code
> - - Changed: Improved logbook performance
> - ~~- Changed: Reworked flight center bids layout~~
> - - Changed: Revamped backend code
> - - Changed: Running as administrator is now possible after a prompt

- - Changed: Reduced mobile button size/text
- - Changed: Improved flight search UI
- - Changed: Improved logbook UI

Live Flights Plugin

Version 1.1.0

New Feature: Chat Messages

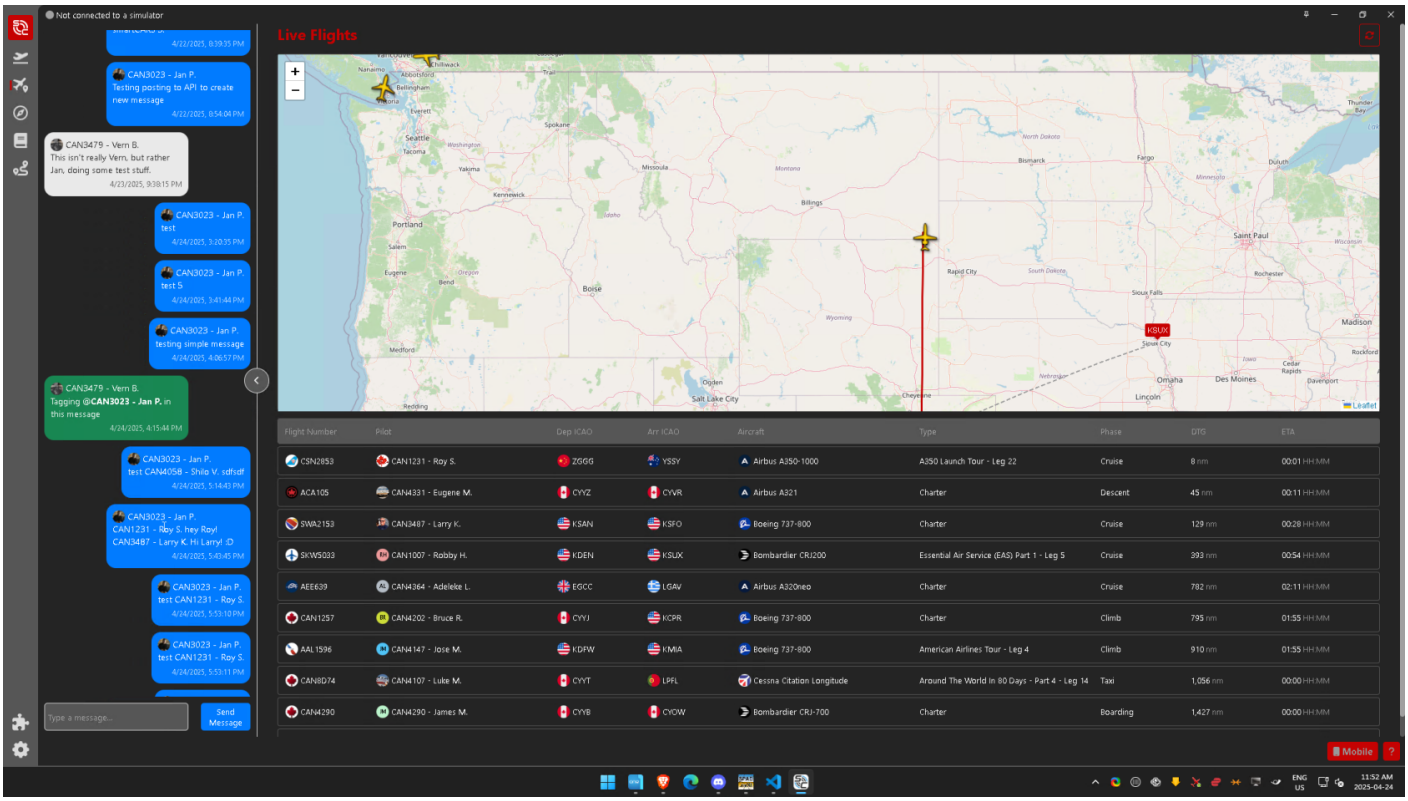


The Live Flights screen in smartCARS 3 now has a sidebar on the left that can be expanded to reveal a messages board for pilots to post chat messages while in flight.

You can tag other pilots by typing the @ symbol, which will reveal a selection list of pilots who are currently live. Messages with your name in it will be highlighted.

You will see the toggle button highlighted in yellow when new messages are posted.

This is a first version of this feature, so please provide feedback on our Discord, and remember that our Code of Conduct applies to these messages!


Not connected to a simulator
4/22/2025, 8:39:35 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
Testing posting to API to create new message
4/22/2025, 8:54:04 PM
CAN3479 - Vern B.
This isn't really Vern, but rather Jan, doing some test stuff.
4/23/2025, 9:38:15 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
test
4/24/2025, 3:20:35 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
test 5
4/24/2025, 3:41:44 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
testing simple message
4/24/2025, 4:06:57 PM
CAN3479 - Vern B.
Tagging @CAN3023 - Jan P. in this message
4/24/2025, 4:15:44 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
test CAN4058 - Shilo V. sdfsdf
4/24/2025, 5:14:43 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
CAN1231 - Roy S. hey Roy!
CAN3487 - Larry K. Hi Larry! :D
4/24/2025, 5:43:45 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
test CAN1231 - Roy S.
4/24/2025, 5:53:10 PM
CAN3023 - Jan P.
test CAN1231 - Roy S.
4/24/2025, 5:53:11 PM
Type a message...
Send Message
Live Flights
Flight Number
Pilot
Dep ICAO
Arr ICAO
Aircraft
Type
Phase
DTG
ETA
CSN2853
CAN1231 - Roy S.
ZGGG
YSSY
Airbus A350-1000
A350 Launch Tour - Leg 22
Cruise
8 nm
00:01 HH:MM
ACA105
CAN4331 - Eugene M.
CYYZ
CYVR
Airbus A321
Charter
Descent
45 nm
00:11 HH:MM
SWA2153
CAN3487 - Larry K.
KSAN
KSFO
Boeing 737-800
Charter
Cruise
129 nm
00:28 HH:MM
SKW5033
CAN1007 - Robby H.
KDEN
KSUX
Bombardier CRJ200
Essential Air Service (EAS) Part 1 - Leg 5
Cruise
393 nm
00:54 HH:MM
AEE639
CAN4364 - Adelelke L.
EGCC
LGAV
Airbus A320neo
Charter
Cruise
782 nm
02:11 HH:MM
CAN1257
CAN4202 - Bruce R.
CYYJ
KCPR
Boeing 737-800
Charter
Climb
795 nm
01:55 HH:MM
AAL1596
CAN4147 - Jose M.
KDFW
KMIA
Boeing 737-800
American Airlines Tour - Leg 4
Climb
910 nm
01:55 HH:MM
CAN8D74
CAN4107 - Luke M.
CYYT
LPFL
Cessna Citation Longitude
Around The World in 80 Days - Part 4 - Leg 14
Taxi
1,056 nm
00:00 HH:MM
CAN4290
CAN4290 - James M.
CYYB
CYOW
Bombardier CRJ-700
Charter
Boarding
1,427 nm
00:00 HH:MM
Mobile
ENG US
11:52 AM 2025-04-24

Version 1.0.6

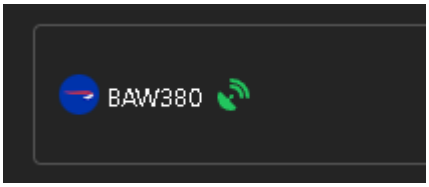
- Initial public release
- Replicates most functionality of our website's Live Flights page
- Click a row in the table to highlight the plane on the map
- Click a plane on the map to bring up a popup with further details

Flight Center Plugin

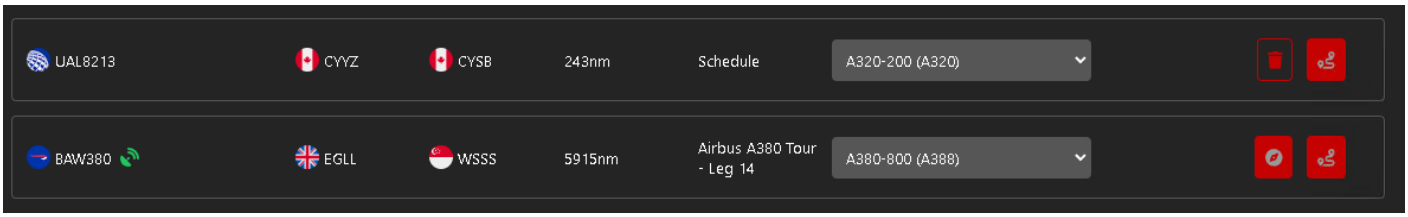
Version 1.1.0

This version ensures that even a live flight is still visible in the Flight Center. The aim of this is to help pilots realize that their dispatched flight is in fact there and has already been started by smartCARS 3.

A live flight is denoted with a green signal icon in the Flight Center.



Live flights cannot be deleted, so the instead of a delete icon, there is now an icon that takes the user to the Flight Tracking screen.



Version 1.0.5

- fix: update flight data handling to reflect new API response structure
- feat: enhance flight creation logic with aircraft matching and improved logging
- fix: remove unnecessary console logs from flight creation component

Version 1.0.6

Minor fix to ensure a flight imported via Simbrief without an airline icao will not result in a "[object] object" flight number.

Version 1.0.4

- Initial release
- Shows all currently dispatched flights for a pilot, mirroring the My Dispatches page on the website
- Supports searching and dispatching of
  - Schedules
    - All schedules searchable via a number of parameters
  - Tour Legs
    - Only legs eligible to be flown are searchable and can be dispatched
  - Events
    - All upcoming events are displayed, but only events that are active can be dispatched
  - Charters
    - Includes Simbrief import if the official Simbrief plugin is installed (optional but recommended)